

MEDICAID EXPANSION IN MISSOURI: THE RURAL PROVIDER PERSPECTIVE



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Introduction

- Missouri expanded Medicaid in 2020, extending coverage eligibility to an estimated **225,000 - 275,000** Missourians
- Many new enrollees live in rural and other health care workforce shortage areas
- This study focuses on health care provider availability to care for new Medicaid enrollees

Objective

- Query health care providers' readiness, perceptions, and response to Medicaid Expansion in Missouri

Methods

- Mixed-methods approach
- **Phase 1:** Key informant interviews with rural Missouri health care providers who care for Medicaid patients
- **Phase 2:** Online survey with a larger sample of Missouri health care providers



Rural Missouri health care providers report barriers to caring for new Medicaid enrollees

“Just because there's more people eligible to have it doesn't change the fact that it's not an insurance plan that's easy to work with.”

“But right now, there aren't those providers out there. So yes, people have access, but do they actually have access? Because there aren't enough providers to provide the care for the number of people that are enrolled. So access in my mind there is a bit of a misnomer.”

Use your phone camera to view more information.



Funding Information

This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$12,095,043 with 10 percent financed with nongovernmental sources (Grant # 6 T99HP33557-03-02). The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government. PI: Kathleen Quinn, PhD.

Qualitative Results

- Structured interviews were conducted with **17** health care providers (*15 analyzed, 2 excluded due to sample criteria*)
- Preliminary findings suggest that rural Missouri providers:
 - Have generally favorable views on Medicaid Expansion and increasing access to healthcare
 - Worry about the capacity to care for new Medicaid enrollees, both at their practice and in the overall health care workforce
 - Experience challenges working with Medicaid, such as low reimbursement rates and high levels of administrative burden
 - Report issues with treating Medicaid patients, such as high no-show rates
 - Are unlikely to have received formal training on Expansion or Medicaid in general

Future Work

- Triangulation of these findings:
 - **Phase 2:** Online survey will be deployed in early 2023
- Results will inform policy makers, providers, and other partners via a summary report, peer-reviewed publication, and data dashboard



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