



ALLIANCE FOR A  
HEALTHY KANSAS

## KanCare Expansion: Just the Facts

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### **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](https://expandkancare.com)

To share stories about the coverage gap, email [marissa@expandkancare.com](mailto:marissa@expandkancare.com), or submit your stories on our website at [expandkancare.com/share-your-story](https://expandkancare.com/share-your-story).

Sign our petition to urge candidates to support KanCare expansion at [expandkancare.com/get-involved](https://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](mailto:taylor@expandkancare.com).

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

On Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ExpandKanCare/](https://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](https://expandkancare.com/who-we-are).