

# Expanding Medicaid in holdout states could insure 3.9 million

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(HealthDay)—Expanding Medicaid to all states could reduce the number

of uninsured by 28 percent based on pre-COVID-19 data, according to a report released by the Urban Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Michael Simpson, from the Urban Institute Health Policy Center, and colleagues used the pre-COVID-19 current-law baseline to estimate the effects of expanding Medicaid on [health insurance coverage](#) and government costs in each of the 15 nonexpansion states in 2020.

The authors note that if these 15 states were to have fully implemented a Medicaid expansion in 2020, there would be a 28 percent reduction in the uninsured (3.9 million fewer people). An additional 185,000 people would gain more comprehensive insurance by dropping short-term limited-duration plans and enrolling in Medicaid, yielding 4.1 million more people having coverage meeting Affordable Care Act standards. In these 15 states, [federal spending](#) on [health](#) care for nonelderly people would increase by about \$30.4 billion (a 23 percent increase), while state spending on Medicaid in these states would increase by \$4.7 billion (9 percent) but would be fully or largely offset by savings in other areas.

"Given the COVID-19-related job losses, the largest number since the Great Depression, employer-sponsored insurance is lower than the current law estimates presented here and is likely to fall significantly further," the authors write. "As a consequence, these estimates of the implications of Medicaid expansions in the remaining states understate the increase in coverage and government spending that would occur, at least in the near term."

**More information:** [More Information](#)

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