

Policy considerations

The future of Group VIII (expansion) Medicaid coverage in Ohio

In 2014, when Ohio expanded Medicaid eligibility under the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) to adults earning less than 138% of the federal poverty level (FPL), the federal government funded 100% of the expansion population (also known as Group VIII). The ACA laid out a schedule for reducing the federal match rate (FMAP) from 2016 to 2020 to its current 90%-10% split between federal and state government.

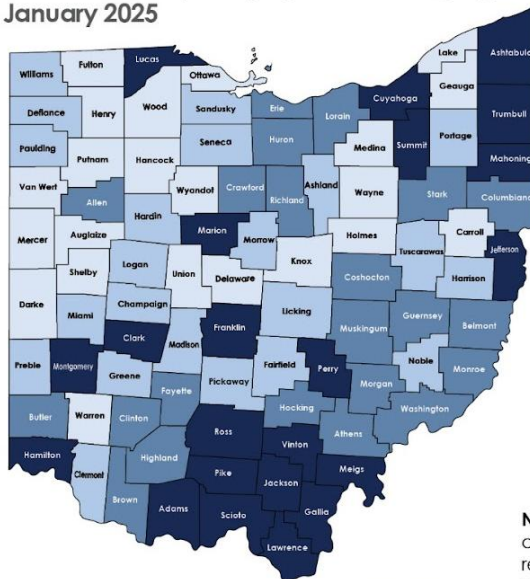
As the U.S. Congress deliberates plans to reduce federal spending, including proposals to drastically cut funding for Medicaid, Gov. Mike DeWine included a provision in his state budget proposal that if the federal share of Medicaid funding is reduced, the Ohio Department of Medicaid "shall immediately discontinue all medical assistance for members of the [Medicaid expansion] group." This publication provides data and information on the current status of Medicaid expansion in Ohio and includes a series of policy considerations for state and federal leaders to consider.

How many Ohioans are enrolled in Medicaid through expanded eligibility?

More than 770,000 Ohioans (over 6% of the total population) are enrolled in Medicaid through Group VIII. The highest rates of enrollment in this group are found in metropolitan and Appalachian counties, as displayed below.

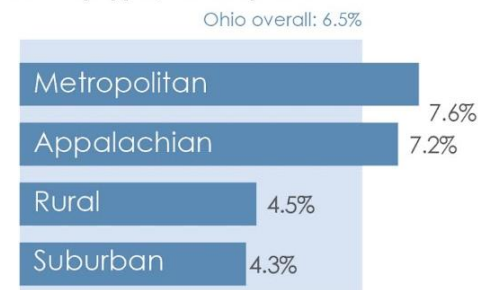
Group VIII coverage includes adults ages 19 to 64 who have incomes less than 138% FPL and are not eligible for other categories of Medicaid ([click here to see a table of Medicaid enrollment for all 88 Ohio counties](#)). Apart from the income requirement, Group VIII enrollees must also meet other eligibility requirements, such as citizenship.

Percent of county population enrolled in Medicaid Group VIII (expansion category), January 2025



Lowest percent (1.6% - 4.4%)	Second quartile (4.5% - 5.5%)	Third quartile (5.7% - 7.2%)	Highest percent (7.3% - 11.7%)
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Percent population enrolled in Medicaid Group VIII (expansion category), by county type, January 2025

