Standing Advisory Committee Meeting

April 14, 2022 MHBE Policy Department



Agenda

2:00-2:20 | Welcome and Introductions

Ken Brannan, SAC Chair, and Dana Weckesser, SAC Board Liaison

2:20-2:30 | SAC Bylaws and Co-Chair Vote

Ken Brannan

2:30-3:00 | Health Equity Workgroup Recommendations

Dania Palanker, Center on Health Insurance Reforms, Georgetown University

3:00-3:10 | Executive Update

Michele Eberle, MHBE Executive Director

3:10-3:25 | Legislative Update

Johanna Fabian-Marks, MHBE Director of Policy and Plan Management

3:25-3:35 | Affordability Workgroup

Johanna Fabian-Marks

3:35-3:50 | Monthly Data Report Refresh

Andy Ratner, MHBE Chief of Staff

3:50-4:00 | Public Comment

4:00 | Adjournment



Welcome & Introductions

SAC Bylaws and Co-Chair Vote

SAC Bylaws - Proposal to Increase Co-Chair Term to Two Years

ARTICLE IV

Co-chairs

Section 1. Election of Co-chairs. The Members shall elect from their membership two Co-chairs.

Section 2. Term. Co-chairs so elected shall serve a term of no more than two years one year, or until their own term of service on SAC has expired, whichever comes first. If a Co-chair is elected to fill the unexpired officership of a predecessor, such service shall not count against the limitation on tenure set forth above.

Section 3. Duties. The Co-chairs of SAC shall, in addition to presiding at meetings, have such other duties as may from time to time be assigned by the MHBE Board or otherwise prescribed by these Bylaws.



Proposed Votes

Staff proposes that the SAC amend the bylaws to allow co-chairs to serve up to 2 years. Bylaw amendment requires 2/3 vote.

- Potential motion: I move to approve the amendment to the SAC bylaws as presented.
- Vote to elect co-chairs



Health Equity Workgroup Recommendations

Background

- August December 2021
- 20 members (consumer advocates, navigators, physicians, insurers, state agencies, hospitals, and universities; geographic diversity)
- Eight meetings
 - Topics prioritized by members
 - Expert guest speakers on most topics
 - Presentations from each QHP issuer
 - Models from other states
 - Member expertise and feedback
- Recommendations unanimously approved by responding members



Health Equity Workgroup Members

Member	Affiliation
Richard Amador	HealthCare Access MD
William Ashley	LifeBridge Health System
Noel Brathwaite	MDH Office of Minority Health & Health Disparities
Alyssa Brown	MDH Office of Health Care Financing
Shari Curtis	Prince George's Healthcare Action Coalition
Bryan Gere	University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Diana Hsu	Maryland Hospital Association
Kim Jones-Fearing	Kim Jones-Fearing MD LLC
Stephanie Klapper	Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative
Nicole Mallette	Maryland Insurance Administration
Allison Mangiaracino	Kaiser Permanente

Member	Affiliation				
Jomy Mathew	United Healthcare				
Joshua Morris	HealthCare Access MD				
Marie-Therese Oyalowo	University of Maryland Eastern Shore				
Dania Palanker*	Center on Health Insurance Reforms, Georgetown University				
Ligia Peralta	Casa Ruben, Inc.				
Megan Renfrew	Health Services Cost Review Commission				
Patricia Swanson	CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield				
Barbara Tighe	HealthCare Access MD				
Nikki Highsmith Vernick	The Horizon Foundation				
Sheila Woodhouse*	University of Maryland Medical Capital Region Health Medical Group				

*Co-chairs



Race & Ethnicity Data Collection

- Redesign race and ethnicity questions on MHC application
 - Current response rate: <70%
 - Best practices:
 - Adding a "prefer not to say" response option
 - Requiring a selection
 - Adding more specific race & ethnicity response options
- Follow-up recommendations:
 - Convene data-focused workgroup
 - Support targeted marketing/outreach strategy
 - Collaborate with insurers on race/ethnicity enrollment goals
 - Redesign sex and gender MHC application questions



NCQA Multicultural Health Care Distinction

- Plan certification standard for PY2024: Carriers achieve distinction in Multicultural
 Health Care from the National Committee for Quality Assurance
 - DC and CA have this requirement (MD & DC individual markets share carriers)
 - Note: NCQA shifting from Multicultural Health Care Distinction to Health Equity Accreditation

"NCQA evaluates how well an organization complies with standards for:

- Collecting race/ethnicity and language data.
- Providing language assistance.
- Cultural responsiveness.
- Quality improvement of culturally and linguistically appropriate services (CLAS).
- Reduction of health care disparities."



