



Medicaid's Role in Financing Maternity Care

Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission

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Overview

- MACPAC work on maternity care
- Medicaid's role in maternal health
- Mothers with Medicaid
 - characteristics
 - health conditions
 - birth location and attendant
 - access to prenatal care
 - birth outcomes

MACPAC Work

Past work:

- June 2013 foundational chapter
- November 2018 issue brief comparing access and outcomes across payers
- April 2019 issue brief on state payment initiatives to improve outcomes
- October 2019 panel on federal initiatives to improve outcomes

MACPAC Work

Forthcoming work:

- Maternal morbidity – January 2020
- State initiatives targeting maternal health – February 2020
- Substance use among pregnant women – January and February 2020

Medicaid's Role in Maternal Health

- Medicaid paid for 43 percent of births in 2018
 - ranged from 25 percent in North Dakota to 63 percent in Louisiana and Mississippi
- Medicaid paid for a greater share of births among women:
 - living in rural areas
 - age 19 or younger
 - of Hispanic, African American, and American Indian or Alaska Native descent

Source: MACPAC analysis of natality on CDC WONDER Online Database, 2018.

Characteristics of Mothers with Medicaid

- Almost 80 percent were between the ages of 20 and 34
- More than half (55 percent) were white, non-Hispanic women
- Majority (84 percent) were women in urban areas
- Greater proportion of rural mothers were young and white, non-Hispanic

Source: MACPAC analysis of natality on CDC WONDER Online Database, 2018.

Health Conditions of Mothers with Medicaid

- Six percent had a prior preterm birth and 25 percent had a prior cesarean section delivery
- One percent of women had pre-pregnancy diabetes and 2 percent had pre-pregnancy hypertension
- More than half of women were overweight or obese and almost 15 percent smoked prior to pregnancy
 - Smoking was more prevalent in rural areas

Source: MACPAC analysis of natality on CDC WONDER Online Database, 2018.

Location and Attendant among Mothers with Medicaid

- Almost all births (99 percent) occurred in a hospital setting
 - little variation among states, although in Alaska, 4 percent of births occurred in a freestanding birth centers
- Most births (90 percent) were attended by a doctor and 9 percent were attended by a certified nurse midwife
 - in 23 states, more than 10 percent of births were attended by a certified nurse midwife

Source: MACPAC analysis of natality on CDC WONDER Online Database, 2018.

Access to Prenatal Care among Mothers with Medicaid

- Over two-thirds of women started prenatal care in the first trimester
- More than three-quarters of women received nine or more prenatal care visits
- There was considerable variation across states in access to prenatal care
 - slightly more than half of women in the District of Columbia began prenatal care in the first trimester compared to 85 percent in Vermont

Source: MACPAC analysis of natality on CDC WONDER Online Database, 2018.

Birth Outcomes among Mothers with Medicaid

- Almost one-third of women had a cesarean section delivery
- Eleven percent of infants were born preterm (prior to 37 weeks)
- Ten percent of infants were low birthweight (less than 2,500 grams)

Source: MACPAC analysis of natality on CDC WONDER Online Database, 2018.

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