

Medicaid in Early Childhood: A Smart Investment for New York

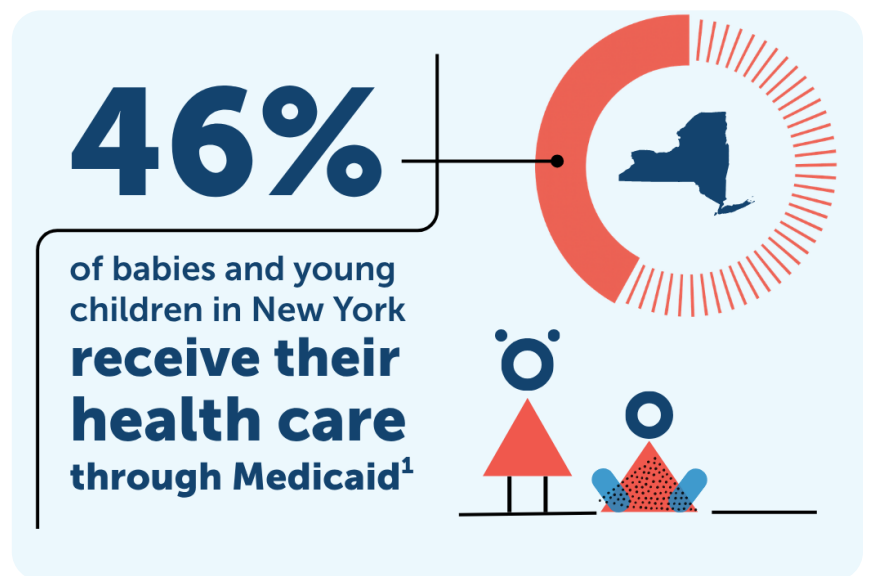


Why it Matters

Babies' brains make 1 million neural connections per second; more connections than at any other time in life. The early years are pivotal – the capacities and skills developed during this critical period become the basis of thriving communities. States that prioritize early childhood health see long-term gains in **education outcomes, economic productivity, and lifelong health and well-being.**

New York (NY) State Medicaid helps ensure children in families with low-income have the health coverage and care they need to flourish. In NY, children account for 27% of Medicaid enrollment but only 9% of expenditures.² Medicaid coverage for low-income children from birth to age six is associated with better health outcomes in adulthood (ages 25-54), and continuous Medicaid coverage for children and pregnant people is associated with improved health outcomes, higher educational attainment, and greater financial security.³

Medicaid also finances **Early Intervention**, a set of services for infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities and their families, also referred to as Part C of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Early Intervention serves approximately 70,000 children in New York annually and is ranked 48th in the nation for timely delivery of services.⁴ Approximately half the children in NY Early Intervention rely on Medicaid for health care.⁵



Medicaid coverage helps moms and babies thrive.

A Story of Strength: Victoria and Micah's Journey

The Role of Medicaid

Medicaid paid for the critical care that saved Micah's life. His earliest days were spent in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), where Medicaid made lifesaving treatment possible when his family needed it most.

"People don't always realize how vital Medicaid is," said Micah's mother, Victoria. "It covers mental health care, maternal health services, speech therapy, feeding support—care that would have been out of reach for our family without it."



Cuts to Medicaid aren't just budget decisions or numbers on a spreadsheet. They have real, lasting consequences for real families. Micah is alive and thriving today because Medicaid was protected and funded. Future families are counting on that commitment to continue.

