



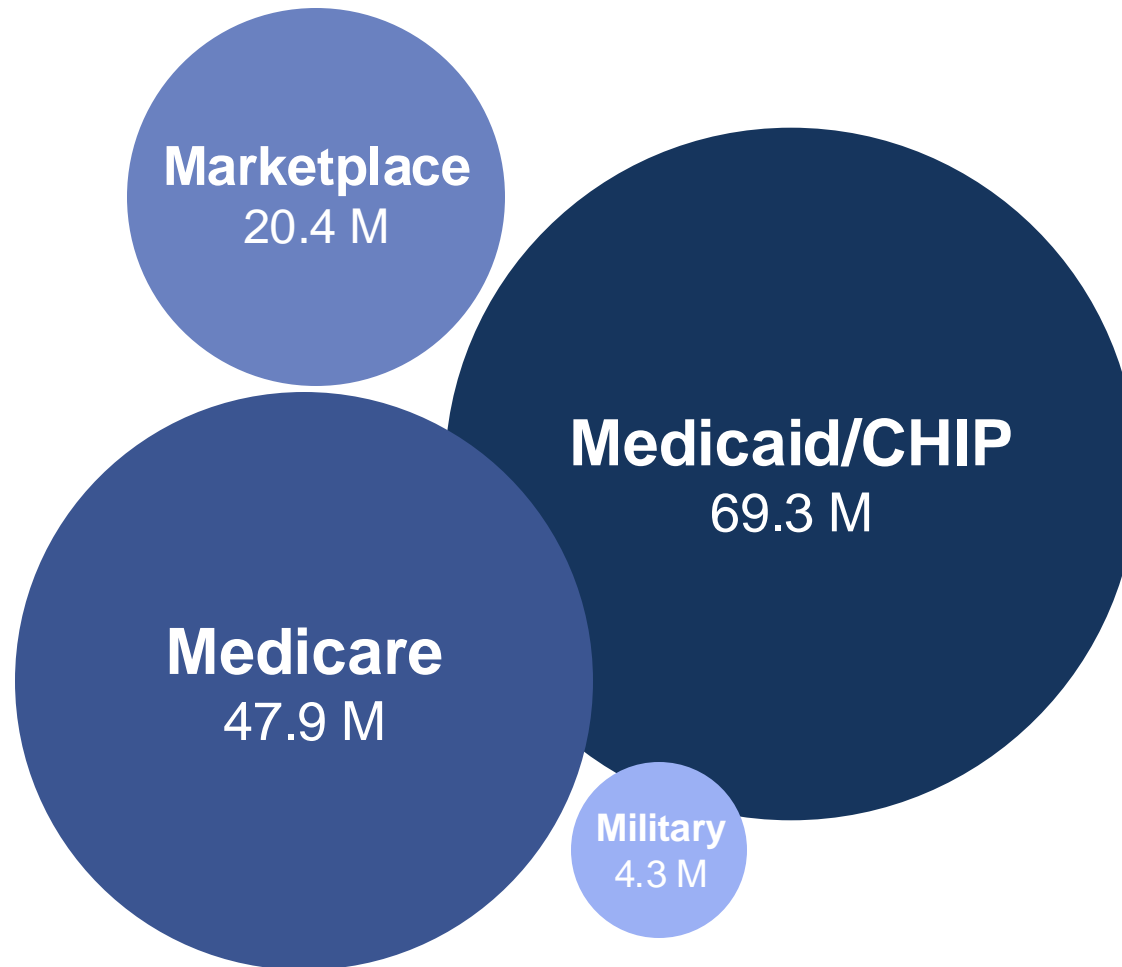
Georgetown University
McCourt School of Public Policy
CENTER FOR CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES

Medicaid's Role in Indian Country

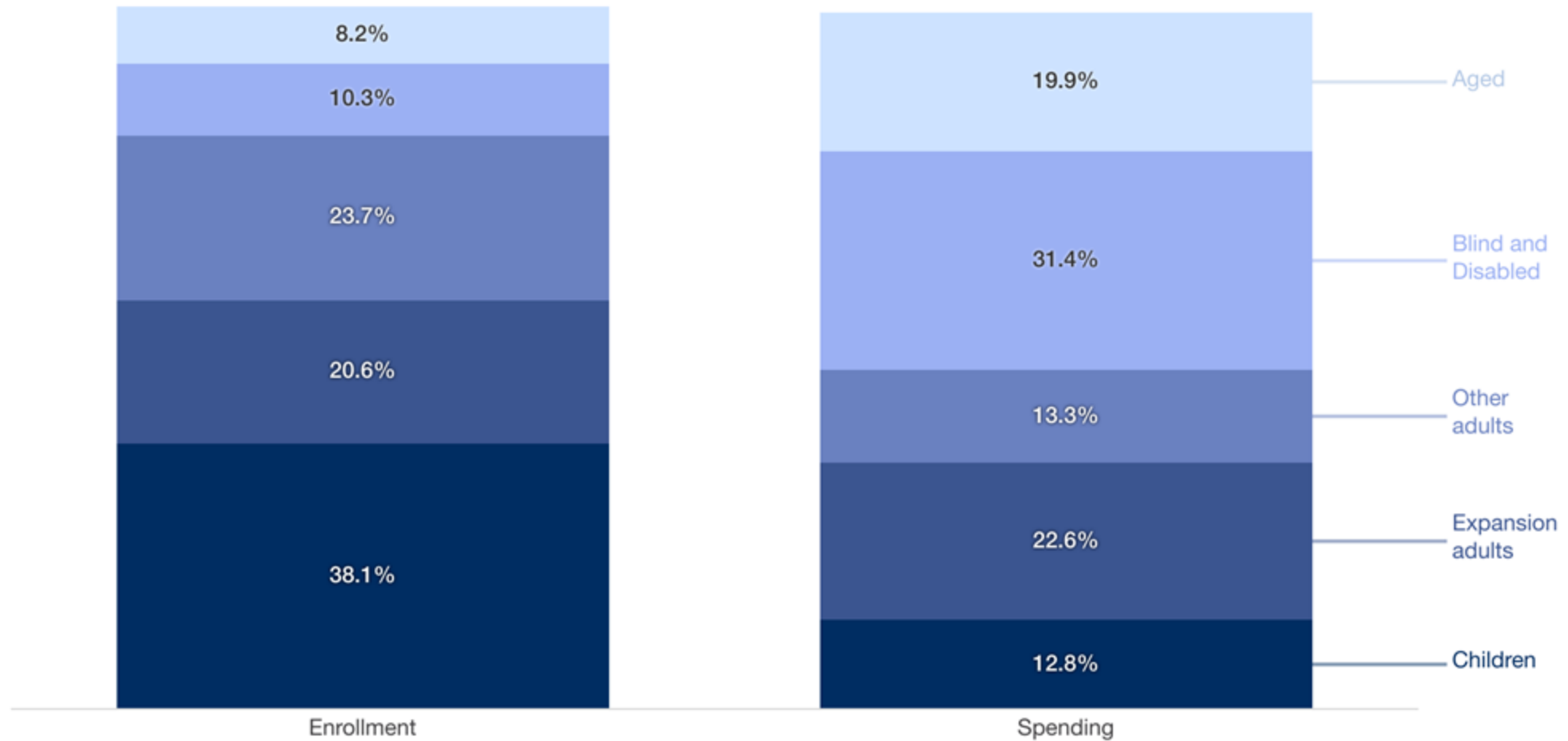
*Joan Alker,
Executive Director and Research Professor
Georgetown University Center for Children and Families*

