Access to healthcare reduces hospital stays and costly complications.

Cancer

The single greatest factor in determining if you will survive a cancer diagnosis is whether you have health insurance. Uninsured patients are less likely to be screened for cancer, increasing the chances of an advanced diagnosis where care is more expensive.¹

Death rates for early stage breast cancer patients are 31% higher in states with limited Medicaid eligibility.² Metastatic breast cancer patients with access to care have better survival rates and decreased mortality.³

Heart Disease

Heart disease patients in the gap have poorer management of their condition and are at greater risk of mortality.⁴,⁵,⁶

Uninsured stroke victims experience longer hospital stays and a 24-56% higher risk of death than the insured.⁷,⁸

Diabetes

Closing the gap leads to substantial improvements in diabetes management and health status.⁹

By supporting proper care, closing the gap reduces costly complications of diabetes, such as amputations.⁹
States that closed their coverage gaps saw improvements in maternal and child health, including:

- A **50% greater decline** in infant mortality
- **7 maternal lives saved** per 100,000 births

Black mothers and children, in particular, benefitted from these declines in maternal and infant mortality.

States that closed their coverage gap saw improvements in dental health, including:

- Increased access to **dental care**
- Reduction in untreated **tooth decay**
- Improved **oral health-related behaviors**, such as flossing

**Sources**