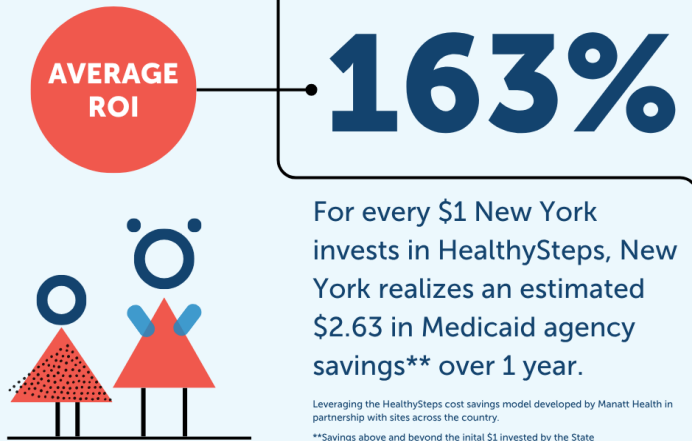
Support NY Families

- **Protect and expand Medicaid/Child Health Plus** to reach more children and pregnant people. Support the great progress NY has made, especially as federal policy will threaten coverage. Keeping parents covered is essential to keeping children covered
- **Protect coverage and care for immigrant children and families**
- **Support maternal mental health**, especially preventive prenatal services, postpartum care and screening (e.g., [A5709](#))
- **Increase access to developmental screenings and Early Intervention services** by supporting evidence-based pediatric primary care models like HealthySteps through [S7833A](#) / [A8048](#)

Get more information about Medicaid and early childhood in NY at www.healthysteps.org/resources/ny-policies-for-healthy-children/.

HealthySteps

HealthySteps is an evidence-based population health model that improves outcomes and addresses health disparities with children served by Medicaid as our priority population.⁶ HealthySteps partners with pediatric primary care to help families with young children have the strongest foundation possible. Demonstrated outcomes, such as improved attendance at well-child visits and higher rates of immunization, help **drive short-term Medicaid cost savings.**⁷



NY Gains



Healthier families: Promotion, prevention, and early intervention prevent chronic disease and long-term disability



Stronger schools: Healthy children are better prepared to learn



Smarter spending: Preventive care costs less than future treatment

Call To Action



Stand up for Medicaid. Your voice matters as federal cuts take effect. Learn more at thinkbabies.org.

