Medical Assistance

SFY

2025

Provides state-funded and federally-funded medical assistance to low-income individuals with disabilities, older adults, refugees, qualified immigrants, and adults receiving Medicare benefits.

ESA Briefing Book

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Medical Assistance Overview

This chapter summarizes data for clients who receive medical assistance through the Economic Services Administration (ESA), or Home and Community Living Administration (HCLA). [1] Implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) significantly changed ESA Medicaid Service Delivery. In SFY 2013 and 2014, Medicaid eligibility determination for all families, pregnant women, and children transitioned to the Health Benefit Exchange (HBE). ESA continues to determine eligibility for medical assistance programs for persons who are aged, blind, or disabled.

Additional information, including the eligibility criteria, funding sources, and services or benefits provided, is available in the **Program Descriptions** section of the Briefing Book..

TECHNICAL NOTES:

DATA SOURCES: Data for this chapter is based on the ESA Automated Client Eligibility System (ACES) database as of August 2025.

DATA NOTE:

- If counts of clients and cases served by a medical program are nearly identical, only clients are reported for that program.
- All 10-year client trend reports reflect the monthly average for each state fiscal year (SFY).

[1] Home and Community Living Administration (HCLA) is an ESA partner; therefore, some HCLA clients and programs are included in this report.

Medical Assistance Clients by Program Type, SFY 2025

Program Type	Description	Avg. Monthly Clients
Alien Emergency Medicaid (AEM)[2]	Federally funded program for immigrants who would qualify for full-scope Medicaid except for their immigration status. Coverage is limited to emergency medical conditions.	114
Apple Health Expansion (AHE)[3]	Beginning July 1, 2024, AHE provides crucial medical coverage to adults aged 19 and older who are currently ineligible for federal Medicaid or qualified health plans with tax credits due to their immigration status.	741
Healthcare for Workers with Disabilities	Medical assistance for disabled persons who are working and do not receive SSI. Premium amounts are based on income.	1,648
Long Term Care	Coverage for people residing in a medical institution, receiving home- and community-based waiver services, or receiving hospice services.	111,434
Medicare Savings Program	Programs that pay Medicare premiums, coinsurance, and deductibles for low-income Medicare beneficiaries. Income limits vary by program, from 110% to 200% FPL.	221,022
Refugee Medical	Medical assistance for refugees and certain humanitarian immigrants who do not qualify for Medicaid. Starting in May 2025, coverage lasts for four months after arrival in the U.S. or approval of an eligible immigration status. Previously, coverage lasted 12 months.[4]	<50
SSI Medicaid	Medical assistance for aged, blind or disabled persons who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI). The Social Security Administration determines eligibility for SSI using income rules based on Title XVI of the Social Security Act.	93,935
SSI Related Medicaid	Medical assistance for low-income aged, blind, or disabled persons who do not receive SSI cash benefits.	40,304

[2] Counts are restricted to clients 65 and older who are served by DSHS (ESA and HCLA only).

[3] Counts are restricted to clients 65 and older who are served by DSHS/ESA. Individuals age 19-64 are served by the Health Benefit Exchange.

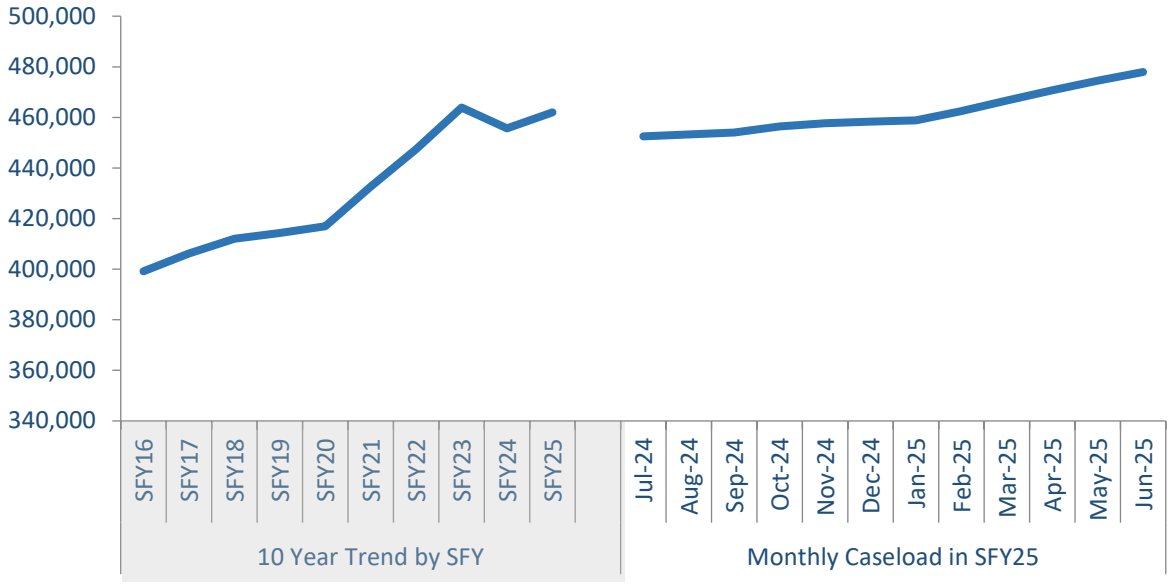
[4] For more information on the policy change, see CSD Memo - RCMA Benefit Period Change.pdf