February 5, 2025

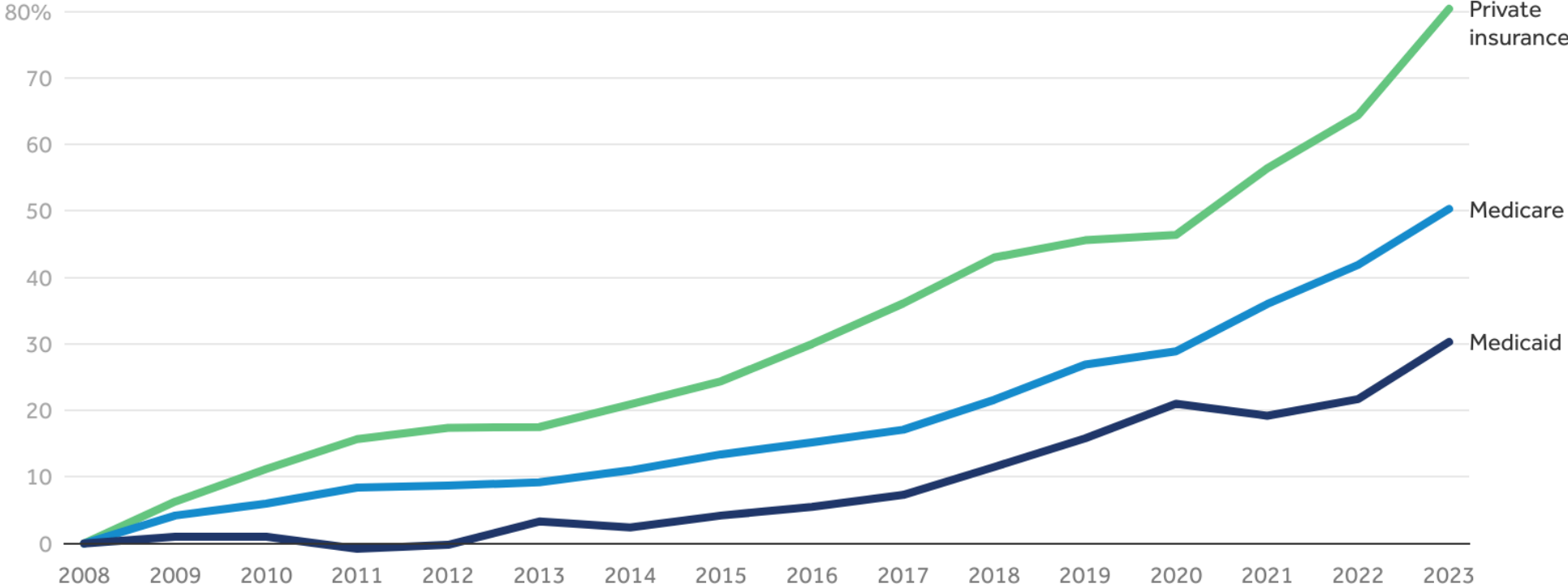
Health Insurance Supported by Federal Funding, 2023



Medicaid Enrollment Versus Spending by Eligibility Category, 2023



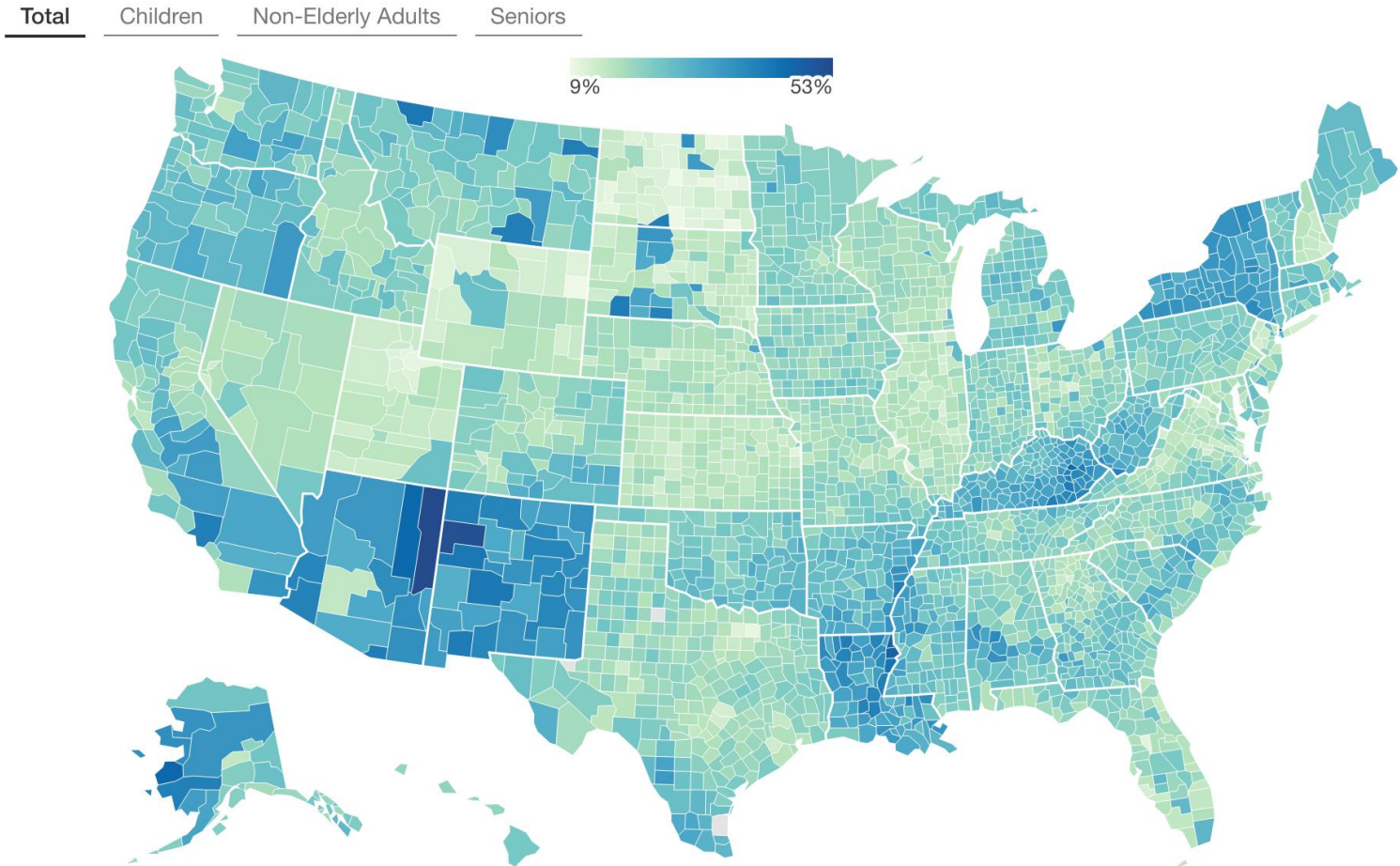
Cumulative Growth in Per Enrollee Spending, by Private Insurance, Medicare, and Medicaid, 2008-2023



