

Medicaid Expansion & Cancer in Wyoming



For the 3,140ⁱ Wyomingites who will be diagnosed with cancer in 2022, access to affordable, comprehensive care is essential to detecting, treating and surviving the disease. In Wyoming, cancer is the second leading cause of death and an estimated 1,000ⁱⁱ state residents will die from the disease this year. And today, more than 33,000 Wyoming residents live with cancer at some stage of treatment or survivorship. Providing individuals and families access to affordable, comprehensive health care coverage is critical in the fight against cancer. ACS CAN supports public policy proposals aimed at expanding Medicaid eligibility for low-income parents and adults.

Medicaid expansion will promote earlier cancer detection, fewer deaths and improved outcomes for patients.

- Medicaid expansion was associated with improved rates of colorectal,ⁱⁱⁱ prostate, and cervical cancer screenings.^{iv}
- Individuals enrolled in Medicaid prior to their cancer diagnosis have better survival rates than those who enroll after their diagnosis.^v
- Medicaid expansion led to an increase in both total and earlier-stage cancer diagnoses in expansion states, while the gap in diagnoses between expansion and non-expansion states widened.^{vi}
- Medicaid expansion was associated with decreased cigarette and other tobacco product purchases, as well as increased access, utilization, and coverage of evidence-based smoking cessation medications.^{vii}

Closing the coverage gap will benefit Wyoming's economy. States that have fully expanded Medicaid eligibility have benefited from:

- A decrease in the uninsured rate, which has decreased hospitals' uncompensated care
- Hospitals are 84 percent less likely to close^{viii}
- Marketplace premiums that are about 7 percent lower than non-expansion states^{ix}
- Expansion has created jobs, which has increased personal incomes and state revenues

Health insurance coverage makes it easier to work, find a new job, pay for basic needs, and succeed in today's economy. The health coverage provided by Medicaid helps to improve outcomes and reduce the burden of cancer by offering access to prevention services; timely cancer screening and early detection services; as well as affordable treatment services and care.^{x,xi,xii}

To improve health outcomes and reduce cancer disparities, Wyoming should fully expand Medicaid eligibility to low-income parents & adults earning less than \$18,754 a year for an individual and \$31,781 for a family of three, as permitted under the federal health law. Having access to health insurance is a matter of life or death for countless cancer patients, survivors and Americans facing a cancer diagnosis. Ensuring that low-income individuals and families have access to comprehensive, affordable health care coverage is one of the most critical ways lawmakers can successfully reduce cancer incidence and mortality in our state.

ⁱ "American Cancer Society | Cancer Facts & Figures 2021. Atlanta: American Cancer Society 2021.

ⁱⁱ Ibid.

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