Medical Assistance Clients by Program Type, SFY 2025 (continued)

Program Type	Description	Avg. Monthly Clients
Medical Care Services (MCS)[5]	State funded medical assistance for lawfully present recipients of Aged, Blind, or Disabled (ABD) cash assistance or the Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) Referral program who cannot access federally funded Medicaid due to their immigration status. MCS also provides coverage to adult recipients of ABD, HEN Referral, and State Family Assistance (SFA) who are Survivors of Certain Crimes (SCC).	2,038

[5] Under HB 1748 and TSSB 5164, MCS was expanded to SCC clients who receive ABD, HEN Referral, or SFA.

Total Medical Assistance Caseload, SFY 2016 – 2025

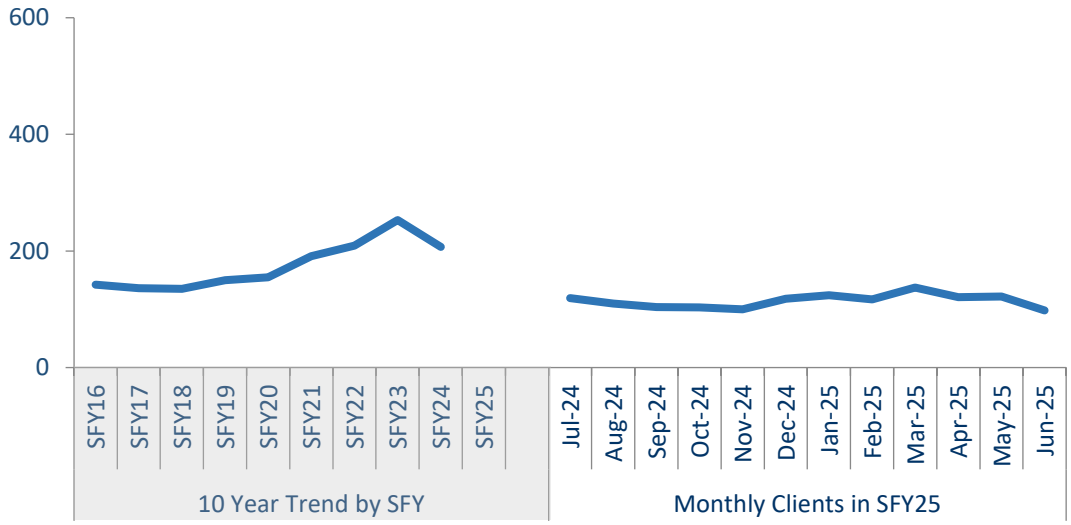


SFY	Mo. Avg. Caseload	SFY	Mo. Avg. Caseload
SFY16	399,159	**SFY21**	432,653
SFY17	406,260	**SFY22**	447,487
SFY18	412,042	**SFY23**	463,873
SFY19	414,320	**SFY24**	455,623
SFY20	416,950	**SFY25**	461,949

SFY 2025	# of Cases[6]	# of Clients
July	452,560	318,972
August	453,282	319,794
September	454,035	320,436
October	456,371	322,138
November	457,641	323,158
December	458,355	323,783
January	458,854	324,160
February	462,436	325,292
March	466,719	326,812
April	470,701	328,176
May	474,515	329,324
June	477,921	330,154
Monthly Average	**461,949**	**324,350**
Annual Unduplicated	**564,638**	**368,729**

[6] These counts are of unique case numbers. Each client is assigned a case number for each medical program enrolled. A client may be enrolled in more than one medical program during the month (for example, both the Long-Term Care program and the Medicare Savings Program). When this happens, multiple case numbers are assigned—one for each medical program. As a result, the monthly number of medical assistance cases is greater than the number of medical clients.

