

When states close their health insurance coverage gap, more providers accept Medicaid patients.

- After closing its coverage gap, Ohio saw a 20% increase in primary care providers accepting Medicaid.[1]
- In Michigan, 78% of primary care providers accepted new Medicaid patients after the state closed its coverage gap.[2]
- Over 70% of Medicaid managed care organizations report expanding their provider networks because their states closed their coverage gaps.[3]

This increase in provider capacity improves access to care for Medicaid beneficiaries.

- Soon after Michigan closed its coverage gap, the availability of primary care appointments for new Medicaid beneficiaries increased by 12%.[4]
 - 94% of new enrollees in Michigan reported having equal or better access to primary care.[5]
 - 85% of new enrollees reported equal or better access to prescriptions.[5]
- Across all states that closed their coverage gaps, appointment availability for Medicaid beneficiaries increased by 5.4 percentage points. Wait times for certain types of providers decreased by 6.7 percentage points.[6]
 - There was no change in availability for people with private insurance.[6]

Sources

1. North Carolina Council on Healthcare Coverage. (2020). "North Carolina Council on Healthcare Coverage: First Council Meeting." Retrieved from: <https://healthpolicy.duke.edu/sites/default/files/2020-12/NC%20Council%20on%20Health%20Care%20Coverage%20-%20Meeting%201%20Compiled%20Slides.pdf>
2. Tipirneni R, Kieffer EC, Ayanian JZ, et al. (2019). Factors Influencing Primary Care Providers' Decisions to Accept New Medicaid Patients Under Michigan's Medicaid Expansion. *American Journal of Managed Care*, 25(3).
3. Garfield R, Hinton E, Cornachione E, Hall C. (2018). Medicaid Managed Care Plans and Access to Care: Results from the Kaiser Family Foundation 2017 Survey of Medicaid Managed Care Plans. Kaiser Family Foundation. Retrieved from: <https://www.kff.org/report-section/medicaid-managed-care-plans-and-access-to-care-provider-networks-and-access-to-care/>
4. Tipirneni R, Rhodes KV, Hayward RA, et al. (2014). Primary Care Appointment Availability for New Medicaid Patients Increased After Medicaid Expansion in Michigan. *Health Affairs*, 34(7):1399-1406.
5. Ayanian JZ. (2021). "Medicaid Expansion in Michigan: The Healthy Michigan Plan." Presented to the North Carolina Council on Healthcare Coverage. Retrieved from: <https://healthpolicy.duke.edu/sites/default/files/2021-05/NCCHCC%20Meeting%205%20-%20Compiled%20Slide%20Deck%20FINAL.pdf>
6. Polsky D, Candon M, Saloner B, et al. (2017). Changes in Primary Care Access Between 2012 and 2016 for New Patients with Medicaid and Private Coverage. *JAMA Internal Medicine*, 177(4):588-590.