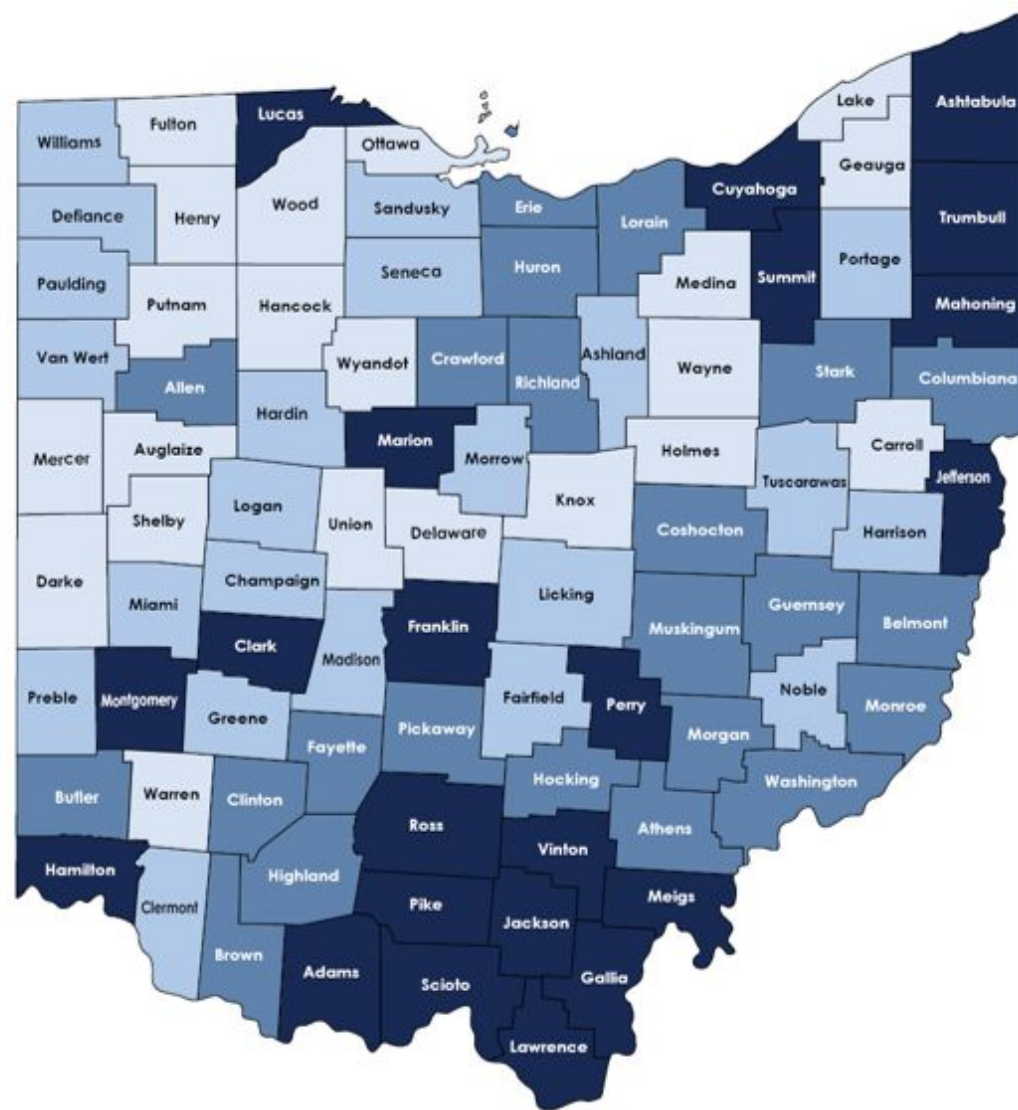


Note: Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) Demographic and Expenditure Dashboard is updated each month to reflect retroactive and back-dated eligibility. The data displayed was retrieved on Feb. 19, 2025.

Source: HPIO Analysis of ODM Demographic and Expenditure Dashboard, and US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2023 5-year estimates

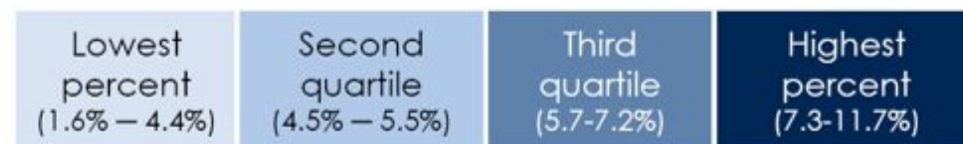
Percent of county population enrolled in Medicaid Group VIII (expansion category)