Alien Emergency Medical Clients[7], SFY 2016 – 2025

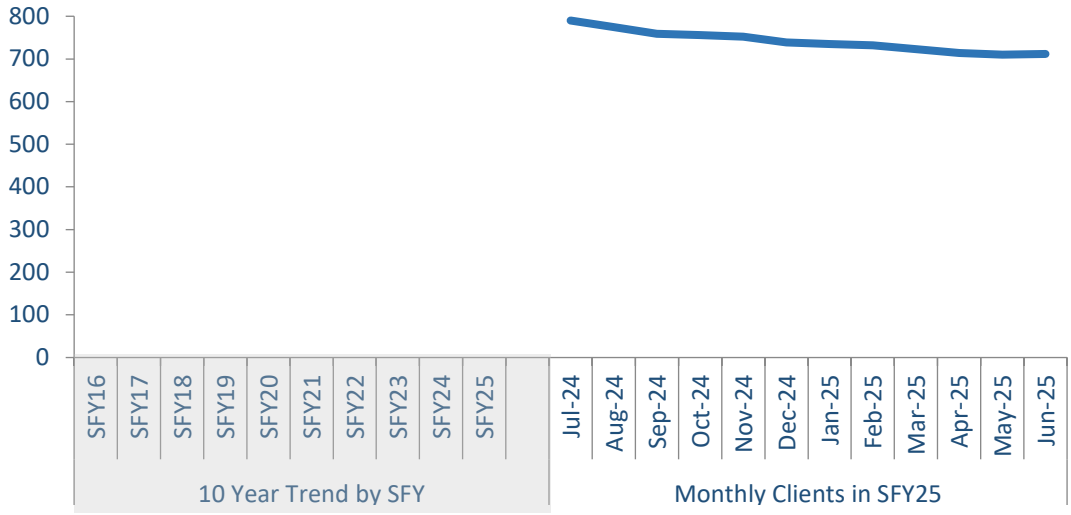


SFY	Mo. Avg. Clients	SFY	Mo. Avg. Clients
SFY16	142	**SFY21**	191
SFY17	136	**SFY22**	209
SFY18	135	**SFY23**	253
SFY19	150	**SFY24**	207
SFY20	155	**SFY25**	114

SFY 2025	# of Clients
July	119
August	110
September	104
October	103
November	100
December	118
January	124
February	117
March	137
April	121
May	122
June	98
Monthly Average	**114**
Annual Unduplicated	**473**

[7] Counts are restricted to clients 65 and older who are served by DSHS (ESA and HCLA only).

Apple Health Expansion[8], SFY 2016 – 2025

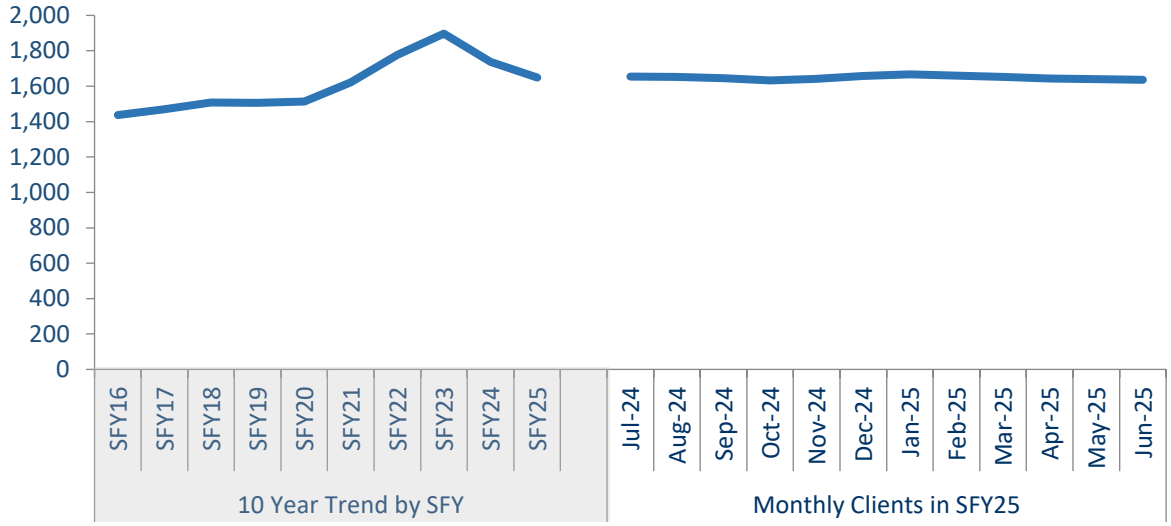


SFY	Mo. Avg. Clients	SFY	Mo. Avg. Clients
SFY16	N/A	**SFY21**	N/A
SFY17	N/A	**SFY22**	N/A
SFY18	N/A	**SFY23**	N/A
SFY19	N/A	**SFY24**	N/A
SFY20	N/A	**SFY25**	741

