

Quick Facts About

Benefits and Services Provided to Medicaid Recipients in South Carolina—2014

PATIENT CARE

Medicaid helped pay for health and long-term care services for 1,207,253 eligible members, including very poor families, people with disabilities, and low-income elderly citizens. 61% of these patients were children.

Due to the transition to community-based services, direct Medicaid service providers treated 798 fewer older adults in institutional settings in 2013 than in 2014.

For the total number of patients served, 8 out of 10 of the top diagnosis-related groups (DRGs) in 2014 related to maternity care.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Medicaid helped pay for behavioral health services for approximately 206,000 South Carolinians in 2014, including care for both mental health conditions and substance abuse. The majority of these patients were children.

20% of all Medicaid patients had a behavioral health diagnosis in 2014.

INPATIENT CARE

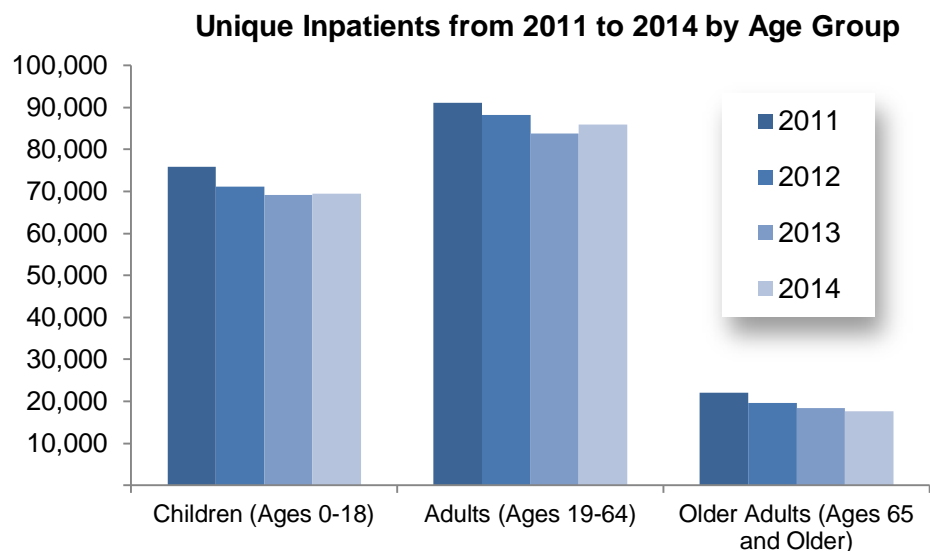
SC DHHS' efforts to reduce inpatient hospital stays by increasing patient-centered medical homes and investing in prevention strategies are showing promise. From 2011 to 2014, there were approximately 15,800 fewer unique inpatients.

Medicaid contracted with 78% of the state's nursing facilities and paid for 70% of the people in those facilities.

Medicaid paid approximately 40,000 health care providers for the vital services they provide.

According to the SC Budget and Control Board's Office of Research and Statistics (2014) Medicaid insurance coverage represented approximately 21% of South Carolina hospitals' occupancy rate.

Maternity care, mental health care, and treatment for septicemia were the primary reasons patients received inpatient treatment in 2014.



EMERGENCY SERVICES

SC DHHS' emergency department (ED) diversion program is also showing promise. Although there was an approximate 6% increase in the number of emergency room patients and a 6% increase in the number of emergency room (ER) visits from 2012 to 2014, reflective of the increase in number of Medicaid recipients, there were nearly 2,000 fewer visits resulting in a hospital admission, a decrease of 3%.

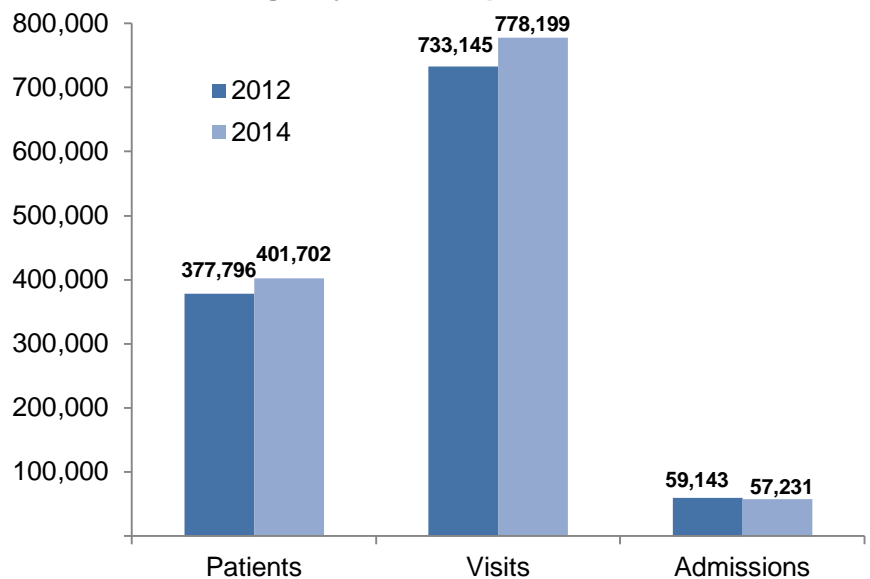
Over 400,000 emergency room patients were served in 2014.

Adults (ages 18 to 64) and older adults (ages 65 and older) made up 55% of ER visits and 83% of admissions from the ER, even though they only represented 46% of ER patients in 2014.

The majority of patients coming to the ER in 2014 (69%) were covered under a managed care plan.

Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT)/respiratory infections were the primary reason patients visited the ER, accounting for nearly 116,000 visits.

Emergency Room Department Utilization



ACCESS TO PHARMACEUTICALS

Approximately 658,600 Medicaid recipients received prescriptions in 2014.

DENTAL CARE

Medicaid covers dental services for all child enrollees as part of a comprehensive set of benefits, referred to as the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit. Dental services for children must minimally include relief of pain and infections, restoration of teeth, and maintenance of dental health. In 2014, more than 330,000 children ages 0-18 in South Carolina received dental services through Medicaid.

On average, these children each visited the dentist twice per year, which is the recommended number of visits by the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. This benefit is serving an essential need given that, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 19% of children in the South and 25% of children below the poverty level in the U.S. did not have a dental visit in the past year.

OBSTETRIC CARE

Medicaid pays for 55% of all births and over 90% of all teen births in South Carolina.