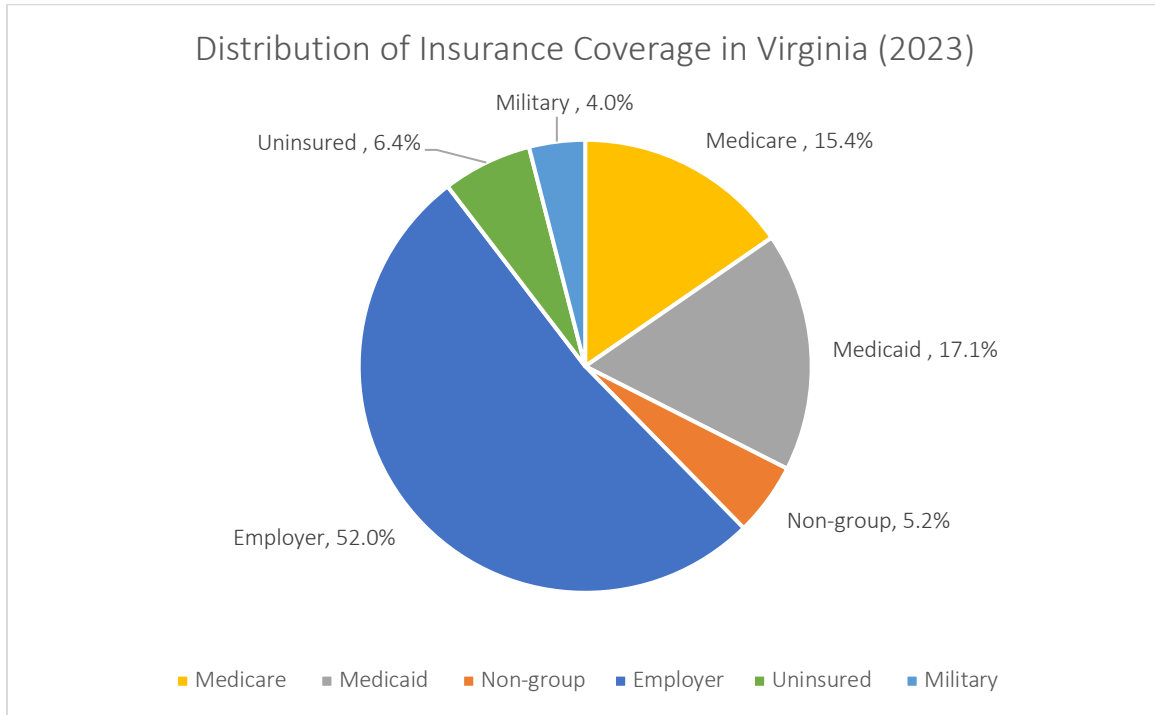


# Virginia

## Sources of Insurance Coverage



*\*Source: KFF, Health Insurance Coverage of the Total Population, 2023*

### Medicare

In Virginia, [1.29 million](#) residents are enrolled in Medicare, 15.4% of the Commonwealth's population (2023 data). Of those, [41%](#) are enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan (2024 data). For Virginians in the traditional Medicare program, Virginia's Bureau of Insurance within the [State Corporation Commission](#) regulates Medicare supplemental plans. The Bureau of Insurance provides a tool to search and compare Medicare supplemental plans and their premiums [here](#).

### Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

In Virginia, [1.42 million](#) people are enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP, 17.1% of the population (2023 data). Virginia adopted Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act, which currently covers [758,000](#) eligible adults.

In Virginia, the Medicaid program is known as [Cardinal Care](#). The CHIP program is separate from Medicaid. Via Medicaid, Virginia covers children up to [148% FPL](#). The CHIP program, known as FAMIS, covers children in households with income up to 205% FPL. Approximately [34%](#) of all births in Virginia are covered by Medicaid. Virginia's [Department of Medical Assistance Services](#) (DMAS) manages the Medicaid and CHIP programs.

In Virginia, Medicaid benefits are delivered via both traditional fee-for-service and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs).

### Employer-sponsored Insurance

In Virginia, [4.35 million](#) people are covered by employer-sponsored insurance (ESI), or 52% of the total Commonwealth population (2023 data). Approximately [53.8%](#) of Virginia employers offer ESI. However, offer rates vary significantly by size of firm. In Virginia, 97.9% of large firms (50 or more employees) offer ESI, while 35.9% of small employers offer ESI.