SFY 2025	# of Clients
July	790
August	775
September	759
October	756
November	752
December	739
January	735
February	732
March	723
April	714
May	710
June	712
Monthly Average	**741**
Annual Unduplicated	**826**

[8] The Apple Health Expansion program (AHE) serves individuals ages 19 or older who do not meet the citizenship or immigration status requirements for Apple Health programs. Counts are restricted to clients 65 and older who are served by DSHS/ESA. Individuals age 19-64 are served by the Health Benefit Exchange.

Healthcare for Workers with Disabilities Clients[9], SFY 2016 – 2025

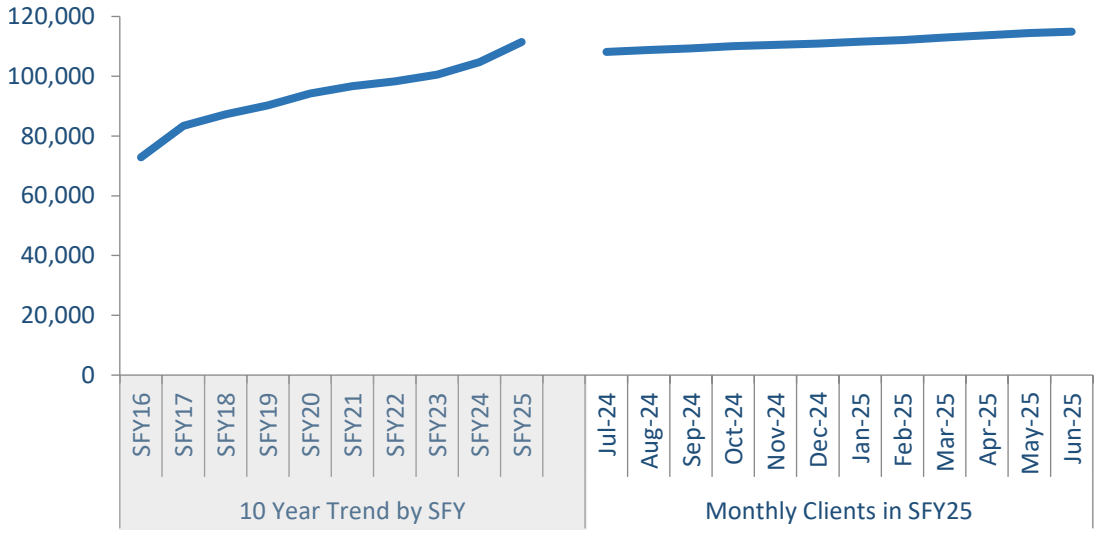


SFY	Mo. Avg. Clients	SFY	Mo. Avg. Clients
SFY16	1,437	**SFY21**	1,621
SFY17	1,470	**SFY22**	1,777
SFY18	1,508	**SFY23**	1,897
SFY19	1,506	**SFY24**	1,737
SFY20	1,513	**SFY25**	1,648

SFY 2025	# of Clients
July	1,654
August	1,652
September	1,645
October	1,633
November	1,641
December	1,657
January	1,667
February	1,660
March	1,652
April	1,643
May	1,640
June	1,636
Monthly Average	**1,648**
Annual Unduplicated	**1,858**

[9] Healthcare for Workers with Disabilities is administered by HCLA only.

