

# IMPACT OF MEDI-CAL EXPANSION: CALIFORNIA'S PUBLIC HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS

## What has coverage expansion meant to California's public health care systems?

**Fewer Uninsured Patients:** Across California, the uninsured rate has been cut in half, dropping **from 17.2% to 8.6%**

California's public health care systems serve as the primary care provider to **more than 560,000 people** who have gained coverage through Medi-Cal since 2014.

**Higher Value Care:** The expansion of Medi-Cal has created a more stable coverage landscape, which has enabled California's public health care systems to **focus investments** on better care coordination, increased access, and improved health outcomes for patients through an emphasis on primary and preventive care.

Since the outset of expansion efforts, California's public health care systems have given around **700,000 patients** newly-assigned primary care teams, and have added **more than one million patients** to disease management registries that help track and manage chronic conditions.

As an example of these efforts, California's public health care systems have decreased the rate of diabetes patients being hospitalized for short-term complications by **more than 20%** and the rate of patients with a diagnosis of "uncontrolled diabetes" **dropped from 1% to 0.18%** - more than five times smaller than what it had been.

Through a combination of coverage expansion and delivery system improvements, California's public health care systems are now able to provide **tens of thousands more preventive screenings** than before.

## What happens to California if coverage expansion is repealed?

**More Uninsured:** CA's uninsured rate is expected to double, to **over 17%**.

**Economic Impact:** The state estimates a **\$16 billion loss** in federal revenue with the repeal of the Medicaid expansion and **another \$5 billion** with the elimination of tax subsidies for enrollees in Covered California.

**Job Loss:** An estimated **200,000 Californians** could lose their jobs.

***We urge that any action to repeal the Affordable Care Act preserve the Medicaid expansion and be coupled with an adequate, simultaneous replacement that ensures the same level of coverage and quality of benefits.***

**A repeal of the Medi-Cal expansion could result in California's public health care systems losing **\$2.2 billion** in revenue every year.**

**A dramatic increase in the number of uninsured, coupled with a loss of funding, could destabilize the state's health care delivery system.**

## Personal Story - Sonya Ward



Sonya Ward is a 40 year-old certified nursing assistant who became eligible for Medi-Cal through California's expansion efforts.

Sonya was recently diagnosed with cancer after she underwent mammography and a breast biopsy at

Riverside University Health System Medical Center - tests she may not have afforded without her health coverage.

With chronic hypertension and a family history of breast cancer, she is grateful for the "quality and caring" services she receives through coverage from the Medi-Cal program.

"People are really in need of the smallest things like medications," Ward says. "When they talk about cutting this program, they're not thinking about your rent, your utilities and all the things you've got to pay. **When it comes to healthcare, there's no money left.**"

Without Medi-Cal expansion, patients like Sonya would lose access to the care they need to get healthy and stay healthy. People like Sonya should not have to choose between a potentially life-saving test or meeting other basic needs.

## ABOUT CALIFORNIA'S PUBLIC HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS

California's 21 public health care systems, which include county-owned and operated facilities and University of California medical centers, are the heart of the state's health care safety net, providing emergency, primary, and specialty care.

California's public health care systems serve **more than 2.85 million patients** annually, and provide **10.5 million outpatient visits** at more than **200 clinic facilities**. They serve 15 counties where **80% of the state's population** lives.

California's public health care systems operate **more than half** of California's top-level burn and trauma centers, train **57% of all new doctors** in the state, and provide more than **76,000 jobs**.