
Medicaid & CHIP: August 2014 Monthly Applications, Eligibility Determinations and Enrollment Report

October 17, 2014

Background

This monthly report on state Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) data represents state Medicaid and CHIP agencies' eligibility activity for the calendar month of August 2014. The data included in this report was submitted to CMS from state Medicaid and CHIP agencies as part of the Medicaid and CHIP Performance Indicator process.

Through the Medicaid and CHIP Performance Indicator process, states report on a common set of indicators designed to provide information to support program management and policy-making. State Medicaid and CHIP programs submit data to CMS on a range of indicators related to application, eligibility and enrollment processes. It is important to note that states are still transitioning to the standardized data definitions described in Appendix A, which limits the conclusions that can be drawn from the data.

As with previous reports, this month's report focuses on those indicators that relate to the application and enrollment process:

- The number of applications submitted directly to Medicaid and CHIP agencies, including those received through State-Based Marketplaces (SBMs);
- The number of eligibility determinations made by Medicaid and CHIP agencies on the applications described above, as well as applications to the Federally-Facilitated Marketplace (FFM) in states for which the FFM makes an eligibility assessment (and the state then completes the Medicaid or CHIP determination); and
- The total number of individuals enrolled in the Medicaid and CHIP programs who are receiving comprehensive benefits, including details on the total number of children enrolled in these programs.

As with each monthly report, given that states are reporting monthly data to CMS soon after the close of the month, the August 2014 data presented in this report should be considered preliminary. We have also published updated data for July 2014 applications, eligibility determinations and enrollment [on Medicaid.gov](http://www.Medicaid.gov), which includes a more complete data set than the preliminary July data reported last month.

Medicaid and CHIP are longstanding programs that serve many populations in addition to those that are newly eligible for Medicaid under the new low-income adult group established by the Affordable Care Act. Therefore, this report, which measures eligibility and enrollment activity for the entire Medicaid

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Medicaid and CHIP August 2014 Application and Eligibility Data Highlights

	August 2014 Monthly in All States Reporting
Applications	
Total Applications for Financial Assistance Initially Received by State Medicaid and CHIP Agencies (note that more than one individual may be included on an application and some states have included renewals and account transfers from the FFM)	2,134,115 ¹⁷
Total Applications for Financial Assistance Initially Received by State Based Marketplaces (note that more than one individual may be included on an application)	589,447 ¹⁸
Eligibility Determinations	
Total Individuals Determined Eligible for Medicaid and CHIP by State Agencies (includes those newly eligible under the Affordable Care Act and those eligible under prior law and, for some states, renewals)	2,391,990 ¹⁹

During the month of August 2014, more than 2.7 million applications for coverage and financial assistance (including Medicaid and CHIP coverage, tax credits and subsidies) were submitted at the state level (including over 2.1 million received directly by state Medicaid and CHIP agencies and nearly 600,000 received by SBMs).²⁰ Table 3 includes a comparison of the total applications for financial assistance to state agencies (including applications for Medicaid, CHIP, and financial assistance in the Marketplace in SBM states) in August 2014 as compared to the prior month (July 2014). Note that these application numbers do not include applications received at the FFM and subsequently transferred to state Medicaid or CHIP agencies (see State-by-State Table notes for exceptions).²¹

¹⁷ See the notes in table 3 for state-specific caveats regarding the reported data; because of reporting capability some states included some renewals, applications to SBMs, or transfers from the FFM in the data. North Dakota did not provide August 2014 Medicaid and CHIP agency application data. Tennessee only provided application data on their CHIP program.

¹⁸ See the notes in table 3 for state-specific caveats regarding the reported data; because of reporting capability some states reported renewals in the data and included applications received by their SBMs in their Medicaid and CHIP agency application data. New York is reporting all applications through their SBM.

¹⁹ See the notes in table 3 for state-specific caveats regarding the reported data; because of reporting capability some states reported some renewals in the data. Massachusetts and North Dakota did not provide August 2014 determination data. Tennessee only provided determination data on their CHIP program.

²⁰ The following states have included renewals in their August 2014 application data: Alaska, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Virginia. Florida and South Dakota included transfers from the FFM in their August 2014 application data. Subtotals do not sum to total due to rounding.

²¹ See footnote 18.

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States reported making more than 2.3 million eligibility determinations for Medicaid and CHIP in August 2014 for individuals applying for coverage: almost 1.5 million determinations in states with Medicaid expansions in effect and approximately 840,000 in other states. As described above and in prior reports, this figure includes all of state Medicaid and CHIP agencies' determinations for individuals eligible under prior law, as well as through coverage expansions under the Affordable Care Act; note that, due to limitations on the data some states are able to report, the number of determinations includes renewals in those states.²² Additionally, the determination number does not represent unique individuals, as an individual may have more than one eligibility determination. It is important to keep in mind that differences in volume of administrative transfers and other types of one-time enrollment activities can affect month-to-month comparisons of eligibility data.²³

See the [Eligibility Data](#) tab on Medicaid.gov for preliminary and updated data on applications and determinations for October 2013 through August 2014.

