

Medicaid and Access to Cancer Care and Patient Outcomes

Robin Yabroff, PhD
Scientific Vice President, Health Services
Research



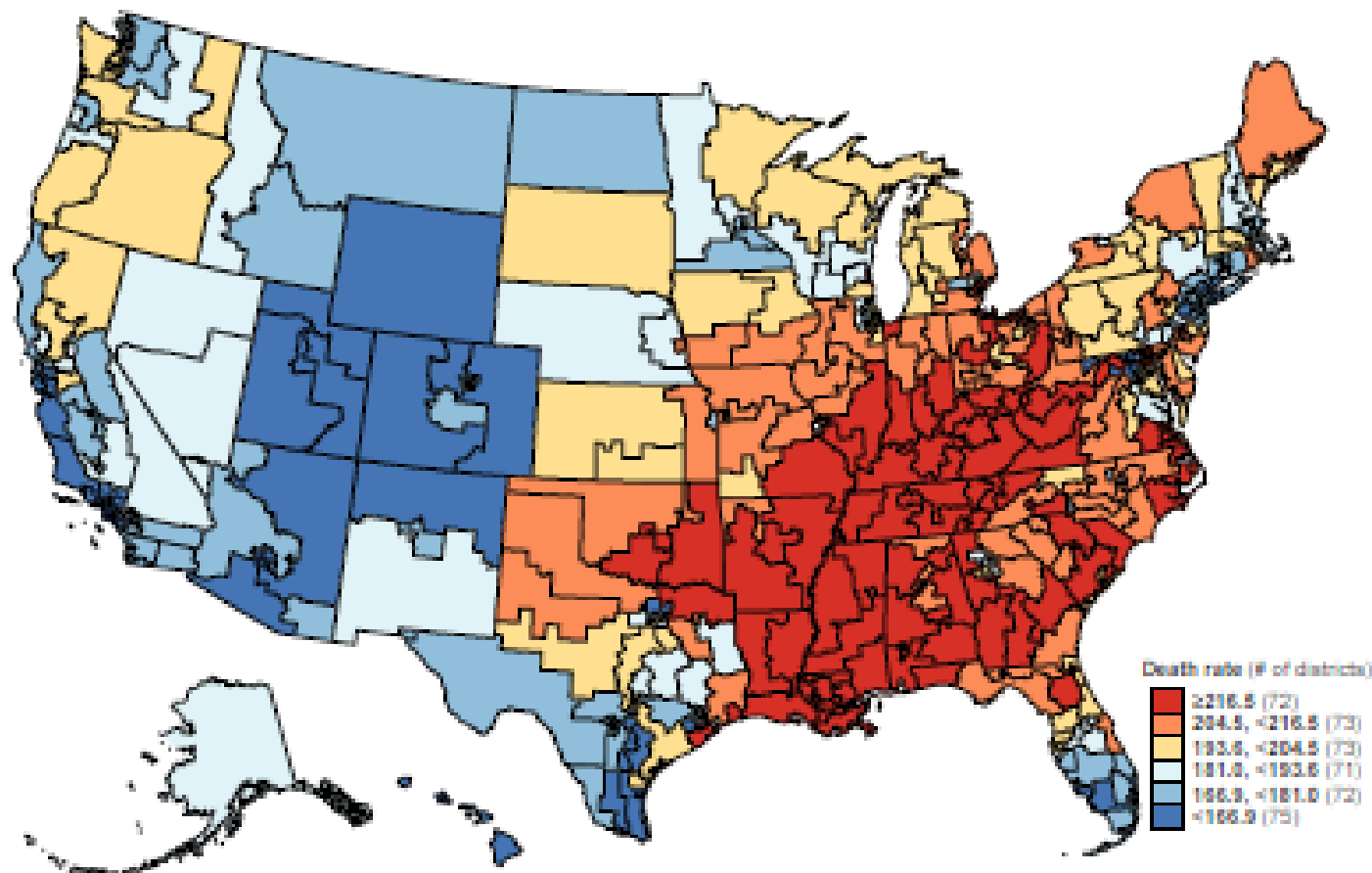
April 29, 2025

Cancer Survivorship in the United States

- More than 2 million cancer diagnoses in 2025
- 18 million cancer survivors, expect 26 million by 2040
- Cancer survivors can experience lasting adverse effects of disease and its treatment
 - Risk for new cancers and chronic conditions
 - Worse health-related quality of life
 - Limitations in amount or kind of work
- Stark inequities by geography, race and ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and health insurance coverage

Sources: Miller KD, Nogueira L, Devasia T, Mariotto AB, Yabroff KR, Jemal A, Kramer J, Siegel RL. Cancer treatment and survivorship statistics, 2022. CA Cancer J Clin. 2022;72(5):409-436. Guy GP Jr, Yabroff KR, Ekwueme DU, Rim SH, Li R, Richardson LC. Economic Burden of Chronic Conditions Among Survivors of Cancer in the United States. J Clin Oncol. 2017 Jun 20;35(18):2053-2061.; Guy GP Jr, Ekwueme DU, Yabroff KR, Dowling EC, Li C, Rodriguez JL, de Moor JS, Virgo KS. Economic burden of cancer survivorship among adults in the United States. J Clin Oncol. 2013 Oct 20;31(30):3749-57. Islami F, Guerra CE, Minihaan A, Yabroff KR, Fedewa SA, Sloan K, Wiedt TL, Thomson B, Siegel RL, Nargis N, Winn RA, Lacasse L, Makaroff L, Daniels EC, Patel AV, Cance WG, Jemal A. American Cancer Society's report on the status of cancer disparities in the United States, 2021. CA Cancer J Clin. 2022;72(2):112-143.

