

WHAT MEDICAID BRINGS TO North Carolina



The
Commonwealth
Fund



2.8 million
children and adults¹

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

**CHILDREN
COVERED²**

41%

Children ages 0–18 in North Carolina who were
covered by Medicaid in 2023

**ADULTS
COVERED²**

12%

Adults ages 19–64 in North Carolina who were
covered by Medicaid in 2023



**North Carolina received \$14 billion in
federal support for Medicaid in 2023.**

**This accounted for 73% of total
Medicaid spending in the state.³**



**Medicaid enrollment
by the numbers**

1,407,870

Children enrolled in Medicaid or
CHIP¹

480,836

Adults enrolled because of ACA
expansion⁴

350,271

Dually eligible for Medicare and
Medicaid⁵



**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, 2024⁷

21%
Medicaid

29%
Medicare

29%
Employer

32%
Individual /
Marketplace



**Medicaid and CHIP are a critical
source of coverage in rural parts
of North Carolina**

Percent of **children** (ages 0–18) living in rural or
metro areas covered by Medicaid or CHIP, 2023⁶

Metro **40%**

Rural **49%**

Percent of **adults** (ages 19–64) living in rural or
metro areas covered by Medicaid, 2023⁶

Metro **12%**

Rural **16%**



**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, 2022⁸

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.