²² The states that have included renewals in their August 2014 determination data are: District of Columbia, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont and Virginia. Some of these renewals are conducted without the individual submitting a new application, using information already in the state's system that the individual is asked to verify.

²³ A number of states are employing a new tool for facilitating Medicaid enrollment to conduct an "administrative transfer" to Medicaid using income information from the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) or the CHIP program (for the parents of CHIP enrollees). The following states have implemented administrative transfers since this authority was made available: Arkansas, California, Illinois, New Jersey, Oregon, and West Virginia. New Jersey, Oregon, and California conducted transfers in August 2014. As of the end of August, 668,886 individuals have been determined eligible for Medicaid or CHIP as a result of this transitional strategy in the six states that have implemented it. Michigan recently received approval to conduct administrative transfers but it has not yet implemented this targeted enrollment strategy.

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Data Limitations

CMS established a common set of definitions for consistency in reporting the Medicaid and CHIP performance indicators; these definitions appear in Appendix A. States are at various points in the process of transitioning from their historic definitions to the updated standardized reporting specifications. Where states have provided data that vary from our specifications, we have included that information in notes in the State-by-State tables.

State-by-State Tables

Below are 3 tables with state-specific data. The first table contains data on the total number of people enrolled in state Medicaid and CHIP programs in August 2014. The second table contains data on children enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP. The third table contains data on Medicaid and CHIP applications and eligibility determinations for the month of August 2014. The description of each data element included in the table is available in Appendix A. Unless otherwise noted, the reporting period for all elements is August 1 - 31, 2014.

Future Reports

In future months, we will continue to expand the number of performance indicators that will be included in this report.

APPENDIX A: Description of Data Elements in Tables

Table 1: Medicaid and CHIP: July and August Preliminary Monthly Enrollment

Total Medicaid and CHIP Enrollment, July 2014 (Preliminary) (I)

Total Medicaid and CHIP Enrollment, August 2014 (Preliminary) (II)

The total unduplicated number of individuals enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP as of the last day of the reporting period, including those with retroactive, conditional, and presumptive eligibility. This indicator is a point-in-time count of total program enrollment, and is not solely a count of those newly enrolled during the reporting period. This number includes only those individuals who are eligible for comprehensive benefits (e.g., emergency Medicaid, family planning-only coverage and limited benefit dual eligible individuals are excluded). Individuals eligible under demonstration projects authorized by section 1115 of the Social Security Act are included as long as the benefits and networks are comprehensive. CHIP children subject to a waiting period or premium lock-out period are considered eligible but not enrolled and are not included. The August 2014 data was submitted in September and is considered preliminary.²⁴ The July 2014 data in this table was submitted in August and is also preliminary. July data that was updated in September (which may include more individuals with retroactive eligibility) is posted separately under the Eligibility Data tab on Medicaid.gov. Other reporting on Medicaid and CHIP enrollment by states and researchers often may include some beneficiaries excluded in this data (because comprehensive coverage is not provided), or otherwise use a different methodology.

Percent Change July to August (III)

The percentage change in **Total Medicaid and CHIP Enrollment, August 2014 (Preliminary) (II)** as compared to **Total Medicaid and CHIP Enrollment, July 2014 (Preliminary) (II)** is calculated for states that provided data for both periods. In cases where there is a negative percentage change, this may be due to a number of factors. Changes in enrollment levels are driven by the number of newly enrolled individuals as well as by the number of individuals whose coverage has terminated.

Pre-Open Enrollment Monthly Average Medicaid and CHIP Enrollment (July-September 2013) (IV)

The average number of individuals enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP for each month during the July-September 2013 period using an average of enrollment numbers submitted by the states for each month in this period. Not all states submitted three months of data; the average is calculated using any months of baseline data that were provided. The unit of measurement is individuals enrolled as of the last day of the reporting period (month). This baseline data includes more retroactive enrollments than the August 2014 data, which makes change between the baseline data and the July preliminary data look smaller than it would be if

²⁴ In Medicaid, individuals are potentially eligible for retroactive eligibility to cover incurred health care costs for up to 90 days prior to the date of application. Under the Performance Indicator process, states initially submit their monthly enrollment data just a week after the month closes, and then update their data one month later. Therefore, the Performance Indicator enrollment counts will always be slightly understated, as they will not include all individuals granted retroactive eligibility.

