



# Medicaid Expansion in Virginia

## Background

On January 1, 2019, Virginia expanded Medicaid eligibility for all individuals up to 138% of the poverty level under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

VCU School of Medicine is conducting an independent evaluation of Medicaid expansion for the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS). This effort is led by a multi-disciplinary team of researchers in the Department of Health Behavior and Policy and the Department of Family Medicine and Population Health.

## Evaluations examined the effect of Medicaid expansion on:

- Health insurance coverage
- Access to care
- Utilization of primary care
- Health and financial wellbeing
- Racial disparities



## Data Sources

- Medicaid enrollment data
- American Community Survey
- Hospital inpatient admissions from Virginia Health Information
- Surveys of Medicaid expansion members including:
  - (1) a survey to assess experiences before enrollment
  - (2) a survey of Medicaid expansion members to assess experiences one year after enrollment

## Enrollment

500,000 adults are enrolled in Medicaid expansion as of December 31, 2020.

**>25%** are parents

**75%** have family incomes below poverty level

## Who Qualifies for Virginia Medicaid?

Childless Adult



Parent (family of 3)



Person with Disability



**Before 2019:**

Not Eligible

Eligible with annual income at or below \$7,068

Eligible with annual income at or below \$9,992

**In 2020:**

Eligible with annual income at or below \$17,609

Eligible with annual income at or below \$29,974

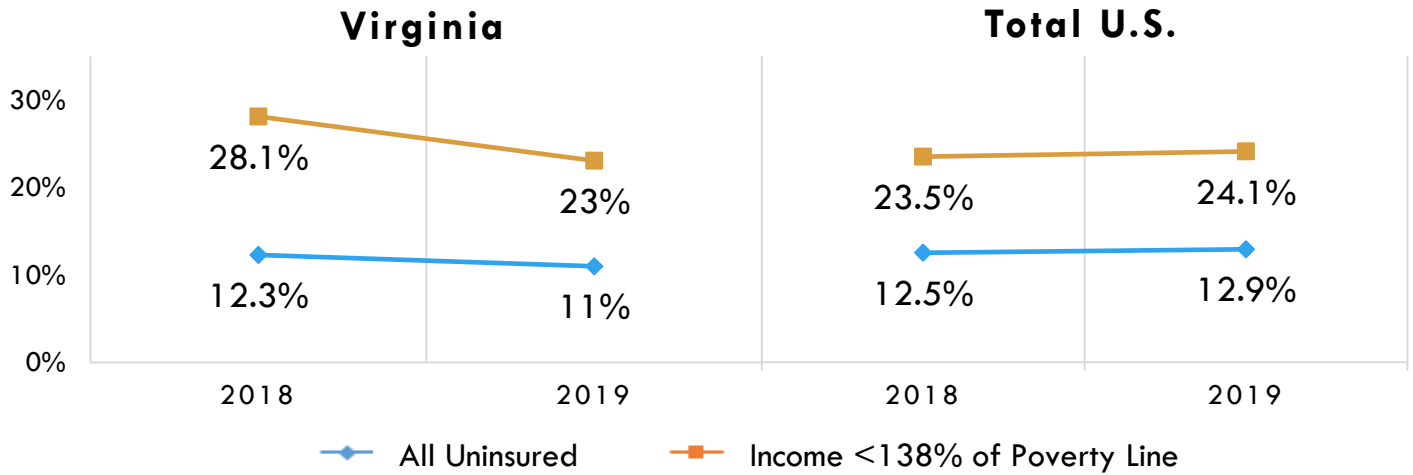
Eligible with annual income at or below \$17,609

*“Thanking God for [Medicaid] because not having it, I would have not been able to see doctors or have surgery that saved my life” – Survey response on impact of Medicaid coverage*

## Uninsured

**Virginia is the only state to see a decrease in uninsured between 2018 and 2019.**

Annual average uninsured rates between 2018 and 2019 decreased even more among adults ages 18-64 with family incomes less than 138% of the federal poverty level.



