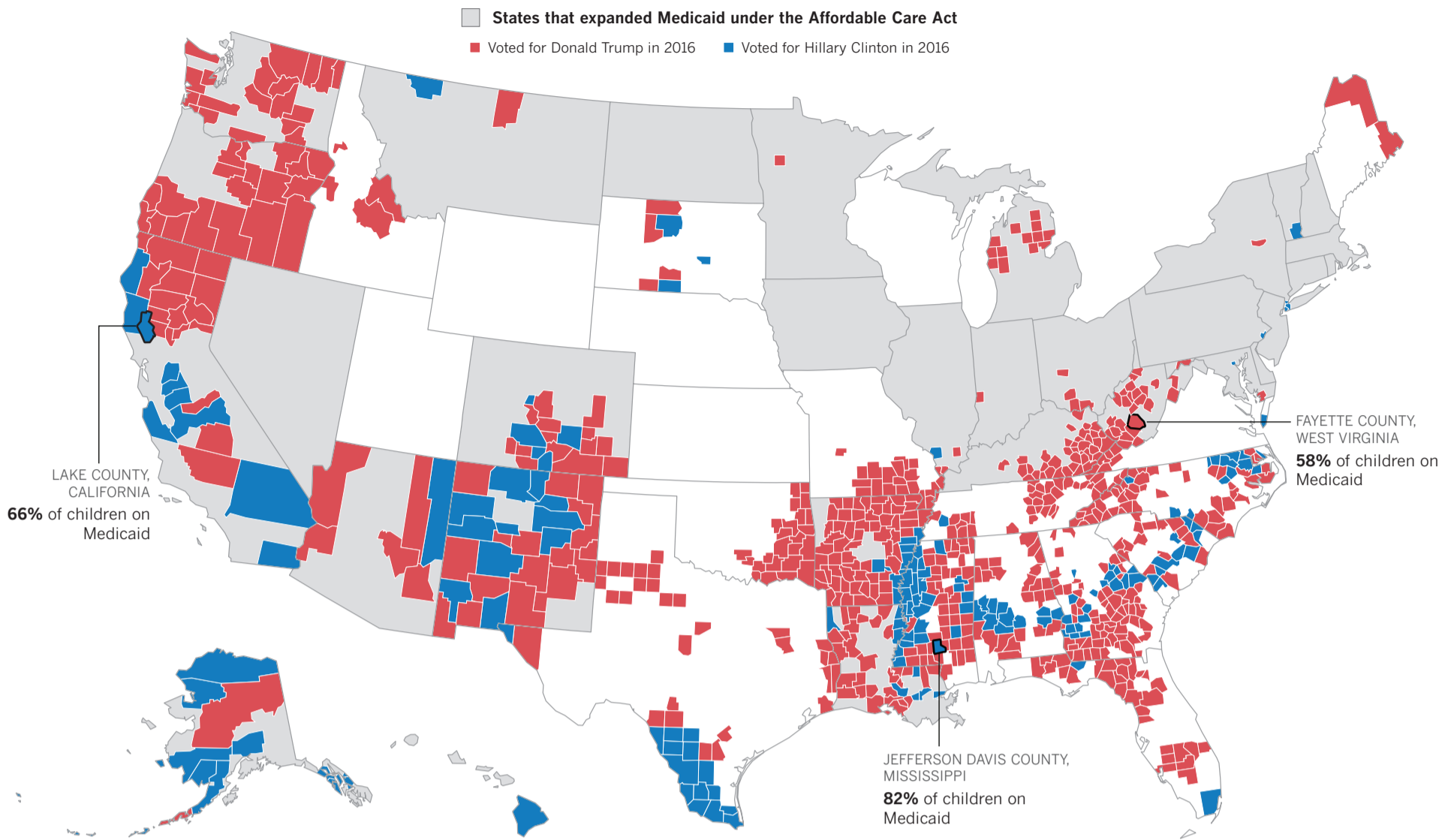# Medicaid's vital role for children in Trump country

Medicaid and the related Children's Health Insurance plan provide critical protections to children in poor, rural parts of America. These same areas overwhelming backed Donald Trump last year. Now Trump is pushing healthcare legislation that would cut dramatically cut the healthcare safety net.

There are 780 counties in the United States where the majority of children are on the two government health programs. In the 2016 election, 617 of these counties voted for Donald Trump.

**States that expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act**

■ Voted for Donald Trump in 2016 ■ Voted for Hillary Clinton in 2016

LAKE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
**66%** of children on Medicaid

FAYETTE COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA
**58%** of children on Medicaid

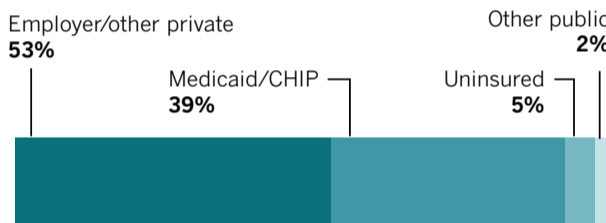JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
**82%** of children on Medicaid

## Medicaid and children's health coverage

Medicaid and the related Children's Health Insurance Program have become an increasingly important source of coverage for children.