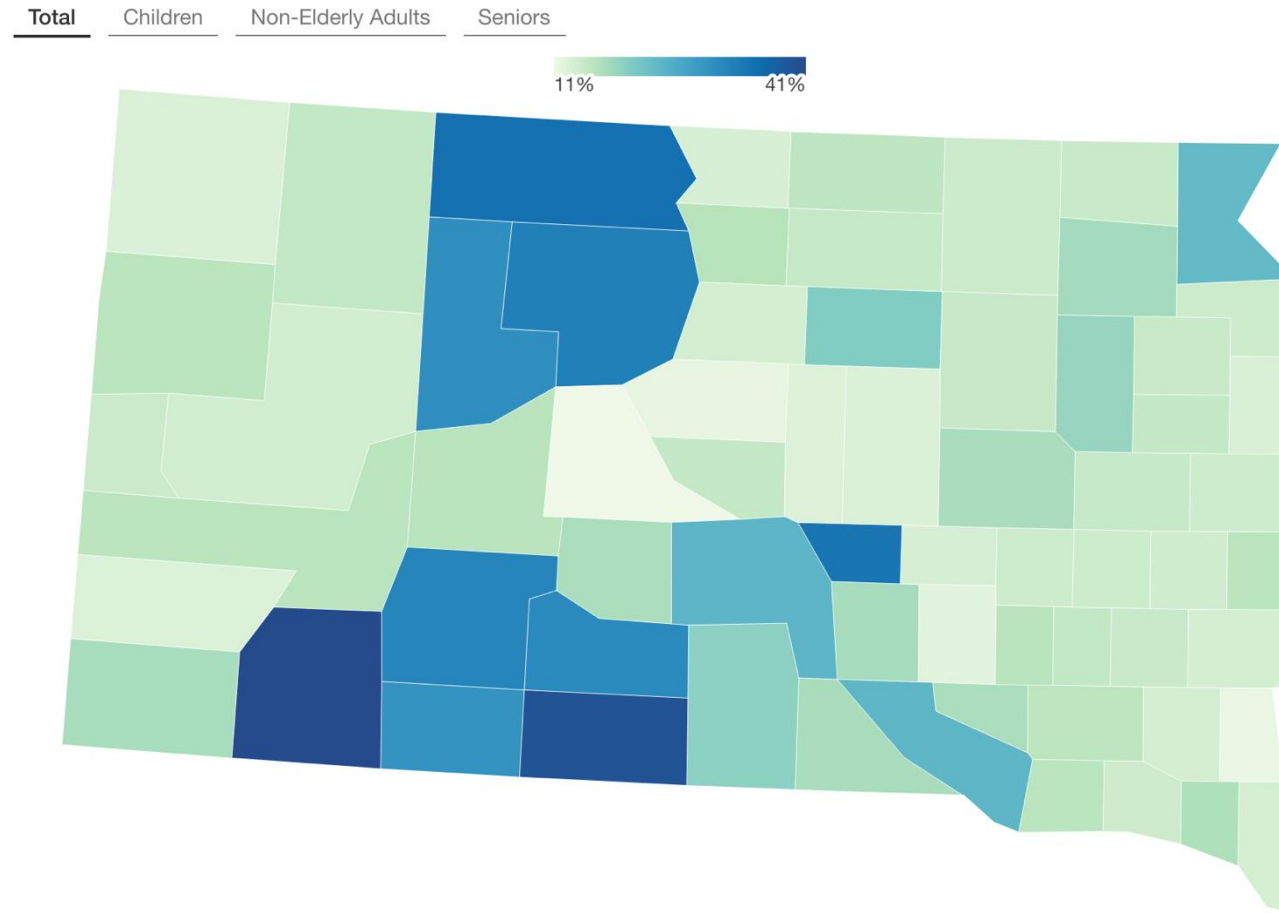
Source: KFF analysis of National Health Expenditure (NHE) data

Peterson-KFF
Health System Tracker

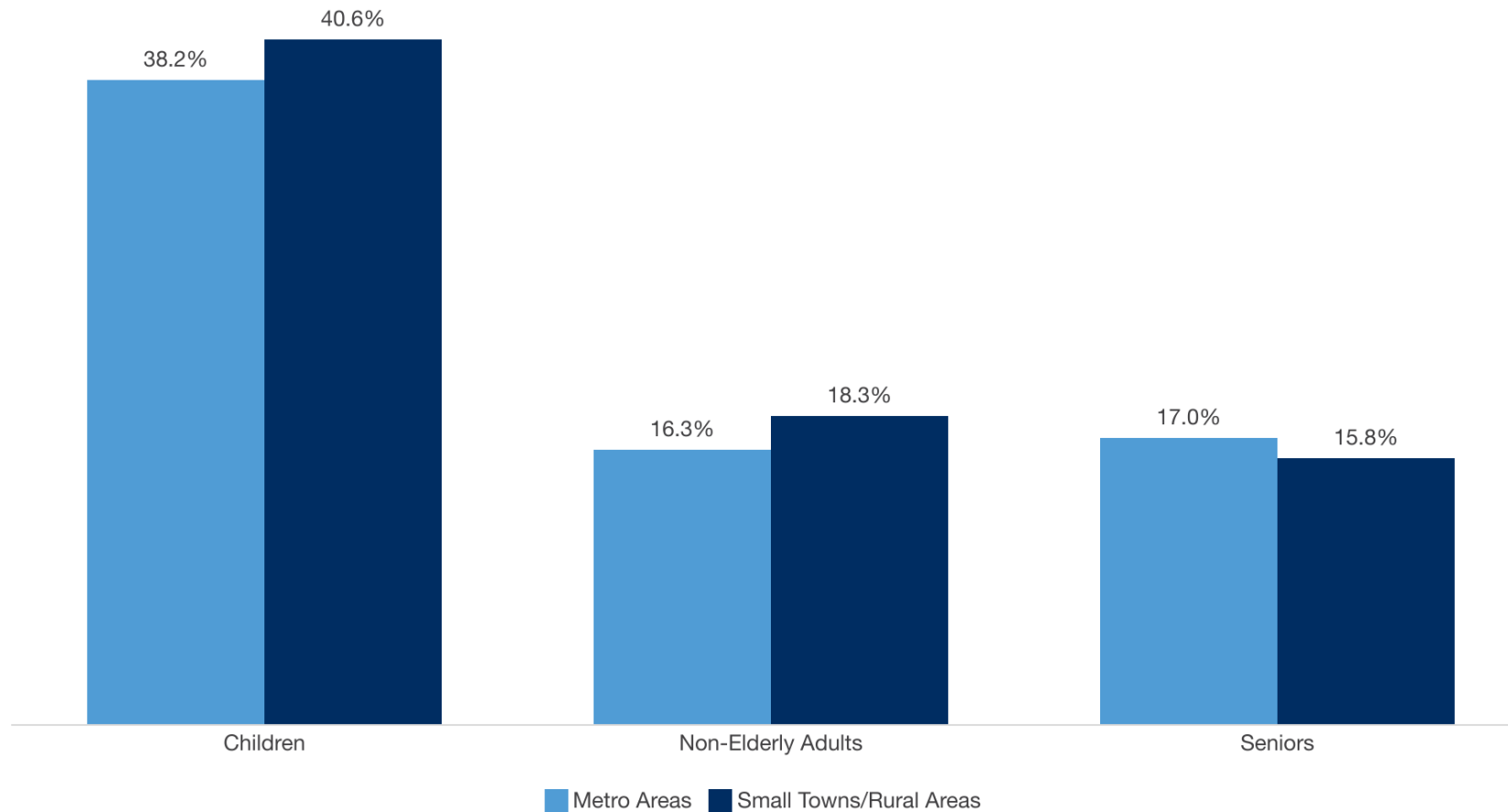
Medicaid Coverage in Metro and Small Town/Rural Area Counties, 2023



