

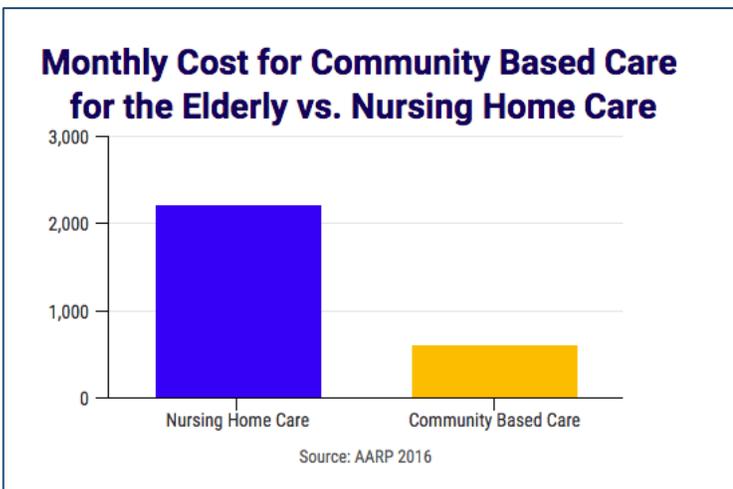
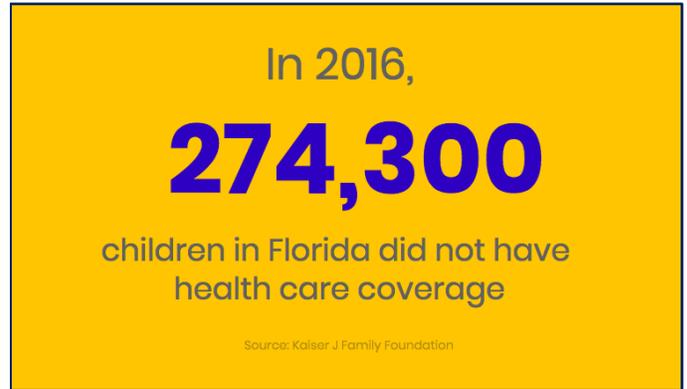
Ensuring Access to Healthcare



KidCare Eligibility:

Access to healthcare is a critical need for working families and fundamental for children’s academic success. Yet, Florida continues to have one of the highest uninsured rates in the nation.

Based on U.S. Census Bureau data, an estimated 6% of Florida’s children are also uninsured—a significant drop from the 13% rate in 2010, however still too high. Children without health insurance are less likely to have routine medical checkups, leading to more severe health problems. By increasing the KidCare eligibility criteria to include 300% of the Federal Poverty Level, Florida would be able to close the coverage gap for our children.

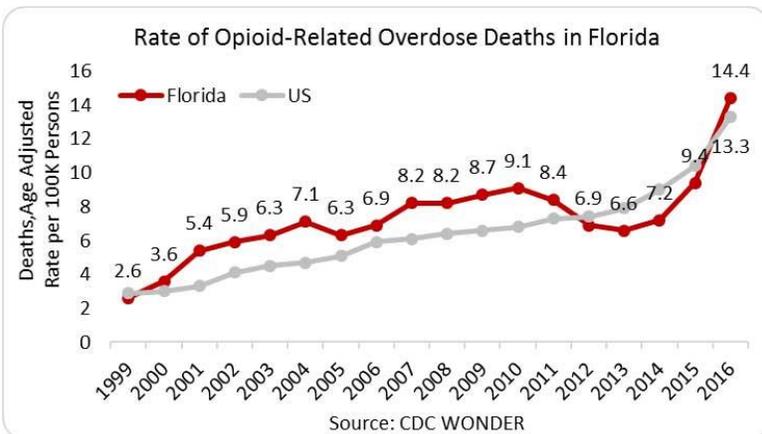


The Silver Tsunami:

Florida’s fastest growing demographic group is seniors over 65. Among those seniors, 32% live above the poverty line, but cannot afford even a very modest living. As our population ages, Florida must maximize funding for home and community-based services, such as ‘Community Care for the Elderly’, to provide support for older adults and reduce the cost burden for Florida families and taxpayers. The average monthly cost to care for a senior in the CCE Program is \$605 compared to \$2,277 for nursing home care. Currently **over 59,000 seniors statewide are on waitlists** for home care support services. Home-based programs have proven to maintain the dignity of the elderly while saving money for families and taxpayers.

Behavioral Health:

According to SAMHSA, approximately 8% of Americans suffer from substance use disorders and 18% from mental illness. This trend has contributed to the opiate epidemic, in which 5,617 Floridians overdosed in 2016. In the midst of this epidemic, another trend began to emerge: the rise of polysubstance use and cocaine. Comprehensive prevention and treatment services are more important now than ever before. It is important the Florida legislature continue to increase funding to expand prevention services that allow access to early intervention for youth to better prevent substance use and address warning signs of mental illness through targeted care, interventions and treatment.



Proposed Changes:

- **SUPPORT** legislation ensuring that KidCare eligibility is increased to 300% FPL .
- **MAXIMIZE** home and community-based services for older adults to reduce nursing home costs and waitlists.
- **INCREASE** funding to prevention and treatment services for substance use disorders and mental health.