**Between 2018 and 2019, hospitals saw:**



**56%** Decrease in admissions for uninsured patients



**47%** Increase in admissions for Medicaid patients



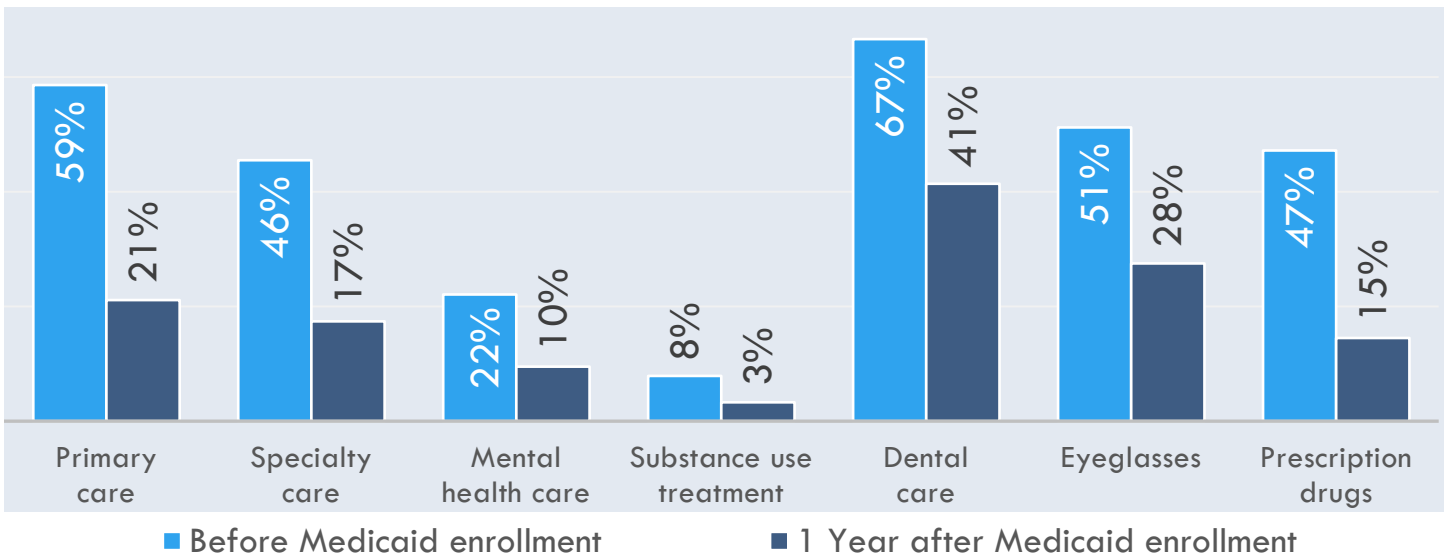
**Women stay enrolled in Medicaid longer after giving birth to a child**