Medicaid Coverage in South Dakota Metro and Small Town/Rural Area Counties, 2023



Medicaid Coverage in Metro Areas and Small Towns/Rural Areas, 2023

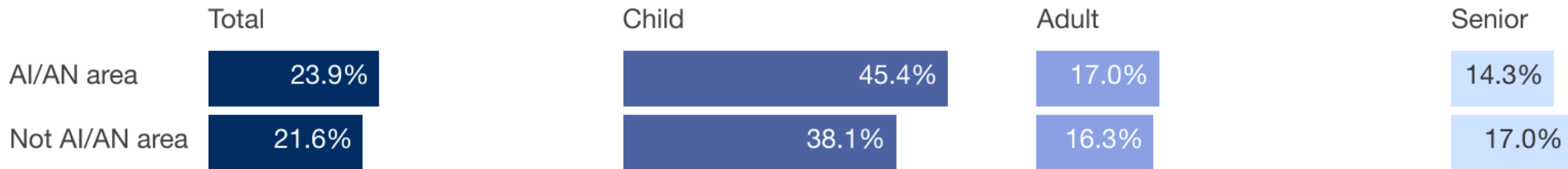


Medicaid Coverage in Metro Areas and Small Towns/Rural Areas by County Location in American Indian and Alaska Native Area (AI/AN), 2023

Small Town/Rural Area



Metro



Note: "Small Towns/Rural Areas" include non-metropolitan counties with no urban areas of at least 50,000 residents. The District of Columbia, New Jersey, and Rhode Island have no counties classified as Small Towns/Rural Areas. AI/AN counties defined as those where at least 50 percent of the county falls within areas including Tribal and Village Statistical Areas, Tribal Subdivisions, American Indian Reservations and Off-Reservation Trustlands, American Indian Joint Use Areas, Alaska Native Regional Corporations, and Hawaiian Home Lands.

States with at Least Half of Children in Small Towns/Rural Areas Covered by Medicaid/CHIP, 2023

State	Share with Medicaid/CHIP
New Mexico	59.9%
Louisiana	57.7%
Arizona	55.9%
Florida	51.9%
South Carolina	51.1%
Arkansas	50.5%

15 States Have at Least 20% of Non-Elderly Adults in Small Towns/Rural Areas Covered by Medicaid, 2023

State	Share with Medicaid
Arizona	35.9%
New York	33.9%
New Mexico	31.6%
Louisiana	30.2%
Kentucky	28.5%
West Virginia	25.5%
Oregon	24.9%
Washington	24.4%
Montana	22.2%
Arkansas	22.0%
Maine	21.9%
Vermont	21.7%
Massachusetts	21.5%
Michigan	21.2%
Alaska	20.4%

Top 10 States with the Largest Difference in the Share of Non-Elderly Adults Covered by Medicaid in Small Towns/Rural Areas and Metro Areas, 2023

State	Medicaid Coverage in Metro Areas	Medicaid Coverage in Small Towns/Rural Areas	Difference
Arizona	16.8%	35.9%	19.2
New York	23.7%	33.9%	10.1
Washington	15.5%	24.4%	8.9
Texas	7.7%	14.3%	6.6
Kentucky	22.6%	28.5%	5.9
Virginia	13.6%	18.9%	5.3
Louisiana	25.5%	30.2%	4.7
Oregon	20.6%	24.9%	4.3
South Carolina	13.4%	17.5%	4.1
Montana	18.1%	22.2%	4.1

Small Town/Rural Counties with Highest Share of Children Covered by Medicaid/CHIP, 2023

County Name	State	Share of Children with Medicaid/CHIP Coverage
McKinley County	New Mexico	72.7%
Madison Parish	Louisiana	71.0%
Mora County	New Mexico	70.2%
East Carroll Parish	Louisiana	69.3%
De Baca County	New Mexico	69.1%
Claiborne Parish	Louisiana	67.8%
Cibola County	New Mexico	67.3%
San Miguel County	New Mexico	67.0%
Tensas Parish	Louisiana	66.9%
Guadalupe County	New Mexico	66.1%
Rio Arriba County	New Mexico	64.9%
Bienville Parish	Louisiana	64.3%
Humphreys County	Mississippi	64.3%
Luna County	New Mexico	64.0%
Socorro County	New Mexico	63.8%
Phillips County	Arkansas	62.9%
Concordia Parish	Louisiana	62.6%
Apache County	Arizona	62.5%
Wolfe County	Kentucky	62.5%
Lee County	Arkansas	62.4%

Small Town/Rural Counties with Highest Share of Non-Elderly Adults Covered by Medicaid, 2023

County Name	State	Share of Adults with Medicaid Coverage
Apache County	Arizona	44.1%
McKinley County	New Mexico	42.8%
Kusilvak Census Area	Alaska	41.7%
East Carroll Parish	Louisiana	41.3%
Wolfe County	Kentucky	40.2%
Madison Parish	Louisiana	39.6%
Navajo County	Arizona	39.0%
Glacier County	Montana	38.8%
Big Horn County	Montana	37.7%
Magoffin County	Kentucky	37.4%
McDowell County	West Virginia	37.4%
Roosevelt County	Montana	36.7%
Tensas Parish	Louisiana	36.7%
Socorro County	New Mexico	36.6%
McCreary County	Kentucky	36.4%
Mora County	New Mexico	36.3%
Clay County	Kentucky	36.2%
Sullivan County	New York	36.1%
Montgomery County	New York	35.9%
Claiborne Parish	Louisiana	35.8%

