

Influenza-Related Care

Medicaid vs. Privately Insured Populations

This fact sheet compares influenza-related healthcare use between Medicaid enrollees and individuals covered by private insurance.



Opella.

The findings are based on a study conducted by the National Minority Quality Forum, in collaboration with Opella, using Medicaid claims data and Optum's de-identified Clinformatics® Data Mart Database (CDM).



Medicaid



OPTUM®

This study revealed clear disparities in flu care patterns between the two insured populations.

The findings highlight disparities:



Influenza-related
outpatient care



Emergency department
(ED) visits



Receipt of antiviral
prescriptions

Emphasizing the urgent need to address healthcare access barriers for Medicaid beneficiaries and improve flu care outcomes for underserved populations.

Influenza Care and Treatment Patterns: The Impact on Medicaid Patients

Influenza Outpatient Care Rates
Reveal Gaps in Access to Timely and
Routine Services

Influenza outpatient care rates
among people with **Medicaid** are
three times lower than those with
private insurance.

The rate of outpatient care use for influenza-related
visits is substantially lower in populations:

*visits per **100,000**

Medicaid

651.9

Private
Insurance

1,839

Additionally, nearly 89% of privately insured patients are first diagnosed with flu in outpatient settings, compared to only 50% of Medicaid patients—highlighting disparities in where initial flu care is accessed.



89%

Privately Insured
Patients
Diagnosed



50%

Medicaid
Patients
Diagnosed

Emergency Department Visits Highlight Continued Reliance on ED for Flu Diagnosis

This may suggest that Medicaid enrollees are more often turning to the ED for influenza care, reflecting ongoing barriers to accessing timely primary care.

The rate of ED visits for flu care population:

*visits per 100,000

Medicaid

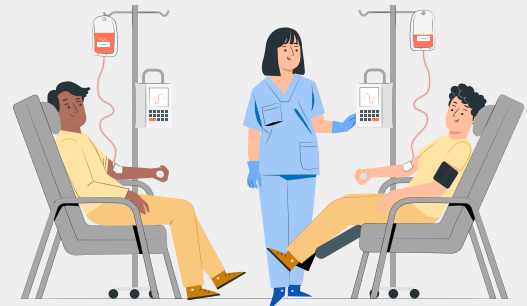
637

CDM

300

Only **10.7% of privately insured patients are first diagnosed with flu in the ED**, highlighting greater reliance on outpatient care as the initial point of care. **In contrast, 48% of Medicaid patients are first diagnosed with the flu in ED settings.**

Among Medicaid patients, Black (64.5%) and Hispanic (51.6%) patients were most often first diagnosed with the flu in ED settings. High ED usage in the Medicaid population highlights the need for better access to outpatient care and primary healthcare services, which would prevent unnecessary emergency visits and reduce healthcare costs.



Influenza Antiviral Prescription Rates

In both the Medicaid and privately insured populations, **Black patients had the lowest share of flu antivirals received.**

A higher share of people not received flu antivirals after diagnosis:

Medicaid

50%

Private
Insurance

37%

The gap in access to flu antivirals between Medicaid and privately insured populations underscores deep-rooted healthcare inequities. Expanding access to influenza antiviral treatments and increasing awareness of their availability may help reduce these disparities.