

MEDICAID: WHAT'S AT STAKE

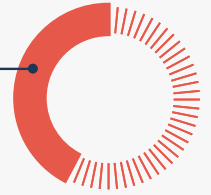


ZERO TO THREE
Early connections last a lifetime

Medicaid ensures almost 5 million BABIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN receive a healthy start in life

Without Medicaid, millions of children won't get their basic medical needs met to ensure they are healthy enough to thrive at home, in early care and learning programs and as they enter elementary school.

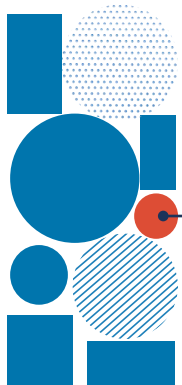
44%



of babies and young children in America receive their health care through Medicaid



MEDICAID IS ESSENTIAL FOR BABIES

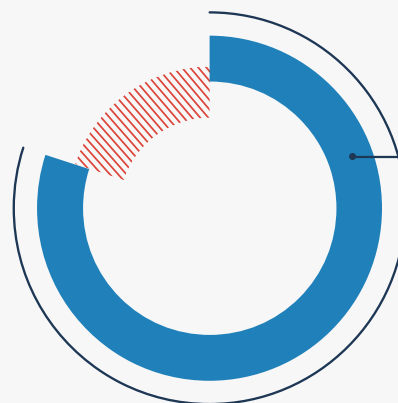
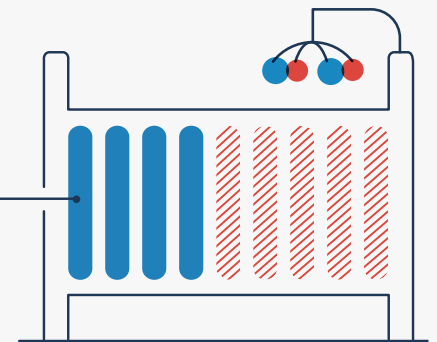


The United States is home to more than **11 million babies**

► Medicaid provides babies access to screenings, sick and well-child visits, dental care and vaccines that improve long-term health, educational, and economic outcomes.

► Babies who have access to Medicaid's powerful Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit, which supports early identification of health and developmental concerns, have better health outcomes, including fewer chronic conditions.

Medicaid currently finances over **42%** of all US births



Medicaid serves **81%** of children under the age of 6 who are living in poverty



My son [age 6, adopted from the foster care system at age 6 months] has a congenital heart defect. He's had three open heart surgeries... We have used private duty nursing [help with care in the home] for most of his life. Medicaid was the deciding factor in me being able to adopt a child with medical complexities.

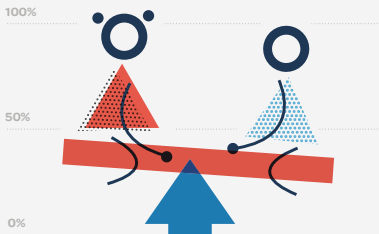
— Dena D., Oklahoma

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Medicaid Serves Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

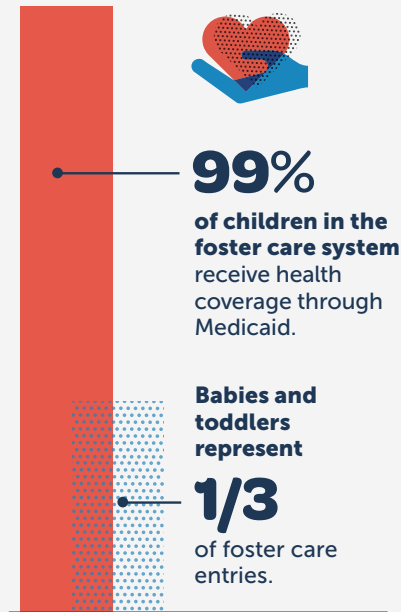


Medicaid covers **almost half of all children** with special health care needs.

Medicaid is the only source of coverage for nearly **four in 10 children** with special health care needs.

One in five (20%) Medicaid only children with special health care needs are age 5 or younger.

Medicaid Serves Babies in the Child Welfare System



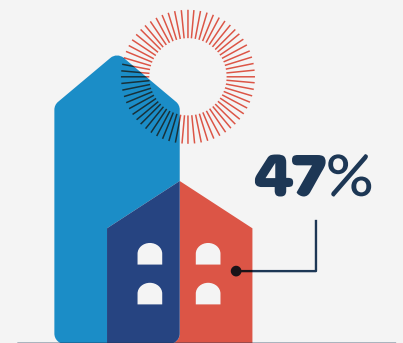
99% of children in the foster care system receive health coverage through Medicaid.

Babies and toddlers represent **1/3** of foster care entries.

Within the child welfare system, over 71,457 children are ages birth to three.

Medicaid Serves Babies in Rural Areas and Small Towns

Nationwide, **almost half (47%)** of children **rely on Medicaid** coverage in small towns and rural areas.



Hospitals in rural areas disproportionately **rely on Medicaid** to fund service delivery.

Medicaid is a vital state/federal partnership with both contributing resources and states having flexibility in how they design and administer their programs. Proposals to reduce federal support for Medicaid, including through “per capita caps” or “block grants,” will shift millions of dollars of costs to states. States will be forced to make decisions that could include:

- ▶ Restricting criteria for Medicaid eligibility reducing the number of babies and toddlers receiving health care;
- ▶ Decreasing benefits and access to services, as states may limit or eliminate coverage of certain treatments such as maternal depression screening;
- ▶ Eliminating mandatory benefits including the Early and Period Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit, that provides comprehensive and preventative health care services for children;
- ▶ Shift costs to families, who will be unable to afford care or be forced into medical debt.

ZERO TO THREE works to ensure all babies and toddlers benefit from the family and community connections critical to their well-being and development. Since 1977, the organization has advanced the proven power of nurturing relationships by transforming the science of early childhood into helpful resources, practical tools and responsive policies for millions of parents, professionals and policymakers.

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