

Issue: Medicaid Expansion-FL

How Does Florida Compare to Other States in Healthcare?

Very Poorly!*

Florida ranks #49 (out of 50) in health care access

27% of adults have no annual checkup (compared to 20% in West Virginia).

67.4% of children eligible for Medicaid have no dental visit in a year (compared to 53.5% in Louisiana)

Florida ranks #48 (out of 50) in health care affordability

17.5% of adults in Florida go without care due to cost (compared to 13.1% in the whole United States)

Only 12% of adults go without care in Kentucky and only 12.1 % in Virginia

Florida ranks #48 (out of 50) in health insurance

22% of males, 18-64 are uninsured in Florida (compared to 9% in Kentucky)

6.9% of children under 18 are uninsured in Florida (compared to 2.9 % West Virginia and 4% in Mississippi)

23% of blacks are uninsured in Florida (compared to 17% in South Carolina)

14.5% of whites, 18-34 are uninsured in Florida (compared to 12% in Arkansas)

No matter how you look at health care, or which states you compare to us, Florida does very poorly!

* US News, "Best States," 2017, Data powered by McKinsey&Company, <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/data-explorer>.

Why do These Comparisons Matter?

“There is a large body of research showing that people who have health insurance are likely to access care and to get appropriate care like cancer screenings, and that leads to ultimately better health outcomes,” says Rachel Garfield, associate director for the program on Medicaid and the Uninsured at the Kaiser Family Foundation, which studies health care.

Hawaii has a nearly universal health care system for its residents....and it ranks #1 in health care in the United States.

Those states that haven’t expanded Medicaid under the ACA are, for the most part, those states that rank lower on the health care index.

Medicaid expansion has made the greatest difference in state performance and overall ranking of health care by state in recent years according to Dr. Donald Schwarz, vice president for programs at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which has been studying the impacts of the ACA. "That is a particular intervention (*Medicaid expansion*) that is one of the most powerful and most important," he says.