

2024 ISSUE BRIEF

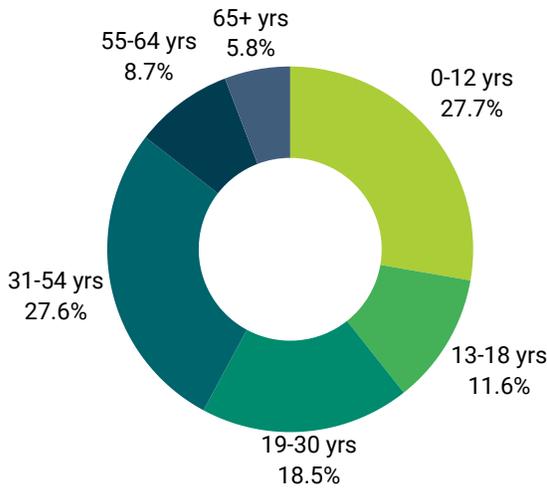
Medicaid in Alaska

Medicaid is a Critical Investment

Medicaid is a federal-state partnership that provides health coverage and long term care services for Alaska’s most vulnerable: children, seniors, people with disabilities, pregnant women, and very low income or working poor. The program is vital to Alaska’s healthcare infrastructure.

Who does Medicaid cover in Alaska?

In SFY22, 277,035 Alaskans accessed their healthcare through the Medicaid program. This includes nearly half (43%) of Alaskan children.



Medicaid Coverage for Pregnant and Postpartum Women

Medicaid covers 51% of Alaska births. In 2023, Alaska Legislature approved expanding postpartum Medicaid coverage for new mothers from 60 days to 12 months. Implementation of this expansion will support maternal and child health as many postpartum health issues occur far beyond the previous 60-day limit.

Medicaid Redetermination (Unwinding) Process

When the continuous enrollment provision enacted during the COVID-19 public health emergency ended, the Medicaid program began a redetermination (unwinding) process for every enrollee. A successful process is essential to ensure uninterrupted health coverage, especially for children.

Medicaid Innovation Opportunities

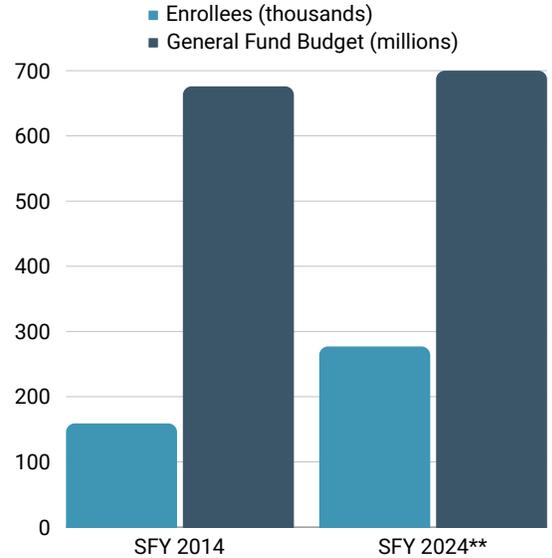
Federal demonstration projects and waivers are opportunities for the State of Alaska to partner with healthcare facilities to test alternative payment and service delivery models as a means of transforming our healthcare system. One of the most promising, and widely-supported efforts is a proposed Coordinated Care Model on the Kenai Peninsula. Supporting local innovation like the Kenai project is the true way to transform care and lower costs for Alaskans.

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’s Medicaid General Fund Budget is nearly the same as it was 10 years ago despite providing coverage to over 100K more Alaskans.*



*Alaska’s SFY 2024 Medicaid General Fund Budget is 3.6% higher than the SFY 2014 Medicaid General Fund Budget.

**The enrollee count equals the most recently available “actuals,” which is from SFY 22.