



Physician Acceptance of New Medicaid Patients by State in 2011

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In 2011 Nearly One-Third Of Physicians Said They Would Not Accept New Medicaid Patients, But Rising Fees May Help

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Abstract

When fully implemented, the Affordable Care Act will expand the number of people with health insurance. This raises questions about the capacity of the health care workforce to meet increased demand. I used data on office-based physicians from the 2011 National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey Electronic Medical Records Supplement to summarize the percentage of physicians currently accepting any new patients. Although 96 percent of physicians accepted new patients in 2011, rates varied by payment source: 31 percent of physicians were unwilling to accept any new Medicaid patients; 17 percent would not accept new Medicare patients; and 18 percent of physicians would not accept new privately insured patients. Physicians in smaller practices and those in metropolitan areas were less likely than others to accept new Medicaid patients. Higher state

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The findings and conclusions in this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Background

- Provisions of the ACA will result in millions of additional Medicaid enrollees and individuals purchasing health insurance through exchanges
- Concern has been expressed about the capacity of the existing healthcare workforce to provide care to newly-insured individuals
- Evaluation of the capacity of the healthcare workforce and access difficulties will require appropriate data at the state level both before and after policy changes, data that have not been available to date.

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This paper...



- Provides a current snapshot of physician workforce capacity use as measured by the acceptance rate of new patients into medical practices
- Summarizes for the first time the percent of physicians accepting new patients with Medicaid for each state in the U.S.
- Explores cross-sectional correlates of physician acceptance of new Medicaid patients.



Strengths



- **Very few access measures are available at the state level**
- **Physician acceptance of new patients is a common measure of access to care**
 - **MedPAC annually reports to Congress the percentage of physicians accepting new Medicare patients as one measure of Medicare physician payment adequacy and access to care for Medicare beneficiaries**
 - **MACPAC also reported the percent of physicians accepting new Medicaid patients in its first report to Congress**



Limitations



- **Other measures of access are important. For example:**
 - the percent of beneficiaries with a usual source of care
 - the percent who do not access care due to inability to find a participating provider
 - the percent who do not access care due to long wait times for appointments
- **If these data were available by state, they might show different patterns than the data presented here**
- **The sample size was insufficient to consider acceptance rates by state for subsets of physicians, such as those in primary care**
- **The analysis of correlates of state acceptance rates for new Medicaid patients is purely cross sectional**



Data Source



National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey Electronic Medical Records Supplement

- **2011 Supplement is representative by state**
- **Response rate – 64%**
- **4,326 responding physicians**



Descriptive Analyses



- For the nation, estimated the percent of physicians accepting new patients overall and with particular payment sources
- Compared the acceptance rate for new patients with Medicaid to acceptance rate for patients with other payment sources
- Compared acceptance rates for physicians in primary care to those for physicians in other specialties
- Compared each state's acceptance rate for new Medicaid patients to the rate in the rest of the country

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Descriptive Analyses



Simple logit model examines cross sectional correlates of acceptance of new Medicaid patients as a function of:

Physician or Practice-Level Variables

Physician age group

Physician gender

Practice size

Physician specialty category

Whether or not within an MSA

Whether practice in a county with at least 15% population under poverty level (Area Resource File, HRSA)

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Descriptive Analyses



Simple logit model examines cross sectional correlates of acceptance of new Medicaid patients as a function of:

State-level variables

Number of Medicaid enrollees per capita

(Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured and Census Bureau)

Medicaid managed care penetration rate

(CMS)

Number of physicians per capita (2009)

(AMA)

Medicaid-to-Medicare fee ratio (2008)

(Zuckerman, Williams, and Stockley, *Health Affairs*, 2009)

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Results



Table 1: Percentage of Office-Based Physicians Accepting New Patients: United States, 2011

	Any New Patients	Medicaid	Medicare*	Private Insurance	Self-Pay
All	96.10 (95.0 - 97.1)	69.40 (67.0 - 71.8)	83.00 ¹ (81.1- 85.0)	81.70 ¹ (79.7 - 83.7)	91.70 ¹ (90.2 - 93.3)

Note: Excludes cases where response was blank or unknown. Physicians who do not accept any new patients also do not accept new patients with Medicaid, Medicare, Private Insurance, or Self-Pay. Confidence intervals are provided in parentheses under estimates.

*The percent of office-based physicians accepting Medicare patients is 88.3 (95% confidence interval (CI) 86.5 - 90.1) if pediatricians are

¹ Indicates that the estimate is statistically significantly different compared to Medicaid at the 5 percent level based on a t test.

