

While Medicaid expansion was created to provide uninsured adults access to health coverage, it greatly benefits children too. Expansion has been shown to increase kids' coverage, improve children's health, and foster families' economic stability – helping children thrive both now and in the future. Moreover, other states have shown that expansion does not require cutting other programs or raising taxes.ⁱ

When Parents Gain Coverage, Children Do Too



- In 2008, 10,000 low-income adults were randomly selected from a lottery and given an opportunity to apply for Medicaid coverage.ⁱⁱ Even though children's eligibility for Medicaid remained the same, a recent study showed that for every nine adults who gained coverage through this lottery, one child became insured as well.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Other studies have found similar trends. While Medicaid expansion doesn't change children's eligibility for health coverage, research shows that when coverage is extended to adults, children are more likely to be enrolled as well – even though those children were already eligible.^{iv}

Medicaid Expansion Can Improve Children's Health



- Many low-income women do not have access to health coverage until they become pregnant. Medicaid expansion helps women manage chronic conditions and access other care prior to conception, increasing their likelihood of accessing health screenings and taking prenatal supplements like folic acid.^v
- States that have expanded Medicaid saw a 50% greater reduction in infant mortality and reduced rates of maternal death compared to non-expansion states. When we ensure moms are supported with high-quality health care before, during and after pregnancy, we can help ensure a healthier start for our children.^{vi}
- What's more, when parents gain health coverage, their children are more likely to access well-child visits, where they receive immunizations and critical developmental screenings.^{vii}

Medicaid Expansion Improves Financial Security, Helping Families Thrive



- Medicaid expansion has been shown to reduce the size of medical debt, the proportion of families with such debt, and the likelihood that medical bills go to collections. Similarly, expansion improved credit scores and reduced evictions.^{viii}
- By reducing economic stress, Medicaid expansion protects children and families from the adverse childhood experiences that stem from financial instability.

- i. Missouri Budget Project, "Medicaid Expansion is Good for State Budgets," June 2020, www.mobudget.org/medicaid-expansion-is-good-for-state-budgets/. Also The Commonwealth Fund, "The Impact of Medicaid Expansion on States' Budgets," May 5, 2020, <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2020/may/impact-medicaid-expansion-states-budgets>; Helen Levy et. al., "Macroeconomic Feedback Effects of Medicaid Expansion: Evidence from Michigan," *Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law*, February 2020, <https://read.dukeupress.edu/jhpl/article-abstract/45/1/5/140654/Macroeconomic-Feedback-Effects-of-Medicaid>; Benjamin D. Sommers and Jonathan Gruber, "Federal Funding Insulated State Budgets From Increased Spending Related To Medicaid Expansion," *Health Affairs*, May 2017, <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/full/10.1377/hlthaff.2016.1666>; Matt Powers, et al., Health Management Associates, "Medicaid Expansion in Missouri – Economic Implications for Missouri and Interviews Reflecting Arkansas, Indiana, and Ohio Experiences," February 2020, <https://www.healthmanagement.com/blog/medicaid-expansion-in-missouri-economic-implications-for-missouri-and-interviews-reflecting-arkansas-indiana-and-ohio-experiences/>.
- ii. This paper was revised on 4/16/21 to demonstrate the number of adults included in the study.
- iii. Adam Sacarny et al., "Out of the Woodwork: Enrollment Spillovers in the Oregon Health Insurance Experiment," National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 26871, March 2020, <https://www.nber.org/papers/w26871.pdf>.
- iv. Jessica Schubel, "Expanding Medicaid for Parents Improves Coverage and Health for Both Parents and Children," Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, October 21, 2020, <https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/expanding-medicaid-for-parents-improves-coverage-and-health-for-both-parents-and>.
- v. Rebecca Myerson et al., "Medicaid Expansion Increased Preconception Health Counseling, Folic Acid Intake, And Postpartum Contraception," *Health Affairs*, June 2017, <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/full/10.1377/hlthaff.2020.00106>.
- vi. Adam Searing and Donna Cohen Ross, "Medicaid Expansion Fills Gaps in Maternal Health Coverage Leading to Healthier Mothers and Babies," Georgetown Center for Children and Families, May 19, 2019, <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2019/05/09/medicaid-expansion-fills-gaps-in-maternal-health-coverage-leading-to-healthier-mothers-and-babies/>.
- vii. Maya Venkataramani et al., "Spillover Effects of Adult Medicaid Expansions on Children's Use of Preventive Services," *Pediatrics*, December 2017, <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/140/6/e20170953>.
- viii. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, "Chart Book: The Far-Reaching Benefits of the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid Expansion," October 21, 2020, <https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/chart-book-the-far-reaching-benefits-of-the-affordable-care-acts-medicaid-expansion#4>