

## Medicaid and CHIP

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### Expanding Access to Health Insurance Coverage

Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provide health insurance coverage to more than 80 million individuals who would otherwise be unable to afford health care. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) includes many provisions designed to expand Medicaid and CHIP eligibility, including an extension of coverage to non-disabled adults with incomes at or below 138 percent of the federal poverty level; simplified methodologies for determining eligibility; and streamlined processes designed to support seamless coordination across health insurance programs. The law also places an increased emphasis on clinical preventive services. As a result of these provisions, Medicaid and CHIP programs will play an even more integral role in improving access to the health and care of low-income Americans.

### The NORC Approach

NORC's Health Care Research team has particular strength in health care and human services data collection, policy analysis, and program evaluation for government, private-sector, and foundation clients. The team applies deep technical expertise in large-scale population survey design and implementation, quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis, evaluation, and technical assistance.

NORC's Health Care Research team includes prominent health policymakers from the state and federal levels, nationally recognized health services researchers, and leading experts in survey design and implementation. NORC's leadership and unique experience in performing evaluations—coupled with deep subject matter expertise—provides the foundation for relevant and effective solutions for its clients.

NORC conducts multi-mode evaluations for a broad range of programs, utilizing a mix of quantitative and qualitative methods. From comprehensive readiness reviews of health plans to surveys of adult Medicaid populations, NORC uses a variety of tools to assess policy changes and evaluate innovative programs.

### Sample Projects

**Financial Alignment Initiative Operations Support.** High-quality, cost-effective support for dual-eligible Medicare-Medicaid participants is a priority for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). NORC and its partners work closely with CMS to support the implementation of state demonstration programs that are testing new approaches to providing integrated, high-quality care to the dual-eligible population using



either a capitated or managed fee-for-service program model. NORC conducts readiness assessments of demonstration states and health plans, monitors states' and health plans' progress, educates stakeholders and consumers on the demonstrations, tracks and analyzes public comments, and provides project management expertise.

**Section 1115 Demonstration and Evaluation.** NORC is supporting the development of consistent evaluation designs to facilitate the assessment of CMS' Section 1115 Demonstration Programs, with a focus on Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment plans. These waivers offer states added flexibility to foster changes in health care delivery designed to result in better care for individuals, better population health, and cost containment. This support includes guidance on data collection, analysis, and reporting requirements to ensure that states conduct scientifically valid evaluations and can issue periodic progress reports. The NORC team recommends evaluation topic areas and reviews and assesses states' draft evaluation reports. Finally, the NORC team is developing a centralized database to track and manage states' waiver requirements and deliverables.

**Nationwide Adult Medicaid Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) Survey.** This survey, sponsored by CMS, is the first of its kind and is intended to capture baseline national and state-level estimates of adult Medicaid enrollees' experiences with the health care system beginning in 2014. NORC and its partner, the Thoroughbred Research Group, will sample approximately 1.5 million Medicaid beneficiaries nationwide. This project will provide CMS with uniform national figures on the health care experiences and related impressions of the Medicaid population. It will also give CMS comparable information for beneficiaries in all states across different program models. Results from this work will inform the development of standard measures anchoring a robust health care quality strategy for the adult Medicaid population.

**Interim and Final Reports to Congress on the Community First Choice (CFC) Option.** NORC is evaluating the implementation of the CFC Option, a Medicaid state plan benefit introduced in the ACA that covers home and community-based services and supports (HCBS) for beneficiaries with long-term care needs. NORC is conducting interviews and sites visits and analyzing Medicaid claims data to examine states' CFC implementation plans and progress, the impact of the CFC Option on individuals receiving HCBS attendant care, and the cost of care for beneficiaries receiving long-term services and supports. This study and the Reports to Congress that it generates will provide policymakers and program administrators with a more-thorough understanding of new HCBS options, states' decision-making processes, and what conditions are necessary to ensure the financial and logistic viability of the CFC program in particular.

## Other Projects

Medicaid's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) Benefit Improvement Workgroup

Report on Monitoring and Oversight of State Medicaid Managed Care Programs

Survey and Interim Report to Congress on the Medicaid Health Home State Plan Option

## About NORC

NORC at the University of Chicago is an independent research organization headquartered in downtown Chicago with additional offices on the University of Chicago's campus, the D.C. Metro area, Atlanta, Boston, and San Francisco. NORC also supports a nationwide field staff as well as international research operations. With clients throughout the world, NORC collaborates with government agencies, foundations, educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, and businesses to provide data and analysis that support informed decision-making in key areas including health care, education, economics, crime, justice, energy, security, and the environment. NORC's decades of leadership and experience in data collection, analysis, and dissemination—coupled with deep subject matter expertise—provide the foundation for effective solutions.

Learn more about NORC's work at [www.norc.org](http://www.norc.org).

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