



Connecting the Dots: How Medicaid Expansion Impacts Public Health and Improves Health Equity in South Florida

- Florida has the country's fourth highest rate of uninsured individuals (13%),¹ and 20% of those under age 65 in Miami Dade County (MDC) have no health insurance.²
- Medicaid expansion **could extend coverage to** 805,000 newly eligible Floridians,³ nearly a quarter of a million of whom live in the Miami metro region (Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties).⁴
- Medicaid expansion, critical to **accessing care**, increases probability of having a personal doctor,⁵ and decreases likelihood of not seeing a doctor because of cost.⁶
- Expansion **improves access** to myriad types of treatments that both improve health outcomes and save costs, ranging from medication for **diabetes**⁷ and **cardiovascular disease**,⁸ to certain cancer surgeries,⁹ to smoking cessation medications,¹⁰ to treatment of mental health conditions¹¹ and substance use disorders,¹² to rehabilitation services for patients with severe traumatic injuries.¹³
- Medicaid expansion is associated with **improved quality of care and health outcomes** including: improved treatment of chronic conditions such as asthma and hypertension;¹⁴ improvements in cardiac surgery patient outcomes¹⁵ and cardiovascular mortality rates;¹⁶ improvements in 1-year mortality among end-stage renal disease patients initiating dialysis;¹⁷ significant increases in cancer screenings¹⁸ and cancer diagnosis and/or early-stage diagnosis rates.¹⁹
- Medicaid expansion is associated with **decreasing disparities** in access to and utilization of healthcare by race and ethnicity²⁰ as well as income.²¹
- **Drops in uninsured rates** were most significant among Blacks and Hispanics in expansion states with the percent of uninsured Hispanic adults in expansion states dropping almost 20 percentage points (from 38% to 19.3%), as compared to a rate drop of just 6.9 percentage points (from 41.4% to 34.5%) in non-expansion states.²²
- Reducing disparities in coverage is key to addressing Miami-Dade County's **stark disparities** in healthcare outcomes, including, e.g. a death rate due to prostate cancer of 41 deaths per 100,000 Black, non-Hispanic men as compared to 18 deaths per 100,000 White men,²³ and an age-adjusted death rate due to diabetes per 100,000 of 43 among Blacks versus 17 among Whites.²⁴

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- ¹ United States Census Bureau, Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2018, September 2019.
- ² United States Census Bureau, Quick Facts, Miami-Dade County Florida.
- ³ Rachel Garfield, Kendal Orgera, and Anthony Damico for Kaiser Family Foundation. The Coverage Gap: Uninsured Poor Adults in States That Do Not Expand Medicaid. (January 14, 2020). <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/the-coverage-gap-uninsured-poor-adults-in-states-that-do-not-expand-medicaid/>.
- ⁴ Matt Childers for Florida Health Justice Project, Florida's Medicaid Expansion Opportunity: Medicaid Expansion Would Grant 805,000 Low-Income Floridians Access to Health Insurance and Thirty Percent Live in Greater Miami. (February 2020).
- ⁵ John Cawley, Aparna Soni, and Kosali Simon, Third Year of Survey Data Shows Continuing Benefits of Medicaid Expansions for Low-Income Childless Adults in the U.S.. *J. of General Internal Medicine* 33: 9 (September 2018).
- ⁶ Sunha Choi, Sungkyu Lee, and Jason Matejkowski, The Effects of State Medicaid Expansion on Low-Income Individuals' Access to Health Care: Multilevel Modeling. *Population Health Management* (September 2017).
- ⁷ Myerson, Lu, Tonnu-Mihara & Huang, Medicaid Eligibility Expansions May Address Gaps In Access To Diabetes Medications. *Health Affairs: Medicaid, Markets & More*, 37:8 (August 2018).
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- ⁹ Jose Mesquita-Neto et al.. Disparities In Access To Cancer Surgery After Medicaid Expansion. *The American Journal of Surgery* (June 2019). *See also*, Emanuel Eguia et al., Impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Medicaid Expansion on Cancer Admissions and Surgeries. *Annals of Surgery* 268:4 (October 2018): 584-590.
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- ¹¹ Carrie Fry and Benjamin Sommers, Effect of Medicaid Expansion on Health Insurance Coverage and Access to Care Among Adults With Depression. *Psychiatric Services* 69:11 (November 2018).
- ¹² Sharp, Jones, Sherwood, Kutsa, Honermann, Millett, Impact of Medicaid Expansion on Access to Opioid Analgesic Medications and Medication-Assisted Treatment. *American Journal of Public Health* 108:5 (May 1, 2018): 642-648.
- ¹³ Zogg et al., Association of Medicaid Expansion With Access to Rehabilitative Care in Adult Trauma Patients. *JAMA Surgery* (January 2019).
- ¹⁴ Megan Cole et al., At Federally Funded Health Centers, Medicaid Expansion was Associated with Improved Quality of Care. *Health Affairs* 36:1 (January 2017): 40-48.
- ¹⁵ Eric Charles et al., Impact of Medicaid Expansion on Cardiac Surgery Volume and Outcomes, *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery* (June 2017).
- ¹⁶ Sameed Ahmed Khantana et al., Association of Medicaid Expansion with Cardiovascular Mortality, *JAMA Cardiology* (June 2019).
- ¹⁷ Shailender Swaminathan et al., Association of Medicaid Expansion With 1-Year Mortality Among Patients With End-Stage Renal Disease. *Journal of the American Medical Association* 320:21 (December 2018): 2242-2250.
- ¹⁸ Hendryx & Luo, Increased Cancer Screening for Low-income Adults Under the Affordable Care Act Medicaid Expansion. *Medical Care*, 56:11 (November 2018): 944-949.
- ¹⁹ Aparna Soni, Kosali Simon, John Cawley, and Lindsay Sabik, Effect of Medicaid Expansions of 2014 on Overall and Early-Stage Cancer Diagnoses, *American Journal of Public Health*, (December 2017).
- ²⁰ Susan Hayes, Pamela Riley, David Radley, and Douglas McCarthy, *Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Access to Care: Has the Affordable Care Act Made a Difference?*, The Commonwealth Fund, August 2017.
- ²¹ Kevin Griffith, Leigh Evans, and Jacob Bor, The Affordable Care Act Reduced Socioeconomic Disparities in Health Care Access. *Health Affairs* 36:8 (August 2017).
- ²² Commonwealth Fund, Did the Affordable Care Act Reduce Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Insurance Coverage? Issue Brief, August 2019.
- ²³ <http://www.miamidadematters.org/indicators/index/dashboard?id=83017053156222624>
- ²⁴ *Ibid*.