

# WHAT MEDICAID BRINGS TO District of Columbia



The  
Commonwealth  
Fund



**257,197**  
children and adults<sup>1</sup>

are insured by Medicaid or CHIP (Healthy Families). Those covered include parents, pregnant women, and people with disabilities.

**CHILDREN  
COVERED<sup>2</sup>**

**38%**

Children ages 0–18 in District of Columbia who were covered by Medicaid in 2023

**ADULTS  
COVERED<sup>2</sup>**

**19%**

Adults ages 19–64 in District of Columbia who were covered by Medicaid in 2023



**D.C. received \$3 billion in  
federal support for Medicaid in 2023.**

**This accounted for 78% of total  
Medicaid spending in the state.<sup>3</sup>**



**Medicaid enrollment  
by the numbers**

**95,569**

Children enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP<sup>1</sup>

**118,303**

Adults enrolled because of ACA expansion<sup>4</sup>

**31,713**

Dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid<sup>5</sup>



**Adults insured with Medicaid are least  
likely to report having medical debt**

Adults ages 19–64 who were continuously insured and **reported having medical debt**, by insurance type, 2024<sup>7</sup>

**21%**  
Medicaid

**29%**  
Medicare

**29%**  
Employer

**32%**  
Individual /  
Marketplace



**Medicaid and CHIP are a critical  
source of coverage in rural parts  
of the country**

Percent of **children** (ages 0–18) living in rural or metro areas covered by Medicaid or CHIP, 2023<sup>6</sup>

Metro **38%**

Rural **41%**

Percent of **adults** (ages 19–64) living in rural or metro areas covered by Medicaid, 2023<sup>6</sup>

Metro **16%**

Rural **18%**



**Medicaid helps youth with mental and  
behavioral health needs access care**

Youth ages 12–17 with a **mental health condition** whose insurance covered mental health services, 2022<sup>8</sup>

Public  
Insurance

**60%**

**27%**

**13%**

Private  
Insurance

**46%**

**30%**

**24%**

**ALWAYS**

**USUALLY**

**SOMETIMES /  
NEVER**

Public insurance = Medicaid, medical assistance, or any kind of government assistance plan for those with low incomes or a disability

Sources: 1. CMS, Medicaid and CHIP Enrollment Data Highlights, Sept. 2024. 2. Authors' analysis of 2023 ACS-PUMS. 3. KFF, Federal and State Share of Medicaid Spending, 2023. 4. CMS, Medicaid Enrollment Data Collected Through MBES, June 2024. 5. CMS, Medicare Monthly Enrollment, Sept. 2024. 6. Georgetown CCF, Medicaid's Role in Small Towns and Rural Areas, 2025. 7. Commonwealth Fund, Biennial Health Insurance Survey, 2024. 8. Authors' analysis of 2022 NSCH.