

## Update: Awareness of the Resumption of Medicaid Renewal Processes Remained Low in December 2022

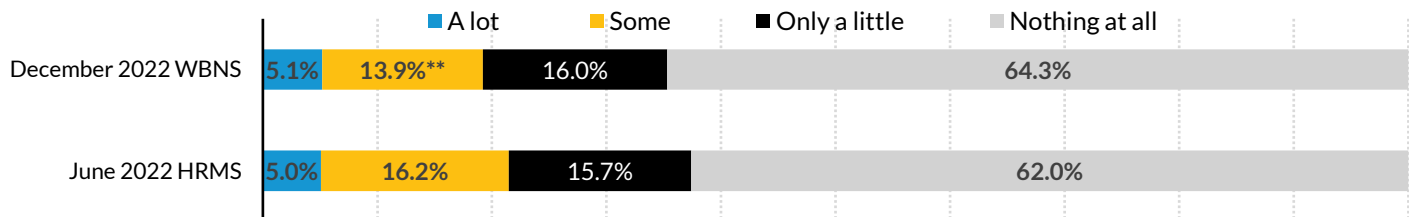
Jennifer M. Haley, Genevieve M. Kenney, Stephen Zuckerman, Michael Karpman, and Dulce Gonzalez

On April 1, 2023, states can begin disenrolling Medicaid enrollees for the first time since March 2020, under provisions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 117-328) that unwind the pandemic-related Medicaid continuous coverage requirement and allow states to resume regular renewal processes. However, enrollees who are unaware of the change may be less prepared to complete the necessary steps to maintain coverage or, if they are no longer eligible, to obtain other coverage. Analysis of the June 2022 Health Reform Monitoring Survey (HRMS) previously found that 62.0 percent of nonelderly adults in Medicaid-enrolled families were unaware of the resumption of Medicaid renewals in the future.<sup>1</sup> Here, we present updated estimates of awareness of the change based on the December 2022 Well-Being and Basic Needs Survey (WBNS).<sup>2</sup> We find the following:

- In December 2022, more than 6 in 10 adults in Medicaid-enrolled families were not aware of an upcoming return to the regular Medicaid renewal processes, a rate that has not changed significantly since June 2022.** Specifically, 64.3 percent of adults enrolled in Medicaid or with an enrolled spouse, partner, or child had heard nothing at all about the upcoming change in December 2022 (figure 1). An estimated 5.1 percent had heard a lot, 13.9 percent had heard some, and 16.0 percent had heard only a little.
- Awareness was low across the country, regardless of region, state Medicaid expansion status, or type of Marketplace operating in a state.** Though fewer adults in the West were unaware of the upcoming change than in the Northeast (61.3 versus 66.5 percent), lack of awareness of the change was above 60 percent in all four regions of the country (figure 2). Awareness was similar in state groups based on whether states had or had not adopted the Affordable Care Act’s Medicaid expansion (with 64.5 percent in expansion states and 63.7 percent in nonexpansion states unaware) or whether states used state-based or federally facilitated marketplaces (64.3 and 64.2 percent, respectively).

FIGURE 1

**In December 2022, as in June 2022, Most Adults with Family Medicaid Enrollment Had Heard Nothing at All about Medicaid Renewals Resuming**