Long-Term Care Medical Clients[10], SFY 2016 – 2025

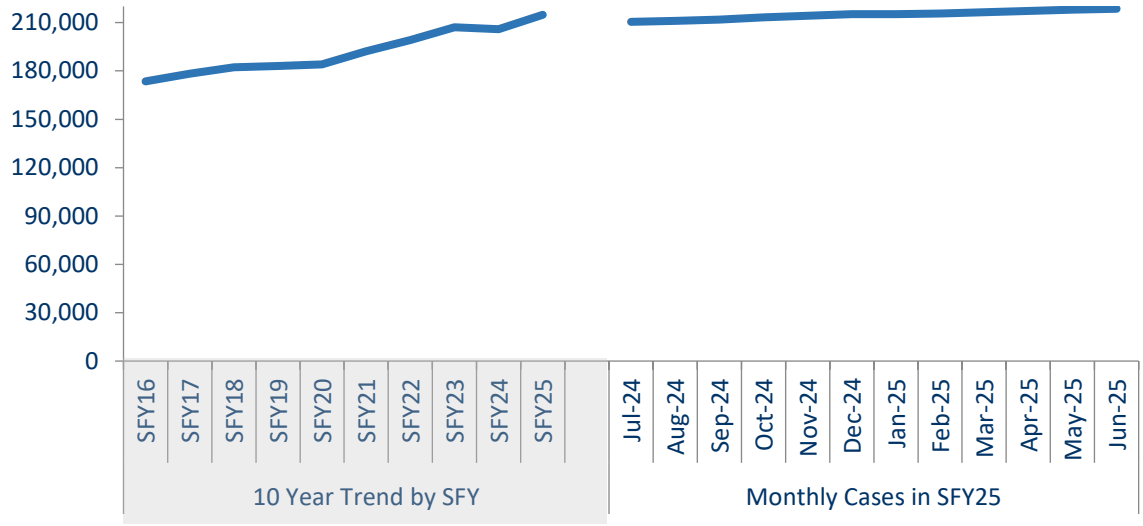


SFY	Mo. Avg. Clients	SFY	Mo. Avg. Clients
SFY16	72,875	**SFY21**	96,734
SFY17	83,409	**SFY22**	98,296
SFY18	87,219	**SFY23**	100,583
SFY19	90,257	**SFY24**	104,689
SFY20	94,185	**SFY25**	111,434

SFY 2025	# of Clients
July	108,127
August	108,802
September	109,280
October	110,037
November	110,480
December	110,887
January	111,520
February	112,129
March	112,925
April	113,691
May	114,418
June	114,913
Monthly Average	**111,434**
Annual Unduplicated	**129,912**

[10] Long-Term Care is administered by HCLA only.

Medicare Savings Program Caseload, SFY 2016 – 2025



SFY	Mo. Avg. Cases	SFY	Mo. Avg. Cases
SFY16	173,520	**SFY21**	192,165
SFY17	178,338	**SFY22**	199,133
SFY18	182,238	**SFY23**	206,988
SFY19	182,956	**SFY24**	205,950
SFY20	183,978	**SFY25**	214,729

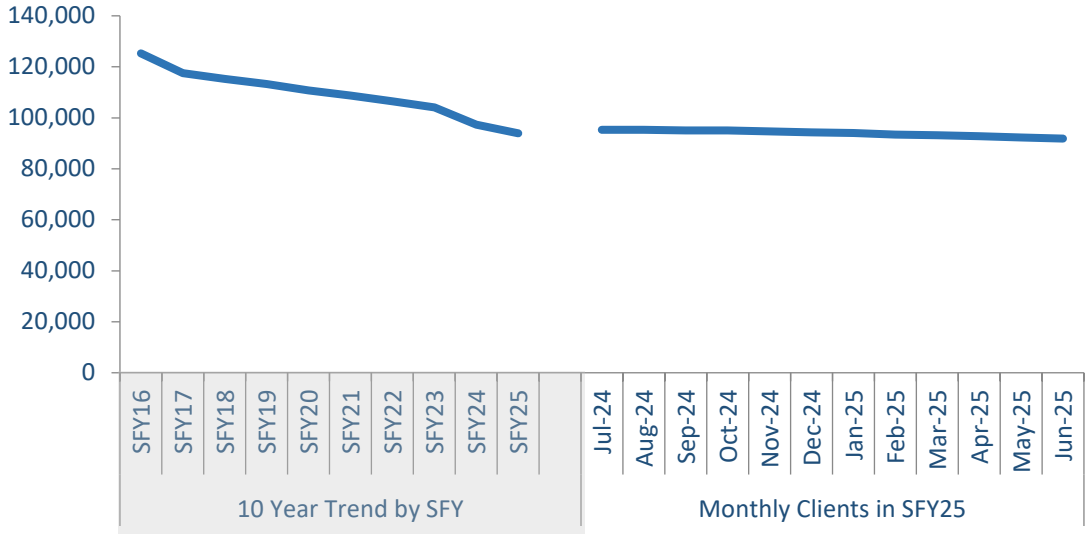
SFY 2025	# of Cases	# of Clients
July	210,394	216,474
August	211,114	217,196
September	211,918	218,060
October	213,140	219,318
November	214,201	220,415
December	215,122	221,404
January	215,157	221,461
February	215,557	221,909
March	216,355	222,762
April	217,276	223,728
May	217,962	224,450
June	218,551	225,088
Monthly Average	**214,729**	**221,022**
Annual Unduplicated	**247,184**	**250,939**