Small Town/Rural Counties with Highest Share of Seniors Covered by Medicaid, 2023

County Name	State	Share of Seniors with Medicaid Coverage
Oglala Lakota County	South Dakota	66.1%
Apache County	Arizona	65.6%
Todd County	South Dakota	61.5%
Starr County	Texas	53.5%
Santa Cruz County	Arizona	49.1%
Navajo County	Arizona	47.2%
Dewey County	South Dakota	46.4%
Corson County	South Dakota	45.7%
Presidio County	Texas	45.4%
Jackson County	South Dakota	44.4%
Owsley County	Kentucky	43.2%
Kusilvak Census Area	Alaska	42.8%
La Paz County	Arizona	40.8%
McKinley County	New Mexico	40.7%
Ziebach County	South Dakota	40.3%
Buffalo County	South Dakota	38.6%
Clay County	Kentucky	38.5%
Greenlee County	Arizona	38.2%
Zapata County	Texas	38.2%
Graham County	Arizona	37.6%

For More Information:

Contact:

childhealth@Georgetown.edu

Twitter/X:

@georgetownccf

@JoanAlker1

Bluesky:

joanalker1.bsky.social

Georgetown University
McCourt School of Public Policy
CENTER FOR CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES

Search

Topics Blog Data State Data Hub Research Projects About Us

Georgia's Much Vaunted Medicaid Waiver "Pathways to Coverage" Has Turned Into "Pathways to Profit" for Consultants
Joan Alker

FEATURED RESOURCES

Data 5.53 million children have lost Medicaid coverage during unwinding
How many children are losing Medicaid?

Total/Child Medicaid Enrollment Data
What is the impact of unwinding on Medicaid enrollment?

Data Medicaid Unwinding Renewal Outcomes
What is happening with Medicaid renewals in each state?

CMS Highlights EPSDT Policies and Strategies for Improving Care for Children with Behavioral Health

Congressional Appropriations Proposals Cut Maternal Health Investments

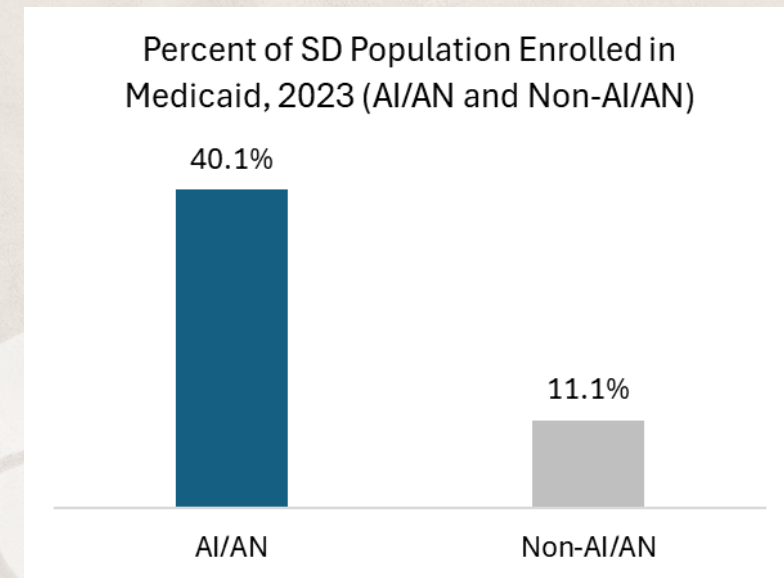
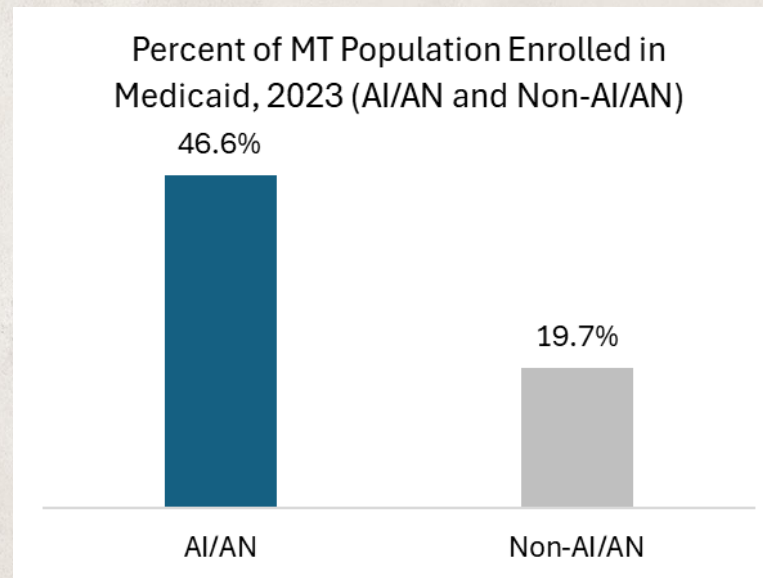
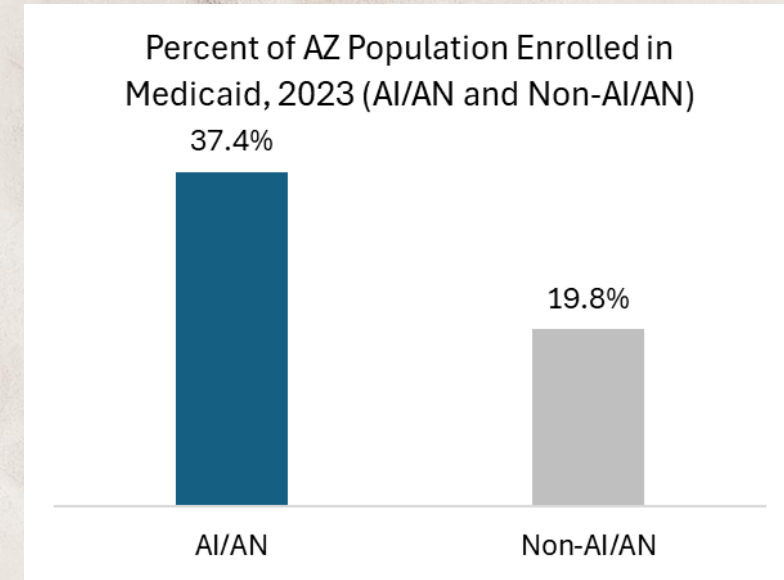
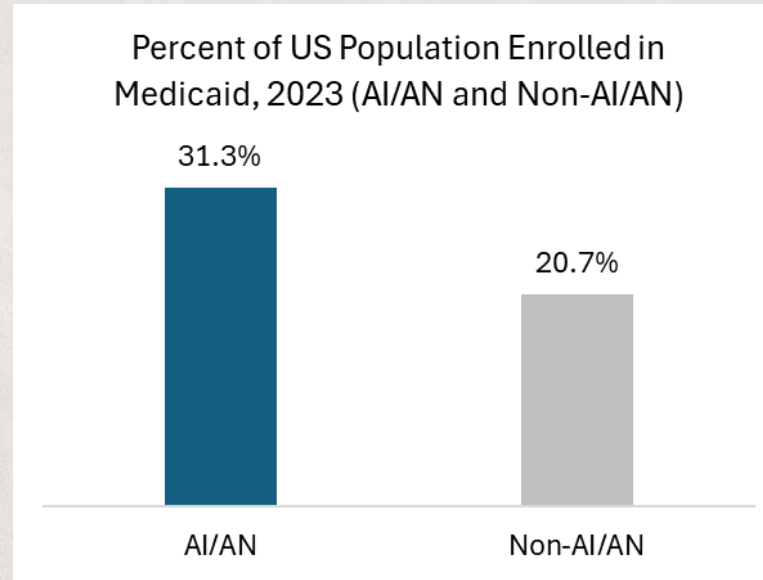
New Report Explores Insights from Medicaid Unwinding on How to Protect Children's Coverage

