

# PROTECT OUR CARE

## ACA At 10: Health Care For Rural Americans

Rural Americans have unique health care needs and have traditionally experienced [higher rates of uninsurance](#) and [barriers to coverage and care](#).

### **The Affordable Care Act (ACA) Led To Coverage Gains In Rural America**

- Nearly [1.7 million](#) rural Americans gained coverage through Medicaid expansion under the ACA. [24 percent](#) of Americans living in rural areas have health coverage through Medicaid.
- In 2017, nearly [1 in 5 marketplace enrollees](#) (1.6 million people) lived in rural areas.
- The uninsured rate for low-income adults [dropped from 35 percent to 16 percent](#) in rural areas and small towns in states that expanded Medicaid.

### **Medicaid Is A Lifeline For Rural Hospitals**

- The ACA led to a \$12 billion reduction in uncompensated care costs. Between 2013 and 2015, hospitals' uncompensated care costs decreased by [\\$12 billion](#), or roughly 30 percent. The majority of this reduction was concentrated in states that chose to expand Medicaid.
- [430 rural hospitals](#) are at a high financial risk of closing. This represents roughly 21 percent of the country's rural hospitals.
- [120 rural hospitals](#) have closed since 2010. The vast majority closed in states that had not expanded Medicaid at the time of the hospital closure.

### **The ACA's Medicaid Expansion Plays A Central Role In Fighting The Opioid Crisis**

- **[More than half](#) of people with an opioid use disorder earn incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty line.**
- **In 2014, Medicaid paid for [25 percent](#) of all addiction treatment nationwide.**
- **It is estimated that Medicaid expansion covers [four in ten](#) people with an opioid use disorder.**
- **Among those with opioid addiction, people covered through Medicaid are nearly twice as likely as those with private insurance to receive treatment.** In 2017, 44 percent of people who had substance use disorders received treatment when they were covered through Medicaid, [significantly higher](#) than the 24 percent of those privately insured who received treatment and 32 percent of those who were uninsured and received treatment.
- **Medicaid expansion has reduced unmet need for substance use treatment by more than 18 percent.** Recent research finds that Medicaid expansion [reduced the unmet need](#) for substance use treatment by 18.3 percent.

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- **Medicaid expansion may have saved more than 8,000 people from fatal opioid overdoses.** A recent study found that Medicaid expansion [prevented as many as 8,132 deaths](#) in the 32 states that expanded Medicaid between 2014 and 2016.
- **The uninsured rate for opioid-related hospitalizations in Medicaid expansion states dropped by 79 percent.** In expansion states, the uninsured rate for opioid-related hospitalizations [dropped](#) from 13.4 percent in 2013 to 2.9 percent in 2015. Non-expansion states only saw a 5 percent decline over the same period.

## **Republicans Want To End Medicaid Expansion Through Their Lawsuit To Overturn The ACA**

- **Seventeen Million People Enrolled Through Medicaid Expansion Could Lose Coverage.**
- **Access To Treatment Would Be In Jeopardy For 800,000 People With Opioid Use Disorder.** Roughly four in ten, or 800,000 people with an opioid use disorder are enrolled in Medicaid. Many became eligible through Medicaid expansion.
- **Key Support For Rural Hospitals Would Disappear,** leaving hospitals with [\\$9.6 billion](#) more in uncompensated care.