

MassHealth as Coverage and Beyond:

KEY FINDINGS FROM THE MASSHEALTH IMPACT SERIES



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manatt

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OVERVIEW: FAR-REACHING IMPACTS OF MASSHEALTH

MassHealth reaches—directly or indirectly—a wide and diverse number of populations, sectors, and communities across the Commonwealth.

As coverage

MassHealth plays a central role in:

- Advancing coverage goals
- Improving health through coverage
- Addressing health inequities

Beyond coverage

MassHealth's impacts extend beyond those most commonly associated with health coverage, including:

- Improving lifelong learning and wellbeing for children and offsetting costs for school-based health services
- Serving as a linchpin of the state's behavioral health care system
- Improving outcomes for and reducing recidivism among people who have been involved with the criminal justice system
- Bolstering the Commonwealth's strong economy



MassHealth as Coverage

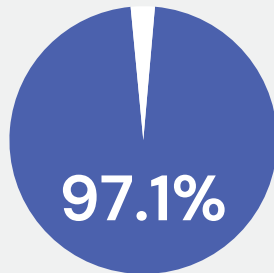
- ADVANCING COVERAGE GOALS
- IMPROVING HEALTH THROUGH COVERAGE
- ADDRESSING HEALTH INEQUITIES



ADVANCING COVERAGE GOALS

Near-universal coverage

MassHealth served as the foundation for state-based health care reform efforts in the late 1990s and in 2006 that expanded coverage and provided near-universal access to affordable health coverage to all residents.



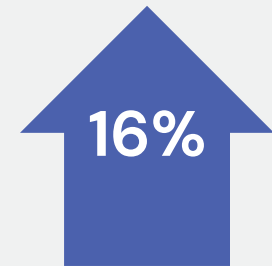
Massachusetts
insurance rate

MassHealth has helped the Commonwealth to achieve the highest insurance rate of any state in the nation.

Stability during crisis

MassHealth has provided stable health coverage to Massachusetts residents during the COVID-19 pandemic—offering security in an unpredictable economy and ensuring access to testing, treatment, and vaccines for COVID-19.

MassHealth enrollment grew by nearly 16% between March 2020 and April 2021.



IMPROVING HEALTH THROUGH COVERAGE

MassHealth is the second largest insurer in the state, covering more than two million diverse Massachusetts residents.

MassHealth improves the health and wellbeing of the people it serves and their families



Expansion of MassHealth and other state reforms in 2006 was associated with:

- 10% reduction in emergency department usage
- 5.5% increase in colonoscopies
- Overall improvements in health, including individuals reporting excellent health

MassHealth reduces financial instability

Low-income households with Medicaid spend a larger share of their budget on food than households without Medicaid, suggesting that health care spending may crowd out spending for other necessities in households without Medicaid.



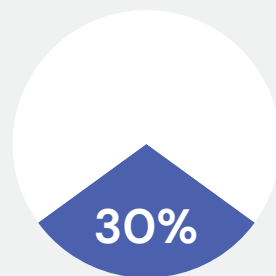
ADDRESSING HEALTH INEQUITIES

Nationally, and across the Commonwealth, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated pervasive health disparities and heightened the urgency to address systemic health inequities.

While the majority of MassHealth members are White, there is significant racial and ethnic diversity among members



4 in 10
self-report a
race/ethnicity
other than White



30%
of MassHealth
members are
Hispanic and/or
Black

- Nationally, Medicaid is associated with **reductions in adverse health outcomes that disproportionately affect communities of color**, such as infant mortality and maternal mortality and depression.
- MassHealth is a national leader in **providing coverage and continuity of care for people who are justice-involved**, which in turn can help reduce recidivism rates. Given the structural racism in the criminal justice system, these efforts are critical to reducing health inequities.
- While access to health coverage alone will not solve entrenched health inequities, it is an essential step toward equitable health care access, service delivery, and trust in the health care system.

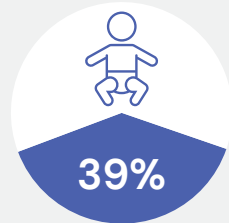
MassHealth Beyond Coverage

- CHILDREN'S WELLBEING
- BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM
- PEOPLE WHO ARE JUSTICE-INVOLVED
- ECONOMIC SUPPORTS

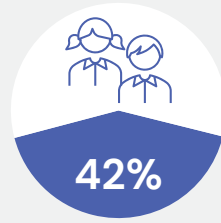


IMPROVING CHILDREN'S LIFELONG LEARNING AND WELLBEING

MassHealth helps pave the way to a better future for low-income children and young adults.



of **births** in
the Commonwealth



of **children**
in Massachusetts



of the state's
**children with
special health
care needs**

are covered by MassHealth

- Children enrolled in Medicaid are **more likely to have a routine check-up and lower rates of forgoing medical care** than those on employer-sponsored insurance.
- Children with access to Medicaid are **more likely to finish high school and college** than those without Medicaid access.
- Medicaid coverage in childhood is associated with **better health in adulthood**—including fewer hospitalizations and lower rates of chronic disease—than those without insurance.