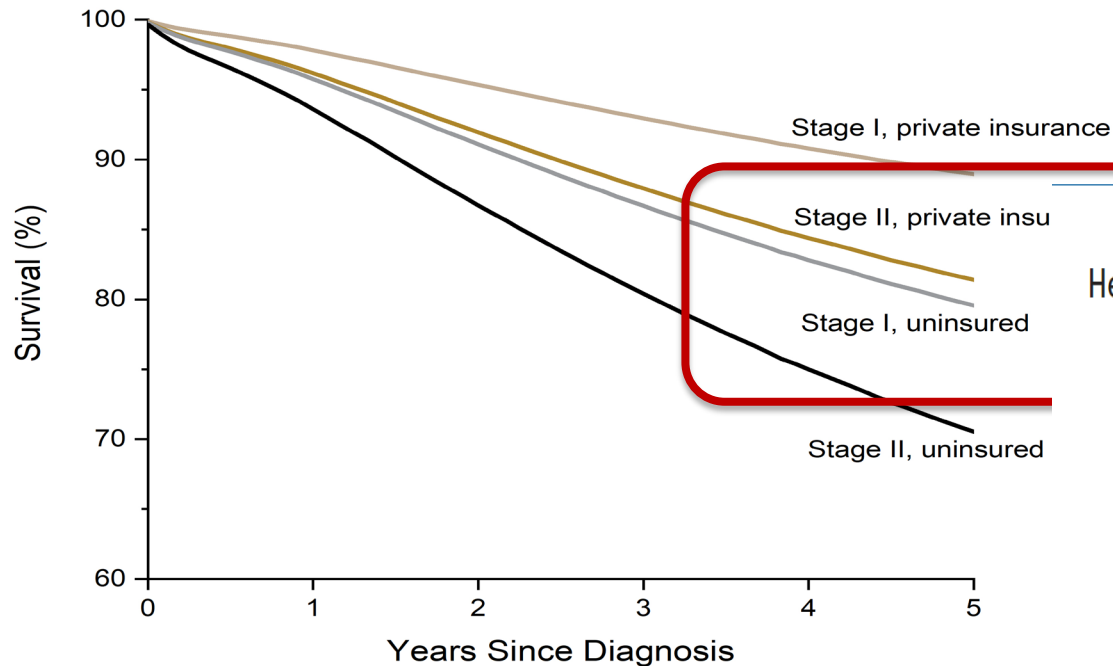
Geographic Inequities in Cancer Mortality Rates, Males 2014-2018



Categories are based on overall death rates in all races/ethnicities combined (5 quantiles)

Source: Islami F, Guerra CE, Minihan A, Yabroff KR, Fedewa SA, Sloan K, Wiedt TL, Thomson B, Siegel RL, Nargis N, Winn RA, Lacasse L, Makaroff L, Daniels EC, Patel AV, Cance WG, Jemal A. American Cancer Society's report on the status of cancer disparities in the United States, 2021. CA Cancer J Clin. 2022;72(2):112-143.

Inequities in Survival By Health Insurance Coverage, Colorectal Cancer Patients



CA CANCER J CLIN 2022;0:1-19

Health insurance status and cancer stage at diagnosis and survival in the United States

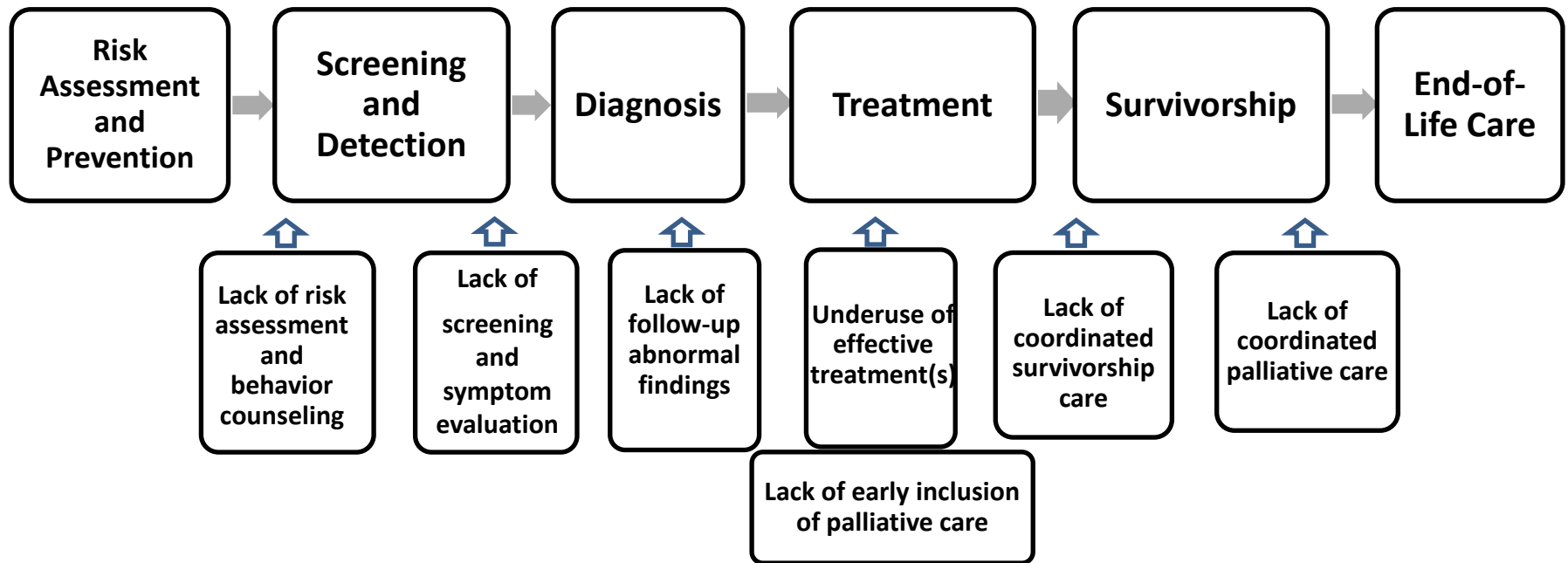
Jingxuan Zhao, MPH¹; Xuesong Han, PhD¹; Leticia Nogueira, MPH, PhD¹; Stacey A. Fedewa, MPH, PhD²; Ahmedin Jemal, DVM, PhD¹; Michael T. Halpern, MD, PhD³; K. Robin Yabroff, PhD, MBA¹

17 Cancer Sites combined
6 Cancer sites
Colorectal
Prostate
Esophagus
Liver
Oral Cavity
Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma

Data from the National Cancer Database

Source: Zhao J, Han X, Nogueira L, Fedewa SA, Jemal A, Halpern MT, Yabroff KR. Health insurance status and cancer stage at diagnosis and survival in the United States. CA Cancer J Clin. 2022 Epub ahead of print.

