

Medicaid expansion cuts out-of-pocket spending

February 2 2018



(HealthDay)—States that expanded Medicaid cut the probability of non-

elderly near-poor adults being uninsured and lowered average out-of-pocket spending, according to a study published online Jan. 24 in *Health Affairs*.

Fredric Blavin, Ph.D., from the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C., and colleagues used data from 2010 to 2015 to estimate the effects of Medicaid expansion on coverage and out-of-pocket expenses versus the effects of Marketplace coverage.

The researchers found that for adults with family incomes of 100 to 138 percent of poverty, living in a Medicaid expansion state was associated with a 4.5-percentage-point reduction in the probability of being uninsured. It was also associated with a \$344 decline in average total out-of-pocket spending, a 4.1-percentage-point decline in high out-of-pocket spending burden (spending more than 10 percent of income), and a 7.7-percentage-point decline in the probability of having any out-of-pocket [spending](#), compared to living in a non-expansion state.

"These findings suggest that policies that substitute Marketplace for Medicaid eligibility could lower coverage rates and increase out-of-pocket expenses for enrollees," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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Citation: Medicaid expansion cuts out-of-pocket spending (2018, February 2) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2018-02-medicaid-expansion-out-of-pocket.html>

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