



SOURCES OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

What it is called

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What to know

EMPLOYER-SPONSORED INSURANCE

Insurance coverage provided to employees and, in some cases, their spouses and children, through an employer. Also called group insurance.

ESI is the largest source of coverage in the U.S. (more than 150 million non-elderly people). Typically exempt from state regulation. More than half of all non-elderly Americans have ESI (nearly 160 million people).

HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACE

Web-based service formerly known as the Exchange where individuals and small businesses can shop for comprehensive coverage that meets Affordable Care Act coverage standards and financial protections.

Created by the ACA. Provides insurance to individuals who previously may not have had access. Premium and cost-sharing subsidies may be available, depending on income level.

MEDICAID

A publicly financed federal-state program that provides health and long-term care coverage to one out of five Americans.

States design their own programs within broad federal guidelines. As of September 2022, 38 states and D.C. have chosen, pursuant to the ACA, to expand their Medicaid programs to cover low-income adults.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (CHIP)

A federal-state program that provides health coverage for uninsured low-income children who are not eligible for Medicaid.

States can administer CHIP through Medicaid or as a separate program (or a combination of both).

MEDICARE

A federal program that provides health coverage to people aged 65 and older, and anyone with permanent disabilities, such as end-stage renal disease and Lou Gehrig's disease.

Part A of original Medicare provides coverage for hospitalization. Part B provides coverage for outpatient services and for infusion drugs. Part D provides prescription drug coverage through private plans. Medicare Advantage is an all-in-one private alternative to original Medicare.

TRICARE

Provides civilian health benefits for military personnel, military retirees and their dependents.

Federally-regulated

VETERAN'S HEALTH PROGRAM

Provides hospital care and outpatient care services to eligible veterans and eligible dependents.

Federally-regulated