



**Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation of Harvard Law School**

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**CENTER FOR HEALTH LAW AND POLICY INNOVATION OF HARVARD LAW SCHOOL  
SHARES FINDINGS DEMONSTRATING THE IMPORTANCE OF NATIONAL HEALTH REFORM**

*Fact sheet offers findings that show the benefits of health reform as U.S. Supreme Court Rules on Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA)*

JAMAICA PLAIN, MASS. – The [Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation](#) of Harvard Law School (the Center), applauds today’s U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), which upheld the constitutionality of the individual mandate and of the Medicaid expansion, but with limits that have the potential to significantly undermine the Medicaid expansion. The Center has recently found that similar health reforms in Massachusetts have led to significant individual and public health benefits.

“Here in Massachusetts, we have demonstrated that health reforms result in increased access to needed care and treatment for our most vulnerable residents, including individuals with HIV and other chronic illnesses,” said Robert Greenwald, director of the Center.

The Center has released a [fact sheet](#) that highlights some of the findings of an upcoming report on health reform in Massachusetts. The findings demonstrate that health reforms similar to those included in the ACA lead to significant health benefits.

An individual mandate that requires most adults to carry health insurance, a voluntary Medicaid expansion, and subsidized private health insurance for low-to-moderate income uninsured residents are key reforms included in the ACA that have been in place in Massachusetts since 2006. These initiatives contribute greatly to the following outcomes:

- Between 2006 and 2009, new HIV diagnoses fell by 25 percent in Massachusetts compared to a 2 percent national increase.
- Between 2002 and 2008, Massachusetts’ AIDS mortality rates decreased by 44 percent compared to 33 percent nationally.

Along with these important health outcomes, the Massachusetts Medicaid program has seen decreased inpatient costs for this population, and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health estimates that it has saved over \$1.5 billion in HIV health care costs since the reforms, in part due to decreased HIV transmission.

A working draft of the Massachusetts HIV/AIDS Resource Allocation Project is available [here](#).

“Today’s ruling will expand access to care for millions of Americans. However, we are concerned that the Court’s decision that the federal government may not withhold all Medicaid funding for states who choose not to participate in Medicaid expansion will perpetuate unequal access to care and health disparities. It is critical that low-income Americans, including those living with HIV, be able to reap the benefits of health reform,” said Greenwald. He added, “In terms of putting the ACA into action, the devil is in the details. We must continue to advocate to make sure that our federal and state governments implement the ACA in ways that turn the law’s potential for increased access to care into reality.”

Martha Minow, Dean of Harvard Law School, noted, “We have cleared a major milestone today, but the real work is just beginning. As we know from Massachusetts, the gains did not happen overnight. Now is the time to work to ensure that the Affordable Care Act truly translates into access to care for millions of Americans, including our most vulnerable, and that the many promises of health reform are fulfilled.”

*The Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation of Harvard Law School works to increase access to healthcare for vulnerable populations, particularly low-income people with chronic illness, as well as to support legal, regulatory, and policy structures that enable people to make healthy lifestyle choices.*

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