

New Research Shows Medicaid Expansion Improves Access to Care and Outcomes for Patients with Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer

The American Cancer Society led research to be presented at the 2024 ASCO Quality Care Symposium

ASCO Quality Care Symposium Abstract #47, Rapid Oral Abstract Session C

(Associations of Medicaid expansion with stage at diagnosis, timely initiation and receipt of guideline-concordant treatment, and survival among individuals newly diagnosed with non-small cell lung cancer)

ATLANTA, September 23, 2024 — A new study by researchers at [the American Cancer Society](#) (ACS) showed Medicaid expansion under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act may improve access to non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) care and outcomes across the cancer control continuum, from early-stage diagnosis, treatment initiation, and overall survival. The findings will be presented at the annual [American Society of Clinical Oncology \(ASCO\) Quality Care Symposium](#) in San Francisco, September 27 – 28, 2024.

In the study, led by [Dr. Jingxuan Zhao](#), senior scientist, health services research at the American Cancer Society and to be presented at the conference by [Dr. Xuesong Han](#), researchers identified individuals newly diagnosed at age 18-64 with stages I-IV first primary NSCLC between 2008 and 2019 in 50 states and Washington, D.C., from the National Cancer Database. They examined the associations of Medicaid expansion with (1) diagnosis stage; (2) timely initiation of guideline-concordant treatment; (3) receipt of guideline-concordant treatment; and (4) five-year overall survival. They applied a difference-in-differences (DD) approach to examine the changes in study outcomes associated with Medicaid expansion, controlling for key sociodemographic and clinical factors.

The study showed the percentage of early-stage diagnoses increased from 23.1% pre-expansion to 31.9% post-expansion in expansion states and from 22.3% to 29.5% in non-expansion states, translating to a greater increase in early-stage diagnosis of 1.7 percentage points in expansion states after adjustment. Medicaid expansion was also associated with greater increases in timely initiation of guideline-concordant care and five-year overall survival.

Researchers emphasized findings from this study can inform efforts to expand Medicaid in the 10 states that have yet to do so.

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About the American Cancer Society

The American Cancer Society is a leading cancer-fighting organization with a vision to end cancer as we know it, for everyone. For more than 110 years, we have been improving the lives of people with cancer and their families as the only organization combating cancer through advocacy, research, and patient support. We are committed to ensuring everyone has an opportunity to prevent, detect, treat, and survive cancer. To learn more, visit [cancer.org](#) or call our 24/7 helpline at 1-800-227-2345. Connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

For further information: FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: American Cancer Society, Anne.Doerr@cancer.org

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