

# Closing the Health Insurance Coverage Gap Will Incentivize People to Work

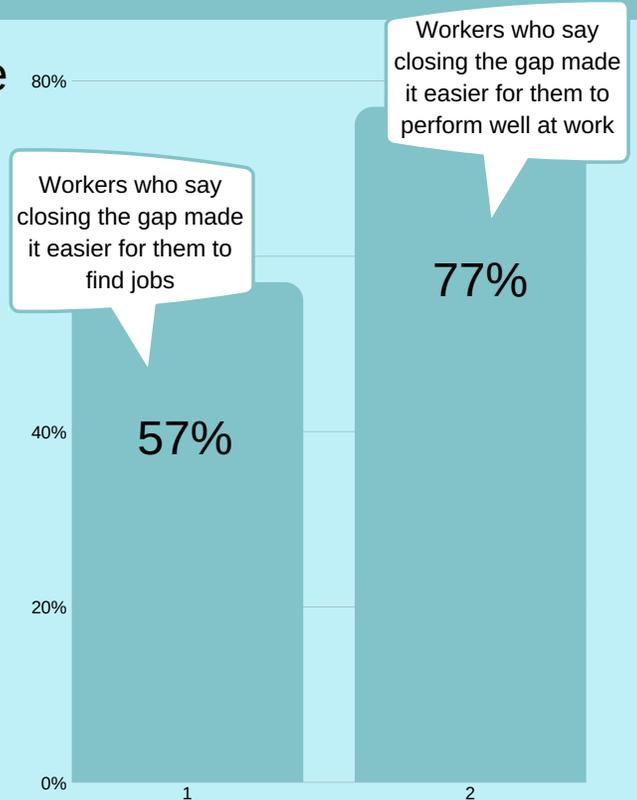
*When people get the coverage they need, they live healthier lives and are more productive workers*

## Closing the coverage gap primarily benefits **workers**:

- 63% of those in the coverage gap are from working families<sup>1</sup>
- These North Carolinians work in industries we depend on, from construction to food service and heavy<sup>2</sup>

## Closing the gap will allow more people to **seek and hold jobs**:

- Healthcare keeps people employed: people who are in poor health are more likely to lose their jobs and remain unemployed<sup>3</sup>
- People looking for jobs have reported that closing the coverage gap made it easier for them to find employment<sup>4</sup>
- States that have closed the coverage gap have seen particularly large increases—about 14%—in the number of disabled individuals who are employed<sup>5</sup>



## Closing the gap will make workers more **productive & efficient**:

Poor health causes businesses an average of \$1,685 in lost productivity per employee each year<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Ku, Leighton, Brian Bruen, Erika Steinmetz, and Tyler Bysshe. "The Economic and Employment Costs of Not Expanding Medicaid in North Carolina: A County-Level Analysis." Center for Health Policy Research, December 2014. <https://www.conehealthfoundation.com/app/files/public/4202/The-Economic-and-Employment-Costs-of-Not-Expanding-Medicaid-in-North-Carolina.pdf>

<sup>2</sup>"Who Is in the Coverage Gap?" Close the Gap NC. <http://www.closesthegapnc.org/who-is-affected/>

<sup>3</sup>Antonisse, Larisa, and Rachel Garfield. "The Relationship Between Work and Health: Findings from a Literature Review." Henry J Kaiser Foundation, August 2018. <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/the-relationship-between-work-and-health-findings-from-a-literature-review/>.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

<sup>5</sup>KUNews. "Study Finds Medicaid Expansion Boosts Employment." EurekAlert! [https://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2018-07/uok-sfm071818.php](https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2018-07/uok-sfm071818.php).

<sup>6</sup>Worker Productivity Measures | Model | Workplace Health Promotion | CDC. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/workplacehealthpromotion/model/evaluation/productivity.html>.