**Sources of health insurance coverage for children (2015)**

Employer/other private
**53%**

Medicaid/CHIP
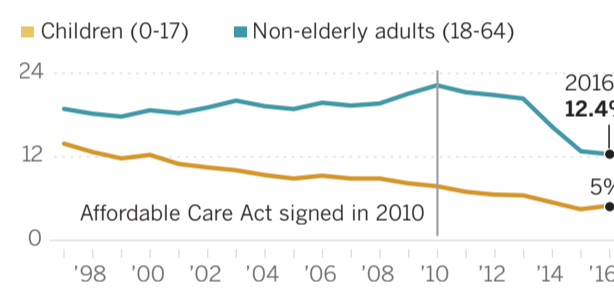**39%**

Other public
**2%**

Uninsured
**5%**

The percentage of children who lack health insurance has been falling steadily for two decades, in large part because of the expansion of public program such as Medicaid and CHIP.

**Uninsured rate (%)**

■ Children (0-17) ■ Non-elderly adults (18-64)

24

12

0

'98 '00 '02 '04 '06 '08 '10 '12 '14 '16

2016: **12.4%**

5%

Affordable Care Act signed in 2010

Note: 2016 data is from January through June.

Children make up the the largest share of Medicaid beneficiaries, though they are much less costly than disabled and elderly Medicaid beneficiaries.
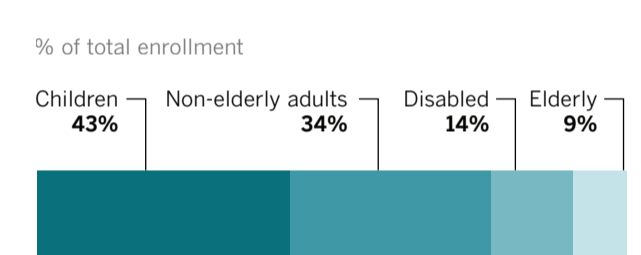
**Who is on Medicaid (2014)**

% of total enrollment

Children **43%**

Non-elderly adults **34%**

Disabled **14%**

Elderly **9%**

Note: Data does not include CHIP. Total does not add up to 100% due to rounding.
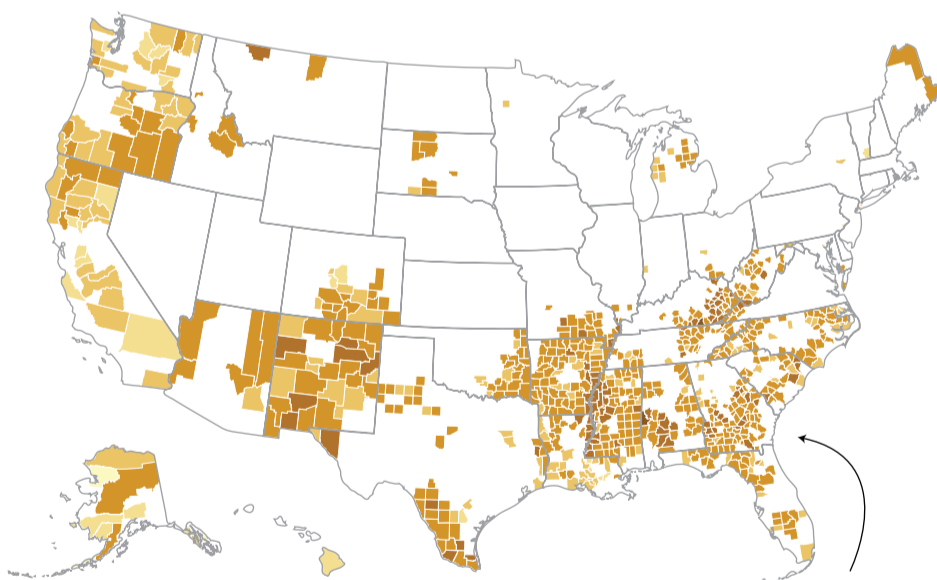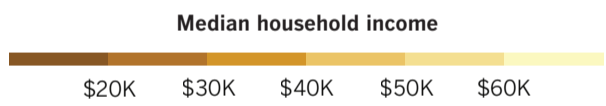
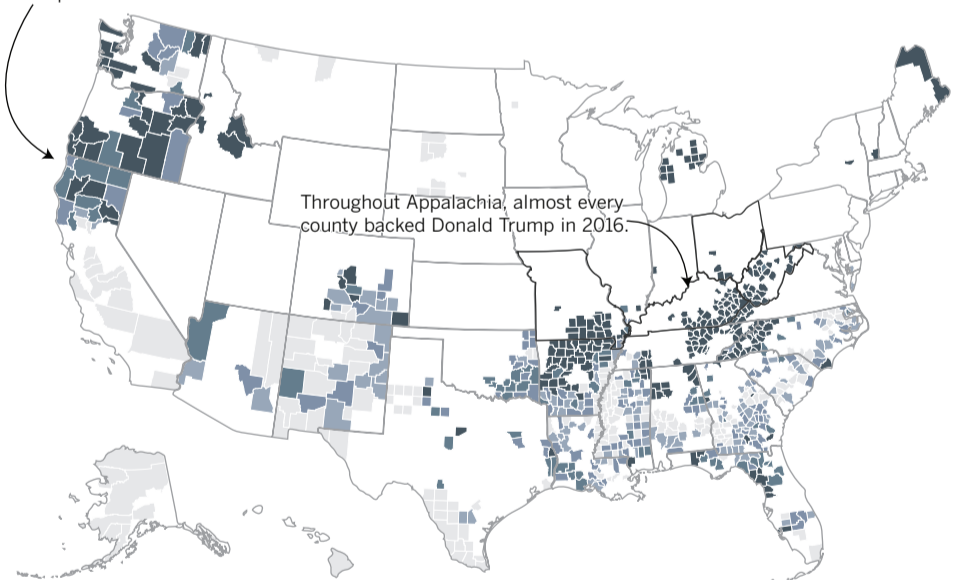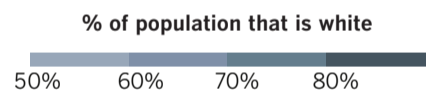## The demographics of Americas' most Medicaid-dependent counties

