

# New Study Shows Medicaid Expansion Associated With Increased Screening for Certain Cancers; Lowered Food and Financial Insecurity During Pandemic

## The American Cancer Society led research to be presented at the 2023 ASCO Quality Care Symposium

**ATLANTA, October 28, 2023** — A new study by researchers at the [American Cancer Society](#) (ACS) shows state Medicaid expansion status was associated with higher screening for colorectal and breast cancers and lower socioeconomic insecurity (food and financial) within federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) during the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States from 2020 and 2021. The findings will be presented at the annual [American Society of Clinical Oncology \(ASCO\) Quality Care Symposium](#) in Boston, October 27 – 28, 2023.

In the study, led by [Jessica Star](#), associate scientist, cancer risk factors & screening surveillance research at the American Cancer Society, researchers obtained data on breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screening, and socioeconomic insecurity (food insecurity, financial strain, and lack of transportation to care) from the 2020 and 2021 Uniform Data System (UDS), a national report of care delivered by FQHCs.

Between 2020-2021, approximately 2700 clinics reported on cancer screening and 1300 clinics reported on socioeconomic insecurity. In 2020 and 2021, FQHCs in Medicaid expansion states had a higher patient screening prevalence for colorectal and breast cancer compared to FQHCs in non-Medicaid expansion states. Additionally, patient food and financial insecurity prevalence was lower in clinics in Medicaid expansion compared to non-expansion states.

Researchers emphasized Medicaid expansion in the U.S. remains an important policy intervention for vulnerable populations to receive care and mitigate disparities.

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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 100 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: American Cancer Society, [Anne.Doerr@cancer.org](mailto:Anne.Doerr@cancer.org)

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