



Snapshot

April 13 Update

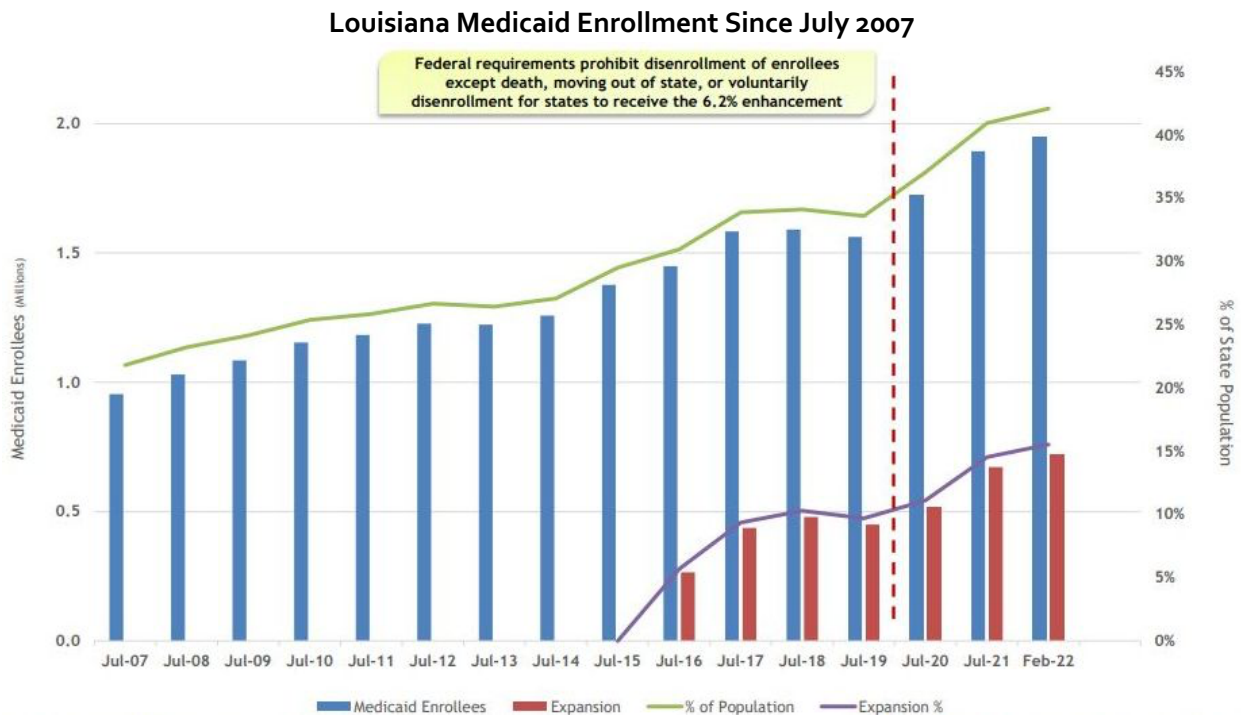
The Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana

State Medicaid Enrollment and Spending Daily Confirmed Deaths Below 10 for Two Weeks

Medicaid Enrollment and Spending Surges due to Pandemic

Louisiana’s Medicaid program provides health care coverage to nearly 2 million people, 42% of the population, according to the Louisiana Department of Health.

The percentage of state population enrolled in Medicaid increased about 5% from early 2020 to July 2021.



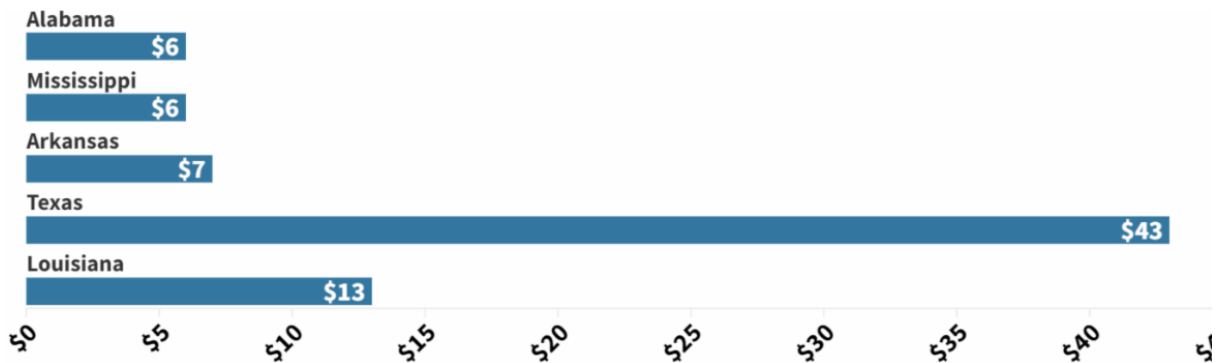
Source: LDH Medicaid Enrollment Trends Report / US Census Bureau / House Fiscal Division