Inequities in Cancer Survival and Mortality Reflect Lack of Health Insurance Coverage and Breakdowns in Access to Care Across the Cancer Control Continuum



Affordable Care Act



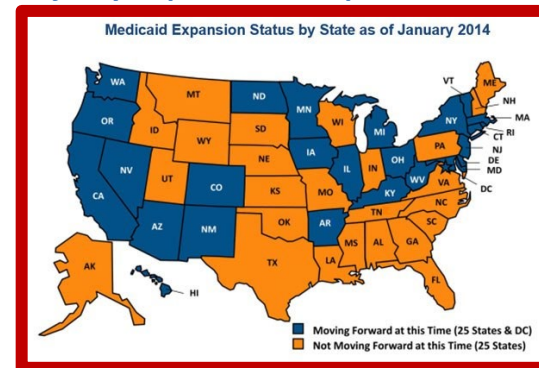
Essential health benefit standards
Elimination of pre-existing condition exclusions
Elimination of life-time and annual coverage limits

2010 Dependent coverage expansion
Elimination of cost-sharing for preventive services

2014

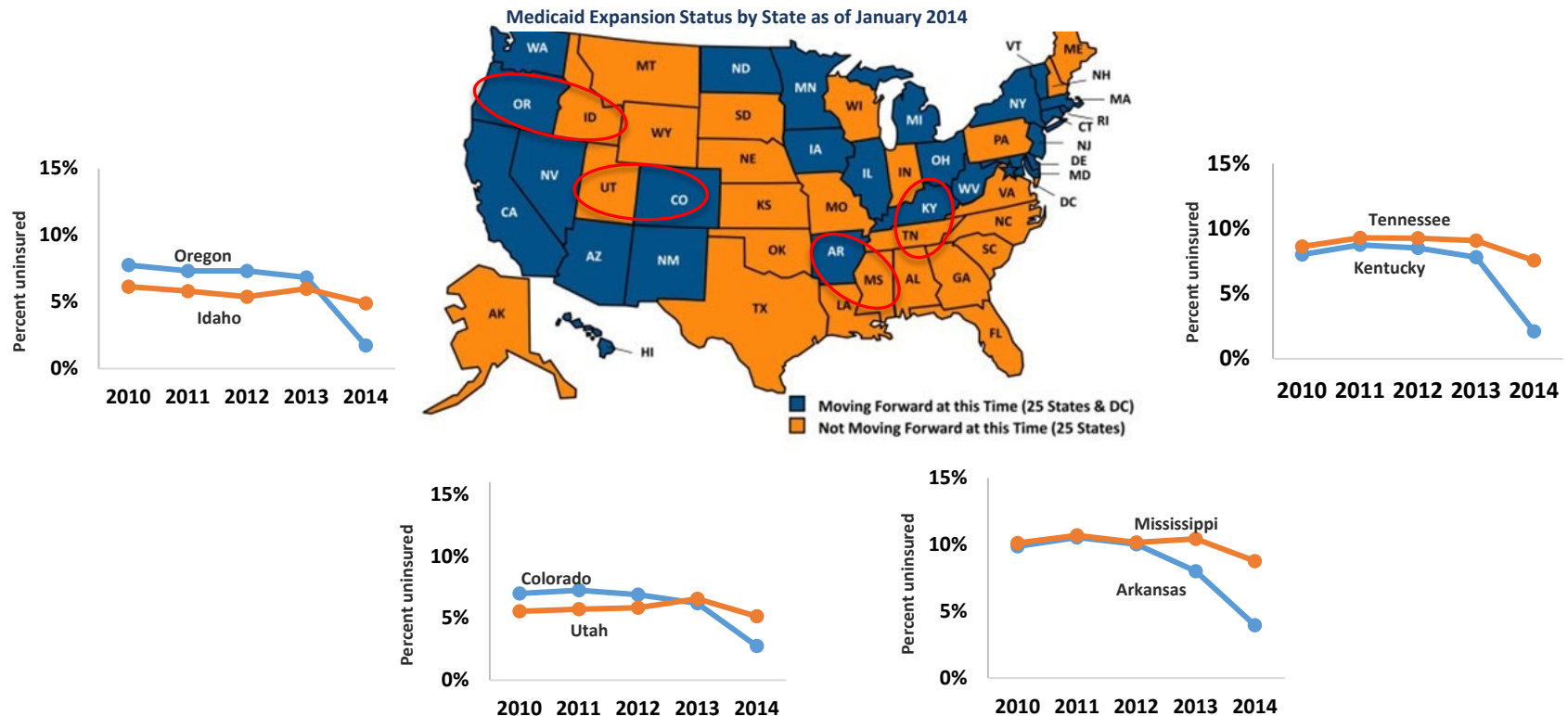
Signed into law

Majority of provisions implemented



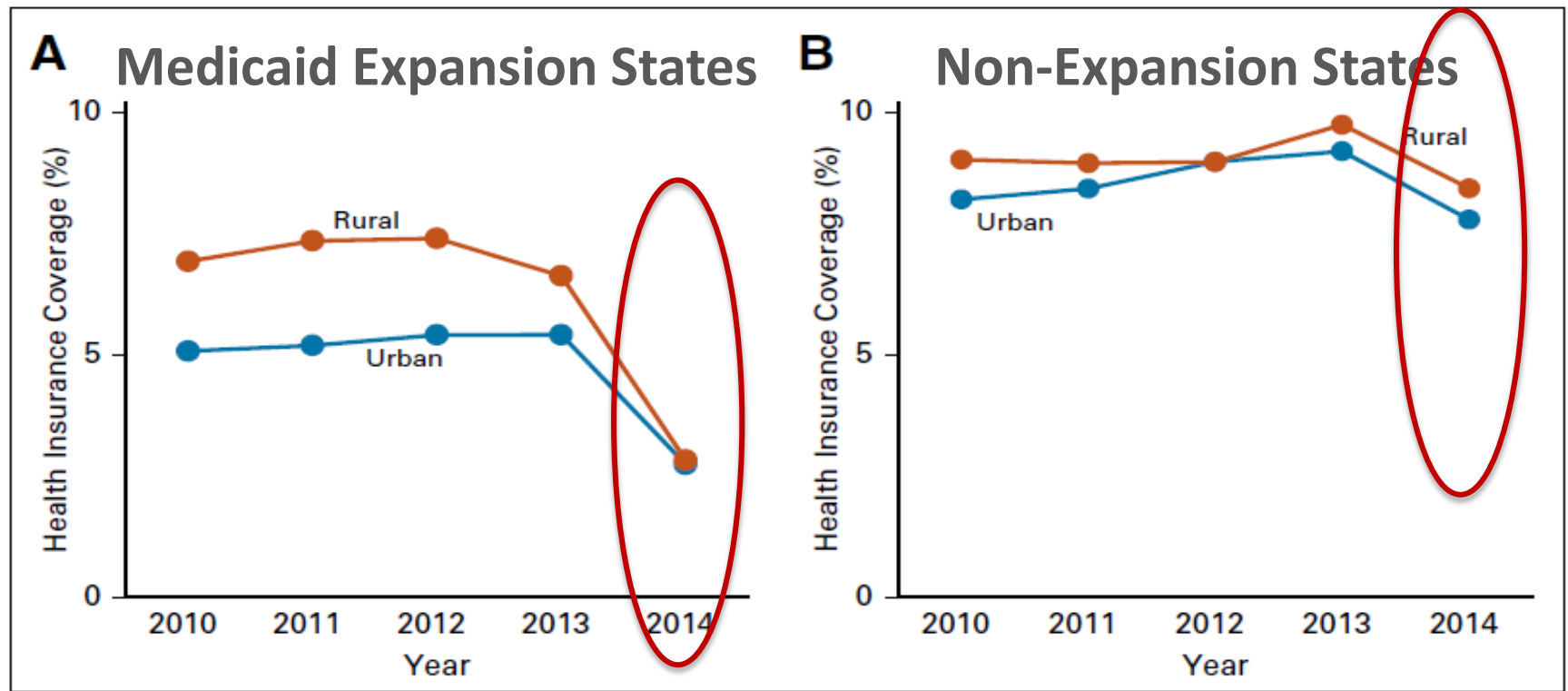
