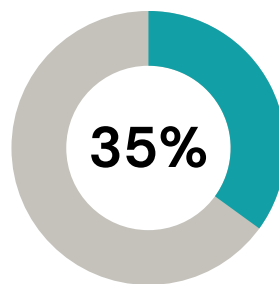


Protect Medicaid: Impact of Medicaid in West Virginia

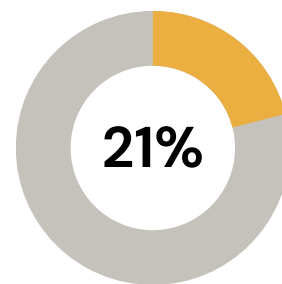
Medicaid (in WV, “West Virginia Medicaid”) and the expansion of Medicaid eligibility have had a profoundly positive impact on the state of West Virginia. More than [500,000](#) people (28% of the WV population) were enrolled in Medicaid in 2024.

Who are the beneficiaries of Medicaid?

- In WV, Medicaid [covers](#) 1 in 2 children, 7 in 9 nursing home residents, and 2 in 5 people with disabilities.
- [Over half](#) of WV Medicaid spending is on older West Virginians and individuals with disabilities (53%).
- Nearly half ([46%](#)) of people in West Virginia live in rural areas. People who live in rural areas are more likely to be dependent on Medicaid.



In 2024, [35%](#) of enrollees were **children**



In 2023, [21%](#) of enrollees were **people with disabilities**

What benefits and services are accessible to enrollees?

- [41%](#) of Medicaid long-term care spending is for nursing home care. Medicare beneficiaries rely on Medicaid for assistance with services not covered by Medicare, particularly long-term care.
- WV Medicaid provides services including: alcohol and drug treatment and inpatient and outpatient substance use disorder treatment.
- WV has the highest drug overdose death rate in the country (double the national average); in response, Medicaid has implemented [several policies](#) to improve the quality and availability of substance use disorder treatments.
 - The program is also expanding treatment for babies born with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS), caused by prenatal exposure to opioids or other drugs.

What are the impacts of Medicaid on the state economy?

- West Virginia has the [second lowest per capita income](#) in the country and therefore has one of the highest federal Medicaid matching rates (FMAP).
- A West Virginia Health Care Association study found that in 2017, Medicaid accounted for nearly [\\$3.7 billion](#) in the state’s economy directly.
 - If West Virginia made a 1 percent (\$10 million) cut to Medicaid, it would result in a loss of millions of dollars for the state economy, and a loss of hundreds of jobs annually.
- Adults insured with Medicaid are the [least likely](#) to report having medical debt, decreasing rates of uncompensated care across the state.