


Employment First Legislative Reception  
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## Working Healthy: Medicaid participants earning more & costing less

Jean P. Hall, Ph. D.  
University of Kansas Working Healthy Evaluation Team


## Medicaid Buy-Ins

- Authorized by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 and the Ticket to Work-Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999
- Allow people with disabilities to work, accumulate assets, and get or maintain Medicaid coverage
- In 2007, nearly 106,000 people with disabilities participated in Medicaid Buy-In programs in 34 states; 42 now operate

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## The Kansas Medicaid Buy-In, *Working Healthy*

- Current enrollment of 1100+
- Eligibility:
  - Ages 16-64
  - Income up to 300% of federal poverty level
  - Payment of employment taxes
  - Assets up to \$15,000
  - Meet Social Security criteria for disability
  - Personal assistance services available through WORK



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## Snapshot of Participants, 2009

- Average age is 49 years
- 47% male and 53% female
- 89% White; 6% Black; 1% Native American; 4% other
- 4% Hispanic
- 59% single; 30% divorced or widowed; 11% married
- 10% have children under age 18
- 52% have at least some college education
- Average hourly wage is \$8.68 and average hours worked per week is 19

Data Sources: Kansas Medicaid Management Information System (IMMIS) (n=1116) and self-reported from 2009 Working Healthy Satisfaction Survey (n=417)

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## Primary Self-Reported Disabilities

- Mental illness 39.3%
- Physical disability 21.2%
- Chronic illness 17.6%
- MR/DD 11.7%
- Sensory 3.8%
- Other 6.4%

Data Source: 2009 Working Healthy Satisfaction Survey (n=392)

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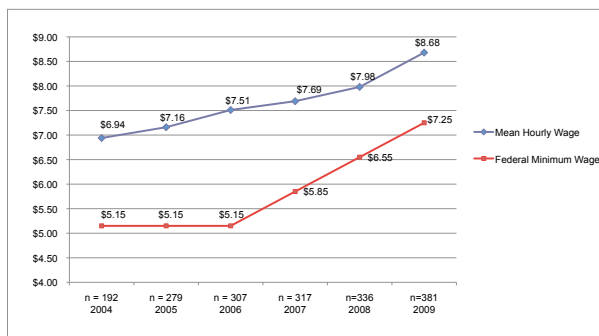
## How are enrollees faring?

- A majority of enrollees report:
  - Improved mental health since enrolling in the Buy-In (51.7%)
  - Improved financial status since enrolling in the Buy-In (58.0%)
  - An increased level of independence since enrolling in the Buy-In (51.5%)
- Overall earnings are increasing, overall medical expenditures are decreasing

Data Source: 2009 Working Healthy Satisfaction Survey (n=410)

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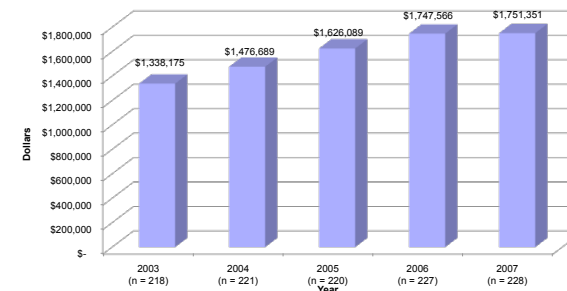
## Enrollees' Self-Reported Hourly Wages, 2004-2009



