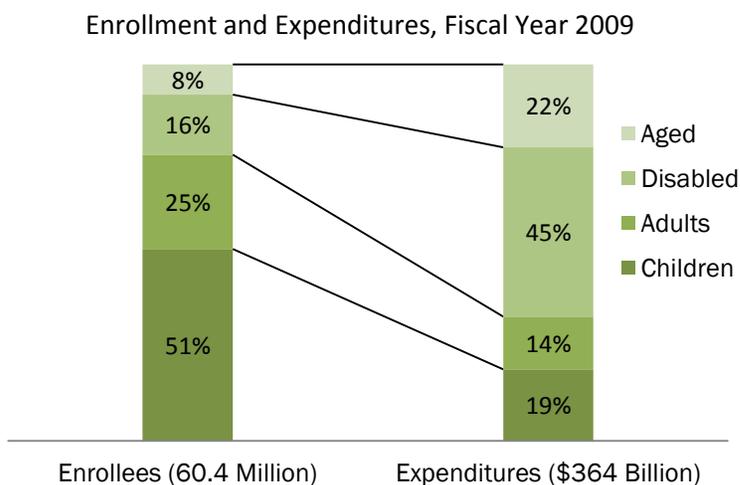


## Medicaid: An Overview

The Medicaid program covers more than 60 million Americans nationwide, including one in three children, more than 8 million people with disabilities and nearly two out of three nursing home residents.<sup>1</sup> Of the 60 million Americans covered by Medicaid are more than 9 million individuals whose primary source of acute care coverage is Medicare. Medicaid not only provides access to acute health care services, such as hospital, clinic and physician services, but also—unlike most health insurance programs—provides coverage for long-term supports and services, such as nursing home and personal care services, and other care such as behavioral health and substance-abuse services.

### Most Medicaid Expenditures are for Services for the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities



**Source:** MACPAC analysis of Medicaid Statistical Information System (MSIS) and CMS-64 net financial management report. Data as of May 2012.

Medicaid covers parents and children whose incomes are near or below the Federal poverty level (less than \$20,000 for a family of three)<sup>2</sup>, adults with disabilities, and older adults. However, most states do not cover non-disabled, non-pregnant single adults, and many only cover parents in extreme poverty. Beginning in 2014, states will have the ability to expand this important coverage to all people at or below 138% of the federal poverty level (approximately \$15,000 for a single adult, or \$26,000 for a family of three) under the Affordable Care Act.

The majority of Medicaid enrollees are low-income children and their parents from working families. But these enrollees account for only a fraction of Medicaid spending; the majority of spending—almost 70%—is for services for the elderly and persons with disabilities, who make up less than one-fourth of the population. Recent research indicates that the majority of state Medicaid agencies are most concerned about cost growth among long term services and supports for persons with multiple chronic conditions.

<sup>1</sup> Medicaid Matters: Understanding Medicaid's Role in Our Health Care System," Kaiser Family Foundation, March 2011, accessed at [www.kff.org/medicaid/upload/8165.pdf](http://www.kff.org/medicaid/upload/8165.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/12poverty.shtml/>