



# Medicaid **covers** US

Louisiana

We are your friends, your neighbors, your community.

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[www.MedicaidCoversUS.org](http://www.MedicaidCoversUS.org)



**Jamila**  
Baton Rouge, LA

## 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:<sup>1</sup>

- ★ 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.<sup>2</sup>

- ★ 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.

## Matt Baton Rouge, LA



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

Matt is the CEO at CareSouth, a clinic providing medical and dental health in the Baton Rouge area. Over 60 percent of CareSouth's patients are covered by Medicaid, and prior to expansion, many were uninsured. Matt credits the expansion for improving the financial stability of the clinic and for real-life gains for the patients.

In the two years since expansion, the uninsured rate at their clinic has dropped from 30 percent to 10 percent. With more insured patients the organization has been able to increase its staff by 40 percent since 2016.

"We're seeing more people getting care," Matt said. And that matters because, as he says, "Health controls everything else you do in life."

"Health controls everything else you do in life."





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Molly has been a social worker at the Christus Cancer Treatment Center in Shreveport for nine years. She helps patients and their families cope with the uncertainty and confusion that can accompany a cancer diagnosis.

Molly often sees patients who have lost their private insurance through their employer because they are too sick to keep working. “Health insurance is just so important because my patients need their treatment. Since the expansion of Medicaid, many of the patients have become eligible for Medicaid to cover the rest of their treatment,” she explains.

“Health insurance is just so important because my patients need their treatment.”



## Jennifer Shreveport, LA



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Jennifer is the project coordinator for Partners in Wellness, a cancer screening program in Shreveport.

Before Medicaid expansion, the majority of the patients screened by Partners in Wellness were uninsured. Most lived in rural areas where jobs with health insurance benefits were, and still are, difficult to find. If they received a test result that required follow-up, some patients couldn't get the treatments and care they needed.

"Since expansion, about 90 percent of the patients we see are covered by Medicaid. Most of these people never had insurance before. Once they realize that their Medicaid coverage gives them choices, we can start to educate them on how to handle their cancer diagnosis or chronic illness," Jennifer said.

**"Since expansion, about 90 percent of the patients we see are covered by Medicaid."**



## Shaundelette Baton Rouge, LA



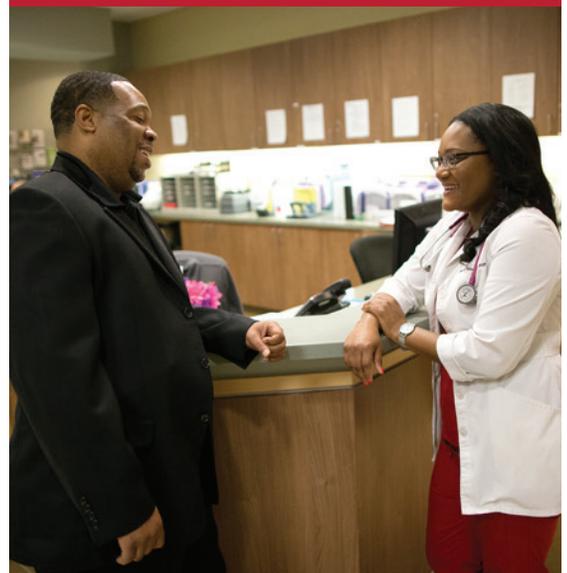
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Shaundelette is a nurse practitioner at CareSouth in Baton Rouge. Most patients seen at the clinic are low-income and many suffer from chronic illnesses.

Shaundelette has seen the dramatic impact of Medicaid expansion at the clinic. They have been able to serve a larger number of patients and receive a greater number of referrals, allowing them to better collaborate and coordinate care.

“Medicaid allows the patients I serve to have essential health coverage,” Shaundelette said. “Without it, they would have remained uninsured and been forced to let their diseases go unmanaged, untreated or undiagnosed leading to detrimental and, in some cases, fatal outcomes.”

“ Medicaid allows the patients I serve to have essential health coverage.”



## Gwyneth Bastrop, LA



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

Gwyneth is an ambitious 18-year-old with an impressive list of extracurricular activities and leadership roles. She is her high school valedictorian, and this fall she will be enrolled in Louisiana Tech's honors program. Later, she plans to go to medical school to become a neurosurgeon.

Gwyneth was raised by her retired grandmother. Without Medicaid, Gwyneth wouldn't have access to health insurance. Medicaid has helped Gwyneth stay healthy, and get the care she needs to thrive in school.



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*Health insurance coverage is available to children in low-income families through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in all states. Eligibility varies by state based on age and income level. In Louisiana in 2019, children in a family of four are eligible for Medicaid if the household income is less than \$3,047 per month.*

## Jamila Baton Rouge, LA



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

During the summer of 2017, Jamila was six months pregnant and finishing up a fellowship program that provided health insurance. While she had a new job lined up, her new health insurance wouldn't kick in right away. Unfortunately, Jamila's due date fell right in the middle of this gap. Jamila knew she couldn't afford to have a baby without insurance.

Jamila applied for Medicaid, and she was relieved when she found out she was eligible for coverage. Medicaid allowed her to keep up with her remaining prenatal visits and deliver her baby.

Jamila and her son are now insured through her job. Jamila feels extremely grateful for Medicaid: "Medicaid has been a lifesaver and it helped me have peace of mind when I was transitioning into becoming a mom in between jobs."



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*Low-income women are eligible for coverage through state Medicaid programs during pregnancy. This coverage typically ends 60 days after delivery. Income limits for pregnant women vary by state, but for a single mom having her first child in Louisiana the income limit is \$1,945 per month in 2019.*

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