

in states with Medicaid expansion, compared with non-expansion states, according to a study published in the July issue of *Health Affairs*.

Benjamin D. Sommers, M.D., Ph.D., from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in Boston, and colleagues used a novel telephone survey to examine views on health savings accounts, work requirements, and Medicaid [expansion](#). The sample included 2,739 low-income non-elderly adults in three Midwestern states: Ohio, Indiana, and Kansas, which had expanded eligibility for traditional Medicaid, had expanded Medicaid using health savings accounts (POWER accounts), and had not expanded Medicaid, respectively.

There researchers found that in 2017, the coverage rates were significantly higher in the two expansion states than in Kansas. Compared with Ohio, Indiana more often had cost-related barriers. Among Medicaid beneficiaries eligible for Indiana's waiver program, 39 percent had not heard of POWER accounts; only 36 percent were making required payments. Seventy-seven percent of respondents in Kansas supported expanding Medicaid. With respect to work requirements, 49, 34, and 11 percent of potential Medicaid enrollees in Kansas were already employed, were disabled, and were not working but would look for a job if required by Medicaid, respectively.

"These findings suggest that current Medicaid innovations may lead to unintended consequences for coverage and access and that ongoing independent monitoring of their effects is essential," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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