### Household income

The median household income in three quarters of the counties where the majority of children are on Medicaid or CHIP is less than $40,000.

**Median household income**

$20K $30K $40K $50K $60K

Many of the lowest income counties are located in the Deep South.

### Majority white

In 574 counties, the majority of the population is white; 561 of these counties voted for Trump.

**% of population that is white**

50% 60% 70% 80%
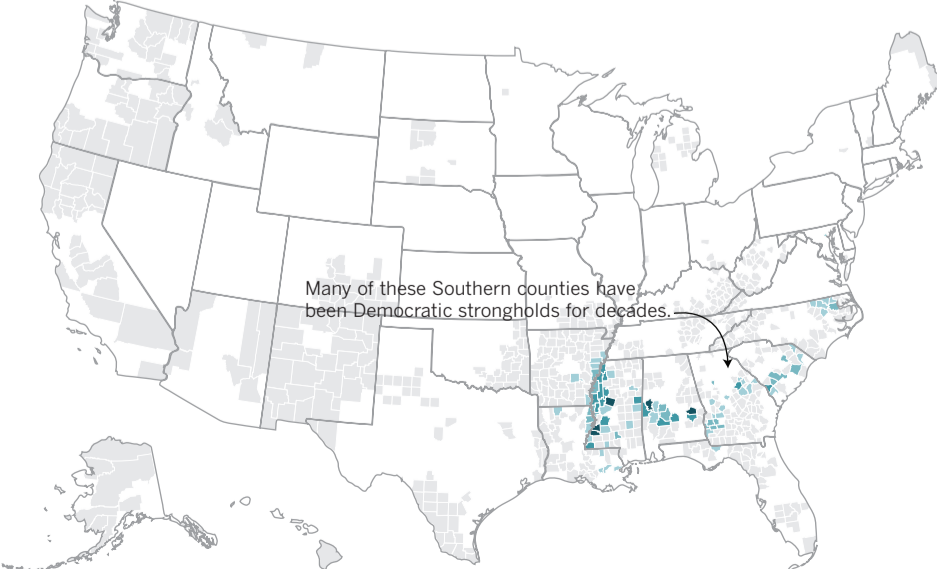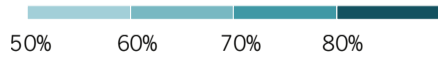
All counties in Washington and Oregon and most in Northern California where a majority of children are on Medicaid and CHIP voted for Trump.

Throughout Appalachia, almost every county backed Donald Trump in 2016.

### Majority black

There are 83 counties where the majority of the population is black. All but five of these counties voted for Democrat Hillary Clinton in 2016.

**% of population that is black**

50% 60% 70% 80%

Many of these Southern counties have been Democratic strongholds for decades.

### Majority Hispanic or Latino

There are 52 counties where the majority of population Latino; 29 of these counties voted for Clinton, and 23 voted for Trump.

**% of population that is Hispanic or Latino**

50% 60% 70% 80%

9 of the 13 counties that are on the U.S. Mexico border voted for Hillary Clinton

PRIYA KRISHNAKUMAR Los Angeles Times