48.2 million non-elderly people did not have health insurance coverage in the United States in 2010

Medicaid expansion associated with reduction of percent uninsured among newly diagnosed cancer patients aged 18-64 years



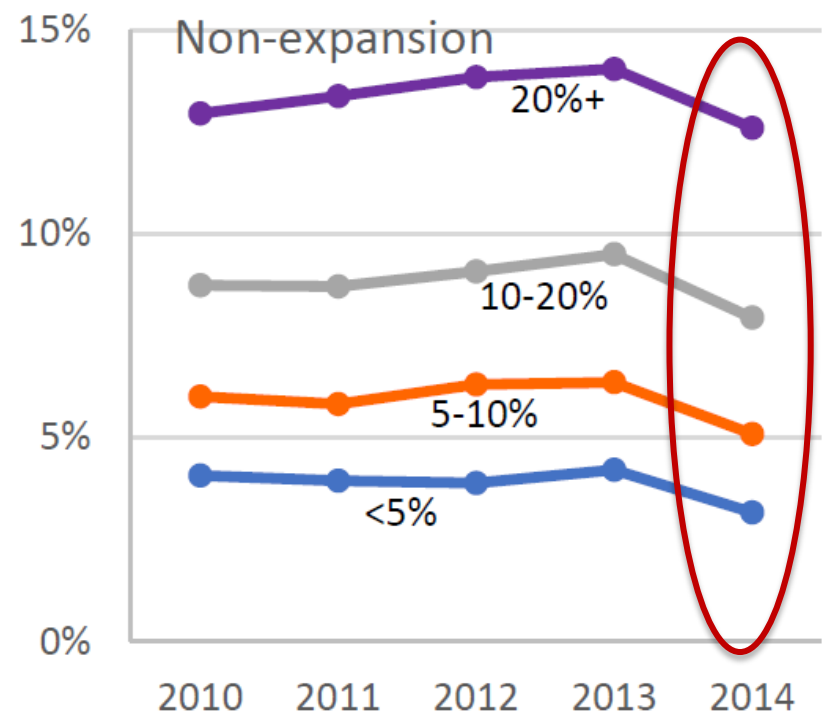
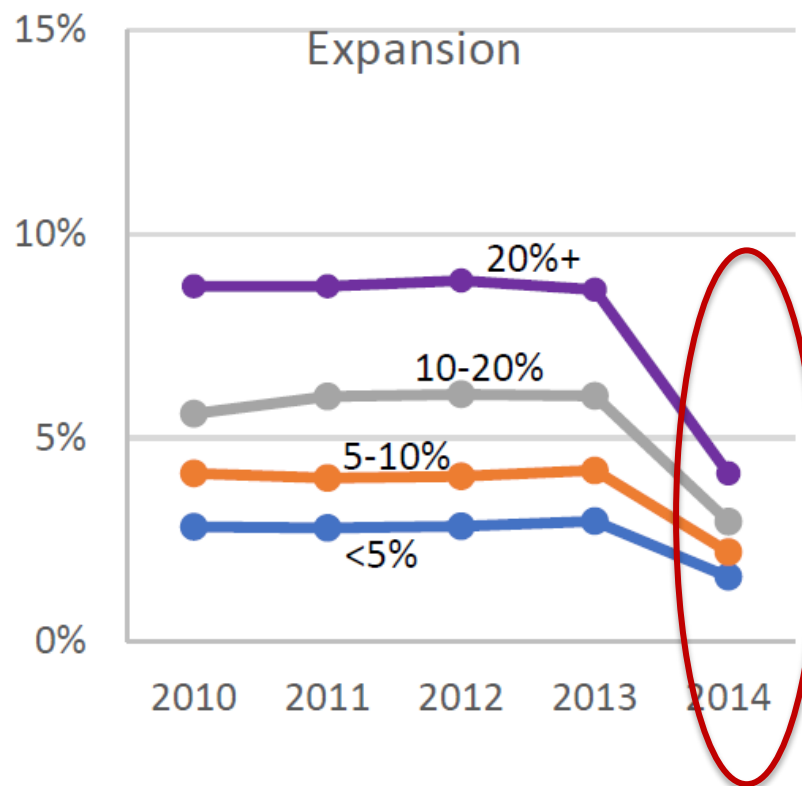
Han X, Yabroff KR, Ward E, Brawley OW, Jemal A. Comparison of Insurance Status and Diagnosis Stage among Patients with Newly Diagnosed Cancer Before vs After Implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. *JAMA Onc.* 2018 Dec 1; 4(12)