Median number of months on Medicaid in the year following childbirth



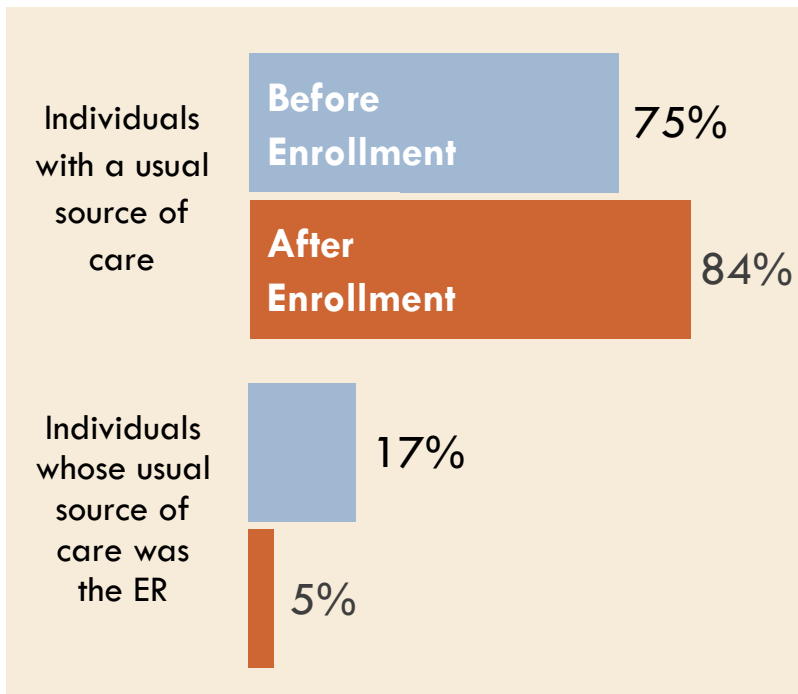
## Unmet Need

**Unmet medical and other health needs decreased dramatically for people who enrolled in Medicaid expansion.**



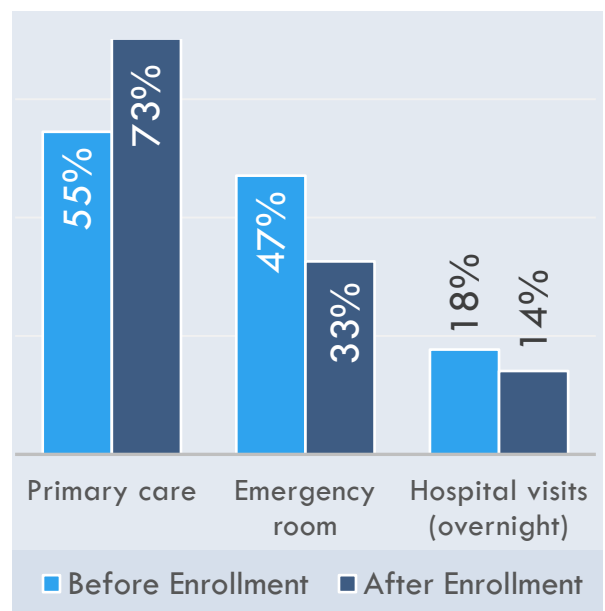
## Access to Care

More people report having a usual source of care after they enrolled in Medicaid expansion



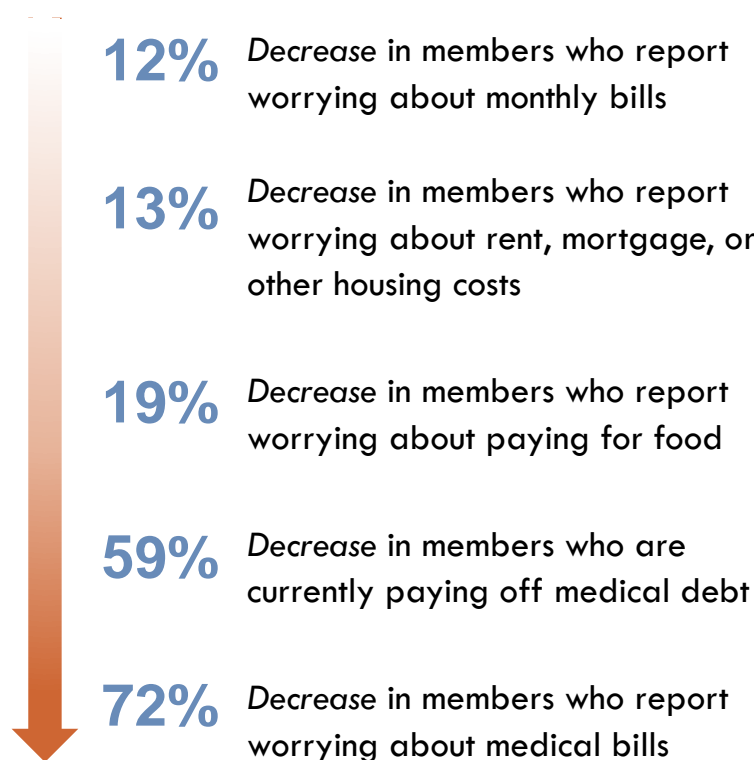
*“When I start to have a medical issue, I can immediately address it versus trying everything I can to avoid it and then end up getting even sicker than I should have.” – Survey response on impact of Medicaid coverage*

More people using primary care, fewer using hospitals after enrolling

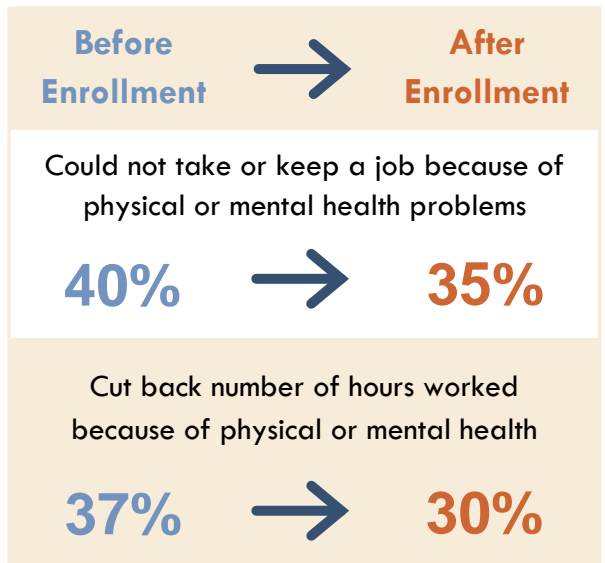


## Financial Well-being

Medical debt and other financial stress decreases after enrolling in Medicaid expansion