Health Insurance Literacy

- Partner with community organizations to develop or offer health insurance literacy curriculum
- Enhance MHBE website to assist with plan choice and use of benefits
 - Program chatbot and add tooltips to explain key insurance terms, plan shopping considerations
 - Add pages on how to use benefits to MHC
 - Conduct focus groups with consumers to test accessibility of materials/resources
- Audit MHC and MHBE websites for accessibility by consumers whose primary language is not English (particularly Spanish-speakers)
 - Website copy translation
 - Search engine optimization



Support Financing of Community Health Workers

- MHBE and insurers should continue discussing alternative payment models (APMs) that support community health workers (CHWs)
 - Support navigators and CHWs to share resources and refer clients to each other
 - MHBE challenge— limited authority at the point of care



Reduce Cost-Sharing for High-Disparity Conditions

- Apply 2022 value plan standards for diabetes supplies to all private plans on MHC starting in PY2024 (eliminate insulin and glucometer cost-sharing)
 - Diabetes disproportionately impacts Black Marylanders
 - Follow DC's model
- Continue exploring the feasibility of reducing cost-sharing for high-disparity conditions
 - Start with small changes that minimize impact to actuarial value and do not increase patient cost-sharing
 - Affordability Workgroup to discuss this spring



Implicit Bias

- Establish regular implicit bias training for MHBE staff
- Support other state implicit bias work
 - MHHD: developing list of approved implicit bias training
 - MIA: incorporating implicit bias into network adequacy regulations
- Continue to explore the extent of QHP carriers' efforts around implicit bias



Partnership & Collaboration

- Hold listening sessions with connector entities, other community partners that work directly with consumers, consumers themselves. Use insights to inform strategy.
 - Compensate participants
- Continue coordinating with MIA and other state agencies
- Form new partnerships with community organizations



Support coverage for immigrants

Continue exploration and discussion of coverage options for individuals who are currently ineligible for existing programs—specifically undocumented immigrants.



Motion

Would the Standing Advisory Committee like to take a vote to express its support for the recommendations of the Health Equity Workgroup? A majority vote is necessary for passage.

 Potential motion: I move to support the recommendations of the Health Equity Workgroup as presented.



Questions & Discussion

MHBE Executive Update

Legislative Update

2022 Legislative Session Update

Bill	Summary	Status		
HB 413	Extends 1% provider fee to fund state reinsurance program in the second 1332 waiver period (2024-2028)	To Governor		
SB 632	Requires MHBE to form a Small Business and Nonprofit Health Insurance Subsidies Program Workgroup	To Governor		
HB 1082	Allocates \$300-400k to UMD Horowitz Center for Health Literacy to establish a Consumer Health Information Hub	To Governor		
HB 937	Establishes an abortion clinical care training program and requires Medicaid and other payers to cover abortion. MHBE required to expand Young Adult Subsidy to result in \$0 premiums for those eligible for 0% expected contribution.	Enacted		
SB 728 / HB 1035	Directed MHBE to submit a 1332 waiver application to allow individuals ineligible for federal subsidies to enroll in QHPs and created a state subsidy program.	Did not move forward		



Affordability Workgroup

2022 Affordability Workgroup

Consumer cost-sharing like deductibles and copays continue to be a challenge for some enrollees even as premiums have been stabilized by the state reinsurance program. The workgroup will develop recommendations for MHBE to continue to improve affordability, including through:

- 1. Assessing the first year of results from the Young Adult Subsidy Pilot Program, which originated with the first Affordability Workgroup;
- 2. Revisiting MHBE's Value Plan requirements; and
- 3. Considering how MHBE might adjust cost sharing to promote health equity.

Meetings are expected to be held May - August 2022.



Data Reporting

What is data?

1640s: Plural from the Latin word "datum" - the "thing given"

Derived from the Latin verb "dare" – "to give"

Data = observations given

1897: "Numerical facts collected for future reference."

1946: "Transmittable and storable information by which computer operations are

performed"

1954: "data-processing"

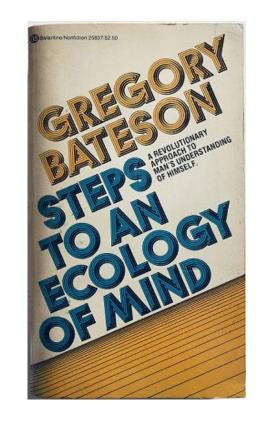
1962: "database"

1970: "data-entry"



"Information is a difference that makes a difference"

Anthropologist Gregory Bateson, "Steps to an Ecology of Mind," 1972

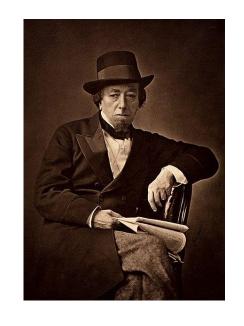


Focus on statistics than can improve your operation and measure its progress.



