

Tennessee's Medicaid Coverage Gap

Many Tennesseans are living without access to affordable health coverage. They can't get insurance through their jobs, can't afford private health insurance, and make **"too much"** to qualify for TennCare. **They live in what is called the "Medicaid coverage gap."**

Because Tennessee hasn't expanded Medicaid, nearly **195,000 residents** are left without access to affordable health insurance – and without the care they need.¹



40 states have expanded Medicaid. Tennessee has not – and Tennessee's families are paying the price.

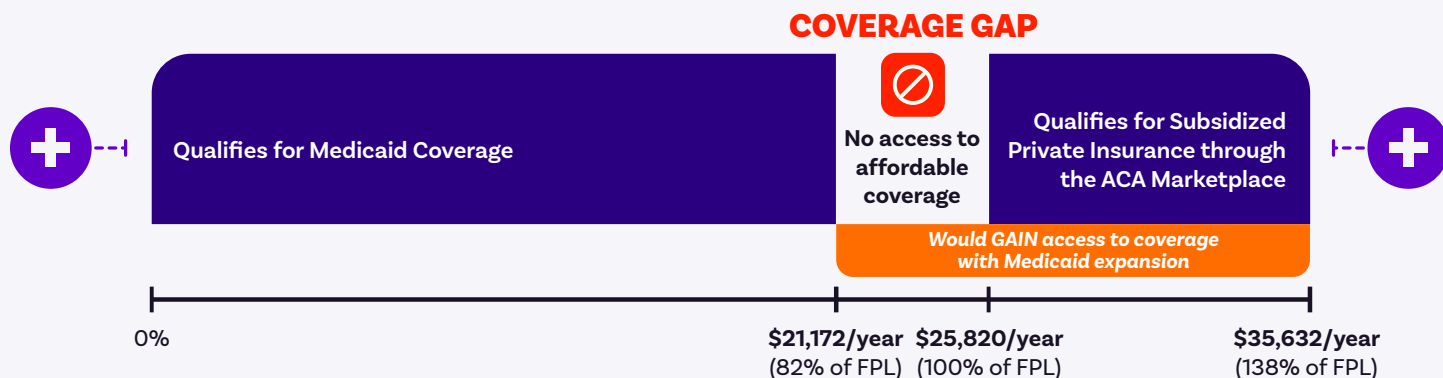


In Tennessee, a family of three making \$21,170 a year makes "too much" to qualify for Medicaid.²



Tennesseans over the age of 18 without children NEVER QUALIFY for TennCare.

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**Data based on a family of three² FPL = Federal Poverty Level*

Many Tennesseans don't get health insurance through their jobs, even though these jobs are vital to our state's economy.



10,000
construction workers²



9,000
restaurant and food service workers²

People who have affordable health insurance can:



Get regular check-ups and preventive screenings to stay healthy.



Get the medications they've been prescribed to manage their health.



Treat chronic conditions so they can stay healthy and remain in the workforce.

We cannot achieve our vision of health equity without closing the Medicaid coverage gap.

Black Tennesseans make up a disproportionate amount of the uninsured population in our state.³

Where you live should not impact whether you can get healthcare.

The Medicaid coverage gap is contributing to **our rural healthcare crisis**. Our hospitals are shutting down at an alarming rate. Expanding Medicaid strengthens our rural hospitals and ensures they stay open — creating good paying jobs and providing critical care in our rural communities.



Medicaid expansion is good for Tennessee's state economy.

The federal government will cover 90% of the cost of expanding Medicaid. These federal funds would allow Tennessee to expand affordable health coverage to those who need it, build a healthier workforce, keep rural hospitals open, and grow our economy.¹

195,000 Tennesseans are being left behind without access to affordable health coverage. It's time for Tennessee to expand Medicaid and close the gap.

¹ Drake, P., Tolbert, J., Rudowitz, R., & Damico, A. (2024, February 26). How Many Uninsured Are in the Coverage Gap and How Many Could be Eligible if All States Adopted the Medicaid Expansion? www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/how-many-uninsured-are-in-the-coverage-gap-and-how-many-could-be-eligible-if-all-states-adopted-the-medicaid-expansion/

² The Medicaid Coverage Gap: State Fact Sheets. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (2024). www.cbpp.org/research/health/the-medicaid-coverage-gap

³ United States Census Bureau. (2021, August 25). Tennessee population near 7 million in 2020. www.census.gov/library/stories/state-by-state/tennessee-population-change-between-cens-us-decade.html