Medicaid Adult Beneficiaries Emergency Department Visits for Non-Traumatic Dental Conditions

Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services
About This Analysis

• Using T-MSIS Analytic File (TAF) data from 2018, analyzed Medicaid adult beneficiaries’ use of hospital emergency departments (EDs) for non-traumatic dental conditions (NTDCs) by state
  – NTDCs are dental conditions like cavities or dental abscesses that might have been prevented with regular dental care.
  – ED visits for NTDCs may indicate a lack of access to more appropriate sources of medical and dental care
• When untreated, NTDCs lead to pain, inflammation, and occasionally to life-threatening conditions that require inpatient hospital admission
  – The top dental condition that results in hospital admission is dental abscess (Seu, Hall et al. 2006)
• Understanding the rate of ED visits among adults covered by Medicaid can help states identify strategies to improve access to and utilization of appropriate sources of care
Why Dental ED Visits Matter

• Medicaid beneficiaries seek care for NTDCs in EDs at rates three times higher than commercially insured patients (Roberts, Bohm et al. 2020)
  – In the emergency departments NTDCs are usually managed palliatively with pain relief agents, antibiotics, or both

• Over the last ten years, dental pain has been a top reason for opioids prescribing upon discharge from the ED, thereby contributing to the opioid epidemic (Rui, Santo et al. 2020)

• Having public health insurance coverage or being uninsured was a predictive factor of ED visits for NTDCs, and adults were more likely to use the ED for NTDCs compared to children and older adults (Akinlotan and Ferdinand 2020, Owens et al. 2021)

• There are significant costs associated with hospital emergency department dental visits, estimated at $2.7 billion in 2017 (ADA Health Policy Institute 2020)
  – Since 2014, Medicaid has become the primary payer for NTDCs in the ED
Medicaid and CHIP T-MSIS Analytic Files

• Medicaid and CHIP Population: In April 2021, enrollment data from Performance Indicator data indicate that over 82.3 million Americans, including children, pregnant women, parents, seniors, and individuals with disabilities, were enrolled across each state’s Medicaid or the Children’s Health Insurance Program. Over 75.4 million individuals were enrolled in Medicaid, and over 6.8 million individuals were enrolled in CHIP.”

• Medicaid and CHIP Data Processing: Medicaid and CHIP providers, managed care agencies, and Pharmacy Benefit Managers submit administrative claims data to state Medicaid and CHIP agencies for processing. Those agencies subsequently submit the data to CMS on a monthly basis via T-MSIS. These submissions have considerable variation in terms of completeness and quality. CMS processes states’ submissions and transforms them into the T-MSIS Analytic Files (TAF), which form the basis of this analysis.

• Data Quality Considerations: The results for the following slides is based on 2018 TAF. For additional information regarding state variability in data quality, please refer to the Medicaid DQ Atlas.
Key Findings

• Emergency department use for NTDCs among Medicaid-enrolled, non-dual-eligible adults ages 21-64 varied by state
  – Rates were generally higher for adults ages 21-34, with a national rate of 2,794 visits per 100,000 adult beneficiaries compared to 1,989 visits per 100,000 adult beneficiaries ages 35-64

• Some of those emergency department visits for NTDCs were severe enough to result in inpatient admissions
  – Rates were higher for older adults ages 35-64, with a national rate of 27 inpatient admissions per 100,000 adult beneficiaries compared to 21 inpatient admissions per 100,000 adult beneficiaries ages 21-34

• In 2018 there were approximately 663,000 NTDCs emergency department visits and approximately 7,500 inpatient admissions for non-dual-eligible adults ages 21-64
Mean National Rate of Emergency Department Visits for Non-Traumatic Dental Conditions per 100,000 Non-Dual Eligible Adult Beneficiaries, Ages 21-34 and 35-64

Notes: These are preliminary results for Ambulatory Care Sensitive Emergency Department Visits for Non-Traumatic Dental Conditions in Adults. Data are sourced from the 2018 T-MSIS Analytic Files.
Emergency Department Visits for Non-Traumatic Dental Conditions per 100,000 Beneficiaries, Non-Dual Eligible Adults Ages 21-34, By State

Notes: These are preliminary results for Ambulatory Care Sensitive Emergency Department Visits for Non-Traumatic Dental Conditions in Adults. Data are sourced from the 2018 T-MSIS Analytic Files. In white, states with unusable data quality, hatched overlay over states with high concern for data quality.
Emergency Department Visits for Non-Traumatic Dental Conditions per 100,000 Beneficiaries, Non-Dual Eligible Adults Ages 35-64, By State

Notes: These are preliminary results for Ambulatory Care Sensitive Emergency Department Visits for Non-Traumatic Dental Conditions in Adults. Data are sourced from the 2018 T-MSIS Analytic Files. In white, states with unusable data quality, hatched overlay over states with high concern for data quality.
Mean National Rate of Inpatient Admission for Non-Traumatic Dental Conditions per 100,000 Non-Dual Eligible Adult Beneficiaries, Ages 21-34 and 35-64

Notes: These are preliminary results for Ambulatory Care Sensitive Emergency Department Visits for Non-Traumatic Dental Conditions in Adults that resulted in a hospital admission. Data are sourced from the 2018 T-MSIS Analytic Files.
Inpatient Admissions for Non-Traumatic Dental Conditions per 100,000 Beneficiaries, Non-Dual Eligible Adults Ages 21-34, By State

Notes: These are preliminary results for Ambulatory Care Sensitive Emergency Department Visits for Non-Traumatic Dental Conditions in Adults that resulted in a hospital admission. Data are sourced from the 2018 T-MSIS Analytic Files; Gray states – small cell suppressed. In white, states with unusable data quality, hatched overlay over states with high concern for data quality.
Inpatient Admissions for Non-Traumatic Dental Conditions per 100,000 Beneficiaries, Non-Dual Eligible Adults Ages 35-64, By State

Notes: These are preliminary results for Ambulatory Care Sensitive Emergency Department Visits for Non-Traumatic Dental Conditions in Adults that resulted in a hospital admission. Data are sourced from the 2018 T-MSIS Analytic Files; Gray states – small cell suppressed. In white, states with unusable data quality, hatched overlay over states with high concern for data quality.
References