

Medicaid in MONTANA

Montana Medicaid Supports Behavioral Health

Medicaid provides nearly 300,000 low-income Montanans health care coverage that facilitates access to physical and behavioral health care services. In 2015, the Montana Legislature passed the HELP Act, which expanded Medicaid to cover low-income adults not already covered by other Medicaid programs. In 2022, approximately 115,000 Montanans with incomes up to 133% of the federal poverty level were covered by Medicaid expansion.

Rates of mental health conditions in Montana are among the highest in the country and nearly a quarter of Montanans report experiencing mental illness. The need for behavioral health services is especially acute among Montana Medicaid expansion enrollees. In 2021, nearly 37,000 Medicaid expansion enrollees had one or more behavioral health diagnoses.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

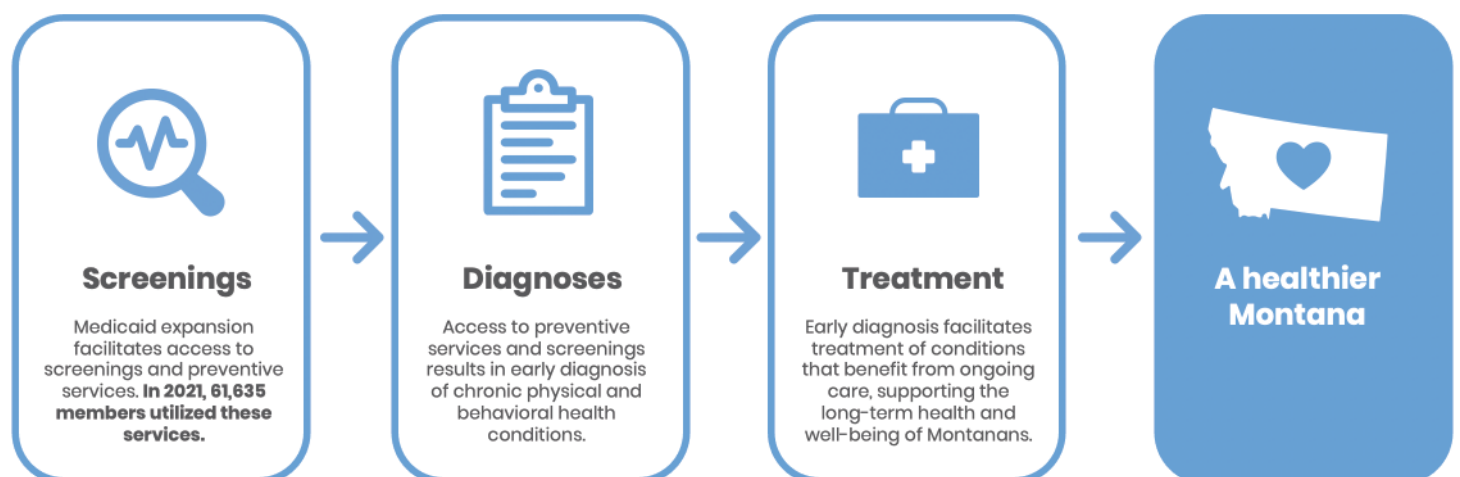
is a term that includes mental illness and substance use disorders and the health care fields that address them.



36,000+

enrollees had
behavioral
health diagnoses

Medicaid expansion facilitates access to screenings, which contributes to earlier diagnoses and better health outcomes.



Access to Preventive Services & Screening

Medicaid expansion facilitates access to behavioral health screenings. In 2021, 61,635 expansion enrollees accessed preventive services, including alcohol abuse, depression, and other mental health and substance use disorder screenings.



61,635+
enrollees accessed preventive services

INTEGRATED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Primary care is a critical access point for behavioral health screening and treatment. An integrated care model (or “integrated behavioral health”) enables primary care providers to offer screening and prompt, effective behavioral health care. More than 70% of adult Medicaid patients receive care in practices that provide integrated care.

Early Diagnosis Means Early Treatment

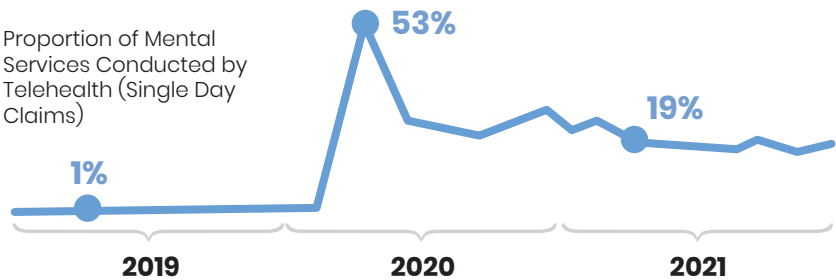
Access to screenings and preventive services results in early diagnosis of chronic physical and behavioral health conditions.

In 2021, **34,156 Medicaid expansion enrollees received mental health services**, and **5,750 received support for substance use disorders**.

Telehealth service use increased dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic and remained high for mental health services through 2021. **Nearly 20% of all mental health services provided in April 2021 were delivered via telehealth.**

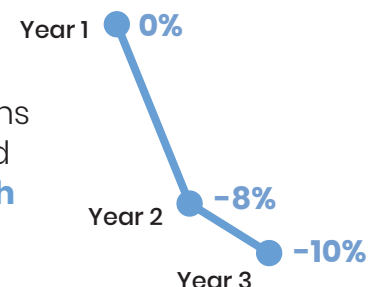


Proportion of Mental Services Conducted by Telehealth (Single Day Claims)



Early Treatment Supports Better Health Outcomes

Early diagnosis facilitates the early treatment of conditions that benefit from ongoing care and leads to better health outcomes. Medicaid expansion enrollees with chronic behavioral health conditions visited the emergency department less frequently the longer they had access to other preventive and specialty services. **For individuals with a substance use disorder, emergency department use declined by 10% between their first and third years of Medicaid enrollment.**



For more info on these findings, visit mthcf.org/resource/medicaid-in-montana-2023