# Examining Medicaid Expansion through a **Race Equity Lens** in North Carolina

CLOSE
*the* GAP NC

*"Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane."*

- Martin Luther King Jr.

## Over **HALF** of all people who are *uninsured*
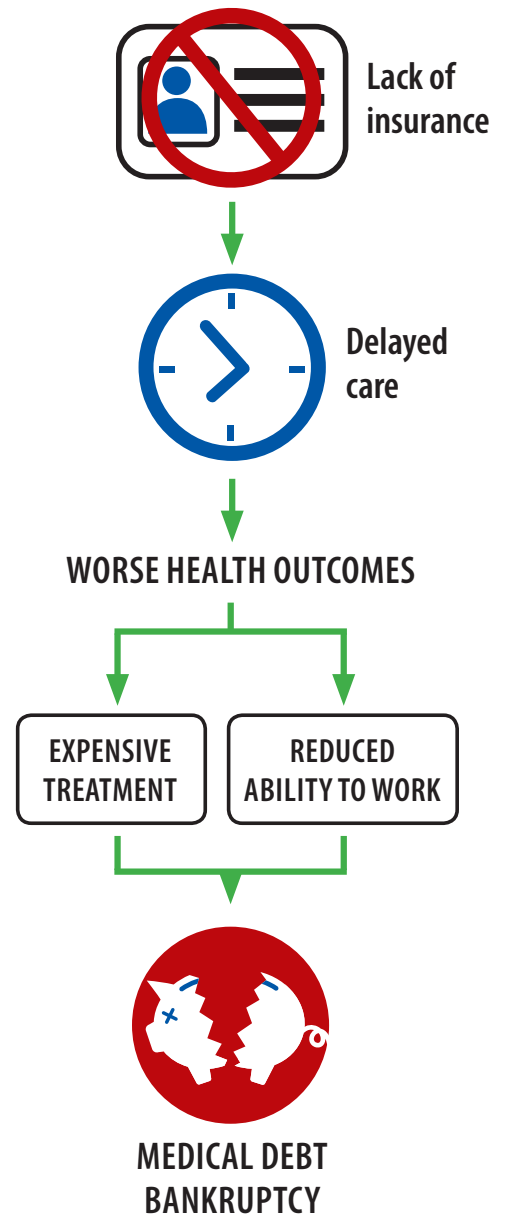
are people of color[1]

**COMMUNITIES OF COLOR EXPERIENCE:**

- Higher infant mortality rates
- Lower life expectancy
- Greater rates of substance use disorder
- Higher rates of preventable and chronic conditions like diabetes[2]

## BENEFITS OF MEDICAID EXPANSION TO COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

- Reduce health disparities and work towards race equity in health outcomes for all people[3]

- Minimize risks for personal bankruptcy and medical debt[4]

- Pave a path for people to access medications, screenings, and treatments rather than rely on the ER[3]

- Reduce interactions with the criminal justice system through increased access to treatment for SUD and behavioral health[5]

- Help lift people of color out of poverty by ensuring they can have health, then wealth

**Lack of insurance**

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**Delayed care**

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**WORSE HEALTH OUTCOMES**

**EXPENSIVE TREATMENT**  |  **REDUCED ABILITY TO WORK**

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**MEDICAL DEBT BANKRUPTCY**

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*To get involved in the advocacy efforts for Medicaid Expansion, contact:*

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1. Henry J Kaiser Family Foundation. (2013). Health Coverage by Race and Ethnicity: *The Potential Impact of the Affordable Care Act.*

2. Orgera, K., Artiga, S. (2018) *Disparities in Health and Health Care: Five Key Questions and Answers.* Henry J Kaiser Family Foundation

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4. McKernan S.M., Brown, S., Kenney, G. (2017) *Past-Due Medical debt a problem, especially for Black Americans.* Urban Institute, Urban Wire: Health and Health Policy.

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