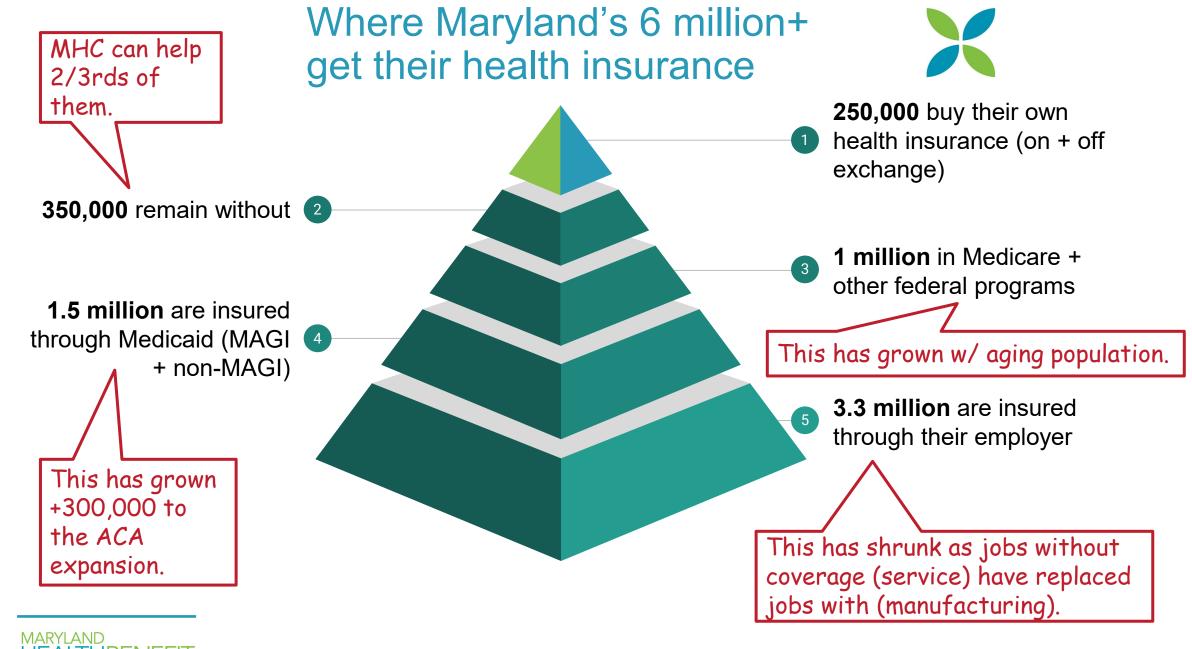
"There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics"

Credited to 17th-century British prime minister Benjamin Disraeli (right), although some claim the phrase has existed as long as the word "statistics" was first used in the English language in 1749.



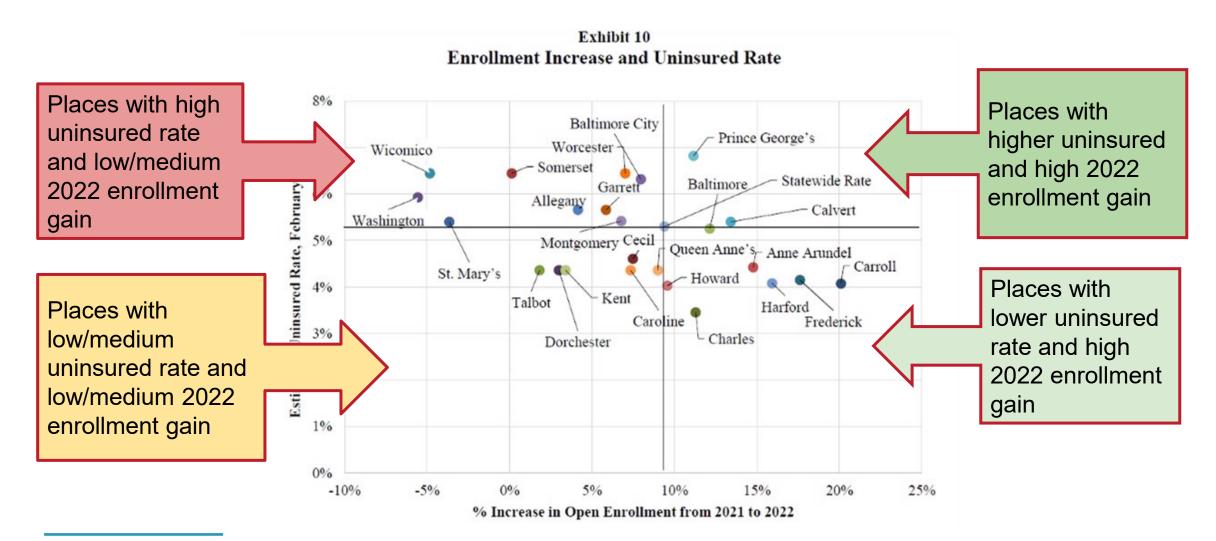
Emphasis isn't a lie ... but it is subjective.