Medicaid Expansion Associated with Reductions in Disparities among Newly Diagnosed Patients – Percent Uninsured by Rurality



Data from cancer registries in 40 states. SOURCE: Han X, Yabroff KR, Ward E, Brawley O, Jemal A. Changes in percent uninsured among cancer patients by state and sociodemographic factors following the Affordable Care Act. *JAMA Oncol* 2018; 4(12):1713-1720. Yabroff KR, Han X, Zhao J, Nogueira L, Jemal A. Rural Cancer Disparities in the United States: A Multilevel Framework to Improve Access to Care and Patient Outcomes. *JCO Oncol Pract*. 2020 Jul;16(7):409-413.

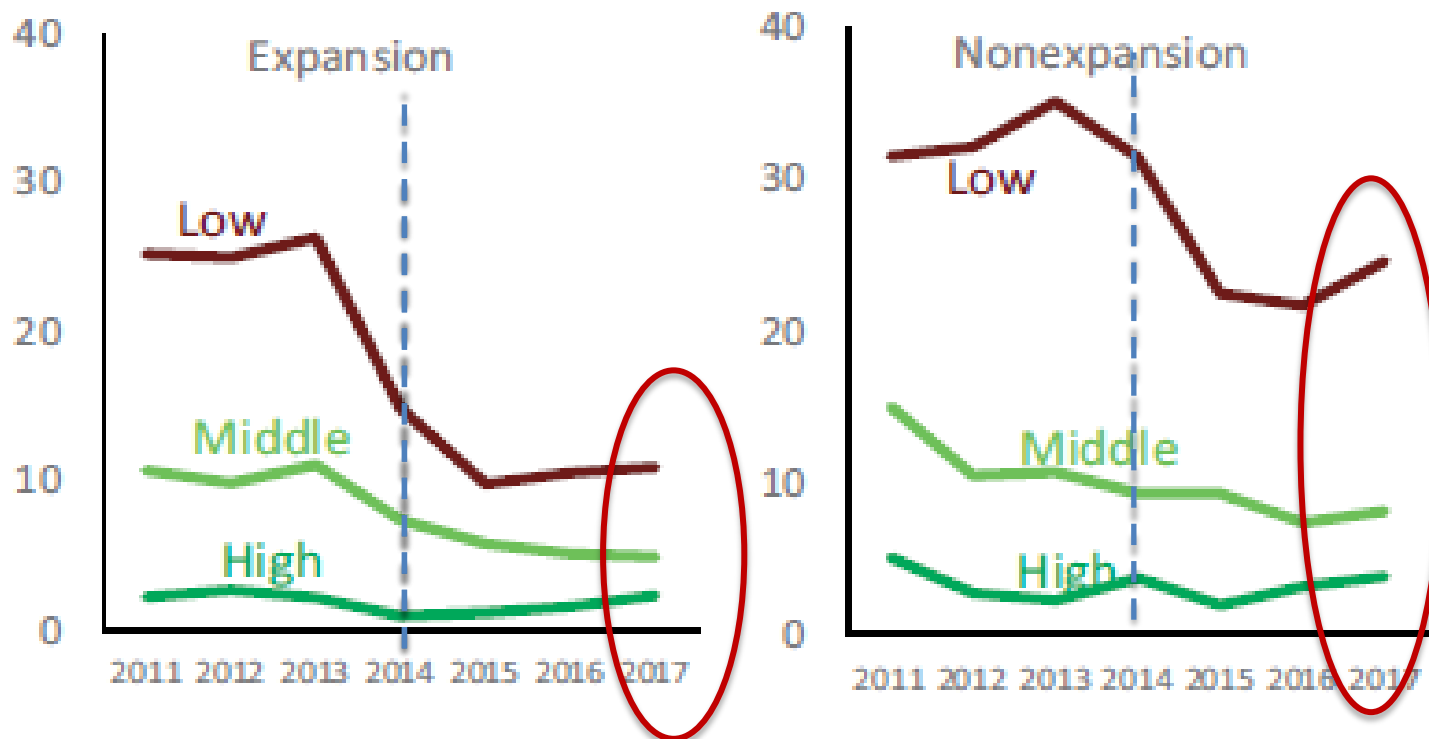
Medicaid Expansion Associated with Reductions in Disparities among Newly Diagnosed Patients-Percent Uninsured by Persons in Poverty



Data from cancer registries in 40 states.

SOURCE: Han X, Yabroff KR, Ward E, Brawley O, Jemal A. Changes in percent uninsured among cancer patients by state and sociodemographic factors following the Affordable Care Act. *JAMA Oncol* 2018; 4(12):1713-1720.

Medicaid Expansion Associated with Reductions in Disparities among Cancer Survivors – Percent Reporting Uninsurance by Income



Data from BRFSS in all 50 states and DC.

SOURCE: Han X, Jemal A, Zheng Z, Sauer AG, Fedewa S, Yabroff KR. Changes in noninsurance and care unaffordability among cancer survivors following the Affordable Care Act [published online ahead of print, 2019 Nov 5]. *J Natl Cancer Inst.* 2019;djz218.

Medicaid Expansion Associated with Reductions in Disparities among Cancer Survivors - Percent Reporting Care Unaffordability by Income



Data from BRFSS in all 50 states and DC.

Question: "Was there a time in the past 12 months when you needed to see a doctor but could not because of cost?"

SOURCE: Han X, Jemal A, Zheng Z, Sauer AG, Fedewa S, Yabroff KR. Changes in noninsurance and care unaffordability among cancer survivors following the Affordable Care Act [published online ahead of print, 2019 Nov 5]. *J Natl Cancer Inst.* 2019;djz218.

