



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

- Florida has the country's fifth highest rate of uninsured individuals (12.3%),<sup>i</sup> and 19.4% of those under age 65 in Miami Dade County (MDC) have no health insurance.<sup>ii</sup>
- Medicaid expansion **could extend coverage to** 833,000 newly eligible Floridians,<sup>iii</sup> nearly 162,000 of whom live in the Miami metro region (Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties).<sup>iv</sup>
- Medicaid expansion supports **access to care**, increases the probability of having a personal doctor,<sup>v</sup> and decreases the likelihood of not seeing a doctor because of cost.<sup>vi</sup>
- Expansion **improves access** to myriad types of treatments that both improve health outcomes and save costs, including: medication for diabetes<sup>vii</sup> and cardiovascular disease,<sup>viii</sup> cancer surgeries,<sup>ix</sup> smoking cessation medications,<sup>x</sup> treatment of mental health conditions<sup>xi</sup> and substance use disorders,<sup>xii</sup> and rehabilitation services for patients with severe traumatic injuries.<sup>xiii</sup>
- Medicaid expansion is associated with **improved quality of care and health outcomes**, including improved treatment of chronic conditions such as asthma and hypertension;<sup>xiv</sup> improvements in cardiac surgery patient outcomes<sup>xv</sup> and cardiovascular mortality rates;<sup>xvi</sup> improvements in 1-year mortality among end-stage renal disease patients initiating dialysis;<sup>xvii</sup> significant increases in cancer screenings<sup>xviii</sup> and cancer diagnosis and/or early-stage diagnosis rates.<sup>xix</sup>
- Medicaid expansion is associated with **decreasing disparities** in access to and utilization of healthcare by race and ethnicity<sup>xx</sup> as well as income.<sup>xxi</sup>
- **Drops in uninsured rates** were most significant among Black and Hispanic individuals in expansion states with the percent of uninsured Hispanic adults in expansion states dropping almost 20 percentage points (from 38% to 19%), as compared to a rate drop of just 7 percentage points (from 42% to 35%) in non-expansion states.<sup>xxii</sup>
- 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 non-Hispanic Black men, as compared to 18 deaths per 100,000 White men,<sup>xxiii</sup> and an age-adjusted death rate due to diabetes of 43 per 100,000 among Black residents versus 17 per 100,000 White residents.<sup>xxiv</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation, Health Insurance Coverage of the Total Population (CPS) (2020), available at <https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/health-insurance-coverage-of-the-total-population-cps/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Uninsured%22,%22sort%22:%22desc%22%7D>

<sup>ii</sup> United States Census Bureau, Quick Facts; Miami Dade County, Florida (July 1, 2021), available at <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/miamidadecountyflorida/POP060210>

<sup>iii</sup> Rachel Garfield et al., The Coverage Gap: Uninsured Poor Adults in States That Do Not Expand Medicaid, Kaiser Family Foundation (January 21, 2021), available at <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/the-coverage-gap-uninsured-poor-adults-in-states-that-do-not-expand-medicaid/>

<sup>iv</sup> United States Census Bureau, *supra* note 2.

<sup>v</sup> John Cawley et al., Third Year of Survey Data Shows Continuing Benefits of Medicaid Expansions for Low-Income Childless Adults in the U.S., 33(9) *Journal of General Internal Medicine*. 1495 (September 2018).

<sup>vi</sup> Sunha Choi et al., The Effects of State Medicaid Expansion on Low-Income Individuals' Access to Health Care: Multilevel Modeling, 21(3) *Population Health Management*. 235 (September 2017).

<sup>vii</sup> Rebecca Myerson et al., Medicaid Eligibility Expansions May Address Gaps In Access To Diabetes Medications, 37(8) *Health Affairs: Medicaid, Markets & More*. 1200 (August 2018).

<sup>viii</sup> Ausmita Ghosh et al., The Effect of Health Insurance on Prescription Drug Use Among Low-Income Adults: Evidence from Recent Medicaid Expansions, 63 *Journal of Health Economics* 64 (January 2019).

<sup>ix</sup> Jose Mesquita-Neto et al., Disparities In Access To Cancer Surgery After Medicaid Expansion, 219(1) *The American Journal of Surgery*. 181 (June 2019). *See also* Emanuel Eguia et al., Impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Medicaid Expansion on Cancer Admissions and Surgeries, 268(4) *Annals of Surgery*. 584 (October 2018).

<sup>x</sup> Steffani R. Bailey et al., Tobacco Cessation in Affordable Care Act Medicaid Expansion States Versus Non-expansion States, 22(6) *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*. 1016 (May 26, 2020).

<sup>xi</sup> Carrie Fry et al., Effect of Medicaid Expansion on Health Insurance Coverage and Access to Care Among Adults With Depression, 69(11) *Psychiatric Services*. 1146 (November 2018).

<sup>xii</sup> Alana Sharp et al., Impact of Medicaid Expansion on Access to Opioid Analgesic Medications and Medication-Assisted Treatment, 108(5) *Am J Public Health*. 642 (May 1, 2018).

<sup>xiii</sup> Zogg et al., Association of Medicaid Expansion With Access to Rehabilitative Care in Adult Trauma Patients, 154(4) *JAMA Surgery*. 402 (January 2019).

<sup>xiv</sup> Megan Cole et al., At Federally Funded Health Centers, Medicaid Expansion was Associated with Improved Quality of Care, 36(1) *Health Affairs*. 40 (January 2017).

<sup>xv</sup> Eric Charles et al., Impact of Medicaid Expansion on Cardiac Surgery Volume and Outcomes, 104(4) *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery*. 1251 (June 2017).

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<sup>xvi</sup> Sameed Ahmed Khantana et al., Association of Medicaid Expansion with Cardiovascular Mortality, 4(7) JAMA Cardiology. 671 (June 2019).

<sup>xvii</sup> Shailender Swaminathan et al., Association of Medicaid Expansion with 1-Year Mortality Among Patients with End-Stage Renal Disease, 320(21) J. Am. Med. Ass'n. 2242 (2018).

<sup>xviii</sup> Michael Hendryx et al., Increased Cancer Screening for Low-income Adults Under the Affordable Care Act Medicaid Expansion, 56(11) Medical Care. 944 (November 2018).

<sup>xix</sup> Aparna Soni et al., Effect of Medicaid Expansions of 2014 on Overall and Early-Stage Cancer Diagnoses, 108(2) American Journal of Public Health. 216 (December 2017).

<sup>xx</sup> Susan Hayes et al., Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Access to Care: Has the Affordable Care Act Made a Difference?, The Commonwealth Fund (August 2017).

<sup>xxi</sup> Kevin Griffith et al., The Affordable Care Act Reduced Socioeconomic Disparities in Health Care Access, 36(8) Health Affairs. (August 2017).

<sup>xxii</sup> Ajay Chaudry et al., Did the Affordable Care Act Reduce Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Insurance Coverage?, Commonwealth Fund (August 2019), *available at* [https://www.commonwealthfund.org/sites/default/files/2019-08/Chaudry did ACA reduce racial disparities ib v3.pdf](https://www.commonwealthfund.org/sites/default/files/2019-08/Chaudry%20did%20ACA%20reduce%20racial%20disparities%20ib%20v3.pdf)

<sup>xxiii</sup> Miami Matters, Miami-Dade County Community Health Report Card (July 2021), *available at* <http://www.miamidadematters.org/indicators/index/dashboard?id=83017053156222624>

<sup>xxiv</sup> *Id.*