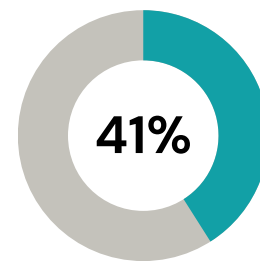


Protect Medicaid: Impact of Medicaid in Pennsylvania

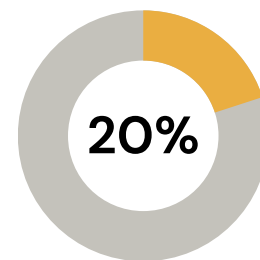
Medicaid (in PA, “Pennsylvania Medical Assistance”) and the expansion of Medicaid eligibility have had a profoundly positive impact on the state of Pennsylvania. Nearly [3.2 million residents](#) are enrolled.

Who are the beneficiaries of Medicaid?

- In 2022, PA had the 4th largest rural population in the country (over [3 million people](#)). Pennsylvanians living in rural communities are [more likely to have unmet health needs](#) and have higher rates for cancer, obesity, heart disease, and diabetes. Rural residents enrolled in Medicaid at much higher rates (over 16% increase) than those in urban areas (less than 7% increase) following the eligibility expansion.
- In 2017, [80,910](#) Pennsylvanians with substance use disorders and/or serious mental illness gained health insurance because of the eligibility expansion.
- Approximately [half](#) of the state’s Medicaid expansion population works full- or part-time but makes less than the Medicaid eligibility threshold of 138 percent of the federal poverty line. Those who are not working are often primary caregivers of a young child, too ill to work, or are full-time students.
- [65%](#) of Medicaid spending is on older Pennsylvanians and individuals with disabilities even though they are 27% of enrollees.



In 2024, [41%](#) of enrollees were **children**



In 2023, [20%](#) of enrollees were **people with disabilities**

What benefits and services are accessible to enrollees?

- PA’s expanded eligibility [enrollees gained access to life-saving care](#), including nearly 230,000 emergency room visits, 425,000 primary care visits, and preventive screenings that diagnosed 37,000 instances of cancer.
- [Two-thirds](#) of all nursing home residents in PA are covered by Medicaid.
- Medicaid pays for [29%](#) of all buprenorphine treatment in PA.

What are the impacts of Medicaid on the state economy?

- Uncompensated care decreased [32 percent](#) following expanded eligibility. These are costs that [hospitals no longer need to account for](#) through amounts paid by patients with private insurance.
- Annual payments to 15 critical access hospitals have historically totaled \$15 million and can save hospitals from financial insolvency. Due to Medicaid coverage, that amount increased to [\\$21 million](#).
- Expansion has led to major improvements in the financial security of low-income adults. An estimated [11,700](#) Pennsylvanians avoided catastrophic out-of-pocket medical costs, and an estimated 37,100 did not have to borrow funds to pay bills or avoided skipping payments.