



KanCare Expansion: Just the Facts

KanCare expansion is good for patients and public health.

Expansion substantially increases coverage, improving access to all health care services, including preventive care, primary care, and prescription drugs. Although it takes many years to determine the effects of most policy and clinical interventions on health, the evidence on the positive health effects of Medicaid expansion continues to grow.

- Medicaid expansion is associated with substantial increases in coverage, use of services, and quality of care.^{1,2,3}
- Medicaid expansion saves lives. Expansion is associated with decreases in mortality for all causes, as well as improvements in infant mortality and survival among patients with end-stage renal disease.^{4,5,6} Enhanced spending on prescription drugs under Medicaid is also shown to reduce mortality.⁷
- Medicaid expansion directly enhances preventive care, resulting in improved rates of glucose monitoring and access to insulin and other medications for patients with diabetes, better hypertension control, improved rates of prostate and breast cancer screening, and higher rates of Pap testing.^{8,9,10}
- Medicaid expansion greatly enhances use of services for mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) and enables states and providers to offer new services. These are particularly critical needs in Kansas in light of care and capacity issues at Osawatomie and Larned State Hospitals and the alarming growth in opioid and other substance use disorders.^{11,12,13,14,15,16}
- Residents of expansion states report reductions in psychological distress and days of poor mental health, as well as increases in self-assessed general health.¹⁷
- Expansion enables states to connect ex-inmates to health coverage, address their mental health or SUD needs, and reduce recidivism.¹⁸

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- ³ Cole et al. *At Federally Funded Health Centers, Medicaid Expansion Was Associated With Improved Quality Of Care*, Health Affairs 36(1), January 2017.
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- ⁵ Bhatt and Beck-Sagué. *Medicaid Expansion and Infant Mortality in the United States*, American Journal of Public Health 108(4), April 2018.
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- ⁷ Clayton. *The Effect of Prescription Drug Coverage on Mortality: Evidence from Medicaid Implementation*. Journal of Health Economics 63, October 2018.
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- ⁹ Myerson et al. *Medicaid Eligibility Expansions May Address Gaps In Access To Diabetes Medications*, Health Affairs 37(8), August 2018.
- ¹⁰ Radiological Society of North America. *Medicaid Expansion Improves Breast Cancer Screening for Low-Income Women*, November 30, 2015.
- ¹¹ Maclean and Saloner. *The Effect of Public Insurance Expansions on Substance Use Disorder Treatment: Evidence From the Affordable Care Act*. National Bureau of Economic Research, April 2017.
- ¹² Broaddus et al. *Medicaid Expansion Dramatically Increased Coverage for People with Opioid-Use Disorders, Latest Data Show*, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, February 28, 2018.
- ¹³ Wen et al. *Impact of Medicaid Expansion on Medicaid-covered Utilization of Buprenorphine for Opioid Use Disorder Treatment*, Medical Care 55(4), April 2017.
- ¹⁴ Zur and Tolbert. *The Opioid Epidemic and Medicaid's Role in Facilitating Access to Treatment*, Kaiser Family Foundation, April 2018.
- ¹⁵ Lowry. *Mental health: Kansas faces tough questions about future of state hospital*, Kansas City Star, May 31, 2017.
- ¹⁶ Hancock. *Mental health: Kansas faces tough questions about future of state hospital*, Lawrence Journal-World, December 31, 2017.
- ¹⁷ Mazurenko.
- ¹⁸ Guyer et al. *Medicaid Expansion and Criminal Justice Costs: Pre-Expansion Studies and Emerging Practices Point Toward Opportunities for States*. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, State Health Reform Assistance Network, November 2015.