Medicaid *in* MONTANA

MONTANA MEDICAID: Improving Health in Montana

❯ MEDICAID HELPED HALVE THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED MONTANANS

Montana's Medicaid program provides 25% (or 265,000) of Montanans access to health services.

- Since 2008, the number of people without health insurance was cut in half as the state expanded eligibility for its Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance programs.
- The HELP Act expanded Medicaid eligibility in 2016 to cover over 90,000 adults with yearly incomes at or below 138% of the Federal Poverty Line – that's $17,000 a year, or about $1,400 a month.
- 65% of Medicaid enrollees live in rural Montana.

❯ MONTANANS ARE USING MEDICAID TO PREVENT SERIOUS ILLNESS

Medicaid provides access to critical preventive services for Montanans of all ages. When people have health coverage, they are more likely to get preventive care, which keeps smaller problems from turning into more serious and costly illnesses.

- In 2019, 69,000 people went to wellness exams, 65,000 got vaccinations, thousands received cancer screenings, and 138,000 visited the dentist. For an up-to-date look at how Medicaid is helping Montanans prevent and treat illnesses such as breast cancer, colon cancer, diabetes, and high blood pressure, visit *mthcf.org/montana-medicaid-expansion-dashboard/*
- Medicaid expansion provided health services to the previously uninsured. Nearly 70% of Medicaid expansion enrollees reported improved medical care access since enrollment, and over 40% noted improved health.

❯ MONTANANS ARE ACCESSING TREATMENT FOR MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

In addition to promoting physical health, Medicaid also supports behavioral health services, which are in high demand in our state.

- In 2019, over 30,000 expansion enrollees received mental health treatment, and over 5,000 received support for substance use disorders.
- Medicaid expansion gives the state the tools and flexibility it needs to address substance use disorders.

❯ MEDICAID PROVIDED A SAFETY NET DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Most enrollees stay on Medicaid expansion for two years or less, and enrollment was shrinking before the pandemic. When people lost employment during the pandemic, Medicaid provided a coverage source and helped providers adapt quickly to deliver services.

- Montana Medicaid expanded coverage for telehealth services and, as a result, behavioral health visits increased by 1,400%, and physical health visits increased by 100%.

❯ MEDICAID EXPANSION SUPPORTS TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

Of the 50,000 American Indians enrolled in Medicaid, 16,000 enrolled as part of the expansion.

- Medicaid expansion has vastly expanded access to preventive care, specialty referrals, and surgical treatment for American Indian people in Montana.

MONTANA HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT **MTHCF.ORG/FOCUS-AREA/MEDICAID-HEALTH-POLICY**