Medicaid Expansion Associated with Better Cancer Care and Outcomes in Adults 18-64 years

- Increase in recommended cancer screening
- Earlier stage cancer diagnosis
- Increased receipt of timely cancer care
- Improved care affordability
- Improved survival following cancer diagnosis, lower cancer mortality rates
- Reduced disparities in access, early stage diagnosis, and survival

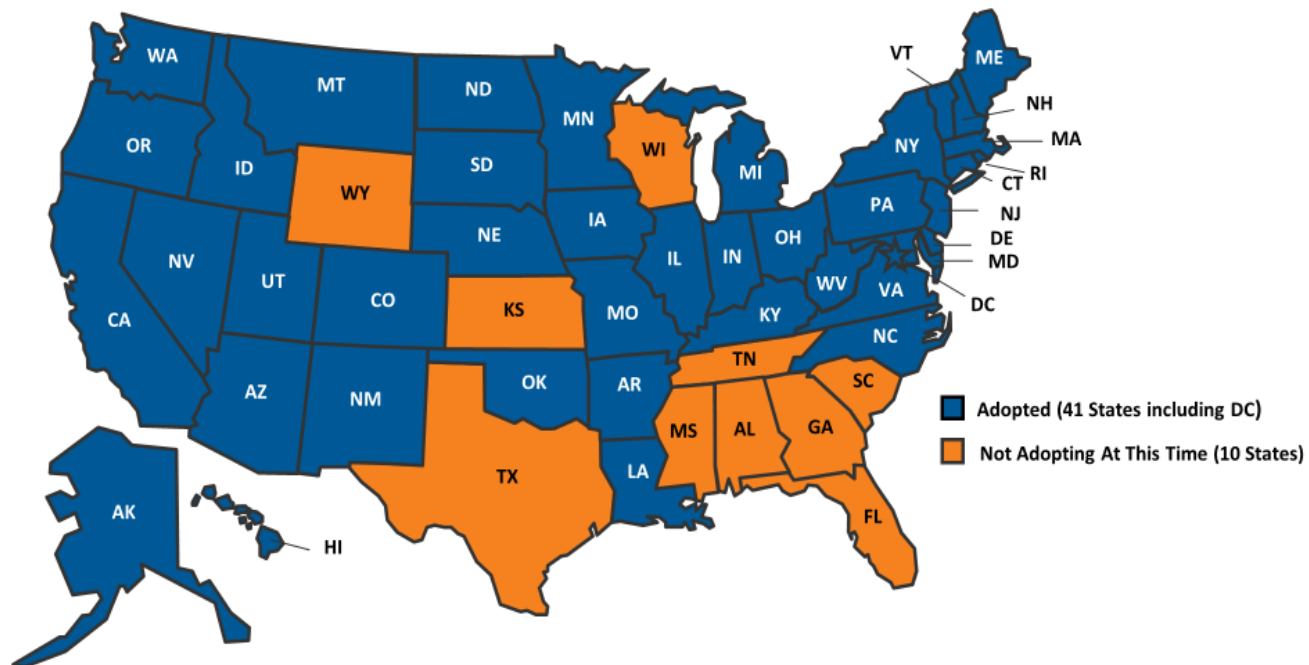
Sources: Han X, Zhao J, Yabroff KR, Johnson CJ, Jemal A. Association Between Medicaid Expansion Under the Affordable Care Act and Survival Among Newly Diagnosed Cancer Patients. *J Natl Cancer Inst.* 2022:djac077. Zhao J, Mao Z, Fedewa SA, Nogueira L, Yabroff KR, Jemal A, Han X. The Affordable Care Act and access to care across the cancer control continuum: A review at 10 years. *CA Cancer J Clin.* 2020;70(3):165-181. Shi KS, Ji X, Jiang C, Ruddy KJ, Castellino SM, Yabroff KR, Han X. Association of Medicaid Expansion With Timely Receipt of Treatment and Survival Among patients With HR-Negative, HER2-Positive Breast Cancer. *J Natl Compr Canc Netw.* 2024;22(9):593-599.

Medicaid Expansion “Spillover” Effects

- Medicaid expansion associated with benefits outside of adults aged 18-64 years
 - Increased coverage among children with cancer
 - Increased coverage among older adults diagnosed with cancer aged > 65 years
- Reduced food insecurity
- Lower percentage of population with medical debt
- Fewer hospital closures
- As of April 2025
 - 10 states yet to expand Medicaid eligibility
 - Proposed federal and state cuts to Medicaid programs

Sources: Han X, Zhao J, Yabroff KR, Johnson CJ, Jemal A. Association Between Medicaid Expansion Under the Affordable Care Act and Survival Among Newly Diagnosed Cancer Patients. J Natl Cancer Inst. 2022 May 18:djac077. Zhao J, Mao Z, Fedewa SA, Nogueira L, Yabroff KR, Jemal A, Han X. The Affordable Care Act and access to care across the cancer control continuum: A review at 10 years. CA Cancer J Clin. 2020 May;70(3):165-181.