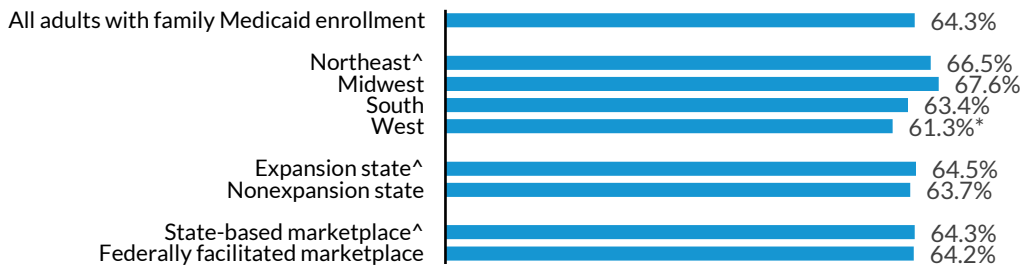


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**Source:** Urban Institute analysis of the Health Reform Monitoring Survey, June 2022 and Well-Being and Basic Needs Survey, December 2022.  
**Notes:** Adults are ages 18 to 64. Family Medicaid enrollment includes the respondent, their spouse or partner if applicable, and their children under 19 if applicable and includes Children’s Health Insurance Program coverage. Figure excludes the 1.1 percent of respondents in June 2022 and 0.7 percent in December 2022 who did not respond to the question. WBNS = Well-Being and Basic Needs Survey; HRMS = Health Reform Monitoring Survey. \*\*Estimate differs significantly from June 2022 at the 0.05 level, using two-tailed tests.

FIGURE 2

**The Majority of Adults in Medicaid-Enrolled Families Are Unaware of the Resumption of Medicaid Renewals Regardless of Region, Medicaid Expansion Status, or Type of Marketplace**



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Source: Urban Institute analysis of the December 2022 Well-Being and Basic Needs Survey.

Notes: Medicaid includes the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Family includes the respondent, their spouse or partner if applicable, and their children under 19 if applicable. State expansion status refers to implementation of Affordable Care Act’s Medicaid expansion as of December 2022. Federally facilitated Marketplaces are those relying on healthcare.gov. Estimates are regression adjusted to control for a respondent’s gender, age, race and ethnicity, primary language, educational attainment, marital status, presence of children in the household, household income, family income, homeownership status, internet access, urban or rural status, region, survey language, and participation in the previous round of the survey. <sup>^</sup> indicates reference group. \* indicates estimate differs significantly from the reference group (<sup>^</sup>) at the 0.10 level, using two-tailed tests.

**Conclusions**

In December 2022, just four months before states could begin disenrolling people from Medicaid again, most adults in enrolled families had heard nothing about the return to the regular Medicaid renewal processes. Awareness did not vary widely by state characteristics, which suggests the need for widespread outreach and education efforts. For example, in nonexpansion states, where eligibility for continuing Medicaid is more limited for adults due to low eligibility thresholds, people will need help learning about and navigating Marketplace options; in expansion states, information about how to stay enrolled will be critical. In both types of states, unwinding may be more challenging when Medicaid and Marketplace enrollment systems are not well integrated.

State actions can help mitigate coverage loss.<sup>3</sup> In addition to providing certainty about the end of the continuous coverage requirement and delinking it from the public health emergency, the omnibus legislation also requires data reporting to ensure states follow federal rules and offers states additional guidance on promoting coverage continuity.<sup>4</sup> Minimizing increases in uninsurance during unwinding will also likely require engaging community organizations and navigators to help people complete renewal processes or obtain other coverage that may be available, such as the Children’s Health Insurance Program, subsidized marketplace plans, or employer coverage. But with April 2023 fast approaching and projections that as many as 18 million people could lose Medicaid during unwinding,<sup>5</sup> reducing information gaps about the change is a critical first step.

<sup>1</sup> Jennifer Haley, Genevieve M. Kenney, Michael Karpman, and Stephen Zuckerman, “Most Adults in Medicaid-Enrolled Families Are Unaware of Medicaid Renewals Resuming in the Future,” November 15, 2022, Urban Institute.

<sup>2</sup> Urban Institute, “The Well-Being and Basic Needs Survey,” accessed February 2, 2023.

<sup>3</sup> Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, “Top 10 Fundamental Actions to Prepare for Unwinding and Resources to Support State Efforts,” June 2022; Jason Levitis and Sabrina Corlette, “Supporting Continuity of Coverage from Medicaid into the Marketplace: Post-PHE Considerations for States,” November 9, 2022, State Health and Value Strategies.

<sup>4</sup> Edwin Park, Anne Dwyer, Tricia Brooks, Maggie Clark, and Joan Alker, “Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023: Medicaid and CHIP Provisions Explained,” January 5, 2023, Georgetown University Center for Children & Families.

<sup>5</sup> Matthew Buettgens and Andrew Green, “The Impact of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Expiration on All Types of Health Coverage,” December 5, 2022, Urban Institute.