OFFSETTING COSTS FOR IN-SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

Nearly
\$97 million in
total federal SBMP
reimbursement
in SFY 2019

- Through its School-Based Medicaid Program (SBMP), **MassHealth brings millions of federal dollars** into the Commonwealth and local municipalities to support schools' ability to provide health and related services to children and adolescents enrolled in MassHealth.
- **MassHealth offsets costs for critical services provided in schools—including services and supports for children with special health care needs**, allowing them to participate and thrive in the classroom.



- Children who receive health care services in school **miss fewer school days** and are better equipped to learn.



- **For every \$1 invested in school health services, Massachusetts saves \$2.20** from avoided medical procedures, increased teacher productivity, and decreased parent loss of work time.

DELIVERING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES



MassHealth covers **comprehensive behavioral health services (including mental health and substance use disorder treatment)** for those at high risk for **behavioral health conditions**—i.e., older adults, people with disabilities, adolescents, and adults with low-incomes.

Enrollment in Medicaid has been shown to substantially **improve access to behavioral health care**. In 2019, Massachusetts residents with incomes at or below 138% of the Federal Poverty Level were less likely to have an unmet need for behavioral health care than those with higher incomes.



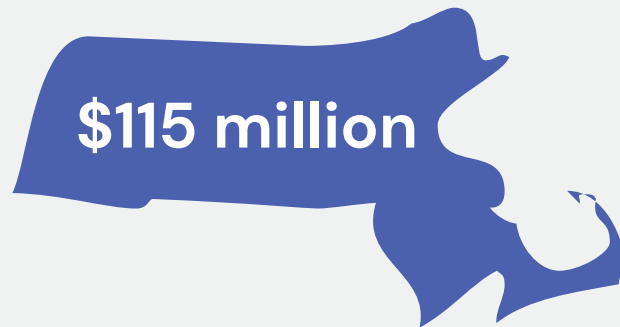
MassHealth **covers a robust set of services that span a range of behavioral health settings**, including enhanced care management services, crisis services, and long-term residential treatment for substance use disorders.

Evidence suggests that Medicaid **improves behavioral health and other life experiences (including employment)** for members.



BOLSTERING THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE AND DELIVERY SYSTEM REFORMS

MassHealth funds **\$115 million** in “**Statewide Investments**” to improve delivery system capacity, with a focus on workforce.



MassHealth is developing behavioral health reforms that are improving coverage and care for **all** Massachusetts residents.

- Policymakers have leveraged MassHealth’s position as the largest payer of behavioral health services to drive improvements in care delivery across the Commonwealth.
- Recent legislation requires commercial plans to align with certain behavioral health benefits covered by MassHealth that are designed to improve access to care.

IMPROVING OUTCOMES AND REDUCING RECIDIVISM IN PEOPLE WHO ARE JUSTICE-INVOLVED

The criminal justice system nationally and in Massachusetts is rife with racial inequities, caused by structural racism. In Massachusetts, rates of incarceration are 1,502 per 100,000 for Black residents versus just 241 per 100,000 for White residents.

People leaving incarceration have **significantly higher rates of behavioral health needs and substance use disorders** than the general population.

*In Massachusetts, former adult inmates are **120 times more likely** to die from an opioid overdose than individuals with no incarceration history.*



Nationally, Medicaid coverage has been linked to lower rates of recidivism.



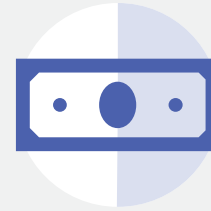
*For example, in Florida, having Medicaid at release was associated with a **16% reduction** in the average number of subsequent detentions.*

SUSTAINING THE HEALTH CARE ECOSYSTEM

MassHealth is the largest source of federal funding to the state.

In SFY 2018, MassHealth received
\$8.05 billion in federal funding

For every dollar in
MassHealth spending



federal government
generally covers half

MassHealth is responsible for:

53%

of revenue for
nursing homes

43%

of long-term
services and
supports
spending

1/3

of revenue for
prenatal care
providers

1/5

of hospital
revenue

40%

of hospital
uncompensated
care costs
in 2014

SUPPORTING THE HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE



Employment in Massachusetts' health care sector accounts for 14% of all jobs in the state, employing half a million people.

About a **quarter (or 125,000) of these jobs can be attributed to MassHealth.**

MassHealth also **covers many people in the low-income workforce** across many industries who would otherwise be uninsured, keeping employees healthy through preventive care and treatment for chronic conditions.



Individuals with disabilities receive support to be active members of the workforce through MassHealth. MassHealth provides **more flexibility to work without fear of losing health insurance.**

LOOKING AHEAD: MASSHEALTH WILL CONTINUE TO LEAD IN THE COMMONWEALTH AND THE COUNTRY

The critical role of MassHealth is—and will continue to be—significant and far-reaching.

MassHealth supports:

- Access to comprehensive coverage
- Advancement of health equity
- Ability of children and their families to live healthy and productive lives
- Access to expansive services not covered by other programs
- Investments and innovations that improve the larger health care system
- State's economic strength
- The workforce of today and tomorrow

MassHealth is driving:

- Behavioral health care reforms that benefit all individuals across the Commonwealth
- Better access to services addressing social determinants of health
- Additional efforts to improve health outcomes for people who are justice-involved and have high needs
- Innovative and comprehensive models for improving children's health and well-being



Q & A

