

IMPACT OF MEDI-CAL EXPANSION: SAN MATEO MEDICAL CENTER

What has coverage expansion meant to SMMC?

Fewer Uninsured Patients: In San Mateo County, Medi-Cal expansion and Covered California have reduced the uninsured rate **from 9.4% to 4.3%**.

SMMC is the primary care provider to around **19,000 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 San Mateo Medical Center to **focus investments** on improved health outcomes for patients, by improving access and expanding capacity in primary and specialty care, and by integrating behavioral health into its delivery system.

San Mateo Medical Center has been able to develop and implement an all-electronic referral system to generate and evaluate referrals, which has improved access and **reduced wait times by 44%**. An initiative to improve access to pharmacy services resulted in refill wait times dropping from two days to **less than four hours**. SMMC has also co-located behavioral health services at many of its clinics, and patients who screen positive for depression can be seen by a specialist in **less than an hour**, a process that, in the past, could have taken several days.

These improvements help ensure that patients can be seen in more appropriate and cost-effective primary and preventive care settings, rather than in very costly emergency settings.

What happens to San Mateo County and California if coverage expansion is repealed?

More Uninsured: An estimated **61,000 individuals** would lose coverage through Medi-Cal or Covered California in San Mateo County. The state'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 SMMC losing \$50 million in revenue every year.

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

Personal Impact - Paul Haskins



In 1972, Paul Haskins was mugged and shot while studying at Canada College in Redwood City, CA, leaving him with a ruptured pancreas. Surgeons at the time were able to stitch him back together, but the incident left him with extensive damage to his stomach, along with type 1 diabetes and other significant health problems.

In 1986, Paul lost his health insurance and began a 28 year period without coverage, as his conditions left him "uninsurable" under group health insurance, even through employers. Without insurance, his conditions worsened, which also impacted his ability to work. He developed a hernia in 1990 which would go untreated for decades.

In 2014, Paul became eligible for Medi-Cal through the expansion and finally got affordable access, through San Mateo Medical Center, to the care and medications he needed to help him manage his conditions and get back on his feet.

He became eligible for Medicare in 2015, but says "with my medications, if I only had Medicare, I'd probably have to pay thousands of dollars at the pharmacy. I have no life-threatening blood clots, and my blood sugar is under control. I'm very grateful for Medi-Cal."

ABOUT SAN MATEO MEDICAL CENTER

San Mateo Medical Center (SMMC) is San Mateo County's public health care system, and is at the heart of the county's health care safety net, providing emergency, primary, and specialty care.

SMMC has **509 licensed beds** and provides around **250,000 visits** annually, in both inpatient and outpatient settings.

San Mateo Medical Center is one of the largest employers in the city, providing **more than 1,000 jobs**.