Sources: MHBE, MIA, SHADAC

Look for better ways to "see" & understand our data





Monthly Data Reports

marylandhbe.com/news-resources/reports-data/

MHBE Monthly Data Reports

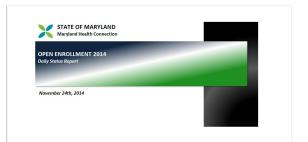
The report fulfills two objectives:

1. External communications so that the public, the board, stakeholders and electeds can access current data on how the marketplace (both QHP and MA) is faring in enrollments, effectuation, health equity, young adult enrollment / risk balance, consumer assistance, financial assistance.

2. Agency operations, so managers can assess trends or changes that warrant attention / action.



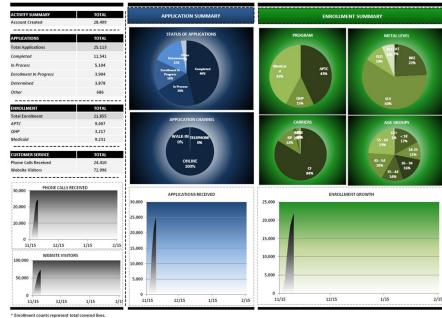
Original Data Report (2014-2018)



MARYLAND HEALTH CONNECTION **Daily Activity Statistics** As of November 23rd, 2014

ACTIVITY DATE	ACCOUNTS CREATED	TOTAL APPLICATIONS	APPLICATIONS COMPLETED	APPLICATIONS NOT COMPLETED	TOTAL PEOPLE ENROLLED	ENROLLED (APTC)	ENROLLED (QHP)	ENROLLED (MEDICAID)	PHONE CALLS RECEIVED	WEBSITE VISITORS
11/15/2014	171	121	80	41	139	89	14	36	706	8,566
11/16/2014	192	141	89	52	151	98	15	38	890	15,382
11/17/2014	3,653	2,749	1,258	1,491	1,901	835	395	671	4,903	26,811
11/18/2014	7,145	5,794	2,667	3,127	4,144	1,762	780	1,602	8,345	36,566
11/19/2014	14,903	12,820	6,032	6,788	10,124	4,346	1,639	4,139	13,702	50,211
11/20/2014	20,420	17,760	8,281	9,479	14,777	6,274	2,266	6,237	18,542	59,290
11/21/2014	24,519	21,468	9,952	11,516	18,386	7,785	2,709	7,892	22,837	65,961
11/22/2014	26,729	23,492	10,784	12,708	20,272	8,669	2,966	8,637	24,012	69,546
11/23/2014	28,499	25,113	11,541	13,572	21,855	9,407	3,217	9,231	24,410	72,996

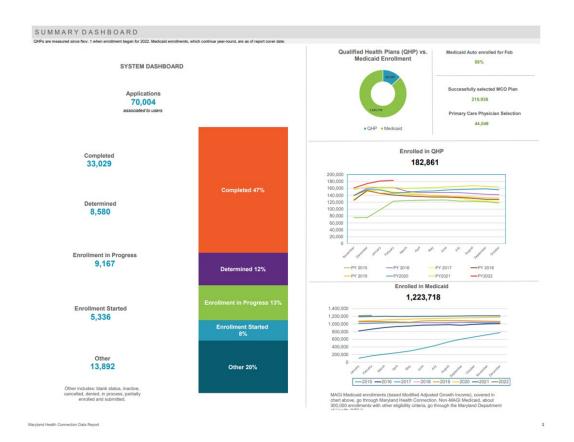
MARYLAND HEALTH CONNECTION Summary Dashboard

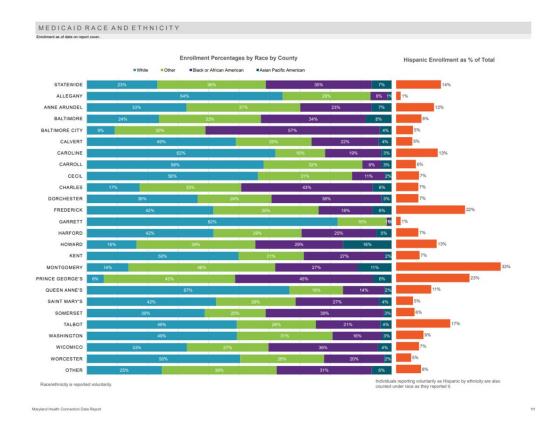




Current Data Report (since 2018)









Some possible changes

- Highlights on Page One to act as a quick Executive Summary at a glance.
- More comparisons versus one year earlier.
- Add % Change by Race and Ethnicity to better measure health equity trend.
- Can we better show how advanced technology is leading to more consumer self-service?
- Collaborate with MHCC to show consumer satisfaction with various plans?
 Information about quality?
- Others?



Other State-Based Exchanges



New York

- **NEW YORK** issues a small Annual Report with limited data; most recent is 2020.
- Also recently produced an extensive report on the consumer impact of ARPA analyzed by Congressional District.





