

Healthy Utah Misinformation & Facts

There is a lot of misinformation about Healthy Utah floating out there. While it is true we don't know everything about the impact of Healthy Utah, we do know a lot. Here are the most cited arguments against doing Healthy Utah and why these arguments are wrong.

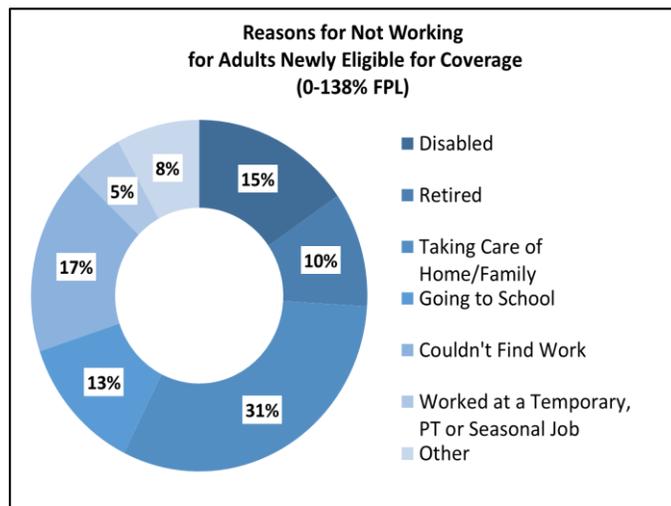
1. Healthy Utah will help "able bodied" adults.

This implies that these Utahns are not working and, as a result, do not deserve the state's help in obtaining health coverage. However, the fact is that the vast majority of the Utahns who would benefit from Healthy Utah are employed. ⁱ

65% >>Of the newly eligible population are employed

85% >>Of family households have at least one adult working

Among those who did not work in the previous year, the most prevalent reason cited for not working (nearly a third of the total) is "taking care of family." Other reasons include being disabled, a student, retired or not being able to find work. ⁱⁱ



2. Healthy Utah benefits “single adults” without children

The facts simply don't back this assertion up. Half of those project in enroll in Healthy Utah are part of families *with* three-quarters of those families having children.ⁱⁱⁱ

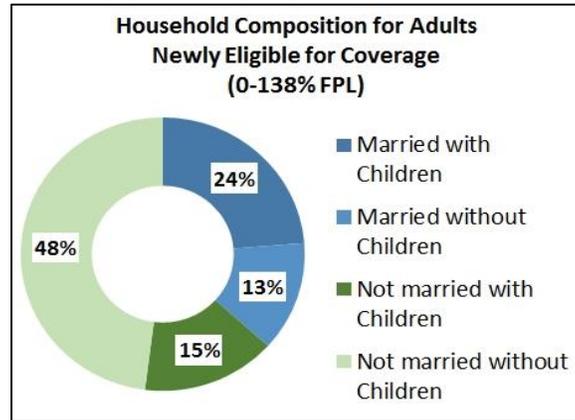


Figure 1

3. Healthy Utah benefits “criminals.”

Healthy Utah will reduce recidivism and save the state millions.

A significant minority of Healthy Utah enrollees will be involved with the criminal justice system. Providing health coverage to these individuals is good policy that benefits taxpayers and all our state's citizens.

Medicaid Expansion states save their correction systems millions of dollars, because Medicaid covers expensive costs related to prisoners who need hospitalization.

Further, studies show health care coverage keeps them from returning to prison. A 2007 study of two counties in Florida and Washington over a two-year period linked access to health coverage with a 16-percent reduction in the average number of subsequent lock-ups.^{iv}

4. Healthy Utah will cause seniors to lose their Medicare Advantage plans.

Whether Utah implements Healthy Utah or not has no impact on the Medicare program. There is absolutely no truth to this argument.

ⁱ Norman Waitzman, S. Banister, et. al., Who would be newly eligible for coverage under the Healthy Utah Plan, or full Medicaid expansion? July 2015

ⁱⁱ Id.

ⁱⁱⁱ Id.

^{iv} Joseph P. Morrissey, Ph.D.; G. Cuddeback, et. al., “The Role of Medicaid Enrollment and Outpatient Service Use in Jail Recidivism Among Persons With Severe Mental Illness,” *Psychiatric Services* (June 2007)