January 2025



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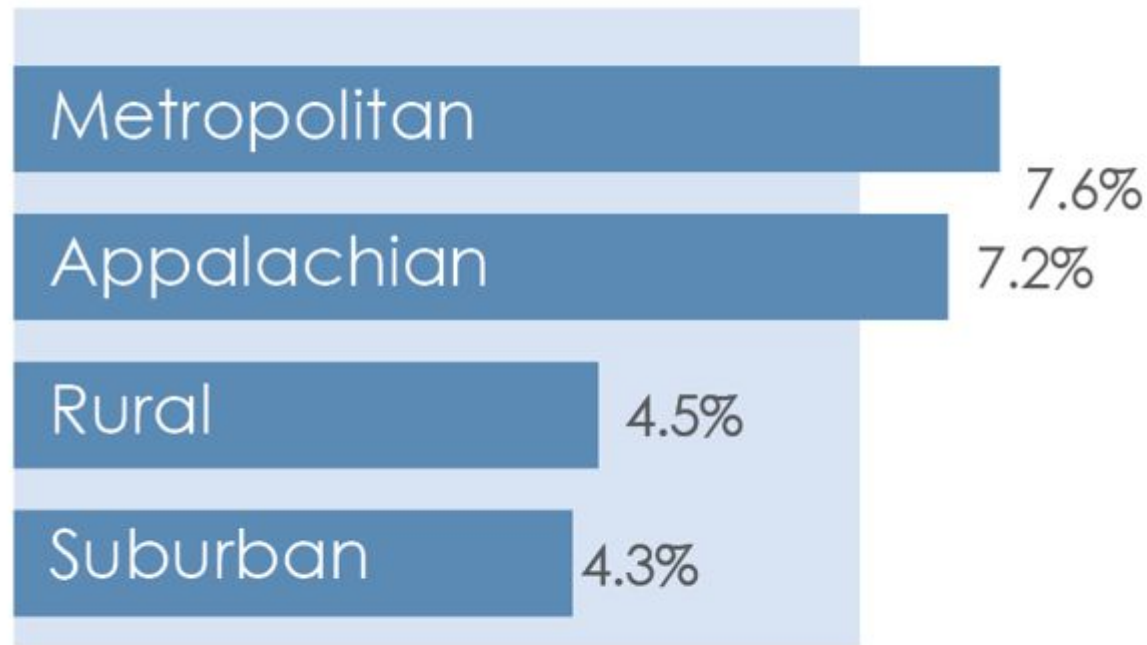
Source: HPIO "Policy Considerations: The Future of Group VIII (Expansion) Medicaid Coverage in Ohio." Data from analysis of ODM Demographic and Expenditure Dashboard, and US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2023 5-year estimates



Percent population enrolled in Medicaid Group VIII (expansion category)