Costs for taxpayer-financed Medicaid health insurance coverage are shared by the federal government and states, with differing percentages of federal money provided by the program based on a state’s poverty level. In Louisiana, the federal government is expected to cover about 74% of the costs in the Medicaid program in the upcoming 2022-23 financial year that begins July 1, according to a state House budget analysis.

Gov. John Bel Edwards expanded the state’s Medicaid program when he took office in 2016, making Louisiana one of only a handful of Southern states to embrace [the expansion program](#) authorized under the federal Affordable Care Act.

Louisiana’s expansion started in July 2016, greatly boosting the state’s Medicaid rolls by hundreds of thousands of people even before the pandemic. The expansion program makes adults ages 19 to 64 with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level —\$18,754 annually for a single adult or \$31,781 for a family of three —eligible for the health care coverage.

Total Medicaid Spending in FY 2020 (Billions)



Does not include administrative Medicaid costs

Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

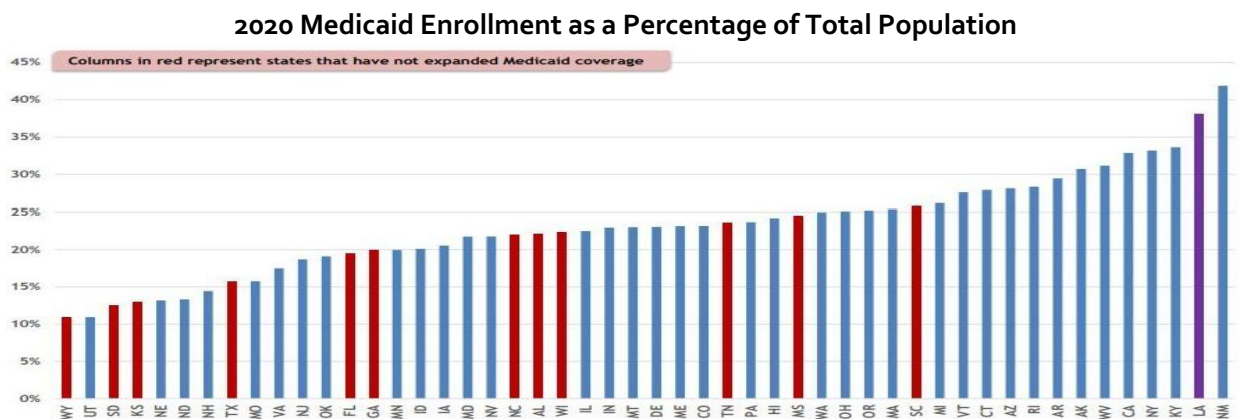
Louisiana’s Medicaid program is estimated to spend \$15.9 billion in the budget year that starts July 1, \$11.8 billion of that from federal dollars. By comparison, a decade ago in the 2012-13 budget year, the Medicaid program spent \$7.3 billion, \$5 billion of that from the federal government.

Health care services provided through states' Medicaid programs cost \$661 billion across the entire country, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation.

States like Louisiana that took boosted federal Medicaid funds offered because of the pandemic aren’t allowed to force people off the rolls, even if those people are no longer eligible for the coverage – at least not until the federal public health emergency expires. Louisiana has added more than 350,000 people to its Medicaid rolls since March 2020 when the coronavirus outbreak began, as people lost jobs and health insurance benefits. Many of them no longer meet the eligibility requirements.

Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Louisiana Medicaid Enrollment Compared to Other States



Source: Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission / Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services / House Fiscal Division

In 2020, Louisiana ranked second in the country for Medicaid enrollment. This is mainly due to the state's expansion, high poverty rates and the impact of the pandemic.

Once the federal public health emergency expires, which could be as early as the end of April or could still be months away, states will have to follow detailed federal instructions for reevaluating whether a Medicaid patient meets the eligibility criteria and removing them from the program.