Data Source: Annual participant satisfaction surveys

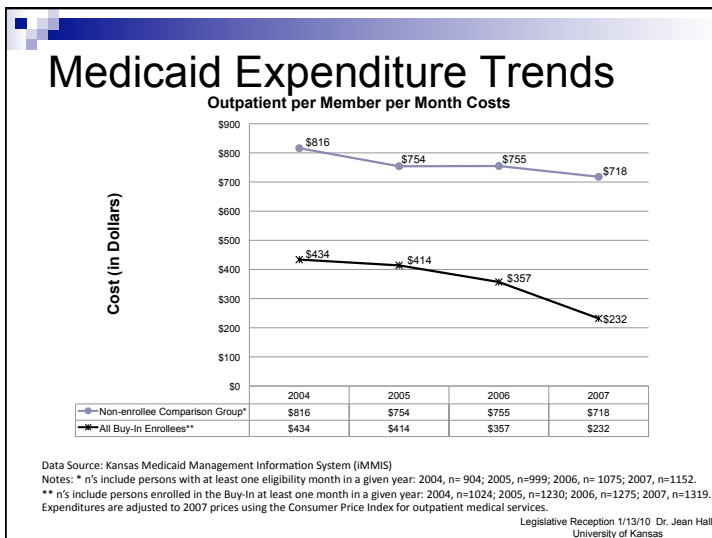
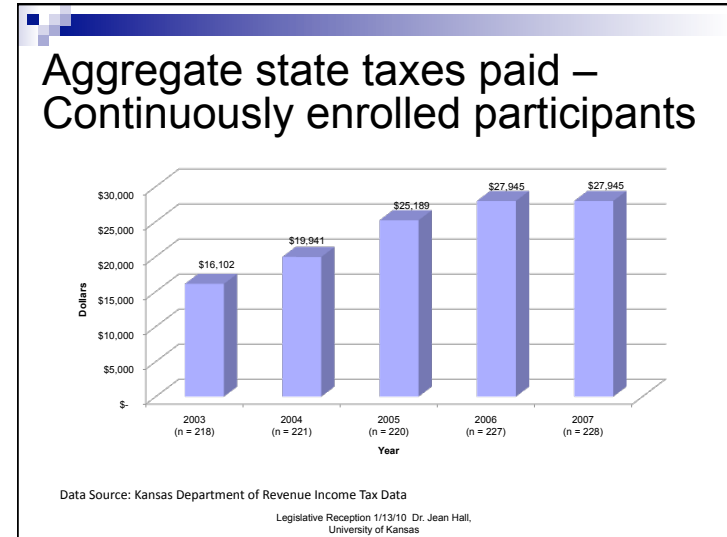
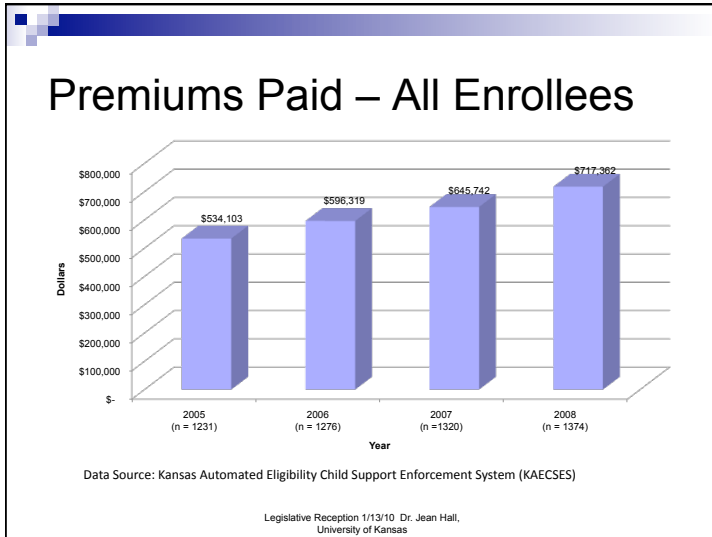
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## Federal Adjusted Gross Income - Continuously Enrolled Participants



Data Source: Kansas Department of Revenue Income Tax Data

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- ### From Participants:
- I don't feel useless, and I take pride in being a tax payer again.
  - Being able to work gives me a sense of accomplishment and self worth. I strive not to be a bigger burden on my family than already am.
  - My health has improved. My outlook on life has improved.
  - I am able to take meds as prescribed rather than trying to make them last longer.
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### From a 2009 Survey:

I became quadriplegic in 1985 after being involved in a car accident. Working Healthy is probably one of the most important programs that have been implemented to help people with disabilities get back to work and become productive citizens. In 2007 I graduated with my masters degree and was wondering how I was going to ever pay for my student loan. If it was not for Working Healthy I would not be employed and able to pay for my student loans, house payment, and other things I enjoy. I am now making a house payment for something that I will eventually own. My house payment is around \$540 a month and I have three bedrooms. Before I got my house I was living in a section 8 housing one room apartment and the government was subsidizing \$740 a month for this. I was getting food stamps and other government subsidies before Working Healthy. I now have a full time job, a home, and I am able to be a productive citizen, and not rely on the government for all those expensive subsidies. There are a few people that need a pat on the back for implementing a program like Working Healthy. I hope this message will get to those who deserve that pat on the back. Thanks to all of you.

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### Additional information

- The *Working Healthy* website has information about the program, including Policy Briefs and Data Chartbook:  
[www.workinghealthy.org](http://www.workinghealthy.org)
- Working Healthy toll-free hotline (V/TTY):  
1-800-449-1439
- Jean Hall, Ph.D., Principal Investigator  
jhall@ku.edu

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