

51st Annual Arizona Rural Health Conference

Welcome



51ST Annual Arizona Rural Health Conference

JUNE 3-4, 2025
HIGH COUNTRY CONFERENCE CENTER,
FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA



Daniel Derksen, MD
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Arizona Coverage & Access to Health Care

June 3, 2025

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Arizona Profile

2024 AZ Pop. 7.6 Million (#14 in pop)

60% live in Maricopa Co. (4.6M), 15% Pima Co. (1.1M)

15 AZ Counties span 114,000 sq mi (#6 in land area)

27% AZ Land is Tribal



Pop Data 2024: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/AZ>

Land Area: <https://www.census.gov/geographies/reference-files/2010/geo/state-area.html>



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Arizona #14 in population, but lags in its health workforce

State Rank	Provider Type with Active License	# AZ per 100,000	# US per 100,000
42	Registered Nurses	1,400	1,550
42	Primary Care Physicians (PCP)	79	94
32	Total Physicians (MD/DO)	256	302
46	Physical Therapy (PT)	59	67

Over 15 years (2008-23) Arizona's population grew 1.13% per year (US 0.47%)

AAMC 2023: <https://www.aamc.org/data-reports/report/us-physician-workforce-data-dashboard>

Policy Progress – Arizona Health Workforce



Arizona **AHEC**
Area Health Education Centers

2020 Gov. Ducey PCPS for COM-P and COM-T



Tribal AHEC 2021

ARIZONA



AMERICAN INDIAN
HEALTH-AHEC

2022 HB 2691 Nurse Preceptor Program

May 2023 SB 1727
PC GME Appropriation



2024 Diane & Bruce
Halle Foundation
Primary Care Graduate
Medical Education



THE DIANE & BRUCE HALLE
FOUNDATION



Building Healthcare Pathways for Arizona's Tribal Workforce



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AHCCCS enrollment decreased from 2023-25
due to the return of the normal eligibility & enrollment
processes (redetermination) on 4/1/23

From 3/1/23* to 5/1/25 AHCCCS Medicaid enrollment
decreased from a high of 2,527,141 down to 1,998,561
-528,580 (-20%)

*3/1/23 one month prior to Arizona Medicaid redetermination start

Accessed 6/2/25 at: <https://www.azahcccs.gov/Resources/Downloads/PopulationStatistics/PopulationHighlights05012025.pdf>

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Health Insurance Coverage: ACA Marketplace

Arizona enrolled a record 423,025 in ACA Marketplace in 2025

If ACA Marketplace subsidies are allowed to expire in Dec. 2025

>150,000 Arizonans could lose coverage

Due to doubling to tripling of premium costs in Arizona

KFF Feb 2025: Marketplace estimated premium cost increases by state and legislative district, accessed 6/2/25 at:
<https://www.kff.org/affordable-care-act/issue-brief/congressional-district-interactive-map-how-much-will-aca-premium-payments-rise-if-enhanced-subsidies-expire/>

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Health Insurance Coverage: **Medicaid Cuts**



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
MEL & ENID ZUCKERMAN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Center for Rural Health

Proposed Federal cuts to state **Medicaid** programs could trigger:

250,000 to 500,000 Arizonans losing AHCCCS coverage

Loss of Medicaid coverage due to redetermination + proposed **ACA Marketplace + Medicaid cuts** could double the uninsured in Arizona from 750,000 individuals (10% AZ pop.) in 2025 to:

> 1,500,000 Arizona uninsured by 2027-28

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Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) And Arizona's Medicaid Program = AHCCCS

Medicaid is a federal - state program, at least 50% of costs are covered federally
FMAP based on state's per capita income over 3yrs, if state pci < U.S., FMAP higher
Arizona 2025 FMAP is 64.34%, multiplier \$1.80 (for \$1.00 AZ pays, fed pays \$1.80)

¹Accessed 6/2/25: <https://www.azahcccs.gov/Resources/Downloads/PopulationStatistics/PopulationbyCategory05012025.pdf>



