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ZERO HOUR: Nation Hits 100 Million People on Medicaid

The Foundation for Government Accountability's [Countdown Clock to 100 Million Hits Zero](#)



New Research Shows 35 Percent Spike in Medicaid Enrollment Due to “Medicaid Handcuffs” Locked on States During the Public Health Emergency and Medicaid Expansion

Naples, FL—Today, [new research](#) from the Foundation for Government Accountability ([FGA](#)) reveals that skyrocketing Medicaid enrollment has hit an all-time high—100 million enrollees. FGA’s countdown clock predicted enrollment in Medicaid would reach this [grim milestone](#) in early 2023.

“After three years of pandemic-era expansion, the Medicaid program is reeling. It was originally designed as a safety net for truly needy Americans, such as seniors, those with disabilities, and low-income children. But it’s since become a vehicle for long-term dependency and socialized medicine,” **said Jonathan Bain, FGA senior research fellow.** “The explosive rise in Medicaid enrollment was largely driven by states expanding the program to cover able-bodied adults—those who can and should be in the workforce, not on government-run welfare.”

The [35 percent spike](#) in Medicaid enrollment since early 2020—[an additional 26 million individuals](#)—is largely due to two factors: (1) the federal government’s extension of the public health emergency locking states in [“Medicaid handcuffs,”](#) and (2) state Medicaid expansion covering able-bodied adults. FGA’s research shows that as [welfare enrollment increases, workforce participation decreases.](#)

“While the debate over Medicaid expansion rages in the remaining non-expansion states, lawmakers need not look any further than the real-life experiences of their counterparts for answers: shattered enrollment projections, massive cost overruns, closed hospitals, and an ailing workforce,” **added Bain.** “If non-expansion states expand Medicaid, taxpayers could be on the hook for [nearly \\$800 billion.](#) Policymakers must stand firm against the broken promises of Medicaid expansion to protect the truly needy, state budgets, and taxpayers.”

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