MEDICAID: Its Role Today and Under the Affordable Care Act

Medicaid Plays an Important Role for Many Americans Today

Medicaid covers:

1 in 5 Noneelderly Americans
1 in 5 Poor Americans
1 in 3 Children

LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS*

Children: 59%
Adults: 22%

HIGH-NEED POPULATIONS

Medicare Beneficiaries: 20%
Nursing Home Residents: 70%

*Below 200% of the Poverty Level or $36,180 for a family of 3 in 2012

Medicaid Improves Access to Needed Care

Private Insurance
Medicaid
Uninsured

Adults without a usual source of care:
10%
10%
53%

Adults going without needed care due to cost:
4%
10%
26%

The Elderly and Disabled Account for the Majority of Medicaid Spending

63 million enrollees
Most are children and parents

$347 billion
Most spending is for the elderly and disabled

Per Capita Medicaid Spending Growth Is Slower Than Private Health Care Spending

2007–2010

3.4% average annual growth for medical care

5.3%

Medicaid’s Role Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA)

The uninsured

ANNUAL INCOME FOR A FAMILY OF 3

SOURCE OF COVERAGE

10%
$76,360
(400% of poverty level)
PRIVATE INSURANCE

37%
$26,535–$76,169
(139%–399% of poverty level)
PRIVATE INSURANCE WITH SUBSIDIES

54%
LESS THAN $26,535
(<139% of poverty level)
MEDICAID

Prior to the ACA, Medicaid eligibility varied widely by state and category. More than half of America’s 49 million uninsured fall in the income range targeted by the ACA’s Medicaid expansion which sets minimum eligibility levels at 138% of the Poverty Level across all states.

The ACA Medicaid expansion offers:

Coverage eligibility for 22 million uninsured adults

Substantial federal funds to states, covering more than 90% of the new cost over the next decade

But following the Supreme Court decision, some states may choose not to implement the Medicaid expansion.


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