

In July 2015, PHI released “Too Sick to Care: Direct-Care Workers, Medicaid Expansion and the Coverage Gap,” a research brief examining the impact on health coverage for this workforce when states opt to not expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. To read this brief, please visit PHInational.org/toosicktocare.

The ACA included a provision meant to incentivize states to expand eligibility for Medicaid programs to individuals with household incomes up to 138%FPL. In 2012 the Supreme Court ruled that states could opt out of this new requirement. In many states, the decision not to expand Medicaid resulted in a gap between current Medicaid eligibility and 100% FPL—the income level at which an individual or family qualifies for subsidies to purchase health insurance in the state health care exchanges.

Direct-care Workers in States that Have Not Expanded Medicaid Eligibility Under the Affordable Care Act

State	Total	Uninsured		Under 138% FPL		Under 100% FPL	
Alabama	37,460	11,462	31%	15,658	42%	10,489	28%
Alaska	8,850	2,420	27%	1,832	21%	1,230	14%
Florida	128,390	45,649	36%	40,186	31%	25,421	20%
Georgia	58,280	18,763	32%	21,680	37%	14,803	25%
Idaho	17,790	6,063	34%	6,778	38%	4,305	24%
Kansas	45,110	15,079	33%	16,736	37%	11,232	25%
Louisiana	64,460	26,923	42%	31,070	48%	21,465	33%
Maine	23,380	4,924	21%	5,939	25%	3,484	15%
Mississippi	27,090	9,648	36%	12,461	46%	8,560	32%
Missouri	82,620	24,776	30%	34,535	42%	23,712	29%
Nebraska	20,210	4,376	22%	6,508	32%	3,961	20%
North Carolina	115,730	37,524	32%	44,209	38%	30,206	26%
Oklahoma	38,190	13,527	35%	14,359	38%	9,968	26%
South Carolina	38,810	10,659	27%	15,873	41%	10,129	26%
South Dakota	9,070	1,662	18%	3,084	34%	1,778	20%
Tennessee	54,910	15,236	28%	21,580	39%	14,332	26%
Texas	301,860	133,830	44%	128,592	43%	85,125	28%
Utah	15,140	3,391	22%	4,451	29%	3,013	20%
Virginia	73,600	21,491	29%	22,374	30%	14,278	19%
Wisconsin	77,040	10,876	14%	24,114	31%	16,178	21%
Wyoming	5,320	1,579	30%	1,479	28%	734	14%

Percentages drawn from American Community Survey 2009-2013 ACS 5-year PUMS. These were applied to counts of direct-care workers from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics program, May 2014 estimates.