



KanCare Expansion: Just the Facts

Expanding KanCare will enhance services for mental health and substance use disorders (SUD).

Kansans who need services for mental health and SUD make up a substantial share of the uninsured who would gain coverage from KanCare expansion. Expanded coverage and financing will increase access and availability of these services.

- Expansion is strongly associated with improvements in access to care and positive outcomes related to SUD and mental healthcare. Given the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health and substance use, Medicaid expansion is an even more significant source of coverage for behavioral health care.
- States that have expanded Medicaid spend less on programs for people with behavioral healthcare needs without sacrificing access to care.
- Enhancing access to mental health and SUD services will reduce long-term healthcare costs. Untreated co-occurring psychiatric and chronic medical conditions are associated with significantly more expensive care.
- Medicaid expansion greatly enhances the use of services for mental health and SUD and enables states and providers to offer new services.
- The share of opioid-related hospitalizations of uninsured patients fell dramatically in states that expanded Medicaid, from 13.4% in 2013 (the year before expansion took effect) to just 2.9% two years later.
- Individuals who need services for mental health and SUD make up a substantial share of those who would gain coverage from expansion. Those enrolled in Medicaid are 30% more likely to receive the treatment they need.
- The U.S. Government Accountability Office reported that states that had expanded Medicaid saw 20% - 34% of adults use some form of behavioral health services in 2014. Additionally, these states reported greater access to care and increased use of medication-assisted treatment for substance abuse.
- Residents of expansion states report reductions in psychological distress and days of poor mental health, as well as increases in self-assessed general health.



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Expand KanCare: How You Can Help

Join the Alliance for a Healthy Kansas at expandkancare.com

To share stories about the coverage gap, email marissa@expandkancare.com, or submit your stories on our website at expandkancare.com/share-your-story.

Sign our petition to urge candidates to support KanCare expansion at expandkancare.com/get-involved.

To volunteer to collect petition signatures or to learn more about how you can be a KanCare expansion advocate, email taylor@expandkancare.com.

Use #ExpandKanCare and #ksleg to promote KanCare expansion on social media.

On Facebook: www.facebook.com/ExpandKanCare/

On Twitter: @ExpandKanCare

On TikTok: @AllianceforaHealthyKS

Reach out to the faith leaders, business leaders, and leaders of community organizations that you know and ask them to join the Alliance for a Healthy Kansas. More info at expandkancare.com/who-we-are.