

Pocket Facts: Medicaid And The Uninsured

- Medicaid is driving the budgets of every state.
- Nationally, Medicaid and other health care services comprise 30 percent of state budgets, and these costs increased by 13 percent in 2002.
- Some predict that left unreformed, Medicaid will bankrupt every state in as little as 20 years.
- Medicaid spending has substantially outpaced nominal budgetary growth.
- The elderly and disabled populations accounted for almost 60 percent of the national growth in Medicaid spending from 2000-2002.
- The percentage of Texans without health insurance has largely held steady throughout the last ten years.
- Nationally, 64 percent of the population has health insurance through an employer, compared to 58 percent in Texas.

Policy Recommendations

Explore alternative delivery models for long-term care

- Expand provider base beyond traditional agencies.
- Increase outreach and enrollment through use of full-time workers.
- Seek waiver authority to include additional services under consumer-direction.

Increase employer-based care

- Develop tax credits tied to purchasing pool participation.
- Identify appropriate role of the state in a purchasing pool.
- Establish target expansion goal for Health Insurance Premium Payment Program and utilize premium assistance for implementing a benefit phase-out rate under Medicaid.
- Promote county-level strategies for reducing the number of uninsured through more flexible use of Disproportionate Share Hospital funding.

See Back For Study Information.

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