Physician Acceptance of New Medicaid Patients: National and State-level Findings from the National Electronic Health Records Survey

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Access to care for Medicaid enrollees

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Analytic approach and data
Analysis plan

• Rates of physician acceptance of new Medicaid patients
  • by state
  • by physician and practice characteristics

• Comparison to acceptance of Medicare and private coverage

• Comparison across physician and practice characteristics:
  • Specialty
  • Setting
  • Existing Medicaid caseload
  • Mid-level providers
National Electronic Health Records Survey (NEHRS)

• Annual survey of non-federally employed, office-based physicians practicing in the United States (excluding those in the specialties of anesthesiology, radiology, and pathology)

• Data from 2011–2017 NEHRS (data year 2016 not available)

• Accessed through the National Center for Health Statistics Research Data Center at the Minnesota RDC
Measures

• Physicians asked if they accept new patients and then asked if they accept Medicaid as a payment source for new patients

• Data years 2011–2013 and 2014–2017 were pooled where single-year estimates were not feasible
State-level Findings
Percent of Physicians Who Accept New Medicaid Patients, 2014–2017

Stripes = significantly different from national average at 95% confidence level

Universe is physicians who accept new patients.

National Average: 74.0%
Range: 42.2% in New Jersey to 99.4% in North Dakota
Percent of Physicians Who Accept New Medicare Patients, 2014–2017

Stripes = significantly different from Medicaid at the 95% confidence level
Universe is physicians who accept new patients.

National Average: 88.2%
Range: 77.1% in Georgia to 98.3% in North Dakota

Stripes = significantly different from Medicaid at the 95% confidence level
Universe is physicians who accept new patients.

Findings by Physician and Practice Characteristics
Percent of Physicians Who Accept New Medicaid Patients by Specialty, 2014–2017

*significantly different from Medicaid at 95% confidence level
Universe is physicians who accept new patients.
### Percent of Physicians Who Accept New Medicaid Patients by Setting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Settings</td>
<td>73.0%</td>
<td>74.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community health center</td>
<td>97.3*</td>
<td>94.5*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty practice plan</td>
<td>92.4*</td>
<td>90.2*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family planning clinic</td>
<td>100.0*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freestanding clinic or urgent care center</td>
<td>74.9</td>
<td>79.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health maintenance organization or other prepaid practice</td>
<td>75.0</td>
<td>93.9*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental health center</td>
<td>94.6*</td>
<td>89.6*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-federal government clinic</td>
<td>92.8*</td>
<td>80.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private solo or group practice</td>
<td>69.9*</td>
<td>70.4*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*significantly different from All Settings at 95% confidence level


Universe is physicians who accept new patients.
Percent of Physicians Who Accept New Medicaid Patients by Existing Medicaid Caseload, 2014–2017

Average Medicaid caseload: 20.3%

*significantly different from All Physicians at 95% confidence level
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Percent of Physicians Who Accept New Medicaid Patients by Existing Medicaid Caseload, 2014–2017

Average Medicaid caseload: 20.3%

Shaded points are significantly different from All Physicians at 95% confidence level.
Universe is all physicians.
Percent of Physicians Who Accept New Medicaid Patients by Ratio of Mid-level Providers, 2014–2017

- All Physicians: 73.7%
- Below-average ratio of mid-level providers: 68.9%
- Above-average ratio of mid-level providers: 80.5%

* Significantly different from All Physicians at 95% confidence level


Universe is physicians who accept new patients.
Conclusions

- Physicians were less likely to accept Medicaid than other types of coverage.
- Rates of Medicaid acceptance varied substantially across states.
- Positive association with Medicaid acceptance:
  - Certain clinic settings
  - High existing Medicaid caseload
  - Having mid-level providers
- Practice characteristics like higher numbers of mid-level providers and certain clinic settings may make treating new Medicaid patients more financially sustainable.
- Physicians already set up to serve Medicaid patients are more likely to accept new Medicaid patients.
Working with the NEHRS data

• The NEHRS is an imperfect data source for measuring rates of physician acceptance of new Medicaid patients

• The NEHRS is one of the only sources to monitor physician acceptance of Medicaid at the state level
Resources


2. State-level estimates of Physician Acceptance of New Medicaid Patients forthcoming on SHADAC’s State Health Compare statehealthcompare.shadac.org
Thank you!

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