Refugee Medical Assistance Caseload, SFY 2016 – 2025

SFY	Mo. Avg. Cases	SFY	Mo. Avg. Cases
SFY16	<50	**SFY21**	<50
SFY17	<50	**SFY22**	<50
SFY18	<50	**SFY23**	<50
SFY19	<50	**SFY24**	<50
SFY20	<50	**SFY25**	<50

SFY 2025	# of Cases	# of Clients
July	<50	<50
August	<50	<50
September	<50	<50
October	<50	<50
November	<50	<50
December	<50	<50
January	<50	<50
February	<50	<50
March	<50	<50
April	<50	<50
May	<50	<50
June	<50	<50
Monthly Average	**<50**	**<50**
Annual Unduplicated	**<50**	**50**

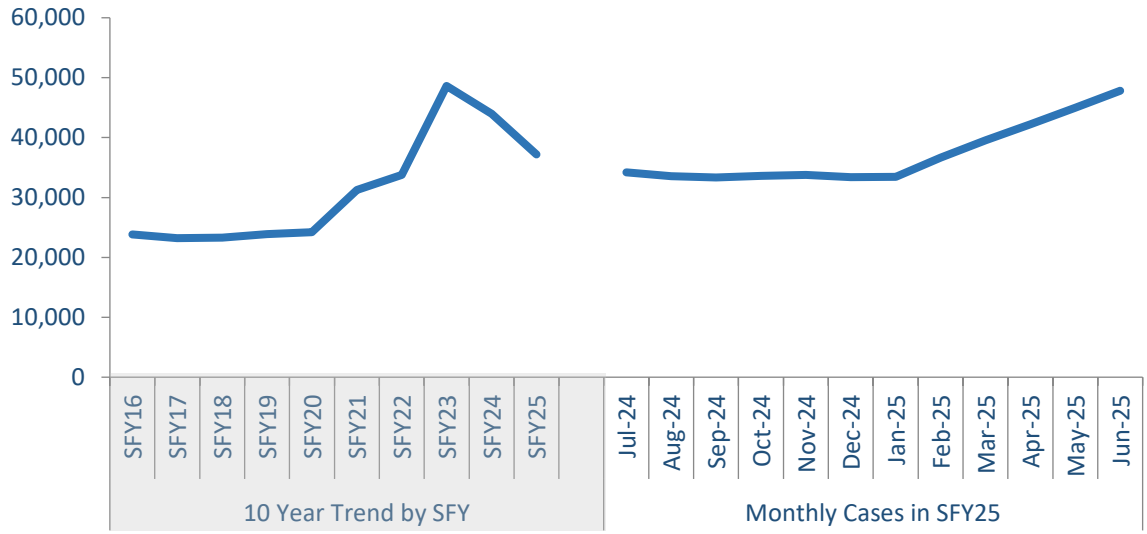
SSI Medicaid Clients, SFY 2016 – 2025



SFY	Mo. Avg. Clients	SFY	Mo. Avg. Clients
SFY16	125,278	**SFY21**	108,752
SFY17	117,461	**SFY22**	106,512
SFY18	115,279	**SFY23**	104,105
SFY19	113,251	**SFY24**	97,357
SFY20	110,739	**SFY25**	93,935

SFY 2025	# of Clients
July	95,343
August	95,317
September	94,995
October	95,048
November	94,642
December	94,292
January	94,057
February	93,439
March	93,150
April	92,756
May	92,329
June	91,852
Monthly Average	**93,935**
Annual Unduplicated	**107,584**

