



Georgetown University
McCourt School *of* Public Policy
CENTER FOR CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES

Medicaid Managed Care Organizations and Maternal Health: What Do We Know About Performance?

*Georgetown University Center for Children and Families
George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health*

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Meet our Speakers



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Overview of Research

Research question:

- What information about the performance of individual Medicaid MCOs on maternal health is publicly available?

Methodology:

- Search the Medicaid agency websites in 12 states: Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Tennessee, and Washington
- Search the websites of the 52 MCOs with which these state Medicaid programs contracted in 2022
- Access the most recent report of each state's Maternal Mortality Review Committee

Research Findings

"In general, neither state Medicaid agencies, MCOs, nor CMS are transparent about the performance of individual MCOs as they relate to maternity care. For the most part, information is difficult to access from state or MCO or CMS websites, and the information that is accessible is limited, fragmented, and not sufficient to inform a judgment of how well or how poorly an individual MCO is performing."

Transparency Matters

- Transparency is the public availability of data on *individual* Medicaid MCO performance on maternal health
- Transparency is an effective, low-cost way of holding MCOs, state Medicaid agencies, and CMS accountable for MCO performance on maternal health
- Data on maternal health outcomes for pregnant women enrolled in an MCO is essential to identifying high- and low-performing MCOs and addressing the low performers
- Transparency will not, in and of itself, solve the maternal health crisis

Maternal Mortality Review Committees (MMRCs)

- MMRCs are state-level committees that consist of multidisciplinary representatives typically appointed to review deaths that occur during or within a year of pregnancy.
- 49 states and the District of Columbia have a MMRC.
 - * Idaho is the only state that disbanded their MMRC in Summer 2023
- The general goal of MMRCs is to review all maternal deaths, identify root causes and contributing factors to these deaths, make recommendations to improve care at an individual and systemic level, and disseminate findings.
- The CDC supports MMRCs in 44 states and 2 U.S. territories. Other funding sources may include state funds, grants, or donations from private organizations.



What We Found in the MMRC Reports

- All 12 states that we reviewed had an active MMRC that issued a report, but data was often not up to date (see Table).
- Most of the MMRC reports identified source of insurance coverage at the time of death (private vs. Medicaid vs. uninsured).
- State Medicaid agencies did not participate in MMRCs in Iowa, Mississippi, Nevada, and New Mexico.
- All MMRC reports included Medicaid-related findings or policy recommendations.
- No MMRC report we reviewed included data specific to enrollment in individual Medicaid MCOs among women who died during pregnancy or within a year after birth.

Table 6

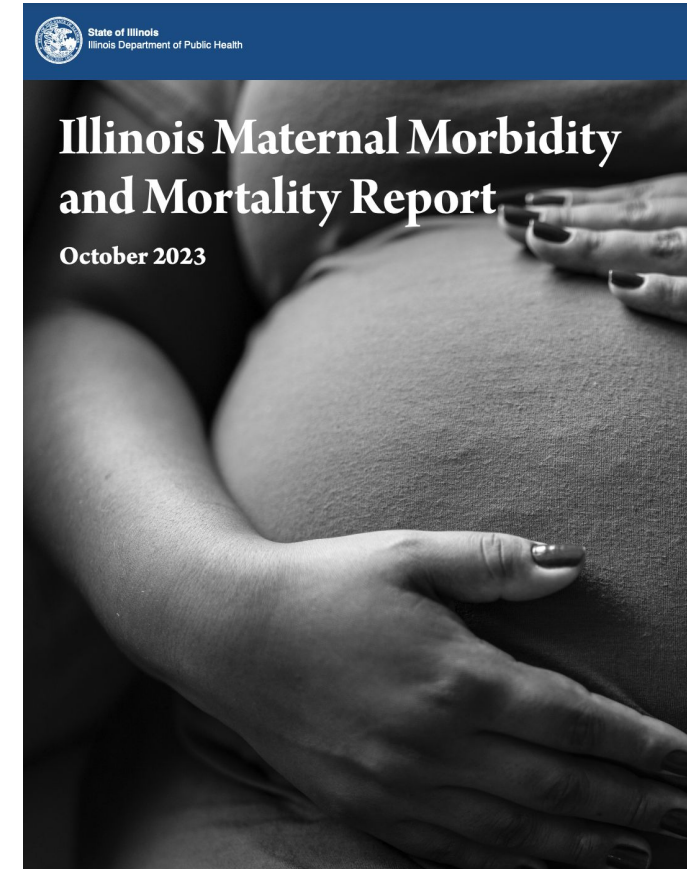
Most Recent Year of Maternal Mortality Data Measured

