Medicaid and People with Disabilities: Emerging Policy Challenges

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April 24, 2018
Medicaid Plays a Major Role in Covering People with Disabilities in the United States, 2015

Total = 22.1 million nonelderly adults with disabilities

NOTES: Includes adults ages 18-64. Excludes those in long-term care facilities. Disability includes limitation in vision, hearing, mobility, cognitive functioning, self-care, and/or independent living. Other public includes those with Medicare (excludes Part A only), military or Veterans Administration coverage (excludes Tricare), and other government or state-sponsored health plans. Medicaid includes those dually enrolled in Medicare and Medicaid. SOURCE: Kaiser Family Foundation analysis of 2015 National Health Interview Survey data.
Major Elements of Recent Progress in Medicaid

ACA and Medicaid expansion filled in a major gap in coverage
- 32 states have accepted Medicaid expansion; additional states discussing moving forward
- In addition, eligibility process for most beneficiaries simplified, modernized, aligned with Marketplace

Strengthening managed care
- Dominant and growing role in serving Medicaid beneficiaries
- 2016 rules strengthened rates, networks, quality, consumer-facing processes

Movement of long term care services from institutional to community-based care
- 55 percent of spending now in home and community based settings (in 1980, 100% Institutional)
Major New and Potential Medicaid Policy Changes

Unprecedented eligibility restrictions through 1115 demonstration waivers
• Excluding people from coverage if they do not meet arbitrary standards for whether they work and how much
• Open enrollment periods, lockout periods for failure to complete paperwork or pay premiums, health literacy tests
  – Time limits proposed by some states

Rolling back policies that promote access and accountability
• Revisions to regulations to promote access proposed in March
• Medicaid managed care regulations will be revised this year

Source: HHS letter to Governors, March 14, 2017; CMS Administrator Verma speech at NAMD, 11-7-17
Disability and SSI Status of Nonelderly Adults with Medicaid, 2016

NOTES: Includes non-institutionalized nonelderly adults ages 19-64. Disability includes difficulty with hearing, vision, cognitive functioning, mobility, self-care, or independent living.


Total = 29.2 million Nonelderly adults with Medicaid
With a Disability, 30%
Without a Disability, 70%

With SSI, 43%
Without SSI, 57%

Total = 8.7 million Nonelderly Medicaid adults with disabilities
Types of Limitations Among Nonelderly Medicaid Adults with a Disability, by SSI Status, 2016

Nonelderly Medicaid Adults Reporting Serious Difficulty With:

- Hearing: 13% (SSI) vs. 14% (Not SSI)
- Vision: 17% (SSI) vs. 18% (Not SSI)
- Cognitive Functioning: 59% (SSI) vs. 51% (Not SSI)
- Mobility: 56% (SSI) vs. 52% (Not SSI)
- Self-Care: 28% (SSI) vs. 21% (Not SSI)
- Independent Living: 56% (SSI) vs. 42% (Not SSI)
- 2+ Limitations: 67% (SSI) vs. 53% (Not SSI)

NOTES: Includes non-institutionalized nonelderly adults ages 19-64. SSI = Supplemental Security Income. Respondents can report multiple limitations. All differences between SSI groups are statistically significant (p < 0.05). SOURCE: Kaiser Family Foundation analysis of the 2016 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates.
Typical Hours Worked by Nonelderly Medicaid Adults with a Disability Who Are Working, by SSI Status, 2016

With SSI:
- Working 20 or More Hours, 4%
- Working Less than 20 Hours, 3%
- Unemployed or Not in Labor Force, 93%

Total = 3.8 million nonelderly Medicaid adults with disabilities receiving SSI

No SSI:
- Working 20 or More Hours, 19%
- Working Less than 20 Hours, 4%
- Unemployed or Not in Labor Force, 77%

Total = 4.9 million nonelderly Medicaid adults with disabilities not receiving SSI