By the **Numbers**

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE UPDATE

NY STATE OF HEALTH IN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1:

illions of New Yorkers have benefitted from access to affordable Marketplace health insurance coverage since March 2020 thanks to flexibilities permitted during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) and enhanced tax credits available under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) that expire in 2022 if Congress doesn't

These policies ensured that consumers had the security of affordable, comprehensive health coverage when consumers lost their jobs and/or income during the pandemic. assuring access to health care when they needed it the most

A successful transition from the PHE and extension of the ARPA subsidies are essential to keeping New York's uninsured rates one of the lowest in the country. The coverage and cost implications for New Yorkers are







Without the extension of ARPA Savings, coverage will be too expensive for enrollees moving from public programs to Qualified Health Plans (QHP) with subsidies, leading to significant increases in uninsured New Yorkers.



Statewide, here are the numbers:

New Yorkers enrolled in free or low-cost coverage through NY State

6.4 million 138,008

New Yorkers who from enhanced ARPA tax credits. whose premiums

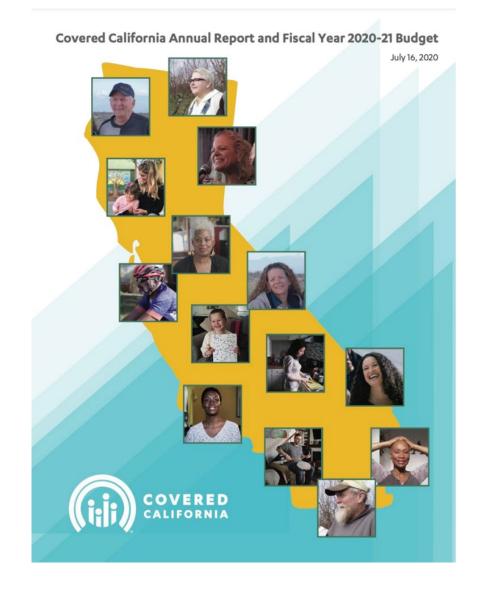
The percentage by which premiums will increase for tax

58%



California

- CALIFORNIA doesn't issue a comparable monthly data report. It does report data mostly through Excel files on its website, but may be more useful for researchers but less user-friendly for the public, electeds and stakeholders.
- Its Annual Report to the governor and legislature is as long as Maryland's, but much more focused on budget details (which might seem superfluous for us since the Budget office already compiles those details for its own reporting to the Executive and Legislative branches.)





Washington state

- WASHINGTON State issues data reports on a quarterly or semi-annual basis, sometimes in Excel form, other times as Word docs.
- Not as presentable as Maryland or Colorado.

Open Enrollment 2022 Highlights

Open Enrollment 2022 (OE 9) was an unprecedented success for the Washington Health Benefit Exchange. A record 240,000 customers signed up for a Qualified Health Plan (QHP) through the Exchange. More customers are choosing to stay with their Exchange-based coverage, and as a result of the American Rescue Plan Act, 73% of 2022 customers now receive of federal subsidies on their health plan.

OE 9 by the Numbers

Record high open enrollment sign-ups, driven by highest number of returning customers.

- 240,000 customers signed up for coverage.
- 22,000 higher than 2021 (6% increase).
- 20,000 new customers in 2021 post-ARPA implementation.
- 39,000 new customers during open enrollment.

More customers than ever qualified for monthly savings.

- 176,000 customers received federal subsidies.
- 73% subsidized (up from 61% before ARPA implementation).

More customers pay low monthly premiums.

- 100,000 (42%) pay a net premium of \$100 or less per month.
- 59,000 (24%) pay \$25 or less per month.
- 46,000 (19%) pay \$10 or less per month.
- 10,000 (4%) pay \$1 or less per month.

Cascade Care plan sign-ups more than doubled from 2021.

- Nearly 80,000 people chose a Cascade Care plan.
- 8,500 chose a Cascade Select plan (public option).



2

Massachusetts

- MASSACHUSETTS has an "Annual Report to the Legislature," issued in January. It is comparable to Maryland's in scope (blander in presentation).
- They also do a good job of putting data in their board meeting documents (far right) each month.

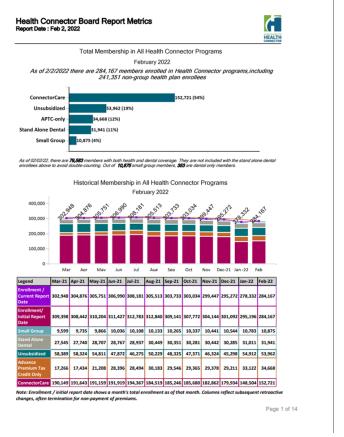
Report to the Massachusetts Legislature: Activities and Accomplishments of the Massachusetts Health Insurance Marketplace

Fiscal Year 2020



Massachusetts Health Connector January 2021



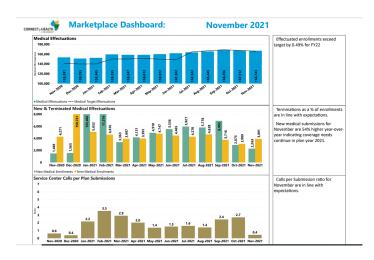




Colorado

- COLORADO releases a simpler, two-page monthly report (top). It's clean but doesn't cover demographic or geographic trends, or MA trends.
- It issues an "Annual Report" (middle) by Jan. 15 to meet a statutory deadline, focused mostly on policy, strategic initiatives and future planning, little data.
- It issues a second similarly designed but more data-driven post-"Open Enrollment Report, (bottom) each spring.









