

Medicaid is a lifeline for people with mental health and substance use conditions.



More than **900,000 ADULTS** in South Carolina live with a mental illness.

Almost **60,000 ADOLESCENTS** in South Carolina ages 12–17 have depression or anxiety.

Medicaid is the nation's largest funder of mental health (MH) condition and substance use disorder (SUD) services. **Nearly 40%** of non-elderly adults on Medicaid have a MH/SUD condition.

Healthy Connections, South Carolina's Medicaid Program, Covers More Than **1.3 MILLION** South Carolinians

1 in 8 adults
ages 19–64

4 in 9
children

5 in 8 nursing
home residents

1 in 6 Medicare
beneficiaries

3 in 10 people
with disabilities

1 in 3 people with
mental illness
in the U.S.



46,000

people on Medicaid in South Carolina were treated for a substance use disorder in 2021.

65,000

people are in the coverage gap without Medicaid expansion in South Carolina.

The majority of adults covered by Medicaid in South Carolina are working.

Nationally, 92% of adults on Medicaid work full or part-time, attend school, are caregivers, or have a chronic illness or disability.

If people lose access to Medicaid coverage and mental health services and supports, their mental health needs won't disappear. Costs will shift to communities by pushing people with mental illness into costly emergency departments and jails — instead of the lifesaving care people need and deserve.

Cuts to Medicaid would:

Make it even more challenging for people with mental health conditions to see a therapist, afford a prescription, and manage their co-occurring physical health conditions.

Disrupt our state mental health agency's work — about half of state mental health agency funding nationally comes from Medicaid.

Disrupt our state's response to the opioid epidemic, making it harder for people with SUD to access life-saving treatment.



South Carolina received \$7 billion in federal support for Medicaid in 2023 — 75% of total Medicaid spending in the state.



Cuts to Medicaid are unpopular: 82% of Americans oppose cuts to Medicaid funding.

South Carolina cannot afford to lose federal Medicaid funding.