

— TOP TAKEAWAYS —

Medicaid's COVID-19 Challenges

HHS MUST LET THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY DECLARATION EXPIRE

- The end of the Public Health Emergency determination will—among other things—allow states to remove ineligible enrollees from the Medicaid program, which ballooned during the pandemic.
- Overloading Medicaid with too many enrollees takes resources away from those who need them most.
- It also keeps too many people on inferior public coverage when they could otherwise be on private insurance plans, costs taxpayers in the form of increased social spending, and moves our public policy closer to government-controlled health care and farther from a vibrant, competitive private marketplace.

MEDICAID EXPANSION HAS NOT IMPROVED GENERAL HEALTH

- The Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act was associated with mixed results related to health access and outcomes.
- For example, some studies have shown that Medicaid expansion coverage was associated with higher rates of **primary care use**, but other studies indicate no evidence of changes to **general health status** due to the expansion.
- In fact, in some studies, the expansion was associated with longer **wait times** for care, increased **emergency department use**, or more **difficulty finding a physician**.

THERE ARE BETTER HEALTHCARE SAFETY-NET SOLUTIONS

- Policymakers should work to preserve and strengthen Medicaid for those with the greatest need.
- At the same time, they should work to make private health insurance affordable and accessible to able-bodied working-age adults.
- This would benefit Medicaid beneficiaries and taxpayers alike and would maximize access to the highest quality of care for everyone. This should be our ultimate goal, pandemic in, pandemic out.

Click [HERE](#) to read the policy focus and learn more about Medicaid.