

Investing in Iowa

Medicaid and Access to Mental Health and Addiction Services

“With the Medicaid Expansion in Iowa, people now have insurance that can pay for primary care providers, specialty visits, and medications instead of relying upon the emergency rooms to provide health care.” –Mental health provider in Waterloo, Iowa (National Council Medicaid Study, 12/2016)

Addiction and Mental Illness in Iowa

- Over [4 percent](#)¹, or 124,200 people in Iowa, have a serious mental illness, and these individuals are among our most vulnerable citizens.
- In 2015, there were over [300](#) drug-related deaths in Iowa. To prevent these tragedies, Iowans need high quality health care and access to affordable services.

Medicaid is an essential source of funding for behavioral health services in Iowa

Iowa is a Medicaid Expansion state, and currently receives a [56.74 %](#) matching rate from the federal government for regular funding for Medicaid services. Along with the enhanced match rate for expansion populations, these federal funds provide important support to the state in a time of increasing pressure on the state budget. Over the course of a year and a half alone, Medicaid expansion brought **\$967 million** in federal dollars into the state economy.² Iowa’s general fund revenue collections were lower than targeted in the last 6 months of FY 2016.³

- [146,300](#) Iowans are enrolled in the Medicaid Expansion.
- [587,100](#) Iowans are enrolled in Medicaid.⁴

Expanding Medicaid has helped save lives and money

- Over 90 percent of respondents to the December 2016 National Council Medicaid Survey reported that Medicaid Expansion in their state has increased the number of people able to access care. Nearly 70 percent reported an increased ability to access support services that were not covered previously under Medicaid.
- The National Council Survey pointed to the real economic benefits of the Medicaid Expansion, with 33 percent of respondents from 13 states reporting increased hiring of health professionals.
- Compared to non-expansion states, states that have expanded Medicaid have seen major reductions in uncompensated care delivered by safety net institutions, significant drops in the number of uninsured, and budget savings for hospitals and community health clinics.⁵

¹ State Estimates of Adult Mental Illness from the 2011 and 2012 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (Feb 2014).

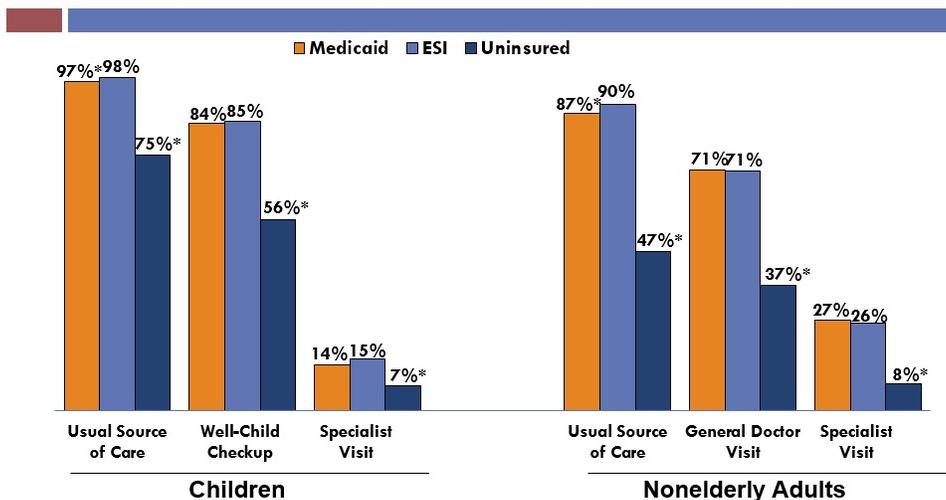
² Families USA, <http://familiesusa.org/product/defending-health-care-2017-what-stake-iowa>

³ <https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/NASBO/9d2d2db1-c943-4f1b-b750-Ofca152d64c2/UploadedImages/Fiscal%20Survey/Fall%202016%20Fiscal%20Survey%20of%20States%20-%20S.pdf>

⁴ Kaiser Family Foundation. <http://kff.org/health-reform/state-indicator/medicaid-expansion-enrollment/?currentTimeframe=0>

⁵ [Beyond the Reduction in Uncompensated Care: Medicaid Expansion Is Having a Positive Impact on Safety Net Hospitals and Clinics](#) by Adam Searing, Georgetown University Center for Children and Families and Jack Hoadley, Georgetown University Health Policy Institute, June 2016

Medicaid and private insurance provide similar access to care – the uninsured fare far less well.



NOTES: Access measures reflect experience in past 12 months. Respondents who said usual source of care was the emergency room are not counted as having a usual source of care. *Difference from ESI is statistically significant (p<.05)
 SOURCE: KCMU analysis of 2014 NHIS data.

Community Behavioral Health in Iowa

The Iowa Association of Community Providers, located in Urbandale, represents over 150 community-based organizations that provide services in all 99 Iowa counties. Association members serve 140,000 people with disabilities and employ 30,000 Iowans. IACP members annually contribute over 1.3 billion dollars to the state's economy.

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The Iowa Behavioral Health Association, located in Des Moines, has a focused mission of Better Behavioral Health through Education, Prevention, Treatment & Advocacy. IBHA represents nearly 30 member agencies throughout the state of Iowa that provide substance use disorder and addiction treatment programs, community mental health center services and problem gambling assistance.

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“It is imperative that we, in Iowa, as a community which seeks excellence in all aspects of health—physical, spiritual, emotional, and mental—put our best efforts into improving our mental health system. Treatment must be available, timely, humane and affordable.” --Reverend Julius Thimble, The Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church.⁶

⁶ <http://www.iaumc.org/blogdetail/934777>