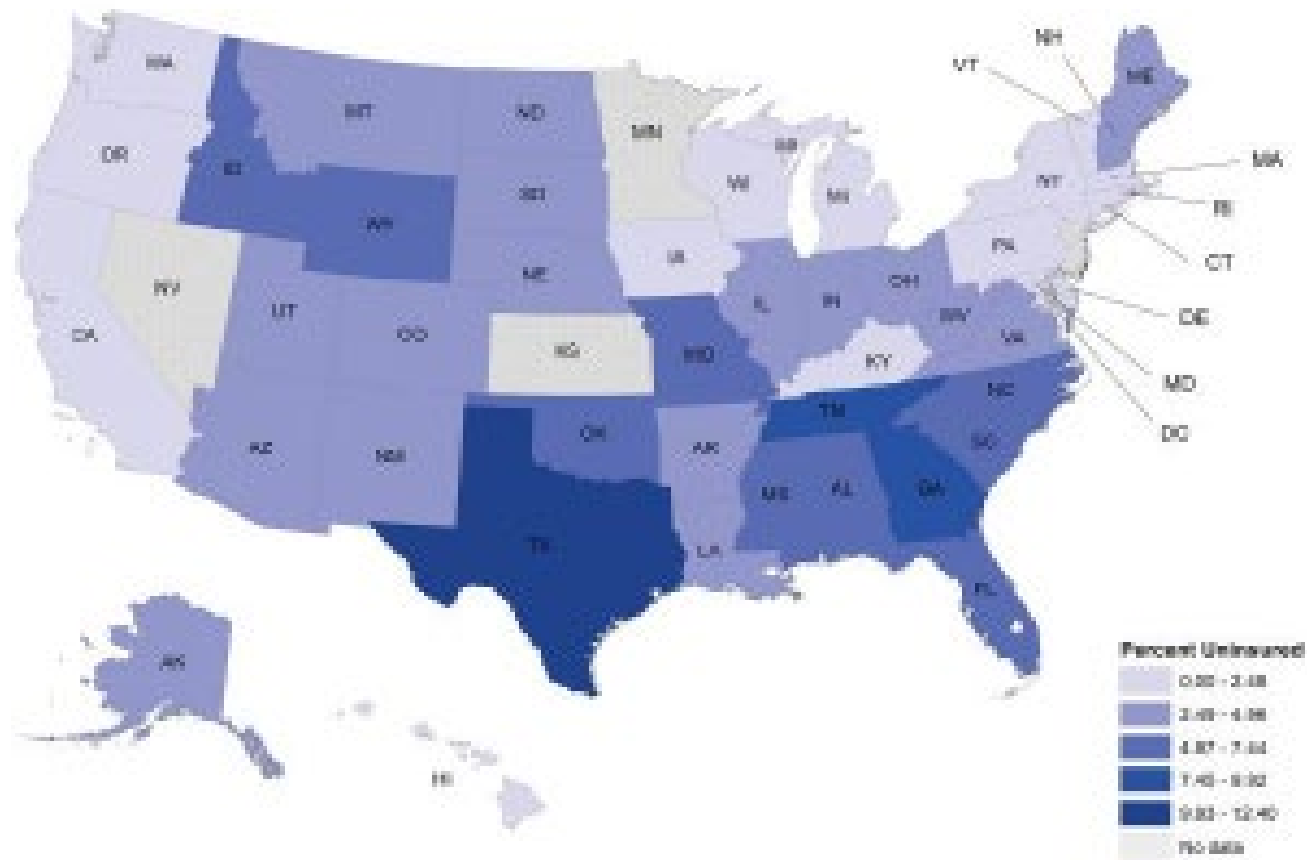
Status of State Medicaid Expansion Decisions



NOTES: Current status for each state is based on KFF tracking and analysis of state activity. See link below for additional state-specific notes.

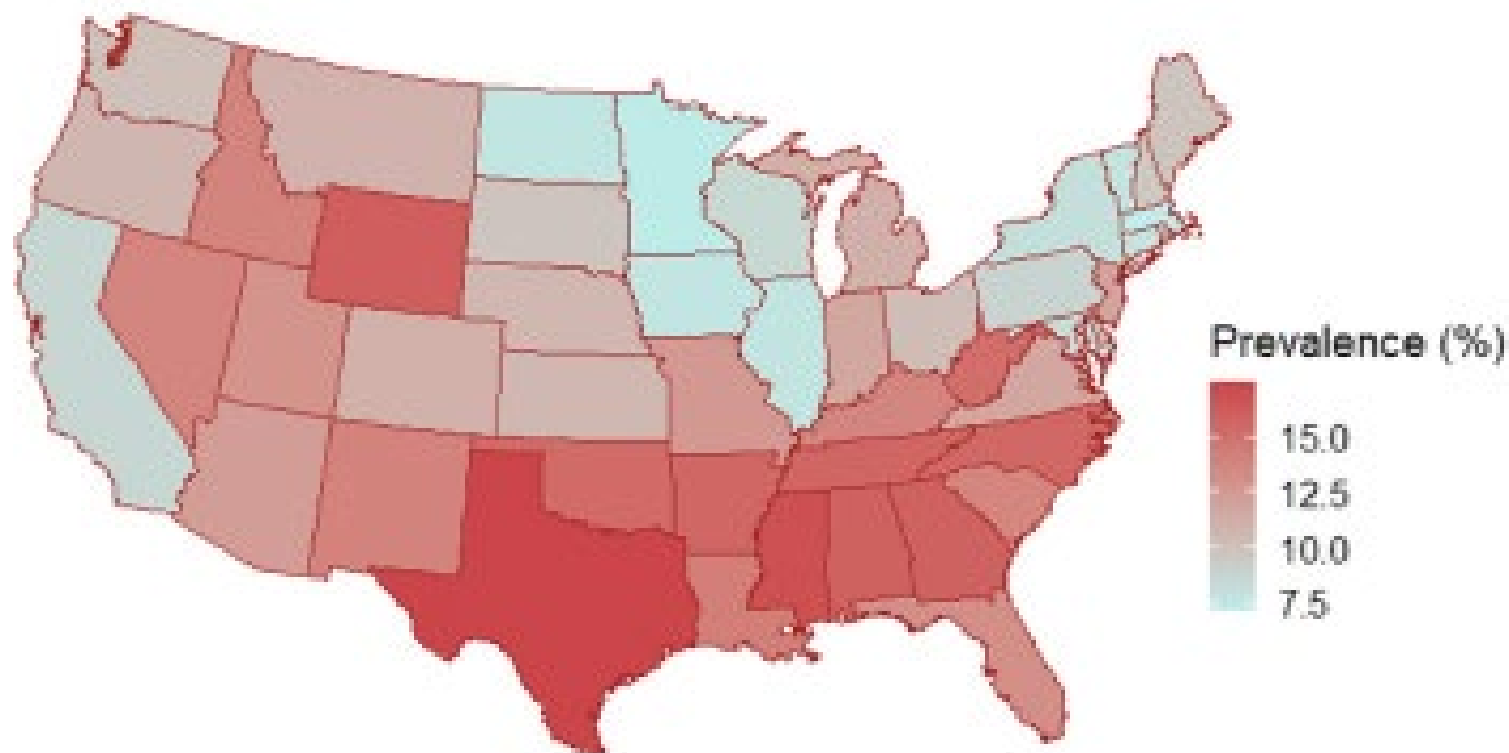
SOURCE: "Status of State Medicaid Expansion Decisions," <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/status-of-state-medicaid-expansion-decisions-interactive-map/>