by county type, January 2025

Ohio overall: 6.5%

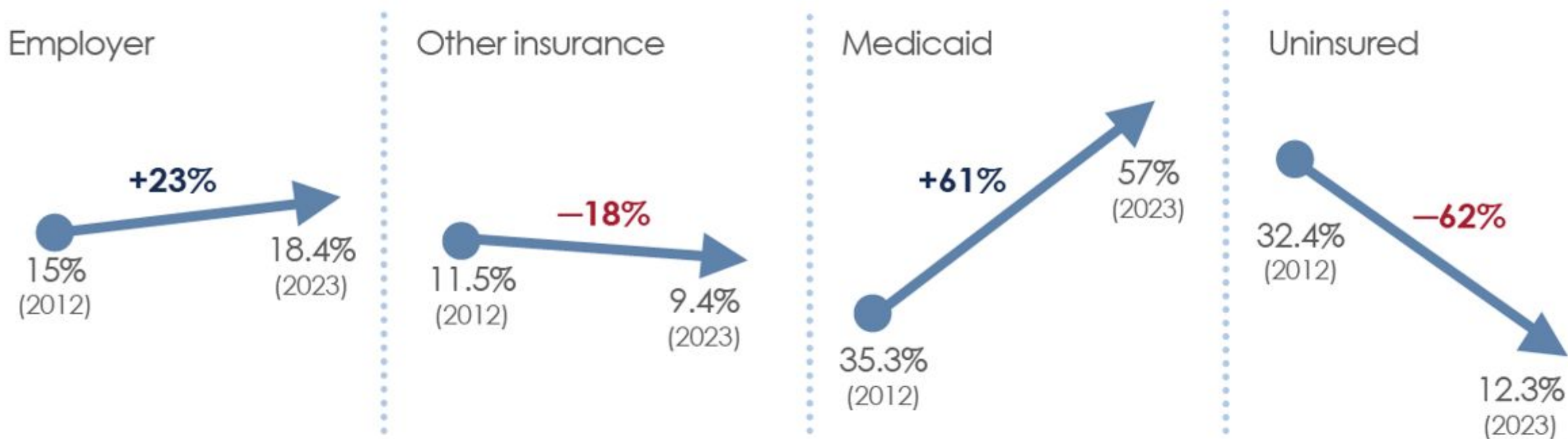


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Health coverage for Ohio adults, ages 19-64, with incomes below 138% federal poverty level

2012 to 2023

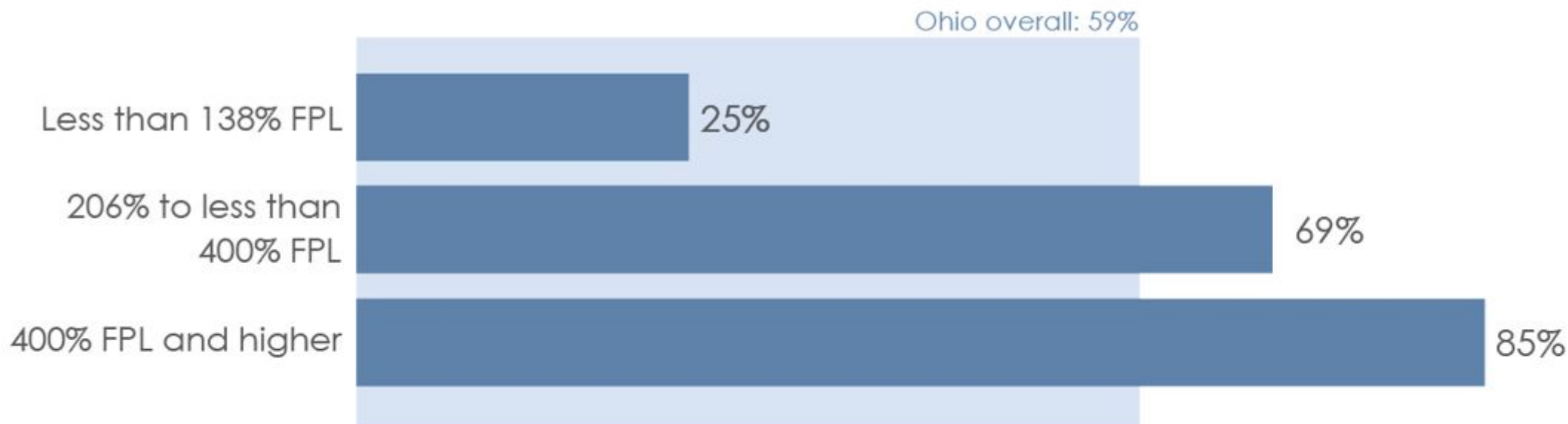


Source: HPIO "Policy Considerations: The Future of Group VIII (Expansion) Medicaid Coverage in Ohio." Data from Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey

Percent of Ohioans, ages 19-64, who are eligible for employer-sponsored insurance

2023

Workers earning lower wages are much less likely to be eligible for insurance through their job. One factor may be that they are not scheduled for enough hours to qualify for benefits.







Source: HPIO "Policy Considerations: The Future of Group VIII (Expansion) Medicaid Coverage in Ohio." Data from Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey



Job categories with average pay below 138% FPL

By family size

Family size				
	1	2	3	4
138% FPL	\$21,597	\$29,187	\$36,777	\$44,367
Example job categories	Entry-level positions in retail; food service; customer support	Home health and personal care aides; school bus monitors; administrative assistants; junior technicians; sales associates	Skilled trades, such as electricians and carpenters; veterinary technologists and technicians; mid-level healthcare roles such as medical assistants	Experienced technicians; specialized administrative roles; healthcare support workers

Source: HPIO "Policy Considerations: The Future of Group VIII (Expansion) Medicaid Coverage in Ohio." Data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, May 2023