How Maryland compares in 2022

Sources: CMS 2022 Public Use Files, ACASignups.net

5th highest growth among 18 State-Based Marketplaces

Maryland's 2022 growth of 10% year over year was 5th best among the 18 State-Based Marketplaces, behind:

1.	Nevada	24

2. New Jersey 20

3. Pennsylvania 11

4. Colorado 11

(Other non-SBM states that did not expand Medicaid typically had larger growth rates in 2022 because MA was not an option for many there during pandemic.)



Tied for 2nd lowest average premium in nation: \$447 a month

Maryland's average premium in 2022 was tied for 2nd lowest in the nation:

Utah \$408

New Hampshire \$447



But Maryland was tied for 24th in nation after APTC per month

1. Utah	\$62	14. Virginia	\$126
Mississippi	72	15. Tennessee	128
3. Florida	80	16. Arkansas	134
4. Texas	86	17. Iowa	135
Wyoming	88	18. Rhode Island	135
South Dakota	91	19. Missouri	137
 Oklahoma 	93	20. Montana	142
8. Alabama	96	21. Kansas	149
North Carolina	96	22. California	150
10.North Dakota	100	23. Louisiana	157
11.Georgia	105	24. Alaska	158
12.South Carolina	107	24. Maryland	158*
13.Nebraska	121	*Income-related	



5th in nation in proportion of Gold plans: 46% of total enrollment

Maryland was behind only:

1.	Wyoming	64%
	v v y Oi i ii i i g	01/0

2. New Mexico 58

3. Alaska 47

4. Delaware 47

All State-Based Marketplaces averaged 14% Gold.

All states averaged 10% Gold

Why is that important? Gold policies have lower deductibles than silver and bronze and cover roughly 80% of the average enrollee's in-network health care expenses in a year. This metric reveals affordability.



Did MD's additional subsidy propel 26-34 year olds to enroll?

- Maryland grew 9% in the 26-34 year-old bracket. But that % ranked 34th nationally.
- In that age range, TX grew 46%. AL, AR, AZ, FL, GA, MS, NV, SC, and TN all grew +30%. FFM states (on Healthcare.gov) overall averaged 26% growth among 26-34s.
- It's likely that the pandemic fueled desire for private insurance especially in states where expanded Medicaid eligibility was not an option. Also, the Public Health Emergency meant no one was rolling off Medicaid as before.
- But even in the SBM states (all MA Expansion), growth among 26-34s averaged +13%.



On a closer inspection, perhaps it did ...

- Maryland's 26-34 as a share of total enrollment was the third best in the country in both 2021 and 2022 at 19%.
- Only DC at 34% (unique population skews young) and MA at 22% (extensive state subsidies) ranked higher.
- DC's 26-34s as share of total enrollment fell from 2021 to 2022 (30% to 28%), while MA's held steady at 22%
- DC's total 26-34 enrollment fell by 14% and MA's fell by 16% from '21 to '22, so MD's +10% growth compares favorably.



Maryland's Hispanic enrollment growth was impressive, but ...

- Maryland grew 14%, best ever. But that % was 41st of the 51 marketplaces (including DC). PA grew +200%. MN grew +500%. States on the federal platform grew 26%.
- One probable factor for the boost: Reduction of fear over ACA enrollment / repercussions for citizenship.
- Maryland's total Hispanic enrollment 20,396 ranked 10th in the country.
- Maryland's total Hispanic enrollment is also larger than in more than a halfdozen states with larger Hispanic populations: New York, Colorado, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Nevada, Washington state, Massachusetts and Nevada.
- From <u>Kaiser Foundation</u>: **Hispanic uninsured rate in MD in 2019 was 21.4%**, compared to 6.9% uninsured overall in MD. In 2009, gap was larger: 33.9% Hispanic uninsured vs. 13% overall.



Maryland's Black enrollment was also unclear viewed nationally

- Maryland grew 11%, best ever. But that % was 37th in nation. SD grew 60%. TX grew 50%. MN,GA, DE, MS, OH and VT all grew +40%.
- Maryland's total Black enrollment 30,776 was 8th in the country.
- Maryland for 2022 had larger Black enrollment (double) than some states with larger Black populations such as New York and Illinois.
- From <u>Kaiser Foundation</u>: in 2019, Black uninsured rate in MD estimated at 6.2%, compared to 6.9% uninsured overall.
- In 2009, gap was: 13.9% Black vs. 13% overall



Questions?

