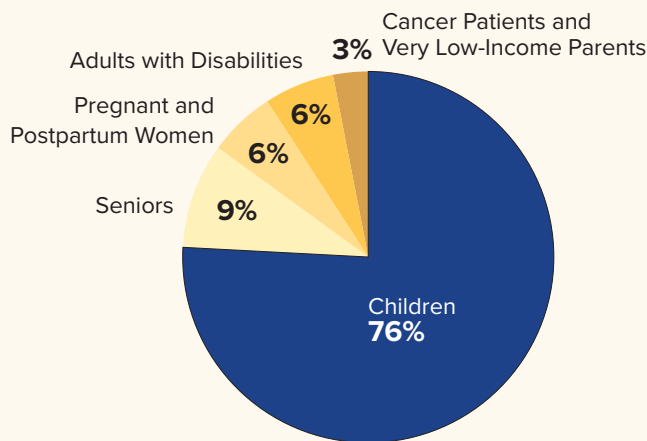


# Overview of Medicaid in Texas

Medicaid, a federal-state partnership, offers health insurance to certain Texans who do not receive coverage through their family's jobs and cannot afford to purchase private insurance.

**In Texas, Medicaid primarily provides health insurance to children, pregnant and postpartum women, people with disabilities, and seniors.**

**Texas' Medicaid Enrollment by Eligibility Group<sup>1</sup>**



- The vast majority of Texans enrolled in Medicaid are **children**.
- A higher percentage of Texans in **rural** areas rely on Medicaid than in urban areas.<sup>2</sup>
- Undocumented immigrants are **prohibited** from enrolling in Texas Medicaid.
- In Texas, adults with low incomes are typically **excluded** from Medicaid, unless they fall into one of these eligibility categories, because the state has not approved Medicaid expansion.

**Medicaid successfully improves access to health care and health outcomes.**

Children who completed at least one well-child visit in the last year<sup>3</sup>



Pregnant women who completed at least 9 prenatal visits<sup>4</sup>



- Medicaid coverage during pregnancy is associated with a healthier birth weight for babies.<sup>5</sup>
- Medicaid coverage during early childhood is associated with improved health in adulthood.<sup>6</sup>
- Medicaid is the largest single source of funding for mental health.<sup>7</sup>
- Medicaid plays a key role in keeping rural hospitals open.<sup>8</sup>

### Examples of services covered for children:

- Routine checkups and regular medical care
- Pediatric dental and eye exams
- Medications when they are sick
- Hospital care
- Speech and physical therapies
- Mental health visits

### Examples of services covered for pregnant and postpartum women:

- Prenatal visits and ultrasounds
- Labor and delivery services
- X-rays and lab tests
- Treatment for conditions like heart disease or postpartum depression



**After Lola was born with birth defects, she got the surgeries she needed.**

**When Lola missed school because she was sick, she got the medications she needed to quickly get back in the classroom.**

### Texans support Medicaid.

**4 in 5**



**American adults** hold a favorable opinion of Medicaid.<sup>9</sup>

**69%**



**of Texans** have a favorable opinion of Medicaid.<sup>10</sup>

### Endnotes

1. “Children” includes those in families with low incomes, current and former foster youth, and children with disabilities. Texas Health and Human Services Commission. (2024). [Texas Medicaid and CHIP Reference Guide \(15th ed.\)](#). Texas State Government. Texas Health and Human Services Commission (2024). [Medicaid and CHIP Enrollment by Risk Group](#). Texas State Government
2. The Texas metro rate is 16.6%, and the Texas small town/rural area rate is 20.4%. [Medicaid Coverage in Metro and Small Town/Rural Counties in Texas, 2023](#). Georgetown University Center for Children and Families.
3. [Children’s Health Coverage: The Role of Medicaid and CHIP and Issues for the Future](#). (2016). Kaiser Family Foundation.
4. [Access in Brief: Pregnant Women and Medicaid](#). (2018). Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission.
5. East, C.N., Miller, S., Page, M., & Wherry, L.R. (2022). [Multi-generational impacts of childhood access to the safety net: Early life exposure to Medicaid and the next generation of health](#). National Bureau of Economic Research, Working Paper 23810.
6. [Jeopardizing a Sound Investment: Why Short-Term Cuts to Medicaid Coverage During Pregnancy and Childhood Could Result in Long-Term Harm](#). (2020). The Commonwealth Fund.
7. [Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Action Plan](#). (2023). Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services.
8. [Medicaid Coverage in Metro and Small Town/Rural Counties in Texas, 2023](#). Georgetown University Center for Children and Families.
9. [Post-Election Health Care / Food Poll](#). (2025). Perry Undem.
10. Sim, S., Barnes, A., Sutton, J., Sen, P., Ben-Porath, E. (2025). [Texans’ Health Experiences and Perspectives](#). Episcopal Health Foundation.