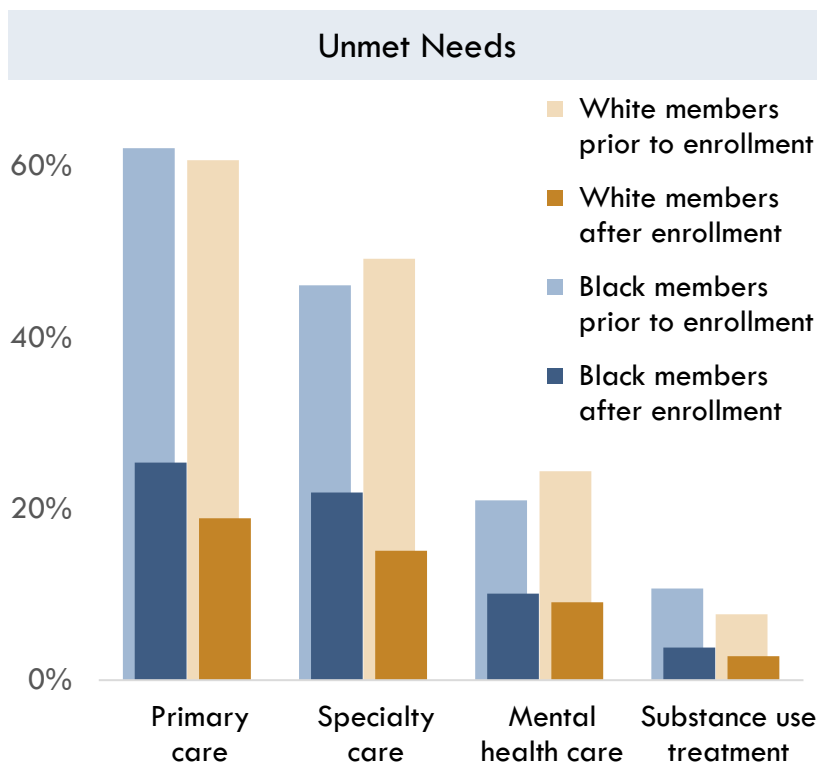
Fewer report health problems as a barrier to employment after enrolling



# Racial Disparities

Conditions improved for both Black and White members, though disparities remain

| % Change after Enrollment |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Black members             | White members                                 |
| <b>+30%</b>               | Visited primary care <b>+38%</b>              |
| <b>-27%</b>               | Went to the ER <b>-34%</b>                    |
| <b>-26%</b>               | Had an overnight hospital stay <b>-27%</b>    |
| <b>-67%</b>               | Any problems paying medical bills <b>-76%</b> |



Thinking about the past year, what was the most important impact that Medicaid coverage had on your health or your life in general?

*"Because of Medicaid, I get the help that I need and any medications I need because I can't work, without Medicaid I would have NO quality of life at all! I couldn't afford to pay for [Doctor's] visits or medications! I thank God and the state of VA for my Medicaid"*

*"Being able to go to the doctors for my blood pressure and . . . being able to get any and all medication without worrying about the cost. Saved my life and enabled me to be a good caregiver to my 71 year old developmentally disabled mother who is a stroke survivor."*

**"I believe I am alive because of [Medicaid]."**

*"Medical coverage saved my life. I didn't know I had diabetes or high blood pressure until I was able to go to the doctor."*

*"Having [Medicaid] saved my life. It helped mentally knowing that you have it; I have to see several doctors monthly and I couldn't do it myself"*

*"Being able to go to doctors and be treated like a human being"*

*"[Medicaid] has kept me out of the emergency room, has made my breathing easier, has reduced my anxiety level attacks, has reduced hospital admission rate and frequency"*