In Virginia, approximately [37.6%](#) of private sector businesses that offer coverage self-fund at least one health plan. For large firms (50 or more employees) that offer coverage, 64.1% self-fund at least one health plan.

### Individual Market Insurance

Approximately [5.2%](#) of Virginians are enrolled in the individual market (2023 data). In 2024, [400,058](#) Virginia residents selected a plan through the Affordable Care Act Marketplace. It is more challenging to ascertain enrollment numbers for off-Marketplace individual market enrollment. Virginia operates its own health insurance Marketplace, referred to as [Virginia's Insurance Marketplace](#).

Individual market health insurance (both on- and off-Marketplace) is regulated in Virginia by the [State Corporation Commission's Bureau of Insurance](#).

### Other Coverage

Some Virginians are enrolled in other forms of insurance coverage, such as coverage for the military (TRICARE or U.S. Veterans Administration), which covers [4%](#) of the population, or 333,000 residents.

### The Uninsured

Approximately [6.4%](#) or 536,900 residents are uninsured (2023 data). This is better than the national average of 8.5%. Among the non-elderly, people of color are significantly more likely to be uninsured in Virginia than White people. Hispanic residents have the highest [uninsured rate](#) (21.2%), followed by American Indian/Alaska Native residents (13.4%) and Black residents (7.3%). Approximately 5.1% of White residents are uninsured. Lack of insurance is also highly correlated with income. Approximately [12.9%](#) of people under 100% FPL are the uninsured in Virginia, while 3.3% of people over 400% FPL are uninsured.

## State Regulators: Virginia

CMS is responsible for the oversight of Medicare Advantage plans. The CMS Regional Office for Virginia is based in Philadelphia. Contact information is available [here](#).

### Virginia Bureau of Insurance (BOI)

The Virginia BOI is an agency within the State Corporation Commission. The BOI regulates the business of insurance in the Commonwealth. For health insurance companies, BOI is responsible for:

- **Licensure:** All insurers operating in the Commonwealth must demonstrate that they are financially solvent and capable of paying claims. After initial licensure, companies must file financial information with the BOI annually. A database of companies licensed in Virginia is available [here](#). Financial data on Virginia insurers is available [here](#).
- **Form review:** BOI reviews health insurers' contracts and covered benefits to ensure that they comport with state and federal laws, including state benefit mandates.
- **Rate review:** Health insurers are required to submit proposed premium rates to BOI for review on an annual basis. Company-specific information to support rates in the individual and small-group markets can be accessed [here](#).
- **Marketing:** BOI is responsible for oversight of insurers' marketing tactics and discouraging unfair or deceptive tactics. BOI is also responsible for the licensing and oversight of health insurance agents and brokers. The BOI provides a look up tool for agents and brokers licensed to do business in Virginia [here](#). Company market share data is available [here](#).
- **Enforcement:** BOI has authority to enforce state and federal insurance laws. Their enforcement tools can range from requesting a corrective action, issuing a cease and desist order, imposing fines, or seeking an injunction. Consumers can submit complaints about their insurance company, agents or brokers [here](#). Reports from BOI market conduct examinations are available [here](#).
- **Appeals:** Under the Affordable Care Act, insurers must provide enrollees with the right to an external, independent appeal. BOI manages the external review process for insured individuals. Consumers can file external review requests [here](#). The BOI maintains an [Office of the Managed Care Ombudsman](#) to assist consumers with internal and external appeals.

### Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)

DMAS manages the Medicaid and CHIP programs and manages the contracts with MCOs. Medicaid and CHIP managed care programs are consolidated under the Cardinal Care Managed Care program and cover older adults, people with disabilities, pregnant women, infants and children, and the Medicaid expansion population. Data on managed care financial performance is available [here](#) and expenditures is available [here](#).

## Other Sources of Information

Health Insurance Navigators, Agents and Brokers (collectively, “consumer assisters”) Virginia’s health insurance Marketplace provides grants to local organizations called “Navigators” that are tasked with assisting consumers determine eligibility for subsidized coverage programs and helping them with post-enrollment questions. Virginia-based health insurance agents and brokers perform similar consumer assistance functions, and are generally paid on a commission basis. These consumer assisters can be helpful sources of information about health insurance and the challenges consumers face. They can be located on the “[Find Help in Your Area](#)” on DMAS’ CoverVA portal.

*GEORGETOWN*  
*UNIVERSITY*  

---

*McCourt School of Public Policy*

**CENTER ON  
HEALTH INSURANCE  
REFORMS**