SSI Related Medicaid Caseload, SFY 2016 – 2025

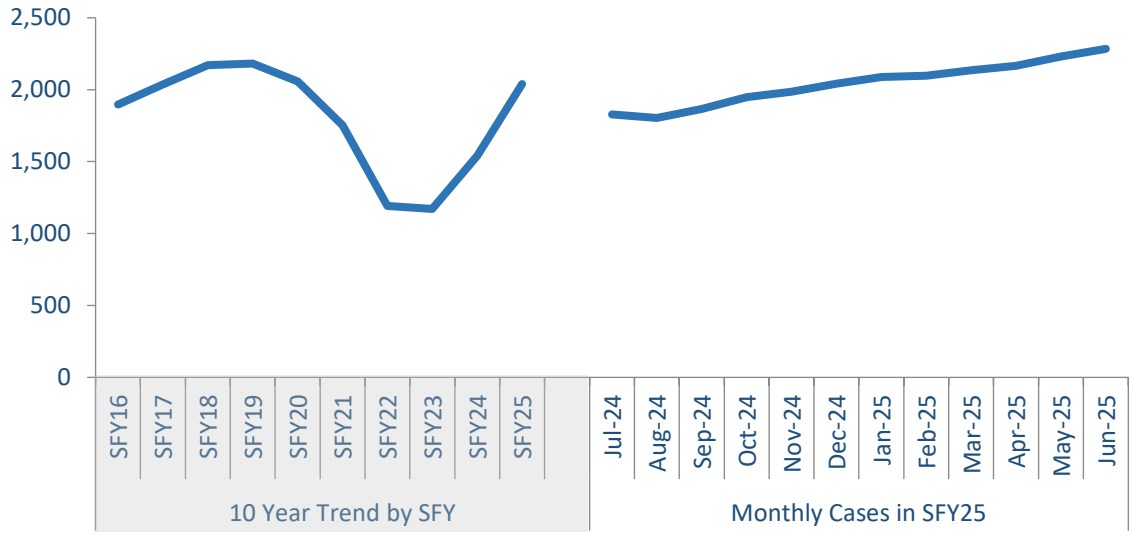


SFY	Mo. Avg. Cases	SFY	Mo. Avg. Cases
SFY16	23,832	**SFY21**	31,274
SFY17	23,211	**SFY22**	33,759
SFY18	23,319	**SFY23**[11]	48,618
SFY19	23,859	**SFY24**	43,957
SFY20	24,184	**SFY25**	37,204

SFY 2025	# of Cases	# of Clients
July	34,179	36,711
August	33,579	36,146
September	33,355	35,944
October	33,608	36,218
November	33,741	36,378
December	33,416	36,008
January	33,421	36,007
February	36,642	39,658
March	39,526	42,936
April	42,200	46,032
May	44,989	49,196
June	47,794	52,415
Monthly Average	**37,204**	**40,304**
Annual Unduplicated	**72,781**	**76,189**

[11] HCA and its partners (including DSHS) suspended all medical terminations as part of the continuous Medicaid enrollment during the COVID pandemic between March 2020 and March 2023. As a result, there was an increase in medical caseload during this time. Beginning April 1, 2023, HCA and DSHS began the medical eligibility redetermination, a requirement of all states by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 passed by the U.S. Congress on December 29, 2023.