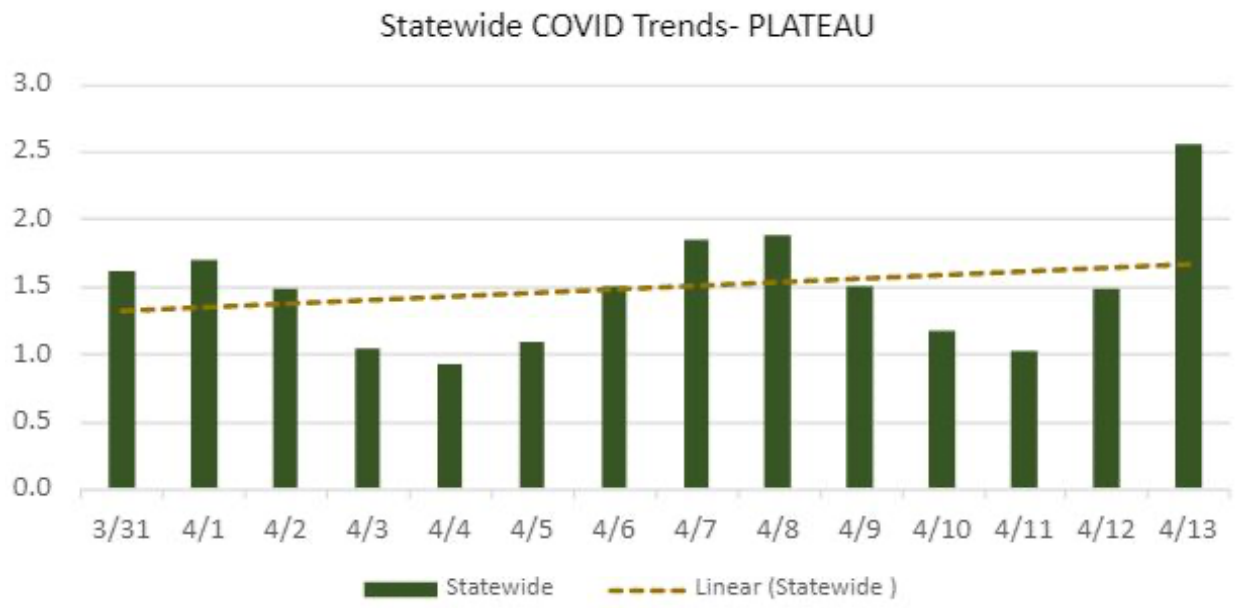
Louisiana Department of Health officials said the disenrollment of people deemed ineligible will take as long as a year once it begins.

A health department official told House lawmakers in March that the agency estimates about 240,000 people who signed up for Medicaid coverage during the COVID-19 outbreak are no longer eligible, 12% of those currently receiving health coverage through the program.

COVID-19 Update

Daily Confirmed Deaths Below 10 for Two Weeks
3-Day Positivity Rate Roughly One Percent
195 New Confirmed Cases | 3 New Confirmed Deaths

The Louisiana Department of Health reported 195 confirmed cases out of 14,876 tests on April 13. The three-day average of new cases was about 117. There are approximately 1.3 patients in Louisiana hospitals with COVID-19 per 100,000 residents. The LDH reported 3 confirmed deaths.



Confirmed cases have reached a plateau statewide.

The graphs in this report show the number of new cases per 100,000 residents over a 14-day period, which is a method used by the state. By calculating the cases according to population in this way, the results from region to region are easier to compare to determine the severity of the outbreak.

14 Day Look-Back

Region	14 Day Look-Back (3 Day Average)		
	4/11/2022	4/12/2022	4/13/2022
Orleans	—	—	▲
Capital	—	—	—
Bayou	—	—	—
Lafayette	—	—	—
Lake Charles	—	—	—
Central	—	—	—
Shreveport	—	—	—
Monroe	—	—	▲
Northshore	—	—	—
Statewide	—	—	—

PAR uses an average of new cases over a three-day period to smooth out irregularities that could be related to reporting inconsistencies (LDH also uses multiple-day averaging). Then, a statistically derived trendline – in the form of a straight line – is fitted to the data to gauge whether cases are increasing, decreasing or have reached a plateau, according to the CDC definition for each.

These figures are based only on known cases. Some studies indicate that the number of people who have carried COVID-19 is far greater than the number who have taken the test and shown a positive result. An unknown but potentially large number of people have been infected but are asymptomatic and have not been tested. Others have taken at-home tests, and their positive results haven't necessarily been reported to the state.

Special thanks to the Union Pacific Foundation for supporting PAR's Louisiana Recovery Project.

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