Percentage of Newly Diagnosed Patients with Cancer without Health Insurance



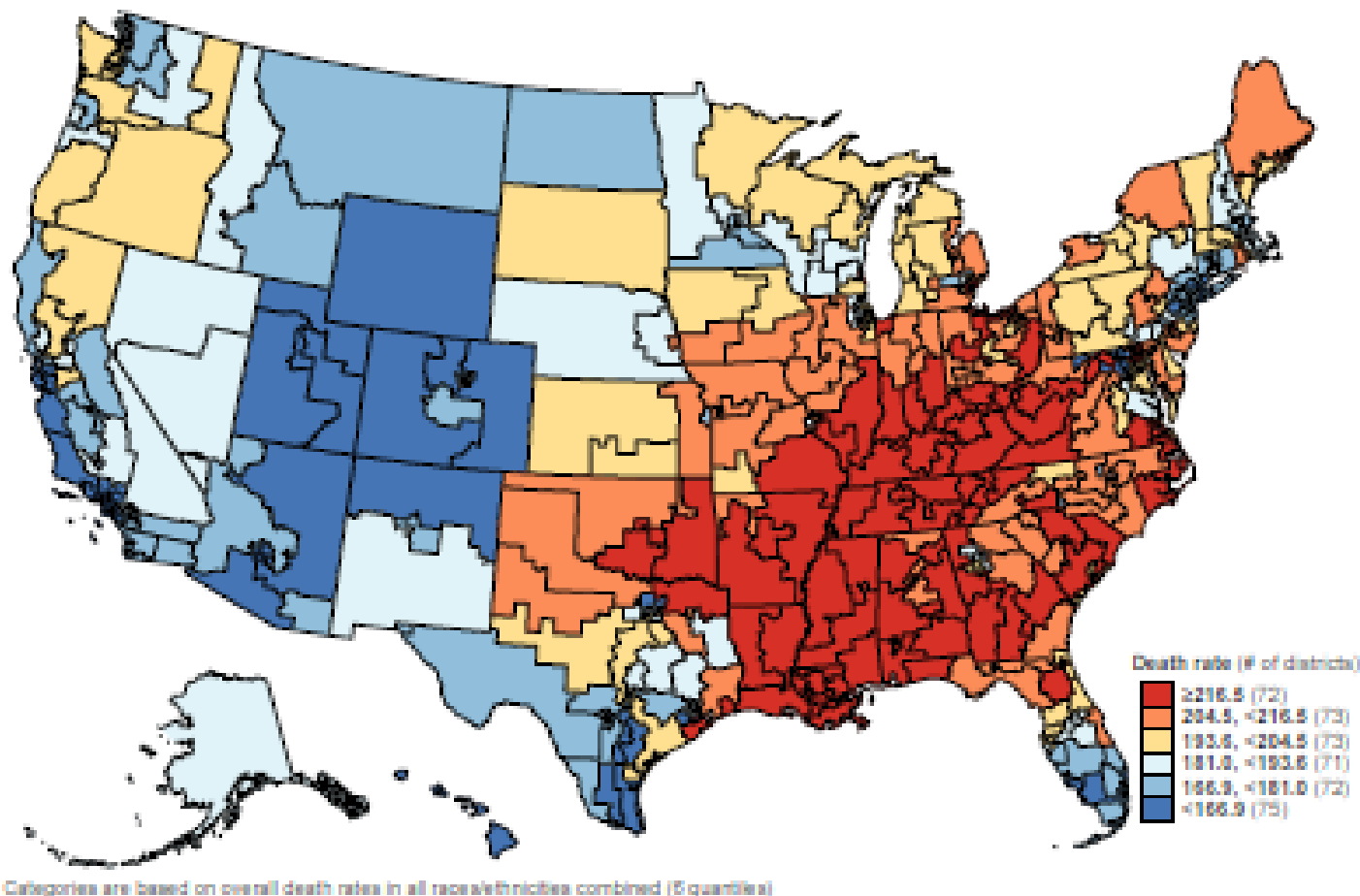
Source: Hu X, Yang NN, Fan Q, Yabroff KR, Han X. Health insurance coverage among incident cancer cases from population-based cancer registries in 49 US states, 2010-2019. Health Aff Sch. 2024;2(1):qxad083.

Geographic Variation in Forgoing Care Because of Cost Among Adult Cancer Survivors



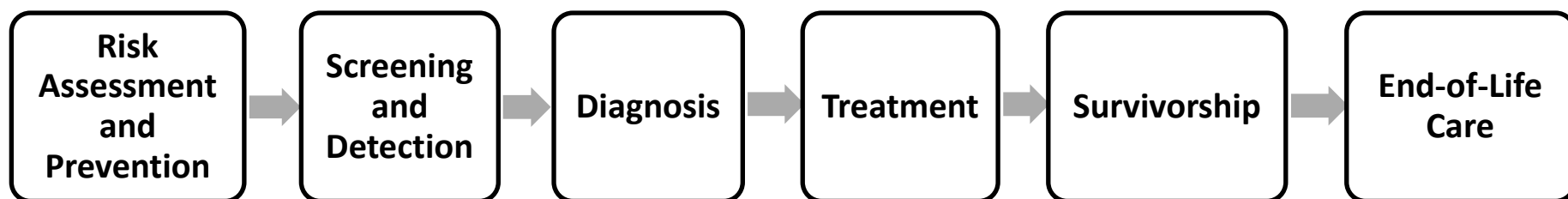
Source: Gu C, Jewett PI, Yabroff KR, Vogel RI, Parsons HM, Gangnon RE, Purani H, Blaes AH. Forgoing physician visits due to cost: regional clustering among cancer survivors by age, sex, and race/ethnicity. J Cancer Surviv. 2022

Geographic Disparities in Cancer Mortality Rates, Males 2014-2018



Source: Islami F, Guerra CE, Minihan A, et al. American Cancer Society's report on the status of cancer disparities in the United States, 2021. CA Cancer J Clin. 2021. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34878180.

Reducing Inequities in Access to Care Across the Cancer Control Continuum



Protecting access to care to ensure everyone has a fair and equitable opportunity to prevent, detect, treat, and survive cancer



Thank You!