

Investing in New Mexico

Medicaid and Access to Mental Health and Addiction Services

Last year in New Mexico, more people died of drug overdoses, accidental drug overdoses, than the death toll for vehicle accidents and homicide gun deaths combined,” Walz said in opening the forum. “Those are just numbers. Those don’t measure the human loss, the economic loss, the attendant crime that comes with some of the drug issues that you’re going to hear about tonight. - Kent Waltz, Editor for The Albuquerque Journal¹

Addiction and mental illness in New Mexico

- Over [4.72 percent](#)², or nearly 98,500 people, in New Mexico have a serious mental illness, and these individuals are among our most vulnerable citizens.
- Tragically, 501 New Mexicans lost their lives to drug overdoses in 2015, one of the highest death rates in the nation.³

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

New Mexico is a Medicaid Expansion state, and currently receives a [72.16 percent](#)⁴ matching rate from the federal government for regular funding for Medicaid services. Along with the match rate for expansion populations, these federal funds provide important support to the state in a time of increasing pressure on the state budget. According to the National Association of State Budget Officers, 2016 budget revenues in New Mexico were lower than projected and are projecting lower revenue collections for 2017.⁵ Over the course of a year and a half alone, Medicaid expansion brought **\$1.7 billion** in federal dollars into the state economy.⁶ Unfortunately, if healthcare reform reduces the enhanced federal match rate, New Mexico may end its expansion program, eliminating coverage for thousands of newly insured individuals.⁷

- [243,000](#) New Mexicans are enrolled in the Medicaid Expansion.
- [855,800](#) New Mexicans are enrolled in Medicaid.⁸

¹ Opioid Epidemic: Enough is Enough. (June 19, 2016). Albuquerque Journal. <https://www.abqjournal.com/794283/multipronged-attack-needed-on-opioid-issue-experts-say.html>

² State Estimates of Adult Mental Illness from the 2011 and 2012 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (Feb 2014). <http://archive.samhsa.gov/data/2k14/NSDUH170/sr170-mental-illness-state-estimates-2014.htm>

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/data/statedeaths.html>

⁴ Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for Medicaid and Multiplier (2017). Kaiser Family Foundation. <http://kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/federal-matching-rate-and-multiplier/?currentTimeframe=0>

⁵ [Fiscal Study of the States Fall, 2016](#). <https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/NASBO/9d2d2db1-c943-4f1b-b750-0fca152d64c2/UploadedImages/Fiscal%20Survey/Fall%202016%20Fiscal%20Survey%20of%20States%20-%20S.pdf>

⁶ Families USA, <http://familiesusa.org/product/defending-health-care-2017-what-stake-{State}>

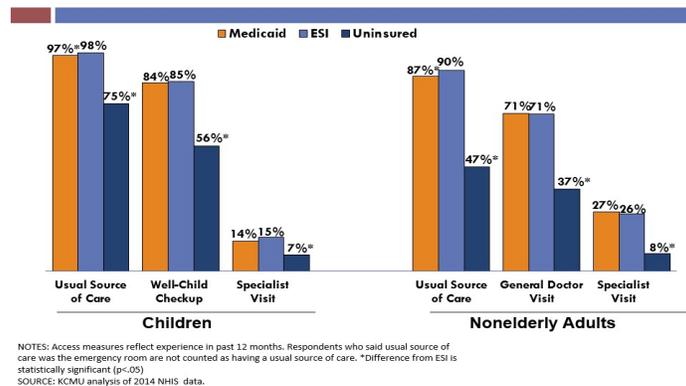
⁷ Inside Health Policy (Feb 2017). <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/eight-states-will-stop-medicare-expansion-if-congress-reduces-fmap>

⁸ Kaiser Family Foundation. <http://kff.org/health-reform/state-indicator/medicaid-expansion-enrollment/?currentTimeframe=0>

Recent research has found that access to health care leads to greater economic mobility across generations. Increased access to Medicaid has led to decreased infant mortality, improved education outcomes, decreased rates of depression, and improved employment.⁹ Rates of uninsurance in New Mexico have been cut in half since the enactment of the Medicaid Expansion in 2013.¹⁰ Economic reports have found significant increases in job growth since the Medicaid expansion, especially in the healthcare sector.¹¹

Nationally, 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.¹²

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



The costs do not go away if you don't fund the service. They show up in uncompensated care, increased costs to the corrections and legal system and increased disruption in the lives of individuals, families and organizations who are interacting with individuals with a mental illness or SUD who are unable to access what they need to live successfully in their community of choice -- Mental health provider in New Hampshire (National Council Medicaid Study, 12/2016)

⁹ Health and Economic Opportunity: Webinar Recording. Atheendar Venkatarami and Rourke O'Brien (Sept 14, 2016).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?vhttp://familiesusa.org/product/defending-health-care-2017-what-stake-arizona=DBvmSJeTTjs>

¹⁰ New Mexico sees Stark Financial Choices in Healthcare Overhaul (March 22, 2017). Capital Gazette. <http://www.capitalgazette.com/sns-bc-nm--health-overhaul-new-mexico-20170322-story.html>

¹¹ [Insurance and Employment Impacts of Medicaid Expansion in New Mexico](#) (Feb 19, 2016). Jeff Mitchell. University of New Mexico, Blog

¹² [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