

# MONTANA MEDICAID EXPANSION:

## Impacts on health coverage, outcomes, and cost

The bipartisan Montana Health and Economic Livelihood Partnership (HELP) Act expanded Medicaid in 2016 to cover nondisabled, childless adults with incomes up to 133% of the federal poverty level, which was roughly \$13,600 for an individual in 2021.



### The HELP Act's objectives are to:

- 1 Expand health coverage
- 2 Improve access to health services
- 3 Control health care costs

## EXPANDING HEALTH COVERAGE



### Job loss safety net

Medicaid expansion provided a **safety net for people with COVID-19-related job losses**. The Medicaid expansion population grew over the course of 2020 as Montanans relied on the program for health coverage through the pandemic.



# 105,000

**Montanans covered** by Medicaid expansion in 2021

Medicaid expansion **supports businesses** by providing health coverage to low-wage employees.



# 60%

of Montana businesses had at **least one employee** enrolled in Medicaid in 2019.

## IMPROVING ACCESS TO HEALTH

## SERVICES – AND HEALTH OUTCOMES!

### + MEDICAID EXPANSION ENROLLEES:

**55K**

accessed  
**preventive  
health care**

**31K**

accessed  
**mental health  
treatments**

**5K**

accessed **treatment  
for substance  
use disorders**



### CANCER PREVENTION & CARE

Every year roughly **6,000** Medicaid expansion enrollees are screened for breast and colon cancer. In 2020, these screenings resulted in the early diagnosis and treatment of over **800** cancer cases.

These services contribute to **better health outcomes** for recipients, including:

The identification and treatment of thousands of people with high blood pressure, diabetes, mental health conditions, and other common illnesses.

With better access to primary and specialty care, over time, Medicaid expansion enrollees had a **14% decrease in emergency department use**, including reduced emergency department use for common conditions such as diabetes, substance use, respiratory illness, and dental conditions.

## CONTROLLING HEALTH CARE COSTS



**\$27 million**

**state budget savings in 2021**  
due to Medicaid expansion

Medicaid expansion halved uncompensated care costs to local hospitals, supporting the **financial viability of essential rural hospitals**.



The combination of Montana's high Medicaid match rates for its expansion population and its unique financing arrangements, allowed Montana to use **less of its state general fund to finance Medicaid (12%) than peer states**.

Medicaid expansion freed up federal grant funding for substance use prevention and treatment, and Indian Health Services funding for referred care for **Montana's American Indian communities**.