



# Annual Report

## All In



## All Insured

*Fiscal Year 2025*

## Our Mission

Improve the health and economic stability of Kentuckians through educating, inspiring, and mobilizing people to advocate for a universally accessible, affordable, equitable, and high-quality health care delivery system.

## From the Founder



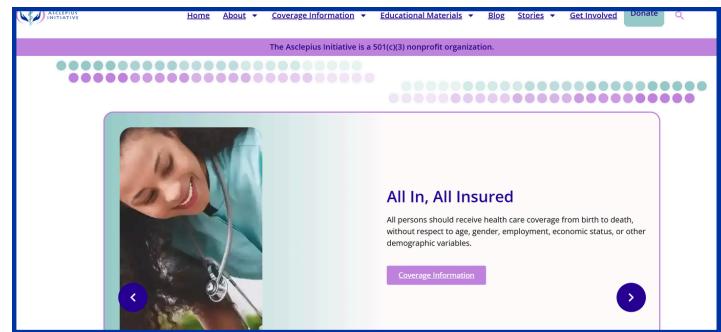
**Susan Bornstein, MD, MPH**  
*Founder and CEO*

The Asclepius Initiative has had an incredibly full year. We were honored to receive funding from the Kentucky Department for Public Health to continue our health care coverage education program through May 2026. This project is designed to improve health care coverage literacy among Black, Spanish-speaking, and rural populations in Kentucky, groups that are more likely to be marginalized and less likely to be insured, have worse health outcomes, and have lower health care coverage literacy rates. Funding for this project has allowed us to grow TAI's staff, adding a Director of Community Outreach to provide project management and education to community partners and organizations.

Under a grant from The Commonwealth Fund, we conducted an interview-based study on cost and non-cost barriers to care in Kentucky. The findings substantiate the critical nature of TAI's mission. Participant after participant outlined struggles with affording care, accessing care, finding specialty providers (especially in rural areas), and traveling for care. We heard widespread dissatisfaction with the way the system operates. A coverage model that provides continuous coverage, ensures adequate provider compensation, removes the hurdles imposed by restricted networks and pre-authorizations, and addresses social determinants of health could markedly improve outcomes while lowering overall costs, as demonstrated by comparative data from our peer high-income countries and evidence-based literature.

We also released the results of our second biannual survey designed to understand Kentuckians' experiences and opinions about the U.S. health care system. While 87% of uninsured individuals had to forgo medical care or medications due to cost, this finding was also true of over half of **INSURED** adult Kentuckians surveyed. Support for universal coverage is high, with nearly 80% of respondents affirming that health care is a basic human right.

A useful and practical accomplishment was the redesign of our website, making it easier to use and more visually appealing. The site can also be translated into even more languages than before for greater accessibility. Almost everyone can benefit from our health care coverage information, whether it's comparing plans, deciding between Medicare and Medicare Advantage, or decoding medical bills and insurance documents. Check out our resources at [AsclepiusInitiative.org](http://AsclepiusInitiative.org).



As we head into 2026, and a landscape where tens of millions of Americans are newly at risk of losing their health care coverage, I am incredibly grateful to have the opportunity to work with an amazing team and committed partners, all of whom are dedicated to improving the health and well-being of our communities.

Visit [AsclepiusInitiative.org](http://AsclepiusInitiative.org)



Plain Language Resources



Video Library



Data and Research



Health Policy Updates



And More!

# 2024 Survey of Kentuckians

Every two years, TAI surveys Kentuckians to learn about their attitudes, beliefs, and experiences with our health care system.

The 2024 survey of 1,001 adults in Kentucky found that too many are struggling to afford the care they need, even when they have health coverage.

Our survey shows that our current health care system is problematic, unaffordable, and confusing. TAI continues to educate and empower Kentuckians to better understand, obtain, and use their coverage – and to envision a future where everyone has affordable, continuous care from birth until death.

**55%**

Who Have Health Insurance Avoided, Skipped, or Stopped Medical Care or Medication Due to Cost

**69%**

Reported At Least One Challenge in Obtaining Health Care Coverage

**63%**

Reported At Least One Challenge in Using Their Health Care Coverage

**47%**

Would Change Jobs, Go Back to School, or Retire if They Didn't Have to Worry about Health Insurance

**73%**

Somewhat or Strongly Favor a National Health Care Program

[View Full Survey Results at AsclepiusInitiative.org/survey](https://AsclepiusInitiative.org/survey)

## The Critical Impact of the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act”



- Cuts to Medicaid and CHIP, along with new regulations such as work requirements and increased frequency of eligibility determinations, resulting in more than 11 million people losing coverage
- Another 5 million people are at risk of losing coverage due to Marketplace changes
- The Sheps Center estimates that more than 300 rural hospitals are at risk of closure due to the loss of Medicaid funding, including 35 in Kentucky (the most of any state)

## Kentucky’s Coverage Gap

TAI’s grant from The Commonwealth Fund provided insights into why Kentucky continues to struggle with disproportionately poor health outcomes, despite most residents having health care coverage. During this, TAI researchers spoke directly with 73 insured Kentuckians from rural, urban, and Appalachian communities who had coverage through an employer, the Marketplace, Medicaid, or Medicare/Medicare Advantage. What we heard was clear: having coverage doesn’t mean that Kentuckians are able to get the care they need, nor allow them to be as healthy as they’d like to be.

### Notable Themes

Cost

Finding Providers

Wait Times

Transportation

Administrative Hurdles

[Read the Full Report at AsclepiusInitiative.org/coverage-gap/](https://AsclepiusInitiative.org/coverage-gap/)

## Our Goals for FY26

- Continue to build capacity to carry out our mission
- Continue outreach into communities across Kentucky
- Work to make our health care coverage educational materials available to a broader audience



**Kevin Pearce, MD, MPH**  
**Board Chair**

This year has been especially challenging for people who need health care coverage. Soon after his inauguration in January 2025, President Trump followed through on his promises to curtail federal spending in several areas. The president's executive orders and the creation and empowerment of the Department of Government Efficiency dramatically decreased federal funding and the workforce responsible for many health-related services.

These cuts were followed by the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act." Signed into law in July 2025, the bill demands deep cuts to federal support of health care coverage for individuals and their families, along with significant new bureaucratic hurdles. As a result of this new law, more than 11 million people whose incomes already make coverage unaffordable are expected to lose their Medicaid coverage starting in 2027.

Many of these severe problems with health care access in America could be mitigated by universal health care coverage, which has been shown to be associated with the better outcomes and lower costs in our peer high-income countries. In addition to reducing widespread cost and access barriers, including pre-authorization requirements and restricted networks, that prevent people from getting care, universal health care coverage reduces administrative hassles and overhead for healthcare providers, resulting in an effectively larger health care workforce that is more focused on providing patient care than on battling with payers.

The Asclepius Initiative works to educate, inspire, and mobilize the public to advocate for a universally accessible, affordable, and equitable health care system. I joined TAI after its founding in 2021 and served as Board Chair since 2023. I am proud of what TAI has been able to accomplish in its first four years and grateful to be part of an organization that is making a real difference for Kentucky individuals, families, and communities.

## Board of Directors

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Tina Bojanowski, PhD · Lee Gill, JD · Joni Jenkins · Bill Londigan

*We also wish to acknowledge those who serve on our Research Advisory Council and on our Education and Messaging, Development, Finance, Strategic Planning and Metrics, and Bylaws and Governance Committees.*

**AsclepiusInitiative.org**



The Asclepius Initiative



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