



# AZ Rural Health Needs & Services

Arizona Telemedicine Council Meeting

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for Health Sciences

Area Health Education Center Program

Arizona Center for Rural Health

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# Arizona Demographics

Urban: Phoenix Fastest Growing Major U.S. City

Rural: AZ Fast Growing > age 65 pop, 50% increase in 10 yrs

Arizona: Top 10 Fastest Growing State Pop

1.5 Million age > 60 Arizonans (9% <FPL of \$14,580)

#24 Rank of States: Serving the Elderly Population

1. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/12/us/phoenix-census-fastest-growing-city.html>
2. <https://www.azeconomy.org/2020/07/economy/arizona-is-getting-older-and-so-is-the-u-s/>
3. <https://www.azeconomy.org/2021/04/demographics-census/census-2020-arizona-among-top-growing-states-but-does-not-match-growth-of-previous-decades/>
4. [https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/Aging%20and%20Disability%20in%20America/2020ProfileOlderAmericans.Final\\_.pdf](https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/Aging%20and%20Disability%20in%20America/2020ProfileOlderAmericans.Final_.pdf)
5. <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/rankings/aging>



# *U.S. Plans to End Public Health Emergency for Covid in May*

The end of the emergency, planned for May 11, will bring about a complex set of policy changes and signals a new chapter in the government's pandemic response.

Give this article



NYT 1/30/2023



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## Arizona Medicaid – AHCCCS

2.5M of Arizona's 7.4M pop.

Est. 500,000 could lose coverage

“Unwinding PHE”, “Redetermination”

