

2026 CORE SET TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS AND RESOURCE MANUAL STRATIFICATION ADDENDUM: MAY 2026

Background

- For 2026 reporting, states are encouraged, but not required, to report data for two new stratifications: (1) children in foster care at any time during the measurement period; and (2) adults who are eligible for Medicaid under Medicaid expansion programs.
- These new stratification standards are in addition to the existing Race and Ethnicity, Sex, and Geography standards included in the 2026 technical specifications and resource manuals for the [Child](#), [Adult](#), and [Health Home](#) Core Sets. Reporting stratified data by these existing standards is mandatory for a subset of measures, as specified in each resource manual.

Reporting Guidance for New Stratifications

Foster Care

- New stratification option for Child Medicaid (inclusive of both Title XIX-funded Medicaid and Title XXI-funded Medicaid Expansion CHIP), 1945 Health Home Programs, and 1945A Health Home Programs.¹
- Stratify by the following:
 - **In foster care during the measurement period:** Use enrollment data to identify that the beneficiary was either enrolled in Medicaid in the title IV-E foster care eligibility category or in another eligibility category and had a foster care indicator. Include all measure-eligible beneficiaries who were covered by foster care at any time during the measurement period in the “in foster care” category.
 - **Not in foster care during the measurement period:** Include all other measure-eligible beneficiaries in the “not in foster care” category so that all measure-eligible beneficiaries are included and none are double-counted.

Medicaid Expansion

- New stratification option for Adult Medicaid (inclusive of both Title XIX-funded Medicaid and Title XXI-funded Medicaid Expansion CHIP) and 1945 Health Home Programs.
- States that have not expanded Medicaid should skip this stratification.
- Stratify by the following:
 - **Adult group – Full expansion:** Adults enrolled in Medicaid under the adult group at section 1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(VIII) of the Social Security Act, and in regulation at 42 C.F.R. § 435.119² or in a section 1115 demonstration that provides eligibility for the entire adult group population.
 - **Medicaid-Non-expansion beneficiaries:** Adults enrolled in Medicaid that are not in the Adult group – Full expansion, as defined above.

For More Information

More information about reporting stratified data in the QMR system, including measures subject to mandatory reporting by Race and Ethnicity, Sex, and Geography can be found at <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/downloads/QMR-stratification-resource.pdf>.

¹ For 2026 reporting, there are no approved 1945A Health Home Programs.

² For more information, see https://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title19/1902.htm and <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-42/chapter-IV/subchapter-C/part-435/subpart-B/subject-group-ECFR6335dc9a0028e1c/section-435.119>.