



Georgetown University  
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AND FAMILIES

# MCO Transparency and Accountability

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# 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