

Rethink Coverage:

Speaking up for Medicaid Expansion

Presenters: Danielle Fincher, MPH; Naveed Farrukh, MPH

Contributors: Jesse Ross, Swaroop Vitta; Davis Bradford; Ynhi Thai, MSc

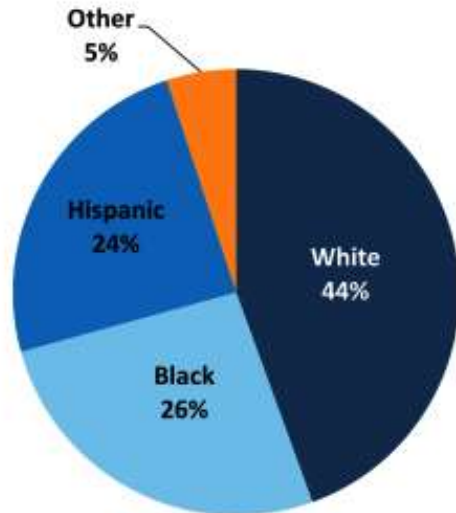


Church of the Reconciler
a United Methodist Congregation

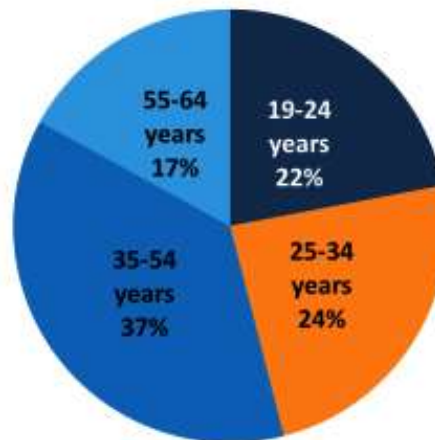
Clay

Who falls into the Medicaid Gap?

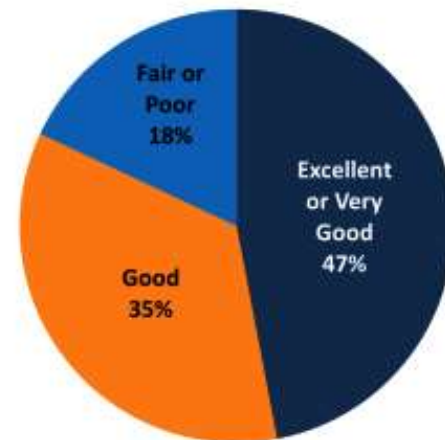
Distribution By Race/Ethnicity:



Distribution By Age:



Distribution By Health Status:



Total = 4 Million in the Coverage Gap

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation analysis based on 2014 Medicaid eligibility levels and 2014 Current Population Survey

Mission statement

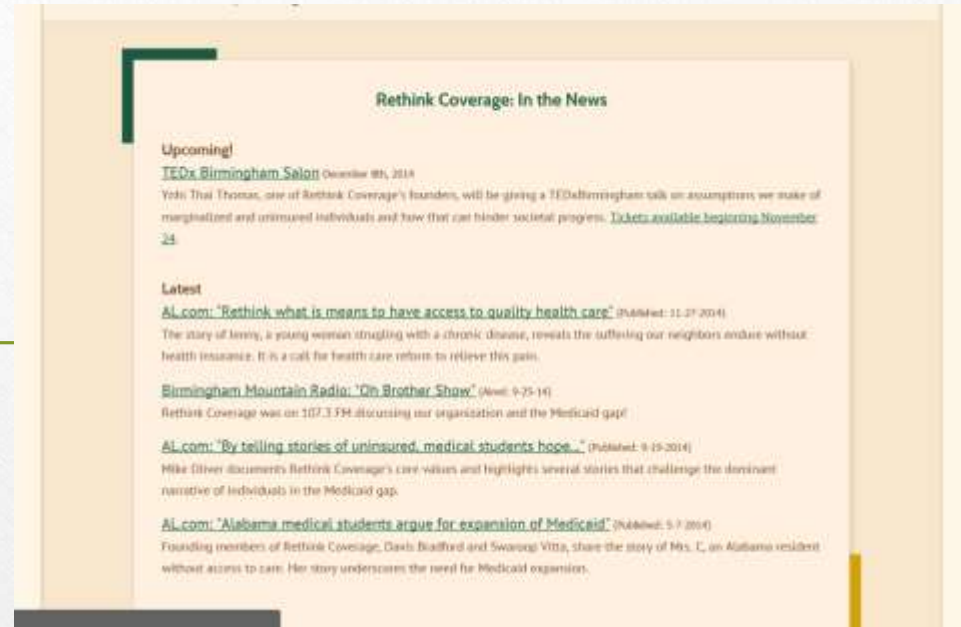
We seek to raise awareness about the health care issues in Alabama and to ensure that the voices of marginalized individuals who need access to care are heard. We accomplish this through education, community partnerships, and empowerment of individuals.



History of Rethink Coverage



Our website



Rethink Coverage

An Alliance of **Uninsured Individuals** and **Medical Students**

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Empowering **uninsured** individuals to share their **stories** with healthcare access.

