

HEALTH CARE FOR FLORIDA

The Affordable Care Act offers states the opportunity to expand Medicaid to uninsured adults with incomes below 138% of federal poverty level. Before the pandemic, over 870,000 uninsured adults in Florida were eligible and it is estimated the number is now estimated to be at least one million. The federal government pays for 90% of the costs for the expansion population, compared to about 60% of federal match for "regular" Medicaid. Most states have expanded Medicaid so by comparing expansion states to non-expansion states we have evidence of the impact. The Florida Legislature can, but has refused, to pass legislation to expand Medicaid coverage. Their refusal is based on widely shared misunderstanding about the program.

Results from scientific studies are summarized below and show that expanding Medicaid results in healthier adults who become more financially secure and are more employable. Local communities benefit from reduced tax burden for indigent care, For every very low birthweight baby born to a white mother 4 are born to black mothers increased employment and economic activity as well as hospitals that are financially secure. Medicaid expansion will pay for itself by reducing state expenses and increasing provider contributions to the state.

Benefits: Healthier adults

- Adults participate in primary care
 - Access to preventive and urgent care
 - Less likely to use emergency rooms
 - Screened for chronic conditions and diseases like cancer
 - Enroll in disease management to better control conditions like diabetes
 - Serious conditions like cancer are identified earlier when intervention is more effective and costs less
 - Screened and referred for mental health and substance abuse treatment
- Medicaid covers comprehensive behavioral health services
 - In-patient, out-patient and pharmacy
 - Treatment for depression, anxiety and other conditions
 - Access to treatment of substance use disorder
- Maternal and Infant health
 - Reduces maternal deaths
 - Reduces infant death
- Reduces premature death among adults 55-64 years old
 - Death rates reduced by 39-64%
 - Estimate 2,776 Florida residents died between 2014-2017 due to failure to expand Medicaid
- Reduces racial disparities
 - Maternal and infant health
 - Kidney disease
 - Heart Disease
- Medical care needed for Covid-19
 - Testing and treatment
 - Long term impact on lungs, kidney etc.

Financial Benefits: Enrollees

- Able to reduce and avoid medical debt
- Able to purchase food, clothing, pay rent and utilities
- Better credit
- Able to look for, keep and look for a better job

Counties

- Increased economic activity
- Increased rates of employment
- Decreased costs for indigent care
- Improved financial health of hospitals
- Hospitals less likely to close

Financial Impact: State

- State will save millions in General Revenue dollars
 - Florida Policy Institute: \$200 million dollars per year
- Infusion of >4 billion dollars in federal funds annually
 - Our tax dollars
 - Support jobs in health care
 - Economic multiplier 1.5 -1.7
 - Jobs in other sectors to
 - Jump start economy in FY 2021-22
- Evidence from other states find no increase demand on tax dollars when Medicaid is expanded.
- No state has decided to withdraw

Sarasota County

- Eligible for Medicaid Expansion
 - 10,970 uninsured eligible for MedEx (pre-pandemic)
 - 9,266 fewer employed Nov 2020 than Nov 2019
- Financial burden of uninsured on hospitals and tax payers
 - Sarasota Memorial Hospital spends over \$100 million on safety net care
 - Sarasota Memorial receives 50 million from ad valorem taxes
 - Doctors Hospital-Sarasota spends over 237 million on charity and uncompensated care
- Health of Residents*
 - Sarasota Needs Assessment determined mental health as top strategic issue
 - Residents report depression, alcohol and drug abuse as major concerns
 - Death from liver disease has increased by 50% since 2013
 - Suicide rate has been higher than state rate since 2009
 - Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome 149.5 per 10,000 births (state 62.1)
- Health Access
 - 36% of residents go to ER or urgent care center when they need health care or are sick*
 - 19.5% of employed adults have no health insurance

Racial Disparities -Maternal and Infant Health

- Clear disparities in infant death which have persisted over time and are significantly worse than the state*
- Black mothers less likely than white mothers to enter prenatal care in first trimester*
- For every very low birthweight baby born to a white mother 4 are born to black mothers

Racial Disparity

Condition	White	Black
ER visits due to diabetes	100	485
Hospitalizations due to diabetes	1237	4000
Hospitalizations due to CHF	187	367

Prostate cancer death	16	40
Breast cancer death	22	37
Death from kidney disease	8	23

age adjusted per 100,000 (2019)

Eligibility for MedEx

Family Size	Annual Income
1	17,609
2	23,791
3	29,974
4	36,156
5	42,338

*Department of Health Sarasota Health Needs Assessment

** Florida CHARTS (DOH website)