The Performance of Individual MCOs Matters

- In 40 states and D.C., most if not all children and pregnant women are enrolled in MCOs.
- In these states, the MCOs determine whether children and pregnant women receive the services they need and to which they are entitled.
- As of March 2021, a total of 287 MCOs contracted with these states; 119 of these were owned by one of five national companies: 
  ➤ Aetna/CVS ➤ Anthem ➤ Centene ➤ Molina ➤ UnitedHealth Group.
- Nationally, MCO enrollment (all beneficiary populations) has grown by 19% between March 2020 and March 2021.

Basic Information on Individual MCOs is Scarce

- We looked for child and maternal health performance information about 56 MCOs contracting with 13 states (AZ, GA, IL, IA, KS, KY, MS, MO, NV, TN, UT, and WV).
  - Only three states—IL, IA, and PA—posted the number of children enrolled in each MCO.
  - Only two states—IL and WV—posted the number of pregnant women enrolled in each MCO.
  - No state provided a breakdown of enrolled children or pregnant women by race or ethnicity.
  - No state provided information on how much it paid MCOs for providing services to children or pregnant women.

Performance Data on Individual MCOs is Scarce

- Only one state—IA—posted information about the delivery of EPSDT services by individual MCO (three states posted one dental service metric)
- Each of the 13 states posted at least some MCO-specific Child Core Set measures for children
- Two states—AZ and MO—posted no MCO-specific maternal health metrics
- No state disaggregated either EPSDT or HEDIS performance measures by race or ethnicity

Next Steps in Transparency for CMS and States

- KFF’s Medicaid Managed Care Market Tracker is the go-to but can’t do it all
- CMS should:
  - enforce the transparency requirements in its 2016 Managed Care Rule
  - expand its Medicaid & CHIP Scorecard to include MCO-specific child and maternal health measures
- States should:
  - comply with the transparency requirements in the CMS 2016 Managed Care Rule
  - stand up Child Health Dashboards on their Medicaid agency websites, building on Iowa’s example