

# Preventing HPV Cancers Through Increased Medicaid Eligibility

To prevent HPV cancers, it is imperative to expand access to health insurance coverage for lower-income individuals and families through increased Medicaid eligibility levels. Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) have significantly contributed to increased childhood vaccination rates, significantly lowering the risk of life-altering diseases like HPV cancers.



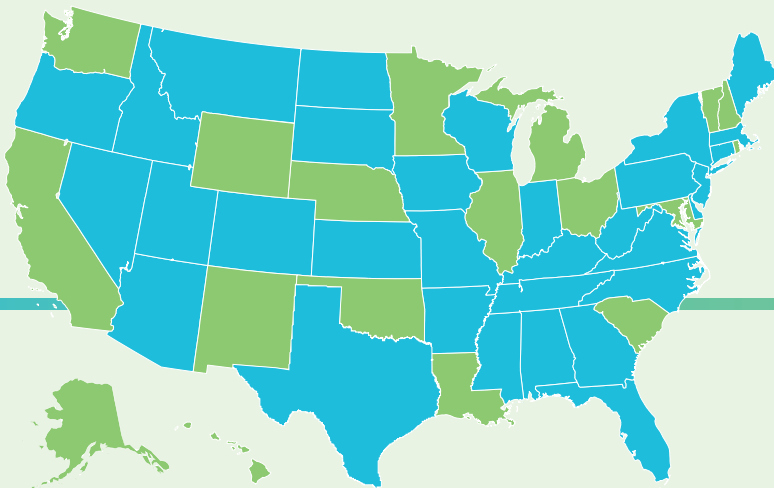
## CHALLENGE:

Medicaid income eligibility for children varies by age in all 50 states and D.C., with some states having much lower eligibility limits than others. Thirty-two states<sup>1</sup> have eligibility levels for the state's Medicaid program that are below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).



## OPPORTUNITY:

Increasing access to health insurance coverage through expanded Medicaid income eligibility in these 32 states could address coverage limitations and improve cancer prevention, generating approximately \$9 million in savings due to increased HPV vaccination series completion and reduced incidence of HPV cancers.<sup>2,3</sup>



■ Medicaid eligibility levels below 200% FPL    ■ Medicaid eligibility levels above 200% FPL

**\$9M**

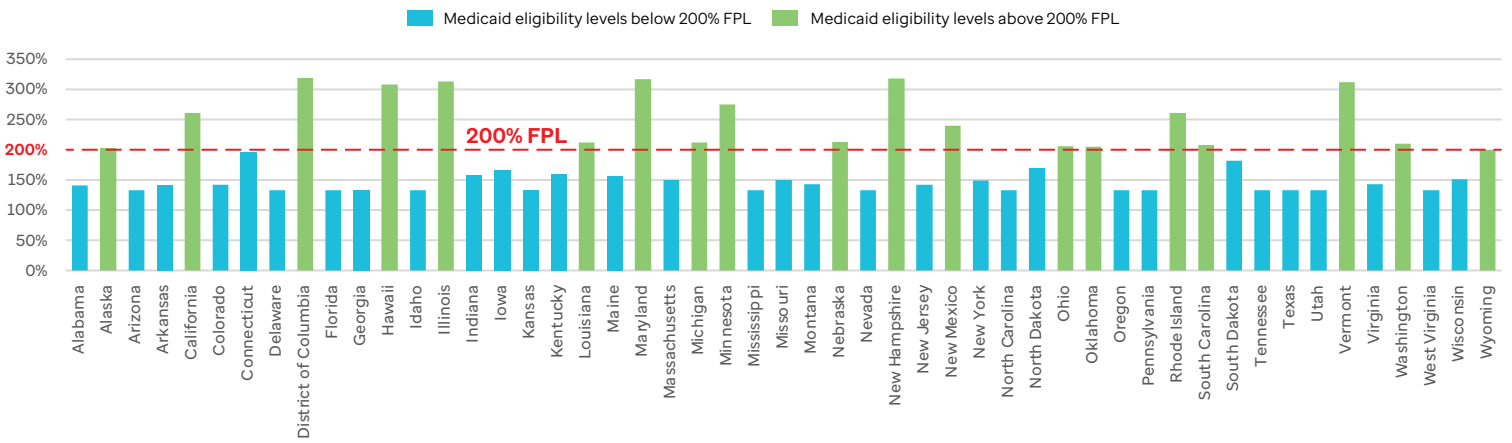
in savings due to increased HPV vaccination series completion and reduced incidence of HPV cancers.

<sup>1</sup> Medicaid.gov. (n.d.). Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program, & Basic Health Program Eligibility Levels. Medicaid.gov. Retrieved July 27, 2023, from <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/national-medicaid-chip-program-information/medicaid-childrens-health-insurance-program-basic-health-program-eligibility-levels/index.html>

<sup>2</sup> Cost savings realized as a result of increased HPV vaccination initiation and the subsequently reduced incidence of HPV cancers; cost savings estimates based on average direct cancer treatment costs (i.e., medical care services such as physician services, diagnostic tests, and hospitalization expenses) during the first two years after diagnosis. Non-medical costs and non-cost outcomes, such as productivity loss, caregiver burden, and mortality, are excluded from cost-saving estimates.

<sup>3</sup> The change in the observed factor occurs over one year - the net cost savings over the lifetimes of the individuals diagnosed with HPV cancers would be much larger.

## MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY LEVELS FOR CHILDREN 6 - 18 YEARS OLD, 2022



**Each state has a role to play in preventing and eliminating HPV cancers.** The following checklist outlines actions your state can take based on its Medicaid income eligibility levels and Medicaid expansion status, an important consideration to further improve access to primary care and preventive services, including vaccination, for adults and their children.

Action	Non-expansion states	Expansion states	Non-expansion states	Expansion states
	<200% FPL <sup>4</sup>	<200% FPL <sup>5</sup>	≥ 200% FPL <sup>6</sup>	≥ 200% FPL <sup>7</sup>
Pursue expanded income eligibility for Medicaid as a policy change in conjunction with other HPV prevention policy proposals and activities.	✓	✓		
Engage access to care and Medicaid/patient advocates to educate policy influencers about the impact of expanded access on HPV cancer incidence.	✓	✓		
Engage trusted messengers to discuss the benefits of increasing access to health insurance coverage through expanded income eligibility for Medicaid with policymakers.	✓	✓		
Encourage leaders in non-expansion states to also take advantage of the opportunities associated with Medicaid expansion, which is linked to reduced incidence of HPV cancers.	✓		✓	
Continue to observe for any policies aimed at rolling back Medicaid eligibility or coverage benefit packages.	✓	✓	✓	✓

<sup>4</sup> Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Wisconsin

<sup>5</sup> Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia

<sup>6</sup> Wyoming, South Carolina

<sup>7</sup> Alaska, California, Hawaii, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, District of Columbia

### LEARN MORE

Scan the QR code or read the full report:  
<https://www.stjude.org/research/comprehensive-ancer-center/hpv-cancer-prevention-program/analysis-hpv-vaccination-coverage-us.html>

