LEGAL ACTION CENTER

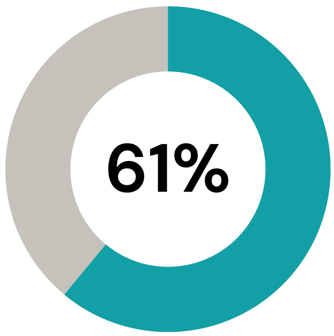
Coalition for Whole Health

# Protect Medicaid: Impact of Medicaid in Kansas

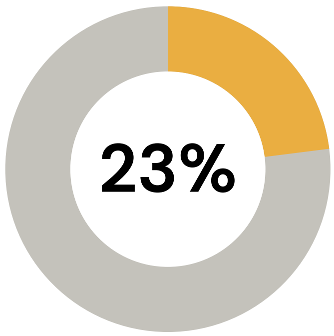
Medicaid (in KS, "KanCare") has had a profoundly positive impact on the state of Kansas. Nearly 430,000 people were enrolled in Medicaid in 2024.

## Who are the beneficiaries of Medicaid?

- KanCare covers 3 in 10 children, 4 in 7 nursing home residents, and 1 in 4 people with disabilities.
- While older adults and people with disabilities make up less than one third of the population, they account for two thirds of Medicaid spending.
- 57% of adults covered by KanCare are actively working.




In 2024, 61% of enrollees were **children**




In 2023, 23% of enrollees were **people with disabilities**

## What benefits and services are accessible to enrollees?

- Kansas has seen a significant increase in drug overdose deaths since 2011, more than doubling their rate in a span of a decade. Opioid overdose deaths accounted for 64% of all drug overdose deaths in Kansas in 2021.
  - KanCare covers medically necessary substance use disorder (SUD) services that beneficiaries rely on for treatment.
- Over 30% of Kansas adults reported symptoms of mental health issues in 2023. Moreover, Kansas had a significantly higher age-adjusted suicide rate than the national average in 2021 (19.4 per 100,000 to 14.1 per 100,000).
  - KanCare covers medically necessary mental health services.
- 31% of births in Kansas are covered by Medicaid.

## What are the impacts of Medicaid on the state economy?

- Medicaid funding helps support rural hospitals to provide essential healthcare services to rural residents. Kansas has 62 hospitals at risk of closure and 25 at risk of immediate closure. Kansas leads the country in the number of hospitals at risk of immediate closure.
  - At-risk hospitals are often in isolated rural communities, where residents are forced to travel long distances for emergency or inpatient care when they close their doors.
- Funding cuts would shift costs to Kansas, resulting in higher taxes for residents, cuts in eligibility and/or benefits, higher costs for families, or cuts from other areas like K-12 education.

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