# Medicaid Works in Rhode Island

Medicaid provides health coverage that helps low-income seniors, children, and people with disabilities get needed health care. It gives parents and other adults economic security through health coverage that protects them from medical debt and allows them to stay healthy and engaged in their community. It is jointly run by the federal and state governments.

## Medicaid Helps Rhode Island's Kids, Seniors, People with Disabilities, and Families

### 291,300

Rhode Islanders get quality health coverage through Medicaid.

Most are children, seniors, or people with disabilities.

**117,000** of Rhode Island's children get health care through Medicaid.

That's **1 of 2** kids in our state who can see a doctor when they are sick, and get the vaccinations and screenings they need to stay healthy, thanks to Medicaid.

Medicaid helps **5,100** of Rhode Island's babies get a healthy start in life each year.

**24,500** of Rhode Island's seniors get health care through Medicaid, including nursing home care and services that help them live at home.

Medicaid provides **34,900** people with disabilities in Rhode Island access to critical care that helps them live independently.[1]

That's **46%** of births in our state.

That's **15%** of seniors in our state.

That's **24%** of people with disabilities in our state.

## Medicaid Is Effective

### Medicaid Improves Health

- Medicaid beneficiaries are more likely than the uninsured to access preventive care, such as mammograms for women and vaccinations for kids.
- They also are more likely to have a regular office or clinic where they can get primary care.
- Expanding Medicaid coverage for low-income adults reduced mortality by 6 percent on average, a key study found.

### Medicaid Provides Vital Support to Seniors and People With Disabilities

Medicaid allows millions of seniors and people with disabilities to get the support and care they need to live at home, as well as nursing home care for those who need it. In fact, Medicaid pays for half of all long-term services and supports provided across the country.

[1] Includes people with physical conditions (such as traumatic brain injuries), intellectual or developmental disabilities (such as cerebral palsy), and serious behavioral disorders or mental illness (such as schizophrenia). Nearly two-thirds of beneficiaries who qualify due to disability do not receive Supplemental Security Income.

### Fewer Kids Go Without Health Insurance Thanks to Medicaid...

Medicaid, along with the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), has significantly reduced the ranks of uninsured children. In Rhode Island, just **2.2%** of children are uninsured, compared to **6.4%** of non-elderly adults.

### ...And Coverage Is Now Improving for Adults Because Rhode Island Expanded Medicaid.

Since 2013, the uninsured rate for adults here has fallen by **61%**

### Medicaid Has Long-Term Benefits for Kids

Children who are eligible for Medicaid health coverage:

**do better in school,**

**miss fewer school days due to illness or injury,**

**are more likely to finish high school, attend college, and graduate from college,**

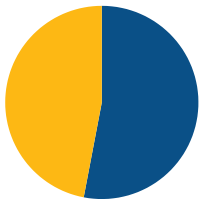**have fewer emergency-room visits and hospitalizations as adults, and**

**earn more as adults.**

### Medicaid Improves Financial Security

People with Medicaid coverage are less likely than people without insurance to go into medical debt or to leave other bills unpaid to cover their medical expenses.

## Medicaid Expansion Supports Workers

In 2017, only **53%** of private-sector employers in Rhode Island offered health benefits to their employees.

Many workers who don't get coverage through their jobs rely on Medicaid coverage for themselves and their families.

**61,500 Rhode Islanders** gained coverage through Rhode Island's Medicaid expansion.

Many work in jobs that pay low or moderate wages but are crucial for the state's economy.

For example:

| | |
|---|---|
| Restaurants and hospitality | **5,600** |
| Retail sector (including grocery and department stores) | **4,200** |

For more information about Medicaid visit: https://www.cbpp.org/topics/medicaid-and-chip