

What is Medicaid?

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When it comes to Medicaid, there is a lot of misinformation and misunderstanding out there. Medicaid provides health insurance coverage to people who may be experiencing low incomes, people with disabilities, and people who are older. **Did you know...**

Medicaid improves the health of children.

Nearly 67 percent of children under the age of five and covered by Medicaid get a yearly well-child appointment.

Well-child visits are important for the overall health of a child. In addition to providing recommended immunizations to prevent illness, these appointments assess a child's development. This includes tracking growth, developmental milestones, social behaviors and more.

Kids covered by Medicaid get the care they need and also experience long-term health and economic gains as adults, including better health status, higher educational attainment and higher earnings.

48% of children enrolled in Medicaid had a preventive dental exam in the last year.

Early and routine checkups help prevent cavities and tooth decay which can lead to problems with eating, speaking, playing and even learning.

<https://www.aappublications.org/news/2015/12/15/WellChild121515>

<https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/medicaid-works-for-children>

<https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/basics/childrens-oral-health/index.html>

Medicaid helps pregnant moms give birth to healthy babies.

Medicaid covers 43% of births in the United States.

Pregnant women in the United States continue to experience adverse maternal and birth outcomes. In fact, the rate of preterm births continues to rise and has now reached one in every ten. Low birthweight is also on the rise. Infants born preterm or low birthweight are at an increased risk for experiencing physical disabilities and developmental impairments throughout their lives.

The average cost of medical care for a baby born without complications is \$4,550 in the first year.

The average cost of medical care for a premature or low birthweight baby is \$49,000 in the first year.

Medicaid supports healthy pregnancies, offering health care and support before, during and after pregnancy for better outcomes.

Source: America's Health Rankings, 2018 Report

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db318.pdf>

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Medicaid provides a short-term safety net for those who are struggling financially.

Of able-bodied adults who are covered by Medicaid expansion, 62% are already working or in school & 12% are looking for work.

Access to health insurance, including Medicaid, directly contributed to cutting poverty by almost one quarter.

The majority of people receiving Medicaid are enrolled in the program for less than 2 years.

Source: Health Affairs, "Estimating the Effect of Health Insurance and Other Social Programs on Poverty Under the Affordable Care Act."

Medicaid provides health insurance coverage to some of our most vulnerable people.

Medicaid covers 1 in 5 Americans and serves a diverse population including children, those living with a disability and low-income elderly. The majority of those covered are children, older adults and people with a disability.

Medicaid provides health coverage to 37 million children, along with the nearly 9 million children covered under the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Older individuals and people with disabilities account for two-thirds of Medicaid spending, while only making up one-third of the total Medicaid population.

<https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/medicaid-works-for-children>

<https://www.prb.org/majority-of-people-covered-by-medicaid-and-similar-programs/>

<https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/10-things-to-know-about-medicaid-setting-the-facts-straight/>

Medicaid is widely supported.

Polling suggests that Medicaid has broad support across political parties.

<https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/10-things-to-know-about-medicaid-setting-the-facts-straight/>



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