Media Outreach



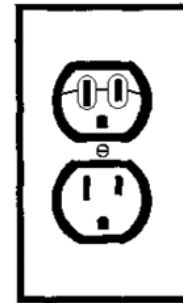
By telling stories of uninsured, medical students hope Alabama will 'rethink' Medicaid coverage



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Turn Your
Assumptions
Into
Empathy

By Ynhi Thai

Values

- **Catalyst for Change** : We strive to be part of the catalyst for change in Alabama's health care environment.
- **Solidarity** : We believe change and innovation occurs when we combine our talents and work together, and we seek to collaborate with diverse individuals, professionals, organizations, and groups.
- **Social Responsibility** : We seek to kindle an interest in civic engagement and social responsibility within Alabama.
- **Advocacy** : We believe that each individual has a powerful voice that deserves to be heard.
- **Access** : We work to improve access to quality healthcare within Alabama.

Beliefs

1. We believe that every member of our community is valuable.
2. Therefore, we believe in the primacy of individual rights, including the right to privacy in all matters related to personal health, the right to dignity in treatment, and the ultimate authority, of every person, to determine the course of her or his own medical care.
3. We believe that preventable suffering should be prevented.
4. We believe that a significant portion of the preventable suffering in our community derives from lack of basic health care access.
5. We believe that this lack of access disproportionately harms our most vulnerable neighbors.
6. Recognizing this injustice, we believe it is our sacred duty, as physicians-in-training, to serve our community, through education and advocacy.
7. Indeed, we believe it is our responsibility to expand the narrative, to present an honest account of the real-world suffering secondary to the selective provision of medical care.
8. We believe that the truth we present has the capacity to change hearts and minds
9. We believe that our efforts to effectuate this change are the natural manifestation of our duty to prevent injustice

What can *you* do?

1) Listen to someone's story. Ask them the following questions:

- What sacrifices have you had to make in order to pay for healthcare?
- How has not having health insurance impacted your life?
- Have you tried to get health insurance coverage? What was that experience like for you?

2) Share

3) Encourage

Robert Bentley suggests he could accept Medicaid expansion

1030 N. UNION STREET | Brian Lyman, Montgomery Advertiser | 1:18 p.m. CST December 12



(Photo: Josh Allen/Alabama Governor's Office)

Robert Bentley
Governor of the United States

Gov. Robert Bentley suggested Thursday that he could support an expansion of the state's Medicaid program in the form of a block grant with employment requirements.

In remarks before lawmakers wrapping up three days of legislative orientation, Bentley — who for years has expressed staunch opposition to expansion — said he would not expand the system until proposed reforms of the state system go into effect. However, he added he would be open to discussing a block grant program, similar to an expansion that took place in Arkansas this year.

"It would have to be in the private sector and there would have to be some requirements on it," Bentley

Governor: Medicaid comments not backtracking

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Posted: Thursday, December 11, 2014 8:40 pm (Updated: 10:32 pm, The Dec 11, 2014)

by **Tim Lusk**

MONTGOMERY — Gov. Robert Bentley says his new openness to expanding Medicaid — under the right conditions — isn't a change of mind.

"My critics might look at what I said in 2010," Bentley said in brief remarks Thursday at the Capitol after his annual holiday lunch with the capital press corps. "If you'll look back at what I said in the past, it's been consistent."

For much of his first term, Bentley has been one of the nation's staunchest holdouts on the expansion of Medicaid, one of the few aspects of the Affordable Care Act that states have the power to accept or reject.

Under the federal health care reform bill, states were originally expected to expand the Medicaid, a joint state-and-federal health insurance program for the poor, to cover people earning up to 138 percent of the federal poverty rate. When the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states didn't have to expand, a number of governors opposed to the Affordable Care Act decided they would opt out of the expansion. Bentley, who has often referred to Medicaid as a "broken system," was among them.

Bentley stayed the course through the 2014 campaign, as Democrats accused him of rejecting a program that could have covered hundreds of thousands of Alabamians largely at federal expense.

Governor Bentley says he's exploring Medicaid expansion



A Possible Expansion Around the Corner?

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Alabama Gov. Explores Block-Grant Approach To Medicaid Expansion

Gov. Robert Bentley emphasized Thursday that his administration is in the early stages of considering this approach. In other Medicaid news, members of a Wyoming state legislative panel endorsed an Indiana-style expansion plan.

The Associated Press: Governor Bentley Says He's Exploring Medicaid Expansion

Gov. Robert Bentley says he is exploring the idea of a state-created program that uses Medicaid expansion dollars to bring health care coverage to previously uninsured people living at or slightly above the poverty line. He emphasized Thursday his administration is only in the early stages of looking at a state-designed program. Bentley said he is also uncertain if the federal government would approve the work requirements he wants for recipients. (12/18)

Nahum



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Discussion Questions

- What gaps in data could be filled with stories? How can stories and data work together to make an argument?
- What can you do with this information? What are ways you could incorporate asking questions and listening to stories in your practice? What are some potential opportunities to share people's stories with others?