COVID-19 Impact on Medi-Cal Utilization among Children in Foster Care

July 30, 2021
Understanding COVID-19 Impact among Children in Foster Care

• DHCS is performing analysis that will monitor the impact of COVID-19 among children in Foster Care

• Focus areas for utilization of services:
  ✓ COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and testing
  ✓ Utilization of services prior to and during the pandemic
Data Analysis Caveats

- Data presented is for children in Foster Care in the age group 0 through 17 years unless otherwise specified.
- Age is based on the Medi-Cal eligibility data at the time of the service.
- Stratifications by sex, race/ethnicity, and delivery system are based on all claims to date for calendar year 2020.
- Reporting is based on claims and encounter data received from providers and managed care plans.
- Additional measures and reporting are in process beyond those being shared today.
Data Completeness Considerations

- Data is preliminary and will continue to change and be updated.
- Numbers that are less than 11 are suppressed and no data is presented.
- The time between date of service and when DHCS receives fee-for-service claims and managed care encounters varies.
- Since providers' payment is incumbent on claims being submitted within six months of the date of service, majority of data is received within six months.
- While most data is received within 3 to 6 months of date of service, data may be received up to 6 to 12 months after services are delivered.
- The most recent months of data are not presented as there is insufficient reporting (also called claim lag) to show current trends.
Total number of beneficiaries in Foster Care aged 0-17 years with a COVID-19 diagnosis

Beneficiaries are counted once

ICD-10 codes are used to identify COVID-19 cases on claims or encounters:
  - B97.29 - other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere (Used for cases before April 1, 2020)
  - U07.1 - 2019 Novel Coronavirus, COVID-19 (Used to identify cases after April 1, 2020)

Data source: DHCS MIS/DSS Claims and Eligibility Data, California Open Data Portal
COVID-19 Confirmed Cases
New cases monthly
Per 100,000 beneficiaries 0-17 years old in Foster Care

Preliminary Data as of 07/2021
COVID-19 Confirmed Cases
New cases monthly
Per 100,000 beneficiaries 0-17 years old in Medi-Cal vs in Foster Care

Preliminary Data as of 07/2021
Hospitalizations

- Hospitalizations can be presented in the following ways
  - COVID-19 diagnosis (on claim)
  - All hospitalizations (COVID-19 and non-COVID-19) comparing calendar year 2019 (Pre-COVID) to calendar year 2020
- Hospitalizations are counted as the number of beneficiaries aged 0-17 years in Foster Care who were hospitalized
- Since less than 11 beneficiaries aged 0-17 years in Foster Care were hospitalized for COVID related diagnosis every month, we are unable to present that data for privacy reasons
- Data Source: DHCS MIS/DSS Claims and Eligibility Data
Hospitalizations
Per 100,000 beneficiaries 0-17 years old in Foster Care

Preliminary Data as of 07/2021
COVID-19 Testing

- Total number of tests by month for beneficiaries aged 0-17 years who have been tested for COVID-19
- Data represent totals of tests (claims), not individual people
- Tests can be antigen or antibody based. Specific codes used for identification of tests included but are not limited to U0001-4, 87635, 87426, 0202U, 0224U, 86328 and 86769
- Data does not represent test results or positivity status
- Source of Data: DHCS MIS/DSS Claims and Eligibility Data, California Open Data Portal
COVID-19 Testing
Per 100,000 beneficiaries 0-17 years old in Foster Care

Preliminary Data as of 07/2021
COVID-19 Testing
Per 100,000 beneficiaries 0-17 years old in Medi-Cal vs Foster Care

Preliminary Data as of 07/2021
COVID-19 Testing compared to Confirmed Cases
Per 100,000 beneficiaries 0-17 years old in Foster Care

Preliminary Data as of 07/2021

Tested 100K  Diagnosed 100K


0  1,000  2,000  3,000  4,000  5,000  6,000  7,000  8,000  9,000

0  37  81  97  222  194  146  298  993  1,004  206  92

3,879  3,680  7,636  6,195  4,406  3,023  2,953  1,472  1,000  833  281

Preliminary Data as of 07/2021
The following are initial measures that have been compiled to compare utilization during calendar year 2019 (Pre-COVID) to calendar year 2020

• Emergency Department
• Telehealth
• Dental Visits
• Mental Health Services
Emergency Department Visits

