

checkup

2026 | NO. 2

BECAUSE EVERYONE DESERVES HEALTHCARE



When Coverage Ends, Care Continues

BVMI

Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative



BVMI is Bergen County’s Healthcare Safety Net A Growing Need. A Growing Response.

Many of the patients BVMI serves are hardworking adults who work, raise families, and contribute to our community. But changes in federal healthcare policy mean many low-income Americans may soon lose Medicaid coverage or face significantly higher costs for health insurance purchased through the Affordable Care Act Marketplace.

- For Bergen County families, that could mean impossible choices:
- Paying rent or paying for medication.
 - Ignoring chest pain because an office visit costs hundreds of dollars.
 - Waiting until a manageable illness becomes a medical emergency.

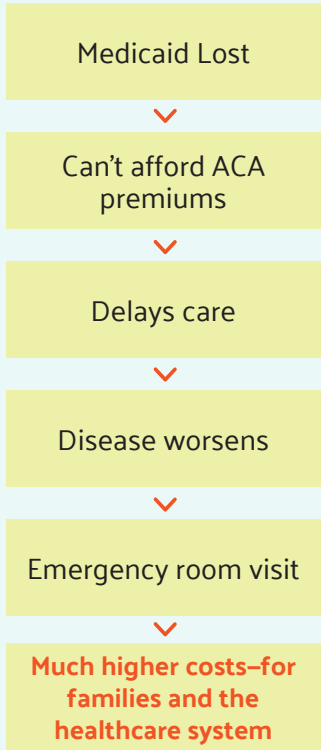
Medicaid and ACA numbers

An estimated 29,000 Bergen County residents could lose health coverage over the next several years. As more neighbors become uninsured, demand for BVMI’s free healthcare services is expected to grow.

Location	Medicaid	ACA Marketplace
United States	7.5 million	2.4 million
New Jersey	350,000	110,000 (estimated)
Bergen County*	22,000 (estimated)	7,000 (estimated)

*Bergen County estimates are derived using the county’s share of New Jersey’s population and Marketplace enrollment and should be presented as planning estimates rather than official forecasts. Source: Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2025/08/14/new-cbo-health-coverage-estimates-of-budget-reconciliation-law/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

What Happens When Someone Loses Health Insurance?



BVMI changes what happens next.



BVMI helps reduce the burden on hospitals while keeping people healthy and working.

We expanded not because demand was slowing, but because we knew it was growing. Thanks to supporters like you, our new Garfield clinic is now open and ready to provide care to neighbors who might otherwise have nowhere to turn.

When coverage ends, BVMI is here.

Your Impact in Action: A New Door to Care

For Estela, finding BVMI was about finding a door that was finally open.

At 31, Estela works at a laundry and dry cleaner. She tried to apply for Medicaid but was unsuccessful, leaving her with few options for affordable healthcare. A neighbor told her about Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative (BVMI), and this summer, Estela became one of the first patients welcomed through the doors of the new BVMI Russell Berrie Healthcare Center in Garfield.

Her first visit was for a gynecological appointment. But at BVMI, care goes beyond a single appointment or diagnosis. Estela is already scheduled for a mental health evaluation and nutrition consultation - connecting her with the resources she needs to support her health and well-being as a whole person.

“I can’t believe how nice everyone is here and that so many people care about my health.”

Estela was one of the first 11

patients at the new Garfield clinic. They included a young man searching for answers to health concerns that had disrupted his sleep for years; a mother of five rebuilding her life after domestic violence and struggling to put food on the table; a father of two balancing two jobs and college classes while living with chronic knee pain; and a woman in her 60s managing uncontrolled diabetes and advanced kidney disease.

Their stories are different. Their need is the same: access to care.

Your support made it possible for BVMI to open this new door.

After seven years of planning, the Russell Berrie Healthcare Center is now bringing compassionate, comprehensive care to more uninsured neighbors. And as demand continues to grow, so does the impact of your partnership.

Because of you, patients like Estela no longer have to face their health challenges alone.

YOUR SUPPORT OPENS DOORS

Every day, uninsured Bergen County neighbors face impossible choices: pay for healthcare they cannot afford or go without it.

Your donation to BVMI provides more than medical care—it connects patients with primary care, medications, mental health support, nutrition counseling, and specialists. Your generosity is also expanding access through the new Russell Berrie Healthcare Center in Garfield. **Your gift opens a door to care, restores hope, and changes lives.**

Please give today.
Scan to Donate





Dear Friend,

For seven years, Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative worked toward opening our second free healthcare center in Garfield. This summer, that dream became a reality as the Russell Berrie Healthcare Center opened its doors and welcomed its first patients.

We knew the need for healthcare among uninsured adults in Bergen County was growing, but we could not have anticipated how important that expansion would become.

Today, recent federal changes to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act are expected to leave millions of Americans without affordable health coverage. We expect Bergen County will feel those effects as more hardworking adults lose insurance and turn to safety-net providers like BVMI for care.

At BVMI, we believe no one should have to choose between paying for groceries, rent, or seeing a doctor. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, volunteers, and community partners, uninsured adults can receive free, high-quality primary and specialty care, helping them manage chronic diseases, stay healthy, and continue supporting their families.

Our promise is simple:

If our neighbors lose their insurance, they should not lose their healthcare.

Your support makes it possible for BVMI to be here when our neighbors need us most. Together, we can ensure that every uninsured adult who comes through our doors receives compassionate, comprehensive care regardless of their ability to pay. As the need for healthcare continues to grow, your partnership will help BVMI remain ready to be here when our community needs us most.

Sincerely,

Amanda Missey, President/CEO

Join us for

BVMI HEROES of HEALTHCARE LUNCHEON

*Celebrating the volunteers who make
compassionate healthcare possible.*

**Wednesday
October 28, 2026
Season's Catering
11:30AM - 2:30PM**



Contact Erica Joy West,
bvmievents@bvmi.net,
for more information
and sponsorship
opportunities.



Donate

Give Now

When Coverage Ends, Care Continues. Your generous gift today helps ensure access to free, compassionate care for our most vulnerable neighbors. **Scan the QR code or go to BVMI.org/donate.**



961

Patients served



5,564

Medical Visits

YTD through July 31, 2026

Expanding Access to Care in 2026



630+

Women
Received Care



300+

Patients Supported
Through Case Management



50

Korean-Language
Patients Served



25

Patients Cared for Through
Our Student-run Clinic

YTD through July 31, 2026



Mission: Powered by passionate volunteers, BVMI delivers free, high-quality healthcare to Bergen County's working uninsured, helping them live healthy, productive lives.

BVMI.org

Follow Us!