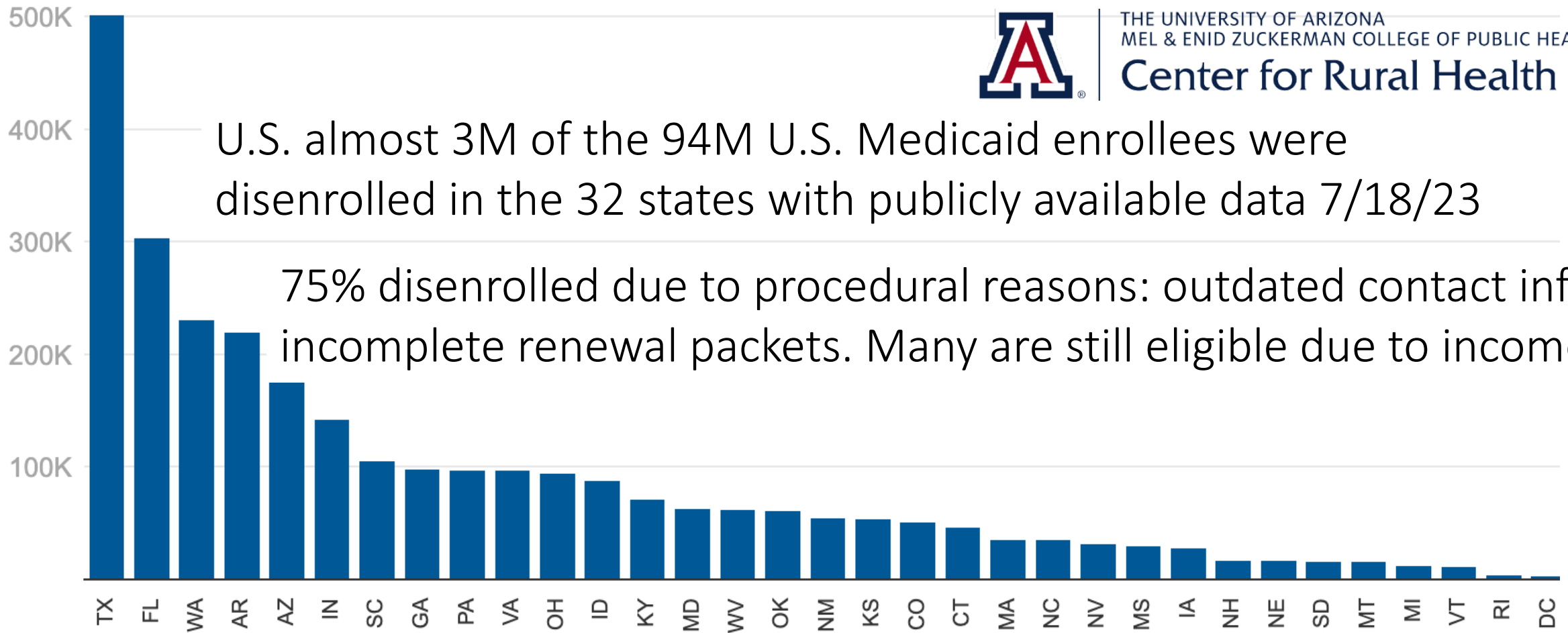


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U.S. almost 3M of the 94M U.S. Medicaid enrollees were disenrolled in the 32 states with publicly available data 7/18/23

75% disenrolled due to procedural reasons: outdated contact info, incomplete renewal packets. Many are still eligible due to income.



Source: <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/medicaid-enrollment-and-unwinding-tracker/#:~:text=Procedural%20disenrollments%20are%20cases%20where,packets%20within%20a%20specific%20timeframe>

# AHCCCS Total Enrollment by Month



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Month	3/1/23*	4/1/23**	5/1/23***	6/1/23	7/1/23
Total enrollment	2,527,141	2,492,034	2,472,270	2,357,454	2,306,212
Decrease from prior mo.		-35,107	-19,764	-114,816	-51,242
% Decrease prior mo.		-1.39%	-0.79%	-4.64%	-2.17%
% Decrease from 3/1		-1.39%	-2.17%	-6.71%	-8.74%

Since 3/1/23 the total AHCCCS enrollment decreased

**-220,929 (8.74%)**

\*3/23 was month prior to redetermination; \*\*4/1/23 AZ begins redetermination; \*\*\*5/1/23 National COVID PHE ends

Source: [https://www.azahcccs.gov/Resources/Downloads/PopulationStatistics/2023/Highlights\\_07012023.pdf](https://www.azahcccs.gov/Resources/Downloads/PopulationStatistics/2023/Highlights_07012023.pdf)

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Arizona lags other states in active, licensed health providers largely due to its rapid population growth.

State Rank	Provider Type with Active Licenses	# AZ per 100,000	# US per 100,000
42	Primary Care Physicians (PCP)	80	94
31	Total Physicians (MD/DO)	252	287
46	Physical Therapy (PT)	59	67
42	Registered Nurses (RN)	1,400	1,550

# Arizona's Rural Health Needs

Meets just 39% of its Primary Care Physician (PCP) Need

Ranks 42<sup>nd</sup> of 50 states in PCP/100,000 pop at 80 (US 94)

Ranks 31<sup>st</sup> in Total Physicians/100k at 252 (US 287)

Policy Brief: [https://crh.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/2023-05/230531\\_PCHPSA\\_Brief.pdf](https://crh.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/2023-05/230531_PCHPSA_Brief.pdf)



## Rate Limiting Factor for the MD/DO Workforce:

### Too few Graduate Medical Education (GME) Residency Slots

AZ #14 in pop., yet #37 in GME FTEs at 28.5 (US 43.8) per 100,000 pop.

AZ should add 1,100 GME FTEs based on pop (2000 FTEs by 2030)

### Barriers:

Medicare cap on GME subsidies

CMS “sponsoring institution” interpretation – hospital (not CHC)

While no cap on AZ Medicaid GME a non-federal match is required





Gov. Hobbs signed SB1727 May 11, 2023:

\$5M AzAHEC system to establish primary care residency programs for community health centers, rural health clinics, tribal health facilities

Support, expand primary care GME in rural areas and health professional shortage areas (HPSAs).



**Governor Hobbs signs budget into law**

# Health Workforce Enhancement



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Public Health Workforce

Physician Workforce

Behavioral Health Workforce, Psychiatry, Psychology

Physician Assistant

RN, NP, APRN, Maternal Health, Midwife, Genetics Counseling

Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy

Direct Care Workers (DCW), CHWs, CHRs

<https://crh.arizona.edu/crhworks-workforce-data-analysis>

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It always seems impossible  
until it's done

Nelson Mandela





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