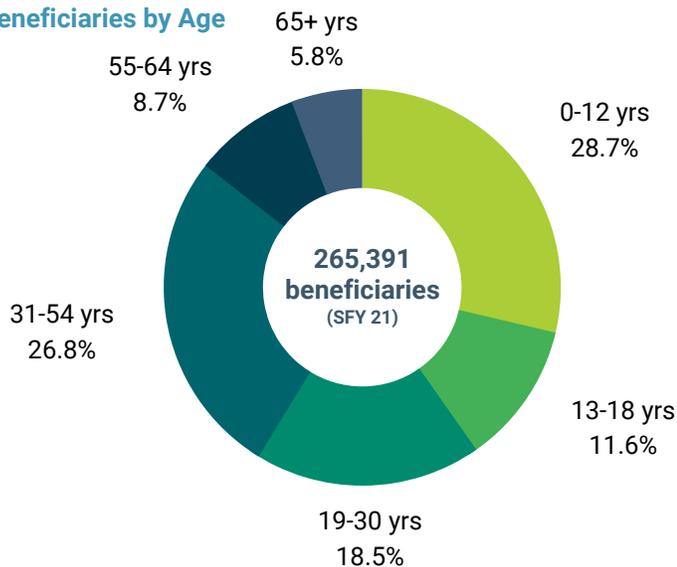


## Medicaid is a Critical Investment

With nearly one in three Alaskans covered by Medicaid, supporting the Medicaid program is vital to Alaska's healthcare infrastructure. Since its inception in 1965, the Medicaid program has evolved from welfare-based coverage to a major payer in our healthcare system. It serves as a federal-state partnership for the administration and funding of health services for people who are low-income (many of whom are employed without health insurance) or living with a disability.

## Who does Medicaid cover in Alaska?

### Beneficiaries by Age



### Protection for Vulnerable Populations

104,338 children  
16,234 disabled people  
15,361 elderly  
(SFY21)

## Medicaid and Behavioral Health

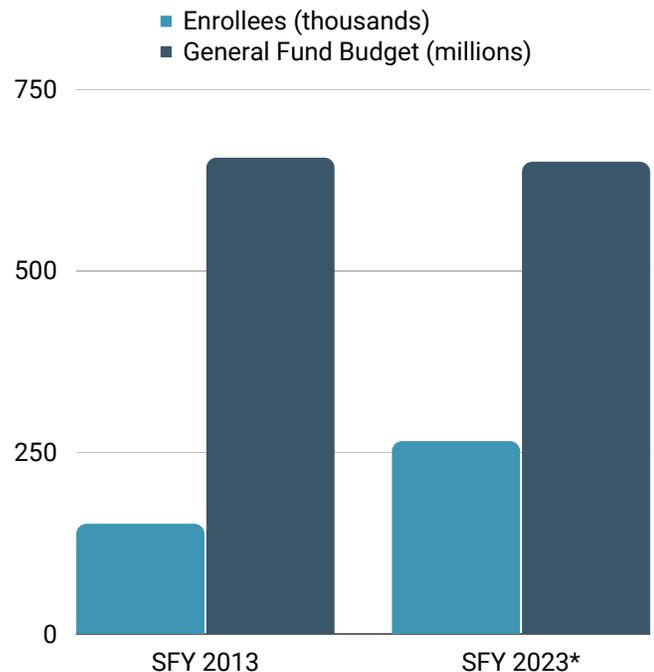
Alaska is seeing an increase in utilization of emergency departments by children and adolescents for behavioral health crises. Medicaid was the primary payer for 60% of child and adolescent behavioral health ED visits in 2021. Access to care in the community is critical to keeping people out of the emergency department. Less than 3% of individual therapists and counselors in Alaska accept Medicaid and many communities do not have adequate behavioral health services.

## Medicaid vs. Medicare

**Medicaid** provides health coverage and long-term care services for low-income Alaskans. It is jointly (federal and state) funded and administered by the state within federal guidelines.

**Medicare** is federally funded and administered health insurance for anyone age 65 and older, and those under 65 with certain disabilities or conditions.

Alaska budgets less General Funds today than 10 years ago while providing coverage to 100K more Alaskans.



\*The enrollee count equals the most recently available "actuals," which is from SFY 21

