



Federal Medicaid Spending Caps Will Severely Restrict Illinois' Ability to Address Its Mental Health Crisis and Opioid Epidemic

Medicaid is Crucial for Access to Mental Health and Substance Use (MH&SU) Treatment

- Medicaid covers 25% of all mental health spending in the U.S.¹
- Nearly 1/3 of Illinois' Medicaid Expansion population has a MH or SU condition.²

Medicaid Expansion Enables Hundreds of Thousands of Illinoisans to Access Treatment

- Over 348,000 uninsured Illinoisans with MH&SU conditions gained coverage through the Affordable Care Act, nearly 200,000 through Medicaid Expansion alone.³
- If Medicaid expansion is eliminated, thousands with mental health conditions will become disabled by their illness and return to Medicaid permanently – sicker and more costly to treat.⁴
- Without treatment for serious mental health conditions: A cycle of preventable hospitalizations, institutionalization, justice involvement, homelessness, addiction, and tragedy.⁵

Medicaid is Central in Battling the Opioid Epidemic

- Over 7,000 Illinoisans died from opioid overdose between 2013 – 2015.⁶
- An estimated 460,000 Illinoisans use opioids for non-medical reasons.⁷

Substance Use and Mental Health Conditions are Closely Connected

- ~50% with an opioid or other drug addiction have an underlying, untreated mental illness.⁸

Spending Caps Will Exacerbate Illinois' Mental Health Crisis and Opioid Epidemic

- Per capita caps or block grants mean devastating cuts to federal dollars for addressing these crises.
- Illinois' low Medicaid spend per enrollee will lead to a low spending baseline for a federal cap.
- Illinois cannot make up for lost federal Medicaid investment if spending caps are put in place.

Maintaining Medicaid Expansion and the Medicaid Financing Structure Where State Spending Is Matched by Federal Spending without a Federal Spending Cap is Crucial for Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment in Illinois.

¹ *Insurance Financing Increased for Mental Health Conditions, But Not Substance Use Disorders*, Health Affairs, June 2016.

² Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *State Participation in the Medicaid Expansion Provision of the Affordable Care Act: Implication for Uninsured Individuals with a Behavioral Health Condition*, November 2015.

³ SAMHSA data applied to the numbers insured in Illinois through the ACA.

⁴ See Illinois 1115 Medicaid Waiver Application.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Illinois Department of Public Health.

⁷ Illinois Department of Public Health.

⁸ National Alliance on Mental Illness, Dual Diagnosis, <https://www.nami.org/Learn-More/Mental-Health-Conditions/Related-Conditions/Dual-Diagnosis>

Protect Our Care Illinois is a statewide coalition of health care advocates, providers, consumers, and workers, standing together to protect and expand access to quality affordable health care provided by the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid.

www.protectourcareil.org

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