Medicaid Application/Reapplication Data
How many people are applying or reapplying for Medicaid?

THANK YOU!

AI/AN Medicaid Enrollment & Funding

- For AI/AN Children 0-19, Medicaid is at 48.7% nationally.
- For many Indian health facilities, Medicaid is 30-60% of their overall funding.
- In 2025, IHS projected Medicaid billing is only 0.213% of all federal Medicaid spending projected.



Urban Indian Health and Medicaid

Meredith Raimondi, Vice President of Policy and Communications,
National Council of Urban Indian Health

ABOUT

NCUIH

NATIONAL COUNCIL *of* URBAN INDIAN HEALTH

NCUIH is a national representative advocating for the 41 Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs) contracting with the Indian Health Service (IHS) under the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCA). NCUIH strives to improve the health of the over 70% of the AI/AN population that lives in urban areas, supported by quality health care centers.

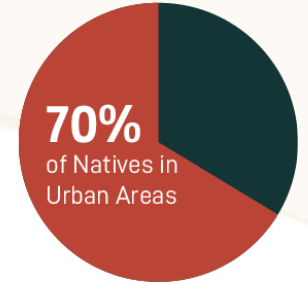
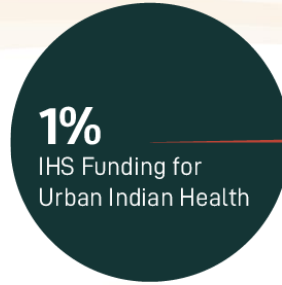
Overview

- About Urban Indian Organizations
- Medicaid's role in Indian Country, particularly for urban Indian communities

Understanding Urban Indian Organizations and Urban Indian Communities

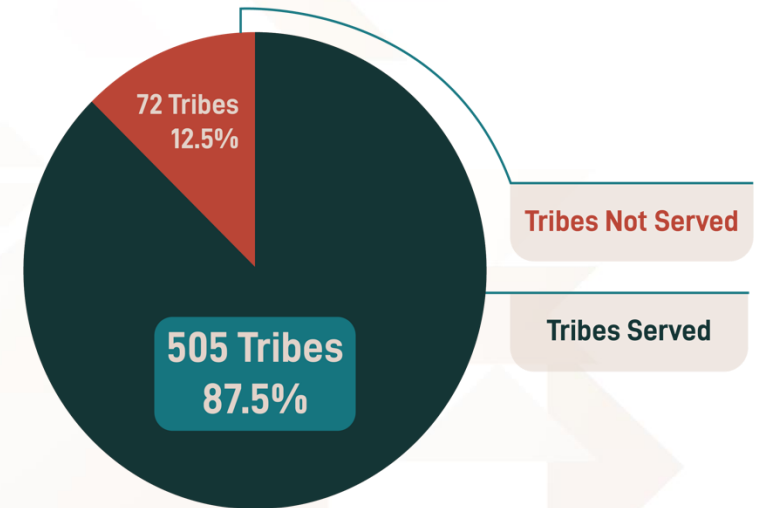
About Urban Indian Organizations

- UIOs are an integral part of the Indian health care system.
- UIOs were created in the 1950s by Native people living in urban areas, with the support of Tribal leaders, to address severe problems with health, education, employment, and housing caused by the federal government’s forced relocation policies.
- As of 2024, there are 41 UIOs with over 87 facilities across 22 states.



Total Number of Tribes Served at UIOs

500+
TRIBES
SERVED



Role of UIOs in Healthcare Delivery



Primary Care

- General medical care
- Diabetes care and prevention
- Health and wellness check-ups
- Vision and hearing screenings
- Immunizations
- Chronic disease care
- Women's health
- Urgent care



Traditional Medicine

- Sweat lodge ceremonies
- Men's, women's, and elder's talking circles
- Traditional medicine from traditional healers
- Prayer ceremonies
- Relationship gatherings



Behavioral Health Services

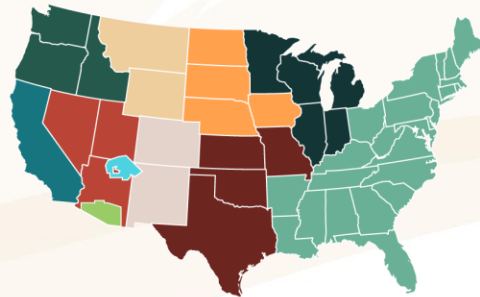
- Mental health counseling
- Psychiatry
- Substance abuse counseling
- Education and prevention services
- Domestic violence counseling



Social & Community Services

- Prevention and education services
- Youth camps and programs
- Elder services
- Domestic violence services and classes
- Job placement
- Nutrition services and classes
- Arts and crafts
- Food assistance

***Services
provided by
Urban Indian
Organizations***



Urban Indian Organizations by Indian Health Service Region

CALIFORNIA

- **American Indian Health & Services**
Santa Barbara, CA
- **Bakersfield American Indian Health Project**
Bakersfield, CA
- **Fresno American Indian Health Project**
Fresno, CA
- **Friendship House - Association of American Indians**
San Francisco, CA
- **Indian Health Center of Santa Clara Valley**
San Jose, CA
- **Native American Health Center**
Oakland, CA
- **Sacramento Native American Health Center**
Sacramento, CA
- **San Diego American Indian Health Center**
San Diego, CA
- **Native Directions; Three Rivers Indian Lodge**
Manteca, CA
- **United American Indian Involvement**
Los Angeles, CA

PORTLAND

- **Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest**
Portland, OR
- **The NATIVE Project**
Spokane, WA
- **Seattle Indian Health Board**
Seattle, WA

PHOENIX

- **NATIVE HEALTH**
Phoenix, AZ
- **Urban Indian Center of Salt Lake City**
Salt Lake City, UT
- **Nevada Urban Indians**
Reno, NV
- **Native American Connections**
Phoenix, AZ