- Total number Emergency Department visits including those related to COVID-19 among beneficiaries aged 0-17 years in Foster Care
- Procedure Codes Utilized: 99281, 99282, 99283, 99284, 99285
- Overall, California hospitals have experienced declines of 40% to 60% in ED visits during the pandemic (The Financial Impact of COVID-19 on California Hospitals, CHCF, June 2020)
- Data Source: MIS/DSS Claims and Eligibility Data
Emergency Department Visits
Per 100,000 beneficiaries 0-17 years old in Foster Care

Preliminary Data as of 07/2021

Preliminary Data as of 07/2021
Emergency Department Visits
Per 100,000 0-17 years old beneficiaries in Medi-Cal vs Foster Care

Preliminary Data as of 07/2021
Telehealth Visits

• Telehealth visits were identified based on the presence of a modifier on the claim or encounter (modifiers 95, GQ and GT)

• Telehealth visits include phone and video healthcare visits

• Telehealth Visits are outpatient visits in fee-for-service or managed care – mental health visits are not included in this chart

• Source of data: MIS/DSS Claims and Eligibility
Telehealth Visits
Per 100,000 beneficiaries 0-17 years old in Foster Care

Preliminary Data as of 07/2021
Telehealth Visits
Per 100,000 beneficiaries 0-17 years old in Medi-Cal vs Foster Care

Preliminary Data as of 07/2021
Dental Visits

• Number of members in Foster Care who received any Dental Care Visit Services

• Data is presented for age group 0-17 years for this slide; will be presented for foster care/former foster youth 0-20 years, in the future.

• Methodology is based on the measure for Annual Dental Visits

• Source of data: MIS/DSS Claims and Eligibility
Beneficiaries with Dental Visits
Per 100,000 beneficiaries 0-17 years old
all Medi-Cal vs Foster Care

Preliminary Data as of 06/2021
California has a Split Mental Health Delivery System

• Managed Care Plans (MCPs) Cover
  – Non-specialty mental health services

• Mental Health Outpatient Services covered by MCPs:
  – Individual and group mental health evaluation and treatment (psychotherapy)
  – Psychological testing, when clinically indicated to evaluate a mental health condition
  – Outpatient services for the purpose of monitoring drug therapy
  – Outpatient laboratory, drugs, supplies and supplements (excluding antipsychotics)
  – Psychiatric consultation
Carved Out Mental Health Services

- **Specialty Mental Health Services**
  - Administered through county mental health plans (MHPs)
  - Services for children/youth in Foster Care whose mental health needs require care services not included in MCP mental health benefits

- **Substance Use Disorder Benefits**
  - Administered through Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) and Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) counties, and waiver services
  - Community-based system for SUD services through counties or through direct contracts with service providers
Mental Health Visits

• Non-specialty Mental Health Visits - Total number of mental health visits in managed care and fee-for-service

• Specialty Mental Health Visits – Total number of mental health visits in the Specialty Mental Health System

• Each unique visit is defined by a unique combination of beneficiary and visit date

• Total number of visits includes telehealth visits

• Visits have broad inclusion of procedures for screening, evaluation, care, and treatment provided in a non-specialty and specialty claiming systems

• Source of data: MIS/DSS Claims and Eligibility
Total Mental Health Visits
Per 100,000 beneficiaries 0-17 years old in Foster Care

Preliminary Data as of 07/2021
Total Mental Health Visits
Per 100,000 beneficiaries 0-17 years old in Medi-Cal vs Foster Care

Preliminary Data as of 07/2021
Non-Specialty Mental Health Visits
Per 100,000 beneficiaries 0-17 years old in Foster Care

Preliminary Data as of 07/2021

![Bar chart showing non-specialty mental health visits per 100,000 beneficiaries 0-17 years old in foster care from January 2019 to December 2021. The data is presented for each month with bars representing 2019, 2020, and 2021.]

Preliminary Data as of 07/2021
Non-Specialty Mental Health Visits
Per 100,000 beneficiaries 0-17 years old in Medi-Cal vs Foster Care

Preliminary Data as of 07/2021

Preliminary Data as of 07/2021
Specialty Mental Health Visits
Per 100,000 beneficiaries 0-17 years old in Foster Care

Preliminary Data as of 07/2021

Jan  224,096 232,467 205,051
Feb  222,042 200,029 221,448
Mar  182,651 220,110 256,106
Apr  228,252 234,383 691,192
May  293,770 269,101
Jun  199,943 256,248
Jul  222,656 241,523
Aug  225,761 247,579
Sep  218,392 246,358
Oct  247,579 254,527
Nov  206,782 219,794
Dec  203,267 225,521

Preliminary Data as of 07/2021
Specialty Mental Health Visits
Per 100,000 beneficiaries 0-17 years old in Medi-Cal vs Foster Care

Preliminary Data as of 07/2021