As of July 2023

Year	State(s)
2021	Michigan, Nevada
2020	Georgia, Tennessee, Washington
2019	Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi
2018	New Mexico, New Jersey
2017	Illinois

Updated Illinois MMRC Report

- As of October 2023, Illinois released an updated MMRC report that analyzes data from 2018-2020
- Pregnancy-related deaths increased by 40% from 2015-2017 to 2018-2020
- The report did not make recommendations about the transparency of the performance of MCOs
- The MMRC recommended that both private and public health insurance plans like Medicaid are *“integral in promoting maternal health... and can contribute to improved maternal health outcomes.”*
- MCOs have to be part of the solution, and what they do (or don't do) for enrolled pregnant women matters.

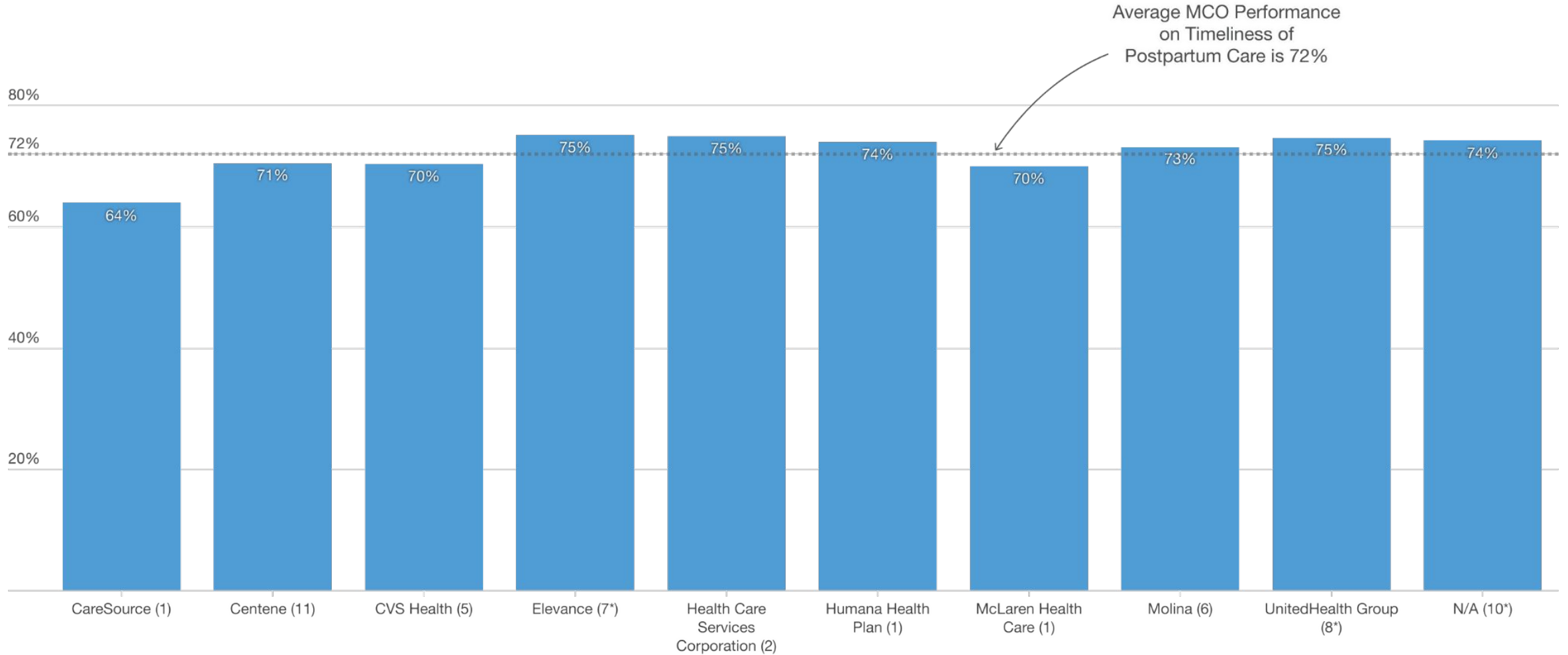


Appendix B: MCO Performance Metrics

- Collection of performance results found through our scan for all 52 MCOs on 11 different standardized metrics
- In 8 of the study states, only two metrics were available at the MCO level: Timeliness of Prenatal Care and Timeliness of Postnatal Care
 - In the other 4 states, MCO level metrics were also available
- The Appendix is constructed for users to search, sort and compare results by state, MCO, MCO parent firm, or metric

