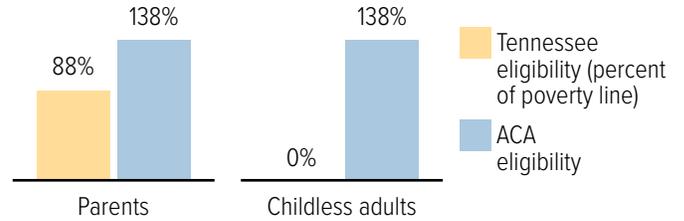


The Medicaid Coverage Gap in Tennessee

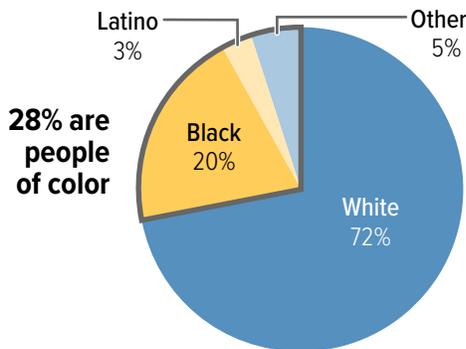
Over 2.1 million uninsured adults with low incomes are in the Medicaid coverage gap – too poor to qualify for Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplace assistance because they have incomes below the poverty line, yet ineligible for Medicaid because their state hasn't enacted the ACA Medicaid expansion. In Tennessee, some 119,000 uninsured adults in the coverage gap would become eligible if the state expanded Medicaid.

Expansion would provide coverage to Tennesseans who are now shut out of coverage. To qualify for Medicaid in Tennessee, parents must earn less than 88% of the federal poverty line (or less than \$20,266 for a family of three annually). Adults without dependent children are not eligible for Medicaid at all.

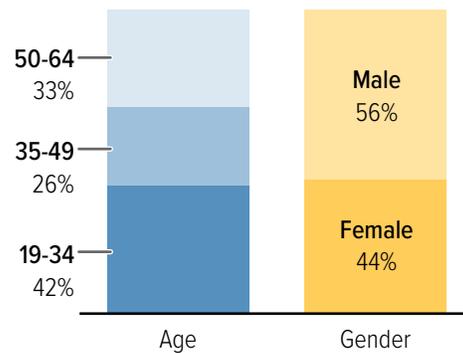


Who Is in the Coverage Gap in Tennessee?

Race and Ethnicity



Age and Gender



Work and Family

47% are in families with at least one worker, and 10% are parents with children at home. 26% are women of reproductive age. About 22% are people with disabilities.

In a Family With at Least One Worker

At least one worker: 47% No worker: 53%

Parents With Children at Home

No children at home: 90%

Children at home: 10%

Women of Reproductive Age

Other: 74%

Women of reproductive age: 26%

People With Disabilities

Other: 78%

People with disabilities: 22%

Industry

Many work in jobs that are crucial to the state's economy but often pay little. The most common industries for people in the coverage gap in Tennessee are restaurants and other food services and construction.

Restaurants and other food services: 11,000

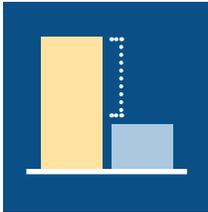
Construction: 8,000

How Would Closing the Coverage Gap Help Tennesseans?



Improving access to care and health outcomes

- Expanding coverage increases the use of preventive care and reduces the utilization of emergency care.
- The state's decision not to expand Medicaid cost the lives of **964** Tennesseans aged 55-64 from 2014 to 2017 alone.



Reducing racial and ethnic disparities

- People of color make up 60% of the coverage gap population nationwide, and **28%** in Tennessee.
- Closing the coverage gap is one of the most effective ways to reduce disparities in coverage and health outcomes.



Covering more children

- As newly eligible parents seek coverage, many will also enroll their children.
- Over 120,000 children would gain coverage if all remaining non-expansion states expand Medicaid in 2023.



Improving financial security

- People with coverage are less likely to face catastrophic medical costs, leave bills unpaid, or borrow money to pay for medical care.
- Medical debt decreased by 44 percent between 2013 and 2020 in states that expanded Medicaid in 2014, compared to a 10 percent decrease in non-expansion states.



Reducing uncompensated care costs and creating state savings

- Research shows that state costs of expanding coverage are largely or fully offset by savings in uncompensated care and other areas.
- The American Rescue Plan offers an additional **\$1.1** billion to Tennessee should it expand Medicaid.

Sources: CBPP analysis of 2021 American Community Survey; see “Medicaid and CHIP Eligibility and Enrollment Policies as of January 2022: Findings from a 50-State Survey” | KF [\[link\]](#); CBPP calculations based on supplemental estimates from “Medicaid and Mortality: New Evidence from Linked Survey and Administrative Data” [\[link\]](#); “3.7 Million People Would Gain Health Coverage in 2023 If the Remaining 12 States Were to Expand Medicaid Eligibility” | Urban Institute [\[link\]](#); “Last 11 States Should Expand Medicaid to Maximize Coverage and Protect Against Funding Drop as Continuous Coverage Ends” | CBPP [\[link\]](#)