Medicaid covers US

Kansas

We are your friends, your neighbors, your community.

Cancer Action Network℠
American Cancer Society®

www.MedicaidCoversUS.org

Marcillene
Wichita, KS

Introduction

Medicaid is a vital health insurance program for America's families. It allows children to reach their fullest potential, adults to get and stay healthy enough to work and be part of their communities and seniors and people with disabilities to get the care that can help them stay at home. Medicaid can be life-changing and lifesaving.

This storybook was designed to help you meet some of the Americans impacted by Medicaid. You will read stories of adults and children who have received critical and often lifesaving health care through Medicaid, health care providers who see the impact for their patients and adults who could benefit but are currently unable to gain access to health insurance through Medicaid.

Medicaid also helps in the fight against cancer. There are more than 700,000 Americans with a history of cancer currently covered by Medicaid. Among these cancer patients and survivors:[1]

★ 1 in 12 have served in the US Armed Forces

★ 1 in 5 could not afford to see a specialist

★ 1 in 10 reported difficulty with activities of daily living

★ Majority are non-Hispanic white female

★ Majority have at least a high school diploma or equivalent

A majority of Americans support Medicaid.[2]

★ 92% of voters feel Medicaid is an important program

★ 76% of voters feel positively about Medicaid including majority of voters across political party ideology feel positively about Medicaid

★ 70% of voters believe Medicaid plays a major role in helping low-income families and individuals support themselves financially

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Medicaid Covers US is a new project led by the American Cancer Society and the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) to create a conversation about Medicaid and the role it plays in the health and well-being of our families, friends and communities. We're sharing stories about how having health insurance through Medicaid helps Americans stay healthy, go to work and care for their families. When we ensure that people get the care they need, our communities – our hospitals, schools and economy – thrive. Join the conversation and explore how Medicaid covers US.

1. Analysis provided to ACS CAN by Avalere Health. Medicaid Covers US: Profiles of Medicaid Enrollees with Cancer. Analysis performed March 2019. Analysis performed from data collected from Medicaid enrollees over the age of 15.

2. Research provided to ACS CAN by PerryUndem Research/Communication and Bellwether Research & Consulting. The survey was conducted March 15 – 21, 2019 using YouGov's nationally representative panel or 1,000 registered voters 18+ years old.

Lisa Wichita, KS

To watch full video, align the camera app on your iPhone or Android with the QR code and follow the pop-up link.

Lisa is an oncology nurse navigator at Ascension Via Christi in Wichita. She helps uninsured patients get colonoscopies but, with limited funds, she must turn people away daily. "People want to take care of themselves," she said.

Lisa knows first-hand how important colonoscopies are. When she turned 50, she got a colonoscopy and had polyps removed. But her brother-in-law, who was uninsured when he turned 50, did not get the recommended screening and several years later he was diagnosed with advanced colon cancer.

Lisa believes that if more people had access to Medicaid, the rate of colon cancer would significantly decrease, preventing unnecessary pain, suffering and expensive cancer treatments.

"People want to take care of themselves."

Doris Shawnee, KS

" I probably wouldn't be able to keep my job for long if I didn't have access to insurance. "

To learn more, align the camera app on your iPhone or Android with the QR code and follow the pop-up link.

Debbie Merriam, KS

" Without Medicaid, I wouldn't be here. I wouldn't have been able to get the treatments I needed. Medicaid saved my life. "

To learn more, align the camera app on your iPhone or Android with the QR code and follow the pop-up link.

To read the full stories please visit: **MedicaidCoversUS.org**

QR code help:
To follow the code, align the camera app on your iPhone or Android phone with the QR code and follow the pop-up link. Samsung users please use the Bixby app. Requires updated software.

Gabriel Kansas City, KS

To learn more, align the camera app on your iPhone or Android with the QR code and follow the pop-up link.

For the last 20 years, Gabriel worked with adults with developmental disabilities to help them live as independently as possible. But in the summer of 2018, Gabriel injured his back. In intense and constant pain, Gabriel could no longer continue to work, which meant he also lost his health insurance.

If Kansas had expanded Medicaid, Gabriel would have access to health insurance. But right now, he is not eligible.

If Gabriel had health insurance, he would get surgery to repair his back and he would be able to go back to work. "I'd like to get back to being more independent," he said.

As of July 2019, there are 15 states that continue to deny millions of low-income adults access to affordable health insurance coverage through Medicaid. An estimated 2.5 million adults, living below the poverty line, do not have access to any affordable insurance options.

Marcillene Wichita, KS

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In her sophomore year at college, Marcillene, now a high school physics teacher, began experiencing strange symptoms: her speech became slurred and she would sometimes fall while walking.

Marcillene didn't qualify for Medicaid and wasn't making enough money to qualify for assistance to buy private insurance, even though she was working three jobs. Without health insurance, it took a year for Marcelline to save up enough money to see a neurologist and get the recommended MRI. That's when she was diagnosed with MS.

If Marcillene had access to insurance, she would have started medications a year earlier, which would have slowed the progression of the disease. "I have a nephew I love," she said. "I might've been able to run around the playground with him today instead of watch him from a bench."

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