

The single greatest indicator of whether or not you will survive a cancer diagnosis is health insurance status.



Cancer is the leading cause of death in North Carolina.¹

Breast cancer patients living in states with the lowest income eligibility for Medicaid (<50% FPL) had a **31% greater mortality risk** than states with expanded eligibility. Patients with other types of cancer had similar increased mortality.²

Uninsured patients are **less likely to be screened for cancer**, increasing chances of an advanced diagnosis where survival is less likely and care is more expensive.³

*"If you are **uninsured**, and you are diagnosed with cancer, you have a **60% greater chance of dying from cancer** than if you were insured and diagnosed with cancer."*

Dr. Otis Brawley, former Chief Medical Officer, American Cancer Society

Increasing eligibility for health insurance through Medicaid may help **improve cancer diagnosis and survival**.²

Closing the coverage gap would improve access to screening and timely symptom evaluation, which promotes early detections and improved outcomes for patients.⁴



States that closed their coverage gap saw **lower mortality** in **breast, colon and lung cancer** compared to states that have not closed the gap.⁴

Closing the coverage gap means more cancer survivors in North Carolina.

Sources

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3. Ward et al, "Association of Insurance with Cancer Care Utilization and Outcomes," *CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians* 58:1 (Jan./Feb. 2008), <http://www.cancer.org/cancer/news/report-links-health-insurance-status-withcancer-care>.
4. Lam, M. B., Phelan, J., Orav, E. J., Jha, A. K., & Keating, N. L. (2020). Medicaid Expansion and Mortality Among Patients With Breast, Lung, and Colorectal Cancer. *JAMA Network Open*, 3(11), e2024366. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2020.24366>