

⁶ American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. "Facing Cancer in the Healthcare System: A National Poll." May 21 – June 10, 2010. [REDACTED]

Medicaid coverage helps save lives from cancer

Medicaid beneficiaries have better access to health care than do the uninsured. If they get cancer, it's more likely to be discovered at an early stage and, compared to the uninsured, they have better access to outpatient and hospital care and prescription drugs.

Thousands of hard-working, low-income Virginians continue to lack access to healthcare coverage. Expanding Medicaid to cover those at or below 133% of the Federal Poverty Level will ensure that these individuals have access to cancer prevention and early detection services. Additionally, if Virginia participates in the Medicaid expansion, this population will be able to see a doctor regularly, access preventive services such as pap smears, mammograms and smoking cessation aids and avoid unnecessary visits to the emergency department. Access to these critical services enhances the likelihood of detecting cancer at an earlier, more curable and much less expensive stage.

Studies show that individuals enrolled in Medicaid, receive life-saving preventative screenings at higher rates than the uninsured and close to the same rate of those enrolled in private insurance. More than half (56%) of the women aged 40 to 64 enrolled in Medicaid received a mammogram in the past two years, compared to 38% of uninsured women, and 56% of insured women aged 40 to 64.⁷ Also, 74% of women aged 18 to 64 enrolled in Medicaid received a Pap smear in the past 3 years, compared to 68% of uninsured women, and 87% of insured women aged 18 to 64.⁸

ACS CAN realizes that the State of Virginia faces significant budget challenges and we encourage you to consider the financial benefit of the Medicaid expansion. Under the ACA, the federal government will pay for 100% of Medicaid expansion and no less than 90% of the cost to provide health care coverage to working, low-income Virginians, beyond 2020⁹

Should Virginia participate in Medicaid expansion, approximately 327,000 individuals would gain access to timely, appropriate and affordable health care coverage¹⁰. Further, Virginia will greatly assist in the effort to eliminate cancer as a major health problem.

For this reason, ACS CAN strongly supports of full expansion of the Virginia Medicaid program to all adults up to 133% of FPL as permitted under the Affordable Care Act.

⁷ Ward et al. "Association of Insurance with Cancer Care Utilization and Outcomes," A Cancer Journal for Clinicians Volume 58 Number 1 January/February 2008. American Cancer Society Surveillance Research Update 2011.

⁸ Ward et al. "Association of Insurance with Cancer Care Utilization and Outcomes," A Cancer Journal for Clinicians Volume 58 Number 1 January/February 2008. American Cancer Society Surveillance Research Update 2011.

⁹ The Kaiser Family Foundation, "State Medicaid Fact Sheets," Available at: [REDACTED]

¹⁰ The Kaiser Family Foundation, "The Cost and Coverage Implications of the ACA Medicaid Expansion: National and State-by-State Analysis," Available at: <http://www.kff.org/medicaid/upload/8384.pdf>