(*Data often produces more than you started with)

Public Comment

Health Equity Appendix Slides

Plan Certification and Affordability Initiatives

Value Plan Standards

 Diabetes disproportionately affects people of color in Maryland. For PY 2022, MHBE worked to better support Maryland's diabetes initiatives by requiring silver and gold value plans to offer diabetes supplies without cost sharing

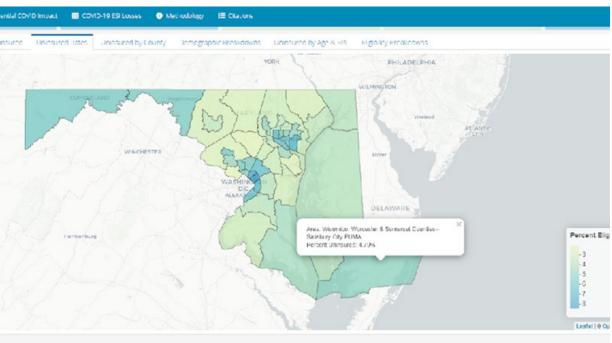
Young Adult Subsidy

 Black and Hispanic young adults in Maryland are 2x-3x more likely to be uninsured than White young adults



MHBE Uninsured Dashboard

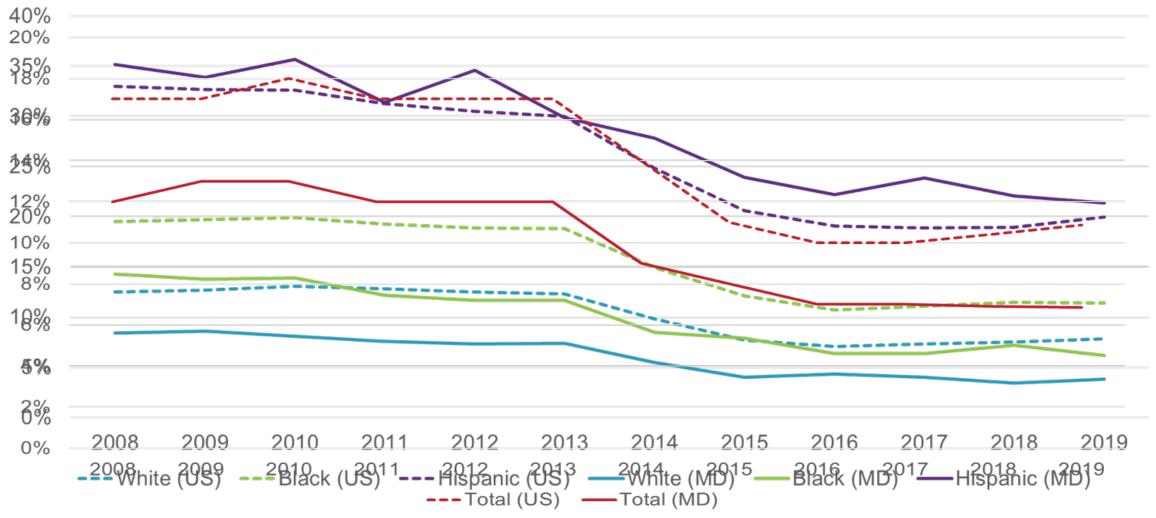
Interactive MHBE Uninsured
Dashboard available at:
https://www.marylandhbe.com/wp-content/docs/COVID_Uninsured_Analysis_Dashboard_April2021.html



Eligible" and "Eligible Uninsured" estimates exclude undocumented immigrants because they are not eligible to enroll in coverage through Matatewide estimates include some best-estimate assumptions not applied at the sub-state level. See Methodology for detail.



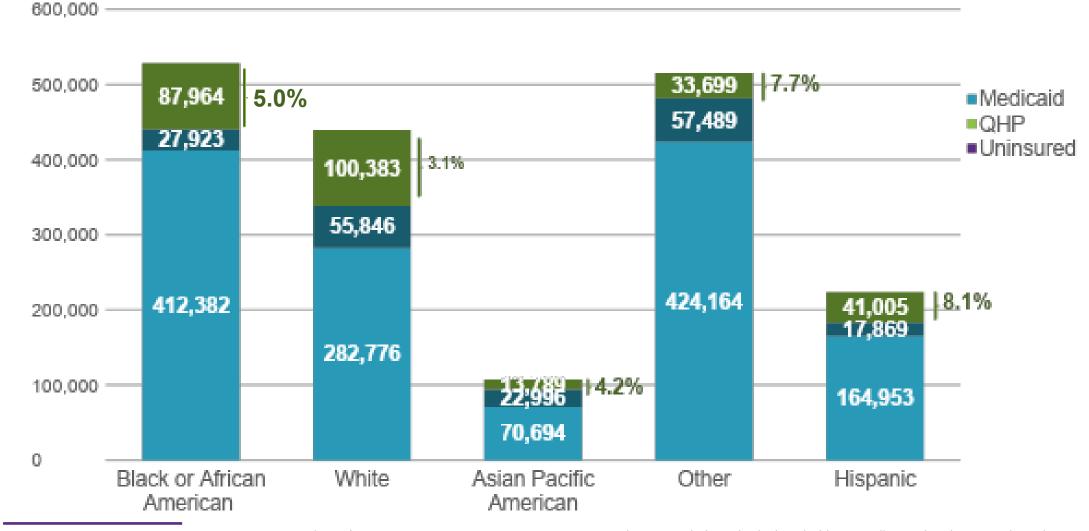
Percent Uninsured by Race and Ethnicity, MD and US



