



Close the Gap to Improve Mental Health

Closing the gap would help more than 1 in 4 uninsured Georgians with behavioral health conditions access affordable healthcare.¹

Boosting Overall Mental Health

- In states that closed their coverage gap, people with mental illness are more likely to use mental health services, are less likely to delay necessary care, and have better access to prescriptions.^{2,3,4}
- When parents have access to health coverage, their children are more likely to receive mental health screenings.⁵
- States that closed their coverage gap saw decreased **severe psychological distress**, days with poor mental health, and depression diagnosis.⁶
 - Because mental illness increases absenteeism and poor work performance, access to treatment can boost workforce productivity.⁷

Treating Substance Use Disorders

- Nearly 70% of uninsured adults with an opioid use disorder also report a mental illness. Greater access to comprehensive healthcare can help people with opioid use disorders access the treatment they need to recover.⁸
- Compared to people without insurance, people with Medicaid are **14 percentage points more likely to receive treatment** for opioid use disorder.⁸
- States that closed their coverage gap saw a **6% decrease in deaths from opioid overdose.**⁹

Addressing Incarceration

- Closing the coverage gap results in **fewer drug arrests**. In counties in states with a closed coverage gap, the rate of change of drug arrests was as much as 41% lower.¹⁰
- Compared to states that haven't closed their gap, states that closed the coverage gap saw a **5.3% reduction in violent crime.**¹¹

Aiding Veterans with Mental Health Needs

- Veterans face high rates of mental illness. **20%** of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans suffer from either PTSD or depression, and **25%** show signs of a substance use disorder.¹²
- Closing the coverage gap would provide access to healthcare for **32,000 veterans.**¹³

Sources

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