A film entitled “Collateral Damage: Bad Medicine in Tennessee” documents the impact of cuts to that state’s Medicaid program. Missouri has also enacted severe Medicaid cuts. Following is a comparison of the changes made in the two states. Unless otherwise indicated, the information about the cuts in TennCare is from the Tennessee Justice Center, a non-profit organization that advocates for the health and welfare of the people of Tennessee. www.tnjustice.org. For more information contact The Missouri Budget Project, 314-652-1400 www.mobudget.org.

### In Tennessee | In Missouri
---|---
- 191,000 Tennessee residents were cut from TennCare in 2005. | - More than 200,000 Missourians’ Medicaid health insurance was cut from 2003-2204. The Medicaid caseload dropped by 114,000 in the year ending July, 2006.  
- TennCare’s services are limited. For example, it allows only 5 prescriptions per month. Tennessee is now 50th among states in providing home and long-term care. | - A wide array of services became “optional” including feeding tubes, dental, vision, wheelchair batteries, rehab therapy. Some individuals have to go into nursing homes to get the services they need.
- TN instituted a stricter spend-down program that is a hardship on many. | - To be eligible for Medicaid under the Missouri spend-down plan, individuals now have to “spend down” (or pay a monthly premium) so their income is less than 85% of federal poverty or $694/mo for an individual.
- Policy leaders said that “TennCare is riddled with fraud and abuse that is soaking the taxpayers and making the program unaffordable.” | - The Governor and leadership of the General Assembly described Medicaid as filled with waste, fraud and abuse. *Although providers perpetrate the greater part of fraud, efforts to identify fraud focused solely on those insured.*

---

"TennCare was a budget buster." “Missouri’s Medicaid spending is out of control”. Is this true?  
Data indicate it is not. Both TN and MO spent less per person than the US average of $84. TN spent $60/person and MO spent $69/person.

---

Did TN and MO insure more people in their public health insurance programs than most states? No. Both states were close to the national average.  
In 2004-05, the national average of the non-elderly insured by states’ public health insurance was 14%. TennCare insured 16% of this population, and MO insured 14% with Medicaid.

---

Was growth of TennCare and Medicaid out of control? Both states were close to the national average.  
Annual growth of TennCare was 9.2% between 1980 and 2004. Missouri’s Medicaid grew by 8.3%. Average growth across all states was 8.6%.

---

Can TN and MO afford to invest more in health care? Yes, if we choose to do it.  
Both Tennessee and Missouri have per capita incomes that are slightly below the US average. Per capita income in TN in 2003-05 was $28,919. In MO it was $29,630. The US average was $32,021. However, both States have low tax burdens. TN ranks 49th and MO ranks 44th in per capita taxes collected during 2000-2004. Both TN and MO face challenges in adequately investing in health care because of choices that result in a low tax burden.

---

3. www.statehealthfacts.org, Kaiser Family Foundation  
4. Ibid  
5. Ibid  
ibid