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Counties	# of Births (2022) ⁸	% of Children with Medicaid/CHP (2022-2023) ⁹	Percent of children receiving Early Intervention ¹⁰ services 30 days or less from the date of the authorizing Individualized Family Service Plan (2023)	# of Children ages 0-17 with SNAP (2022) ¹¹	# of Children Experiencing Poverty Under 5 Years (2023) ¹²	% of Children Experiencing Poverty Under 5 Years (2023) ¹²
New York State	206,812	41.9%	61.4%	942,416	199,826	18.6%
New York City	92,094	n/a	56.6%	541,180	107,855	22.1%
Albany	2,819	40.2%	77.1%	11,643	2,559	17.2%
Allegany	472	43.4%	44.4%	1,854	512	22.3%
Bronx	16,728	64.4%	n/a	n/a	31,838	34.6%
Broome	1,685	45.4%	90.3%	8,563	2,434	25.5%
Cattaraugus	796	44.9%	94.1%	3,580	1,134	27.1%
Cayuga	706	42.8%	92.3%	3,132	754	20.9%
Chautauqua	1,157	45.3%	96.0%	8,182	1,823	28.3%
Chemung	802	44.2%	76.9%	4,645	1,099	26.3%
Chenango	465	43.7%	100%	2,022	361	15.5%
Clinton	615	42.7%	73.3%	2,892	530	15.5%
Columbia	473	41.6%	33.3%	1,656	377	16.4%
Cortland	455	41.0%	66.7%	1,848	371	17.1%
Delaware	350	44.2%	75.0%	1,434	563	31.5%
Dutchess	2,615	37.3%	90.1%	5,653	1,149	8.6%
Erie	9,087	41.4%	86.8%	50,887	10,021	20.3%
Essex	287*	42.0%	26.7%	1,002	330	25.4%
Franklin	441	45.1%	71.4%	2,020	514	23.7%
Fulton	507	44.5%	66.7%	2,383	528	22.5%
Genesee	553	40.5%	45.0%	1,478	409	13.8%
Greene	379	42.3%	62.5%	1,237	192	10%
Hamilton	287*	40.7%	100%	67	3	2%
Herkimer	591	41.0%	31.8%	2,800	456	15.8%
Jefferson	1,759	42.8%	100%	4,892	1,464	17.8%
Kings	33,383	52.1%	n/a	n/a	42,154	24.4%
Lewis	311	42.5%	25.0%	892	302	19.4%
Livingston	518	40.2%	73.5%	1,746	361	13.5%
Madison	574	39.8%	56.1%	2,216	403	13%
Monroe	7,437	42.2%	32.0%	37,251	7,411	18.9%
Montgomery	611	46.6%	55.6%	2,962	490	16.3%
Nassau	13,747	22.7%	63.6%	9,672	4,105	5.7%
New York	13,198	34.2%	n/a	n/a	11,184	16.2%
Niagara	1,961	41.2%	100%	8,923	2,171	20.8%
Oneida	2,185	44.2%	24.7%	14,276	2,801	22.4%
Onondaga	4,627	42.0%	42.9%	24,536	5,558	21.7%
Ontario	1,016	39.0%	88.2%	3,020	645	12.5%
Orange	5,443	42.8%	74.2%	19,023	5,283	20.1%
Orleans	376	43.7%	70.8%	1,686	250	13.8%
Oswego	1,110	43.7%	25.0%	6,379	1,637	27.4%
Otsego	458	41.7%	36.4%	1,792	560	24.2%
Putnam	909	36.2%	76.1%	752	163	3.7%
Queens	23,877	46.8%	n/a	n/a	19,164	15.1%
Rensselaer	1,483	40.8%	84.6%	5,809	1,760	22.9%
Richmond	4,908	39.9%	n/a	n/a	3,515	13.2%
Rockland	6,389	46.0%	98.7%	25,509	8,480	29.9%
Saint Lawrence	905	43.5%	59.1%	4,448	1,272	25.9%
Saratoga	2,082	34.9%	78.0%	4,125	779	7.1%
Schenectady	1,662	41.4%	54.2%	7,956	1,523	16.5%
Schoharie	253	40.6%	85.7%	1,123	132	11%
Schuyler	139	42.5%	0.0%	608	130	15.4%
Seneca	291	42.8%	46.2%	1,180	199	11.1%
Steuben	988	43.0%	42.9%	3,597	962	19.2%
Suffolk	16,104	20.6%	57.1%	37,891	6,289	8.1%
Sullivan	974	46.3%	75.0%	5,449	904	20.1%
Tioga	491	40.8%	66.7%	1,775	620	25.1%
Tompkins	638	41.2%	25.0%	2,508	528	14.4%
Ulster	1,540	42.8%	40.4%	5,366	1,144	15.1%
Warren	537	40.0%	92.9%	2,060	208	7.6%
Washington	533	41.6%	75.9%	2,031	472	17.2%
Wayne	842	40.6%	97.2%	2,595	930	19%
Westchester	9,913	33.5%	52.6%	26,696	5,356	10.2%
Wyoming	342	41.1%	90.9%	782	270	14.7%
Yates	315	42.1%	60.0%	642	290	18.7%

*Essex and Hamilton births are a combined number of 287. Data combined for confidentiality.

Citations

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- ⁷ HealthySteps. (2021). HealthySteps interventions drive short-term Medicaid cost savings. https://www.healthysteps.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/HS_Return_on_Investment-Final.pdf
- ⁸ New York State Department of Health. (2022). Table 9: Live births by race/ethnicity and resident county, New York State – 2022. https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital_statistics/2022/table09.htm
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- ¹¹ Council on Children & Families. (n.d.). Kids’ Well-being Indicators Clearinghouse: Children and youth receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits. https://www.nyskwic.org/get_data/indicator_profile.cfm?indicatorid=2
- ¹² U.S. Census Bureau. (2023). Poverty status in the past 12 months (ACS 5-year estimates), Table S1701. [https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2023.S1701?q=Poverty&q=040XX00US36,36\\$0500000&tp=false](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2023.S1701?q=Poverty&q=040XX00US36,36$0500000&tp=false)