

# Lower Medicaid signups seen in health law study

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It's one of the most impressive statistics about the new health care law. The Obama administration says more than 8.9 million people have been, quote "determined eligible" for Medicaid from Oct. 1 through the end of January.

But a new study Monday from Avalere Health estimates the actual number of new sign-ups could be much lower, between 2.4 million and 3.5 million.

The administration's statistic also includes many people renewing existing coverage.

Medicaid is a safety-net health program for low-income people. About half the states have accepted an expansion in the [health law](#).

Avalere's estimate includes people eligible for the expanded program, as well as some who were already eligible but had not previously enrolled. Enrollment picked up in January.

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