



## **KanCare Expansion: Just the Facts**

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### **Expanding Medicaid assists incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people and reduces the load on our criminal justice system.**

Expanding Medicaid will connect many justice-involved individuals to health care coverage. Access to health care services will reduce recidivism and arrests and prevent many of these individuals from further involvement with the criminal justice system. KanCare expansion will also reduce costs associated with incarceration and improve outcomes for justice-involved Kansans overall.

- Mental illnesses are incredibly common among people in jails and prisons. 37% of people in prisons and 44% of people in jails have been diagnosed with a mental illness, and the number of incarcerated persons living with mental illness is estimated to be even higher when accounting for those who have not been diagnosed.
- Substance use disorders (SUD) are also common among incarcerated populations, with more than half of people incarcerated in state prisons and jails meeting the criteria for SUD. Medicaid expansion is strongly associated with improvements in access to care and positive outcomes related to mental health and SUD.
- People who have been incarcerated often live with lasting effects of incarceration such as post-traumatic stress, anxiety, and more. Additionally, 66% of people incarcerated in prisons report not receiving mental health care while incarcerated. Medicaid expansion will help justice-involved individuals access the health care they need, which will reduce the likelihood of recidivism and help formerly incarcerated people be successful upon release.
- Uninsurance is common among incarcerated persons. Upon release, formerly incarcerated people face many barriers to success, with inadequate health care being a significant challenge. Particularly in non-expansion states, low-income individuals who have been recently released from jail or prison do not qualify for Medicaid. An estimated 60-90% of formerly incarcerated individuals would qualify for Medicaid under expansion.
- When inpatient care is provided outside prison settings, states can claim federal matching funds for the care provided. Expansion states save millions of dollars per year by using Medicaid to cover inpatient care for incarcerated persons.
- Medicaid expansion has been found to reduce arrests, particularly drug-related arrests. Increased access to insurance coverage creates avenues for justice-involved individuals to seek care and receive treatment – and thus, avoid incarceration and criminalization.



ALLIANCE FOR A  
HEALTHY KANSAS

## **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).