Data from Kaiser Family Foundation, Uninsured Rates for the Nonelderly by Race/Ethnicity, https://www.kff.org/uninsured/state-indicator/nonelderly-uninsured-rate-by-raceethnicity

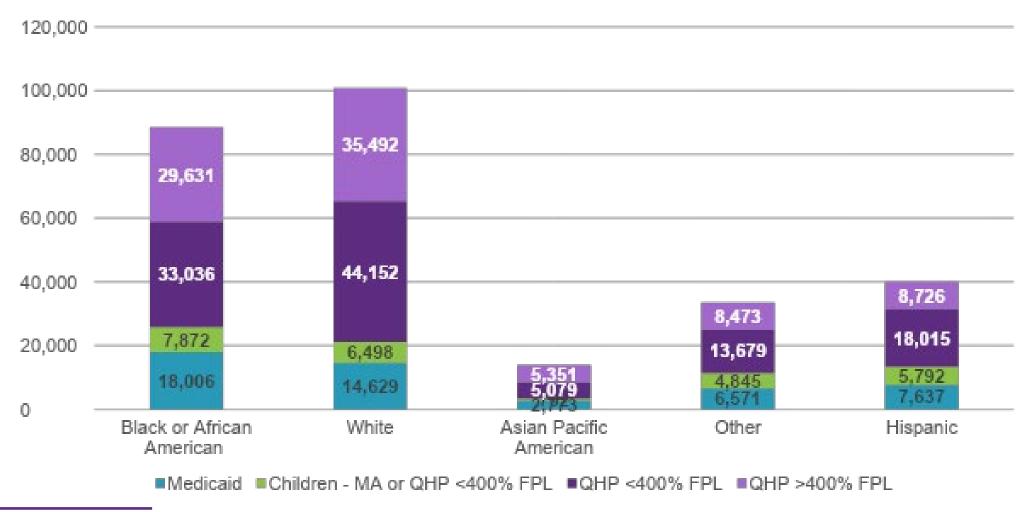


MHBE Medicaid Enrollment, QHP Enrollment, and Uninsured by Race and Ethnicity





Uninsured by Eligibility for Financial Assistance, by Race and Ethnicity





Eligibility & Immigration Status

- Maryland is home to an estimated:
 - 244,693 total undocumented individuals
 - 115,856 uninsured undocumented individuals
- MHBE is working on a report on coverage options for undocumented immigrants, as requested by the legislature
 - Staff will notify workgroup members about upcoming briefings
- Resources:
 - Enrollment and Eligibility Information for Immigrant Families (MHC)
 - UNDERSTANDING IMMIGRATION STATUS UNDER THE ACA (MDH)
 - Immigration Fast Facts (CMS)



Eligibility & Immigration Status

Immigration statuses eligible for Individual Marketplace coverage:

- Qualified immigrants under the "5-year bar" (also eligible for APTC)
 - 5-year bar: otherwise-qualified immigrants must be lawfully present for 5 years before they are eligible for Medicaid (with some exceptions)
- Immigrants exempt from 5-year bar
 - Children, pregnant women, asylees, refugees, etc.
- Lawfully residing non-qualified immigrants / individuals with valid nonimmigrant status
 - Student/work visas, temporary resident status, pending application for asylum, etc.

Not eligible for Marketplace coverage:

- Undocumented immigrants
- DACA recipients (<u>7,560 in MD</u>)

Financial assistance eligibility:

- Lawfully present immigrants with income between 138% and 400% FPL
- Qualified immigrants under the 5-year bar with income up to 400% FPL



Highest-Cost Conditions among Reinsurance Claims

- MHBE requires carriers to report on the most frequently occurring and highest-cost conditions and on care management efforts to improve certain conditions
- Highlighted conditions have a significant, disproportionate impact on Black Marylanders

Highest Cost Conditions			
Cancers, including breast, prostate, lung brain, colorectal, and			
metastatic			
Congestive Heart Failure			
Diabetes			
Septicemia, Sepsis, Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome/Shock			
Respiratory Arrest, Failure, and Shock			
Asthma and COPD			
Specified Heart Arrythmias			
End Stage Renal Disease			
Non-Traumatic Coma, Brain Compression/Anoxic Damage			
Protein-Calorie Malnutrition			
Coagulation Defects and Other Specified Hematological Disorders			
Hemophilia			
Inflammatory Bowel Disease			
Autistic Disorder			
Multiple Sclerosis			