MCO Performance on Timeliness of Postpartum Care

Performance on the Timeliness of Postpartum Care metric across all 12 states by MCO parent firm



*There are four MCOs contracting in Tennessee. However, the state reports performance metrics from the statewide MCO TennCare Select, and three statewide MCOs operating in each respective Grand Region (East, Middle and West), for a total of 10 performance results.

Recommendations for Advocates

Research performance on maternal health for each of the Medicaid MCOs in your state using:

- Medicaid agency's performance dashboard (if any)
- Medicaid agency's consumer-facing report card/scorecard
- EQRO's Annual Technical Report for Medicaid agency
- MMRC report on Public Health agency website
- Medicaid agency's presentations to its Medical Care Advisory Committee

If unable to identify high- or low-performing MCOs, engage with the state Medicaid agency to improve performance reporting requirements in the contracts and transparency of results.

If you are able to identify low-performing MCOs, engage directly with Medicaid agency, MMRC Committee, and MCOs to develop and implement a strategy for improvement.

Resources



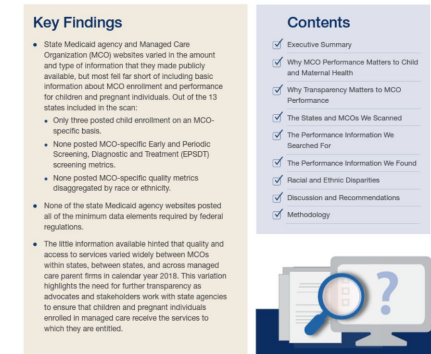
Webinar
“Medicaid Managed Care Contracts and Maternal Health”



Blog
“The Road to Maternal Health Runs Through Medicaid Managed Care”

Transparency in Medicaid Managed Care: Findings from a 13- State Scan

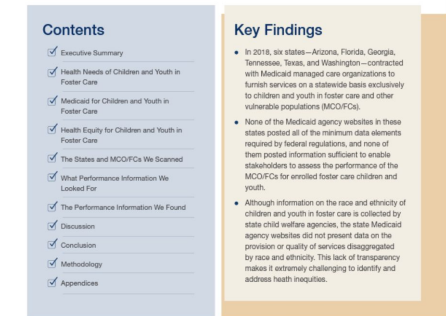
by Allie Corcoran, Emma Hurler, Andy Schneider, and Julia Buschmann



Report
Transparency in Medicaid Managed Care: Findings from a 13- State Scan

Transparency in Medicaid Managed Care for Children and Youth in Foster Care

By Andy Schneider, Allie Corcoran, and Emma Hurler



Report
Transparency in Medicaid Managed Care for Children and Youth in Foster Care

Looking for more? Check out all of CCF’s Maternal and Early Childhood Health resources on [our website](#).

Resources

Webinar: “Medicaid Managed Care Contracts and Maternal Health” (July 19, 2023),
https://ccf.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Webinar_-_Medicaid-MCO-Contracts-and-Maternal-Health.pdf

S. Rosenbaum et al, “The Road to Maternal Health Runs Through Medicaid Managed Care,” The Commonwealth Fund (May 2023).
<https://www.commonwealthfund.org/blog/2023/road-maternal-health-runs-through-medicaid-managed-care>

A. Corcoran et al., “Transparency in Medicaid Managed Care: Findings from a 13-State Scan,” Georgetown CCF (September 2021),
<https://ccf.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/MCO-13-state-scan-v3.pdf>

A. Schneider et al., “Transparency in Medicaid Managed Care for Children and Youth in Foster Care,” Georgetown CCF (October 2021),
<https://ccf.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/MCO-Foster-Care-v4.pdf>

Maternal & Early Childhood Health at CCF:
<https://ccf.georgetown.edu/subtopic/pregnant-women-and-parents/>