

# WHAT MEDICAID BRINGS TO Alaska



The  
Commonwealth  
Fund



**251,174**  
children and adults<sup>1</sup>

are insured by Medicaid or CHIP (Denali KidCare). Those covered include parents, pregnant women, and people with disabilities.

**CHILDREN  
COVERED<sup>2</sup>**

**36%**

Children ages 0–18 in Alaska who were covered by Medicaid in 2023

**ADULTS  
COVERED<sup>2</sup>**

**19%**

Adults ages 19–64 in Alaska who were covered by Medicaid in 2023



Alaska received \$2 billion in federal support for Medicaid in 2023.

This accounted for 78% of total Medicaid spending in the state.<sup>3</sup>



**Medicaid enrollment  
by the numbers**

**98,898**

Children enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP<sup>1</sup>

**71,212**

Adults enrolled because of ACA expansion<sup>4</sup>

**20,438**

Dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid<sup>5</sup>



**Adults insured with Medicaid are least likely to report having medical debt**

Adults ages 19–64 who were continuously insured and **reported having medical debt**, by insurance type, 2024<sup>7</sup>

21%  
Medicaid

29%  
Medicare

29%  
Employer

32%  
Individual /  
Marketplace



**Medicaid and CHIP are a critical source of coverage in rural parts of Alaska**

Percent of **children** (ages 0–18) living in rural or metro areas covered by Medicaid or CHIP, 2023<sup>6</sup>

Metro 33%

Rural 39%

Percent of **adults** (ages 19–64) living in rural or metro areas covered by Medicaid, 2023<sup>6</sup>

Metro 17%

Rural 20%



**Medicaid helps youth with mental and behavioral health needs access care**

Youth ages 12–17 with a **mental health condition** whose insurance covered mental health services, 2022<sup>8</sup>

Public Insurance

60%

27%

13%

Private Insurance

46%

30%

24%

**ALWAYS**

**USUALLY**

**SOMETIMES /  
NEVER**

Public insurance = Medicaid, medical assistance, or any kind of government assistance plan for those with low incomes or a disability

Sources: 1. CMS, Medicaid and CHIP Enrollment Data Highlights, Sept. 2024. 2. Authors' analysis of 2023 ACS-PUMS. 3. KFF, Federal and State Share of Medicaid Spending, 2023. 4. CMS, Medicaid Enrollment Data Collected Through MBES, June 2024. 5. CMS, Medicare Monthly Enrollment, Sept. 2024. 6. Georgetown CCF, Medicaid's Role in Small Towns and Rural Areas, 2025. 7. Commonwealth Fund, Biennial Health Insurance Survey, 2024. 8. Authors' analysis of 2022 NSCH.