Reject Cuts to Medicaid

Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc.

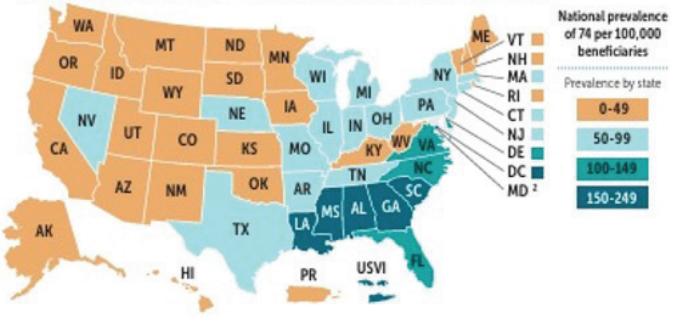
The Importance of Medicaid to the Sickle Cell Disease Community

According to data from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), **Medicaid is the primary insurer for more than half of the approximately 100,000 individuals in the U.S. living with sickle cell disease (SCD).** In many states, the percentage is much higher. For example, in Michigan, in 2022, 87% of individuals living with SCD were enrolled in Medicaid at some point throughout the year, and in Indiana, in 2023, 70% of the sickle cell population was enrolled in Medicaid.

The most common hallmark of SCD is pain crises, which if left untreated, can lead to severe complications. The unpredictability and debilitating nature of the pain crises impacts an individual's day-to-day function and ability to work and/or go to school. Unfortunately, many sickle cell warriors qualify for Medicaid due to disability.

SCD is not preventable, but with access to quality outpatient care, many of the complications of the disease can be prevented – leading to a better quality of life for SCD warriors and lower costs for the health care system.

Geographic Variation in the Number of Medicaid and CHIP Beneficiaries with SCD Per 100,000 Beneficiaries in 2017



Reject Cuts and Other Harmful Medicaid Policies

The Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc. (SCDAA) is calling on Congress to reject cuts and other harmful Medicaid policies that threaten access to care for sickle cell warriors and millions of others:

- **Reject cuts to federal funding for Medicaid.** Cuts in funding (e.g., slashing the federal matching rate for the Medicaid expansion population or lowering the matching rate for other categories of Medicaid enrollees) would trigger program rollbacks and end Medicaid expansion in most or all of the 40 states that have adopted it, jeopardizing care for 20 million low-income individuals, including many people with SCD.
- **Do not create new barriers to coverage.** Medicaid work reporting requirements have been shown to cause huge coverage losses due to red tape – even though the vast majority of Medicaid enrollees already work or qualify for an exemption (they attend school, engage in caregiving, or cannot work due to disability). Interruptions in coverage and care are dangerous for people living with SCD and are highly likely if Medicaid enrollees have to navigate excessive bureaucracy to keep their coverage.

Ask: Protect Medicaid from funding cuts and other policies that would reduce coverage and care. Medicaid provides essential access to care for more than half of the estimated 100,000 individuals living in the U.S. with sickle cell disease.

Accurate as of May 14, 2025