

# Expanding Access to Healthcare

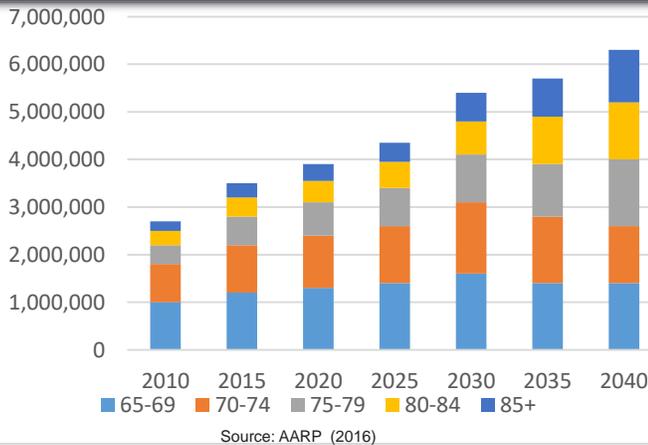
## Background:

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 2.6 million Floridians - 13.3 percent of residents - do not have health insurance coverage. Seven percent of Florida’s children also are uninsured, a significant drop from the 13 percent rate in 2010. Children without health insurance miss more school and are less likely to have routine medical checkups. A gap in doctor visits often leads to delayed medical care, which may result in a higher probability of subsequent hospitalization.

## CAUGHT IN THE COVERAGE GAP



## Why should we care about home and community-based care for Florida seniors?

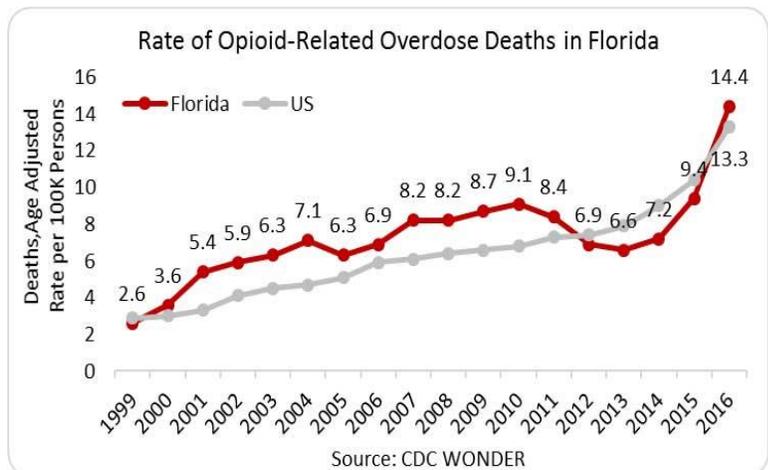


## The Silver Tsunami:

Based on the US Census, Florida’s fastest growing demographic group is seniors over 65. Among those seniors, 32 percent live above the poverty line, but cannot afford even a very modest lifestyle. As our population ages Florida must maximize funding for home and community-based services, such as Community Care for the Elderly (CCE), 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 per month for nursing home care. Currently over 59,000 seniors statewide are on waitlists for home care support services. Home-based programs help maintain their dignity while saving money for families and taxpayers.

## Behavioral Health:

Approximately 8 percent of Americans suffer from substance use disorders and 18 percent from mental illness. This trend contributes to the opiate epidemic; 5,617 Floridians overdosed in 2016. In the midst of this epidemic, another trend began to emerge: the rise of polysubstance and cocaine use. Comprehensive prevention and treatment services are more important now than ever before. It is important for the Florida Legislature to continue to increase funding for and access to prevention services that provide early intervention for youth to better prevent substance use and address warning signs of mental illness through targeted care.



## PROPOSED CHANGES

- SUPPORT legislation that expands access to quality healthcare in Florida.
- MAXIMIZE home and community-based services for older adults to reduce nursing home costs and waitlists.
- INCREASE prevention and treatment services funding for substance use disorders and mental health.