Medical Care Services Caseload, SFY 2016 – 2025

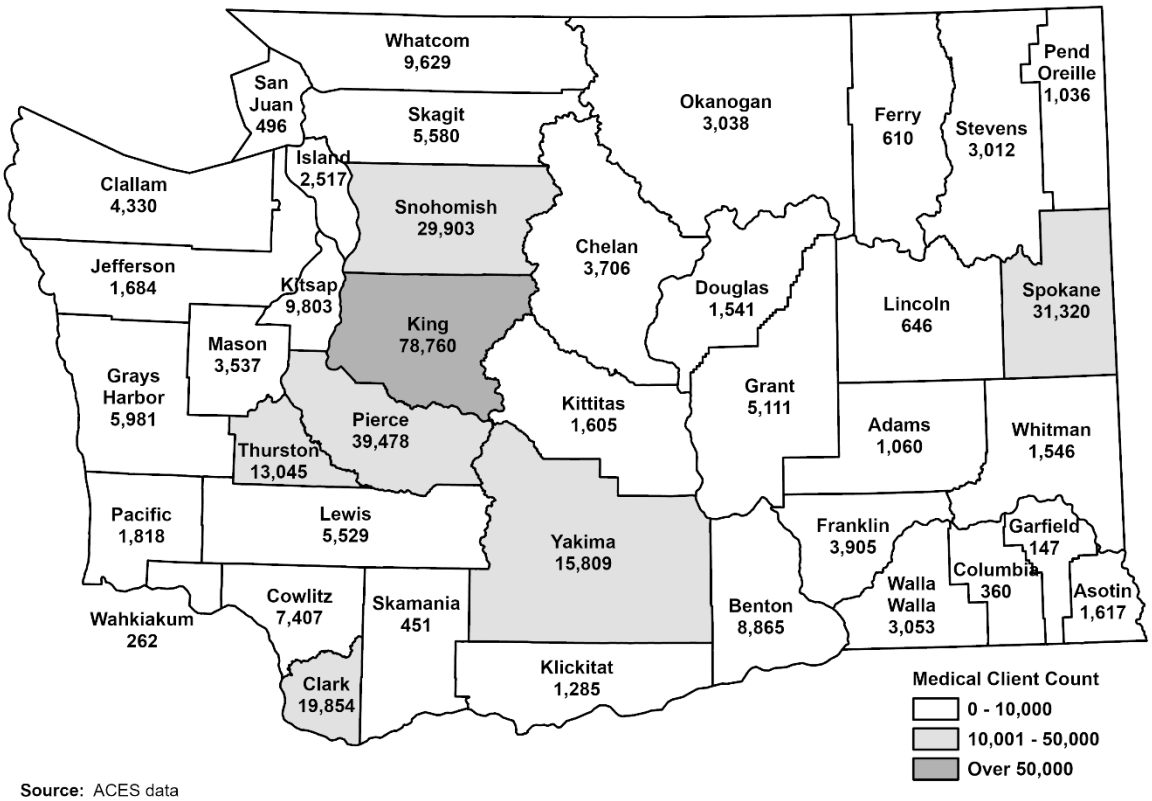


SFY	Mo. Avg. Cases	SFY	Mo. Avg. Cases
SFY16	1,897	**SFY21**	1,752
SFY17	2,038	**SFY22**	1,192
SFY18	2,171	**SFY23**	1,171
SFY19	2,182	**SFY24**	1,540
SFY20	2,058	**SFY25**	2,039

SFY 2025	# of Cases	# of Clients
July	1,828	1,827
August	1,803	1,802
September	1,866	1,865
October	1,948	1,947
November	1,985	1,983
December	2,041	2,038
January	2,089	2,087
February	2,097	2,097
March	2,135	2,135
April	2,166	2,165
May	2,230	2,229
June	2,284	2,283
Monthly Average	**2,039**	**2,038**
Annual Unduplicated	**3,070**	**2,999**

Medical Assistance Clients by County, June 2025 Snapshot

Number of Medical Clients by Residential County in Washington State: June 2025

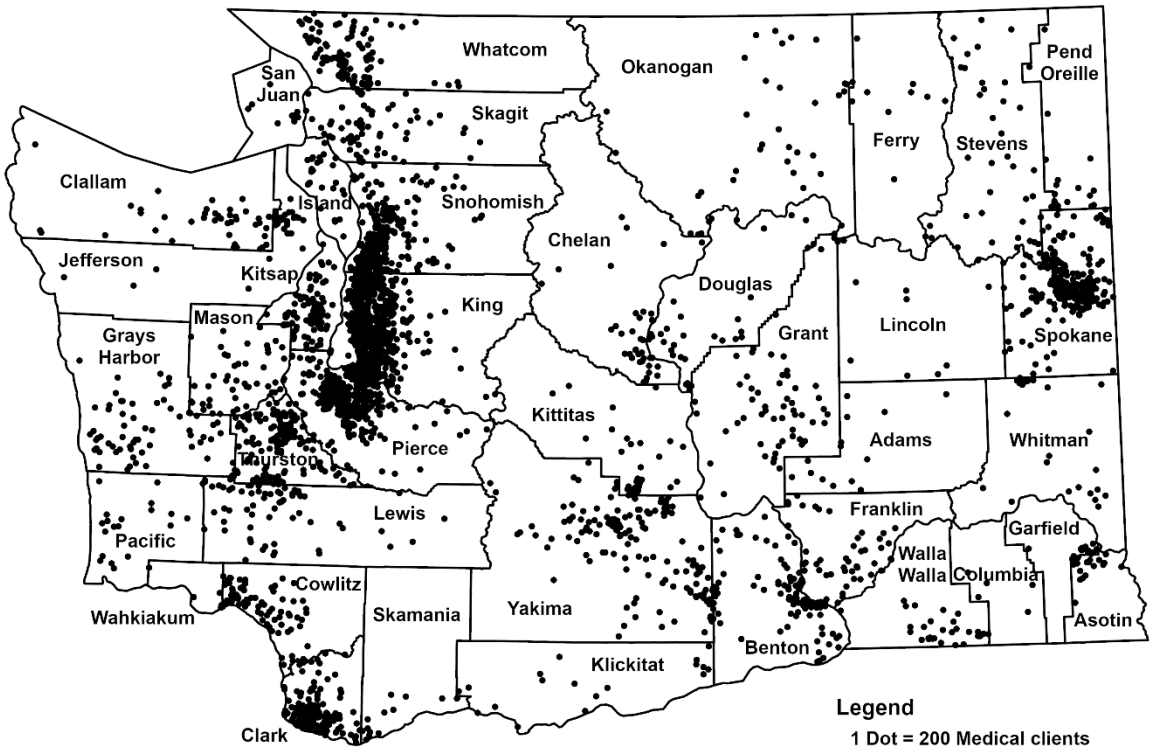


Source: ACES data

Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS/EMAPS - Aug. 2025

Medical Assistance Clients by Density of Residential Zip Code, June 2025 Snapshot

Number of Medical Clients by Density of Residential Zip Code in Washington State: June 2025



Source: ACES data

Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS/EMAPS - Aug. 2025