NAVAJO

- **Native Americans for Community Action**
Flagstaff, AZ

TUCSON

- **Tucson Indian Center**
Tucson, AZ

BILLINGS

- **Helena Indian Alliance**
Helena, MT
- **Indian Family Health Clinic**
Great Falls, MT
- **Butte Native Wellness Center**
Butte, MT
- **All Nations Health Center**
Missoula, MT
- **Billings Urban Indian Health & Wellness Center**
Billings, MT

ALBUQUERQUE

- **First Nations Community HealthSource**
Albuquerque, NM
- **Denver Indian Health and Family Services**
Denver, CO

OKLAHOMA CITY

- **Hunter Health**
Wichita, KS
- **Indian Health Care Resource Center of Tulsa**
Tulsa, OK
- **Oklahoma City Indian Clinic**
Oklahoma City, OK
- **Texas Native Health**
Dallas, TX
- **Kansas City Indian Center**
Kansas City, MO

GREAT PLAINS

- **Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition**
Omaha, NE
- **South Dakota Urban Indian Health**
Sioux Falls, SD

BEMIDJI

- **American Indian Council on Alcoholism**
Milwaukee, WI
- **American Indian Health & Family Services**
Detroit, MI
- **Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center**
Milwaukee, WI
- **Indian Health Board of Minneapolis**
Minneapolis, MN
- **American Indian Health Services of Chicago**
Chicago, IL
- **Juel Fairbanks Recovery Services**
St. Paul, MN

NASHVILLE

- **New York Indian Council**
Long Island City, NY
- **Native American LifeLines of Baltimore**
Baltimore, MD
- **Native American LifeLines of Boston**
West Roxbury, MA

Top 10 Metro Areas with the Highest Populations of AI/AN People Enrolled in Medicaid (2022)¹

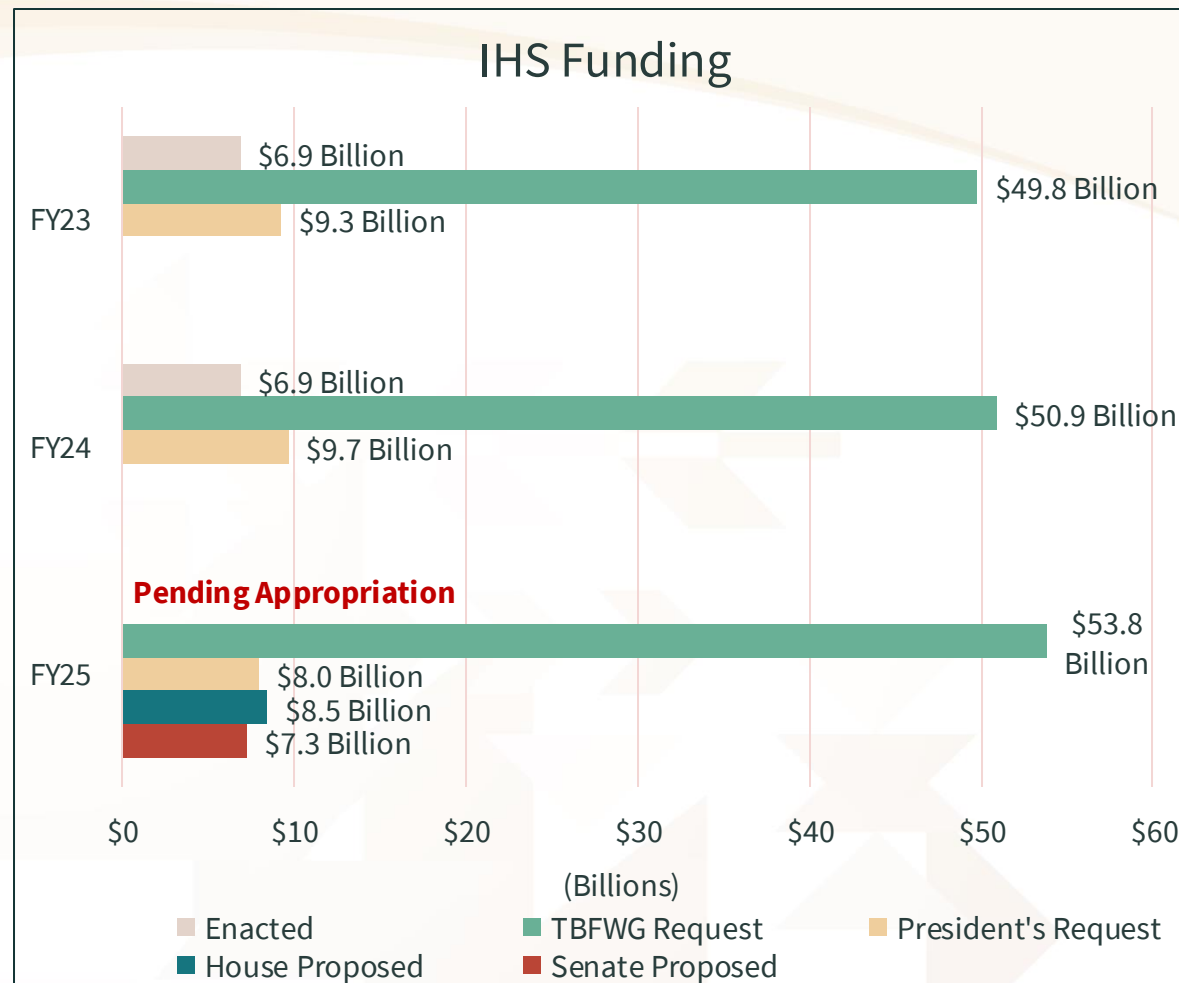
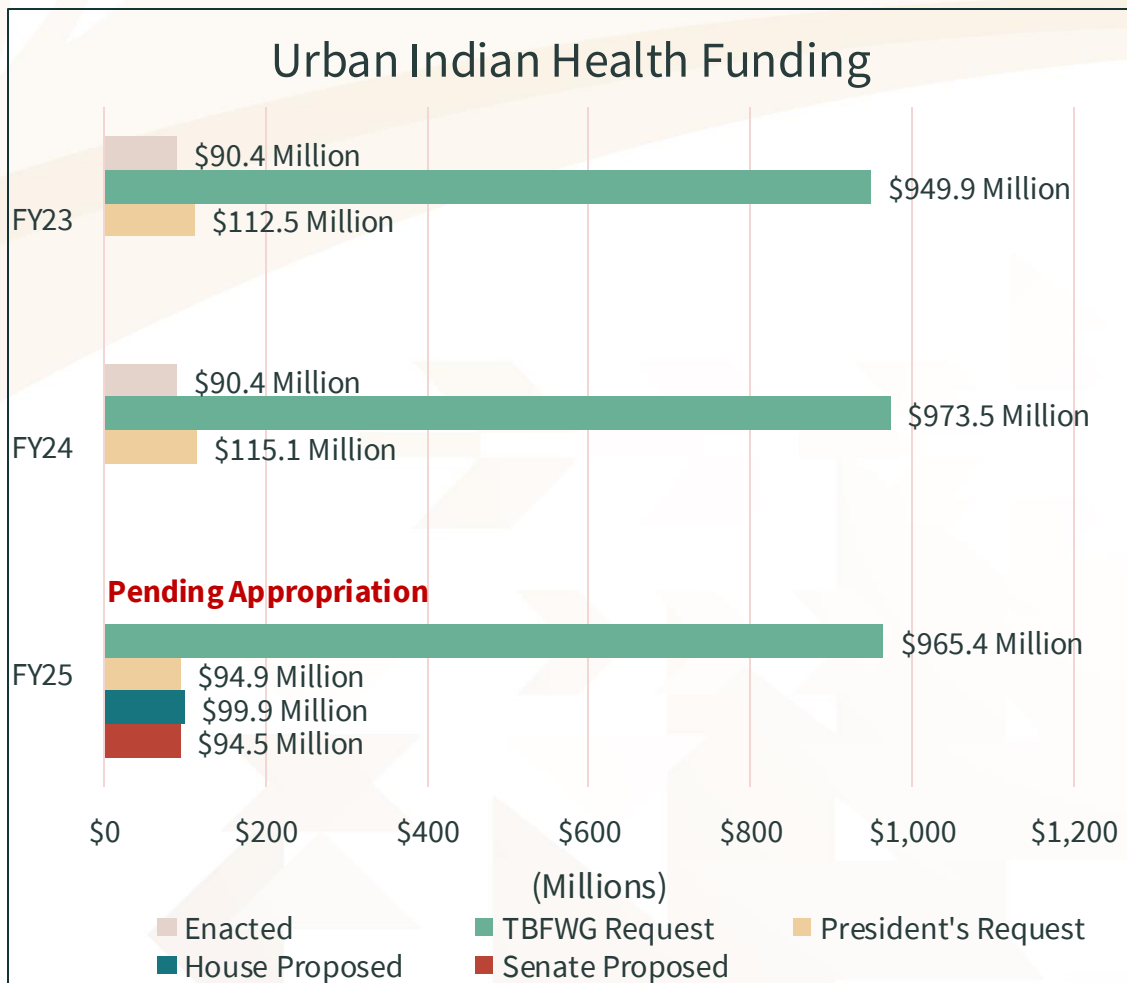
Metro Area	# AI/AN Medicaid Beneficiaries	Served by UIO
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA	128,681	Yes
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ	115,141	Yes
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	55,229	No
Phoenix-Mesa-Chandler, AZ	53,505	Yes
Tulsa, OK	49,145	Yes
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN	45,931	Yes
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	37,904	Yes
Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands, TX	37,291	No
Oklahoma City, OK	36,542	Yes
San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA	36,355	Yes