At Risk: Enhanced FMAP to 90% to Expand Coverage in Arizona

In 2014, AZ restored Prop 204 eligibility to 100% FPL (413,289 enrolled 5/1/25)
And AZ expanded AHCCCS eligibility to 138% FPL (62,799 enrolled as of 5/1/25)
Thus 476,088¹ enrollees @ 90% FMAP, if cut to <80%, could lose coverage

¹Accessed 6/2/25: <https://www.azahcccs.gov/Resources/Downloads/PopulationStatistics/PopulationbyCategory05012025.pdf>

Table 1: Medicaid Population by Eligibility Group, as of January 1, 2025¹

	Traditional	Expansion - Prop. 204	Expansion - ACA	ALTCS ²	Total
Apache	21,846	9,114	899	776	32,635
Cochise	26,220	9,060	1,472	1,060	37,812
Coconino	21,020	9,054	1,240	1,117	32,431
Gila	7,672	3,072	463	491	11,698
Graham	11,977	4,002	480	360	16,819
Greenlee	1,201	349	42	54	1,646
LaPaz	3,999	1,535	178	86	5,798
Maricopa	699,241	247,447	36,944	47,715	1,031,347
Mohave	42,202	17,605	2,640	1,677	64,124
Navajo	33,371	12,274	1,501	1,234	48,380
Pima	174,640	69,065	10,895	10,249	264,849
Pinal	59,843	17,447	2,856	2,906	83,052
Santa Cruz	14,983	3,527	961	543	20,014
Yavapai	31,299	12,173	2,108	1,895	47,475
Yuma	61,797	17,112	4,048	2,056	85,013
Not Avail.	2,413	464	124	105	3,106
Statewide	1,213,724	433,300	66,851	72,324	1,786,199

1/1/25AHCCCS Enrollment by County, Eligibility Group

500,000 (28%) on Medicaid (Jan 2025) could lose coverage if FMAP cut to < 80%

Table Source: Pawlowski, S. Accessed 5/19/25: <https://www.azahcccs.gov/AHCCCS/AboutUs/ahcccsinsights.html>

¹ Includes individuals receiving comprehensive Medicaid benefits; individuals enrolled in KidsCare, those receiving only Medicare cost-sharing, and similar groups are excluded. Total AHCCCS enrollment in January 2025 was 2,048,972 (see <https://www.azahcccs.gov/Resources/Reports/population.html>).

² Includes both individuals enrolled in the developmental disabilities (DD) program and in the elderly and physically disabled (EPD) program.



Summary: loss of Medicaid + Marketplace enrollment effects on Arizona

- 1) 250,000 to 500,000 Arizonans could lose Medicaid coverage
- 2) 150,000 Arizonans could lose ACA Marketplace coverage
- 3) 1,500,000 Arizonans could be uninsured by 2027-28



Summary: loss of Medicaid + Marketplace enrollment effects on Arizona

- 4) Arizona Medicaid & Marketplace insurers (BCBS, United) lose 400 to 600,000 enrollees (on top of >525,000 AHCCCS lost 3/1/23 to 5/1/25).
- 5) Hospitals, clinics, physicians shoulder higher charity care costs – rural hospitals close
- 6) Emergency departments see a surge of uninsured who cannot find / afford primary, preventive and specialty care



Daniel Derksen, MD, is the University of Arizona Health Sciences Associate Vice President for Rural Health Workforce Development Initiatives. He is a Professor in the Zuckerman College of Public Health with joint appointments in the Colleges of Medicine and Nursing. He directs the Arizona Center for Rural Health (AzCRH) and principal investigator (PI) for the state and federally designated and funded State Office of Rural Health, and PI for the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (Flex) Program and Flex EMS Supplement. His current activities include informing legislative, regulatory and program policy to improve access to health care and health insurance coverage; developing, implementing and evaluating community based experiential health professions training sites; expanding existing and creating new primary care graduate medical education (GME) residency sites in rural Arizona; and working to assure a well-trained and distributed health workforce to meet the health needs of all Arizonans.

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Additional AzCRH Health Workforce Data Resources: <https://crh.arizona.edu/> under the publications tab.



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