

## Kaiser Examines Recession-Driven Record Medicaid Enrollment and Assesses Medicaid Spending Growth

The Kaiser Family Foundation's Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured has released [several new papers](#) that examine Medicaid enrollment and spending during the recent recession, including [Medicaid Enrollment: June 2010 Data Snapshot](#), [Medicaid Spending Growth Over The Last Decade and the Great Recession, 2000 to 2009](#), and a [fact sheet](#) highlighting key findings from both documents. (<http://www.kff.org/medicaid/Resources-Examine-Recession-Driven-Record-Medicaid-Enrollment-Assess-Medicaid-Spending-Growth.cfm>)

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The analyses show Medicaid enrollment rose above 50 million people nationally for the first time in 2010, reflecting the program's counter-cyclical role of helping people who become uninsured when the economy falters, with many turning to Medicaid after losing jobs and employer-based health insurance. Without access to Medicaid coverage, millions more people who suffered economic hardship likely would have joined the ranks of America's now 50 million uninsured.

The recession-driven enrollment growth in recent years drove program spending to increase faster than national health spending overall, but on a per enrollee basis the growth in Medicaid spending has remained lower than the rise in private insurance premiums and overall national health expenditures. The recession-driven increase in Medicaid enrollment has been the primary cause of the increase in overall Medicaid spending.

The new papers and other Foundation resources on Medicaid can be found [online](#). (<http://www.kff.org/medicaid/Resources-Examine-Recession-Driven-Record-Medicaid-Enrollment-Assess-Medicaid-Spending-Growth.cfm>)

*The Kaiser Family Foundation is a non-profit private operating foundation, based in Menlo Park, California, dedicated to producing and communicating the best possible analysis and information on health issues.*