1. NCUIH analysis of ACS data for AI/AN alone or in combination: Steven Ruggles, Sarah Flood, Matthew Sobek, Daniel Backman, Anie Chen, Grace Cooper, Stephanie Richards, Renae Rodgers, and Megan Schouweiler. IPUMS USA: Version 15.0 [ACS 2022]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2024.

Medicaid and Native Health

Indian Health Service and UIOs Critically Underfunded

IHS and UIO Funding vs Actual Need



Indian Health Service and Medicaid

In 1976, Congress authorized the IHS to bill Medicaid for services provided to eligible enrollees “to enable Medicaid funds to flow into IHS institutions... [because] these Medicaid payments are viewed as a much-needed supplement to a health care program which has for too long been insufficient to provide quality health care to the American Indian,” recognizing that “the Federal government has treaty obligations to provide services to Indians, it has not been a State responsibility.”¹

Medicaid revenue is a critical supplement to the chronically underfunded Indian Health system.

Indian Health Service and Medicaid

**\$89.5
Million**

In 2019, UIOs received at least \$89.5 million in Medicaid reimbursements for services provided to Medicaid beneficiaries.¹

59%

UIOs are critical to serving Native Medicaid beneficiaries in urban areas, with Medicaid beneficiaries making up 59% of the UIO Native patient population in 2022.²

Medicaid is the biggest source of funding for UIOs outside of IHS.

1. "TAF Other Services File: ResDAC Data Dictionary." Accessed April 8, 2021. <https://resdac.org/cms-data/files/taf-ot>

2. INDIAN HEALTH SERV., NATIONAL UNIFORM DATA SYSTEM SUMMARY REPORT 2022, URBAN INDIAN ORGANIZATION, https://www.ihs.gov/sites/urban/themes/responsive2017/display_objects/documents/2022_UIO_UDS_Summary_Report_Final.pdf

Importance of Medicaid for Native People

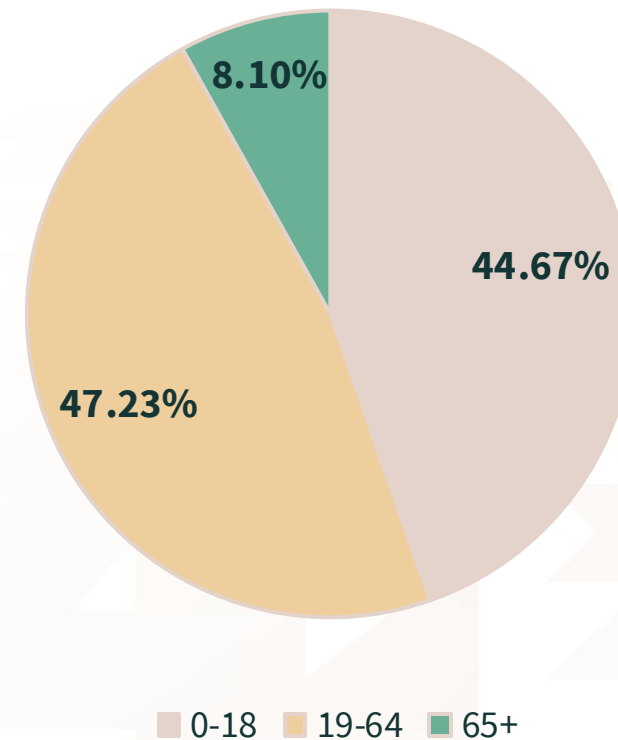
2.7 Million

Native people enrolled in Medicaid in the U.S. in 2023.¹

1.9 Million

Native people enrolled in Medicaid in states with UIOs in 2023.²

Percent of Total American Indian and Alaska Native People Enrolled in Medicaid in 2023 by Age Group³



1. NCUIH analysis of 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) data (1-year estimates). Includes data on AI/ANs identified as “Alone” or “In Combination.”
2. *Id.*
3. *Id.*

Contact



Meredith Raimondi
Vice-President of Policy &
Communications
mraimondi@ncuih.org

NCUIH

NATIONAL COUNCIL *of* URBAN INDIAN HEALTH