Source: National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey Electronic Medical Records Supplement, 2011





Table 1 [Continued]: Percentage of Office-Based Physicians Accepting New Patients, by Specialty Category: United States, 2011

	Any New Patients	Medicaid	Medicare *	Private Insurance	Self-Pay
<u>Office-Based Physicians by Specialty Category</u>					
Primary Care	93.80 (91.9 - 95.6)	66.20 (62.7 - 69.7)	71.40 (68.2 - 74.8)	80.50 (77.6- 83.5)	88.20 (85.7- 90.7)
Other Specialties	97.60 ² (96.3 - 99.0)	71.70 ² (68.4 - 75.0)	90.90 ^{1 2} (88.7 - 93.2)	82.60 ¹ (79.9- 85.2)	94.20 ^{1 2} (92.4 - 96.1)

Note: Excludes cases where response was blank or unknown. Physicians who do not accept any new patients also do not accept new patients with Medicaid, Medicare, Private Insurance, or Self-Pay. Primary care includes specialties of general/family practice, internal medicine, and pediatrics. Confidence intervals are provided in parentheses under estimates.

*The percent of primary care physicians accepting new Medicare patients is 83.2 (CI 80.0 - 86.4) if pediatricians are excluded.

¹ Indicates that the estimate is statistically significantly different compared to Medicaid at the 5 percent level based on a t test.

² Indicates that the estimate is statistically significantly different compared to Primary Care at the 5 percent level based on a t test.

Source: National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey Electronic Medical Records Supplement, 2011





Acceptance of New Medicaid Patients by State



States with statistically significantly lower acceptance rates compared to other states:

New Jersey (40%, 95% confidence interval (CI) 28-53%)



**Percentage of Office-Based Physicians
Accepting New Medicaid Patients, United States,
2011**



States with statistically significantly higher acceptance rates compared to other states

State	Estimate	95% Confidence	
All	69.4	67.0	71.8
WY	99.3	97.9	100.7
MN	96.3	92.1	100.4
ND	94.6	89.1	100.0
SD	94.1	88.4	99.8
WI	93.0	87.5	98.5
AR	90.7	84.5	97.0
MT	89.9	83.3	96.6
IA	87.6	80.2	94.9
NE	87.0	79.4	94.6
NM	86.3	79.0	93.7
ID	84.7	75.5	94.0
SC	84.1	71.4	96.9
UT	83.5	76.0	91.0
AK	82.1	73.6	90.7
NH	81.7	73.4	90.0
MI	81.1	70.6	91.6
WV	80.9	72.4	89.5
MA	80.6	71.5	89.6
MS	79.6	70.4	88.7
OR	79.5	69.9	89.2
KY	79.4	70.6	88.3



Exhibit 3: Physician Characteristics Associated with Acceptance of New Medicaid Patients Among Office-Based Physicians



Independent Variable	Percent of Sample	Marginal Effect from Logit Model	
		Estimate	95% Confidence Interval
Physician Characteristics			
Female	27.4	-2.0	(-7.5 - 4.8)
Physician age (Relative to under 45 years old)			
45-54 years	28.5	-0.5	(-6.6 - 5.7)
55-64 years	31.9	-2.7	(-8.9 - 3.5)
65 years and older	13.7	-7.5	(-16.3 - 1.3)
Number of physicians in office (Relative to 11+ physicians)			
Solo practice	28.0	-23.5*	(-31.1- -15.9)
Two physicians	10.1	-21.5*	(-30.6 - -12.4)
3-5 physicians	27.3	-7.0	(-13.8 - 0.09)
6-10 physicians	18.7	-2.7	(-10.0 - 4.2)
Primary care specialties	41.6	-7.3*	(-12.0- -2.7)
Not in a metropolitan statistical area	12.0	12.9*	(6.8 - -19.0)
Region (Relative to the Northeast)			
Midwest	21.2	8.2*	(1.8 - 14.6)
South	37.3	-0.4	(-8.4- 7.5)
West	20.3	0.3	(-11.4 - 11.9)
At least 15% of the 2008 population in poverty in the county where the practice is located	28.5	8.4*	(2.4 - 14.5)

Exhibit 3: Physician Characteristics Associated with Acceptance of New Medicaid Patients Among Office-Based Physicians [Continued]

Independent Variable	Percent of Sample Mean	Marginal Effect from Logit Model	
		Estimate	95% Confidence Interval
State-Level Variables			
Medicaid-to-Medicare fee ratio (2008, %) ¹	74.2	0.4*	(0.2 - 0.5)
Physicians per 10 million population (2009)	8.6	0.8	(-0.9 - 2.5)
Medicaid enrollees per 100,000 population (2010)	1.7	4.2	(-1.4 - 9.8)
Managed care (other than primary care)	0.5	1.8	(-5.4- 9.0)

* Indicates statistical significance at the 5% level based on a t test.

Note: Analysis excludes cases where acceptance of new Medicaid patients is blank or unknown. The analysis also excludes Tennessee due to missing data on the Medicaid-to-

¹ Based on the logit parameter estimates, an increase in the fee ratio from 74.2 to 100.0 would be expected to increase acceptance of new Medicaid patients from 70.0% (95% confidence

Source: National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey Electronic Medical Records Supplement, 2011



Extension to Analysis



National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)

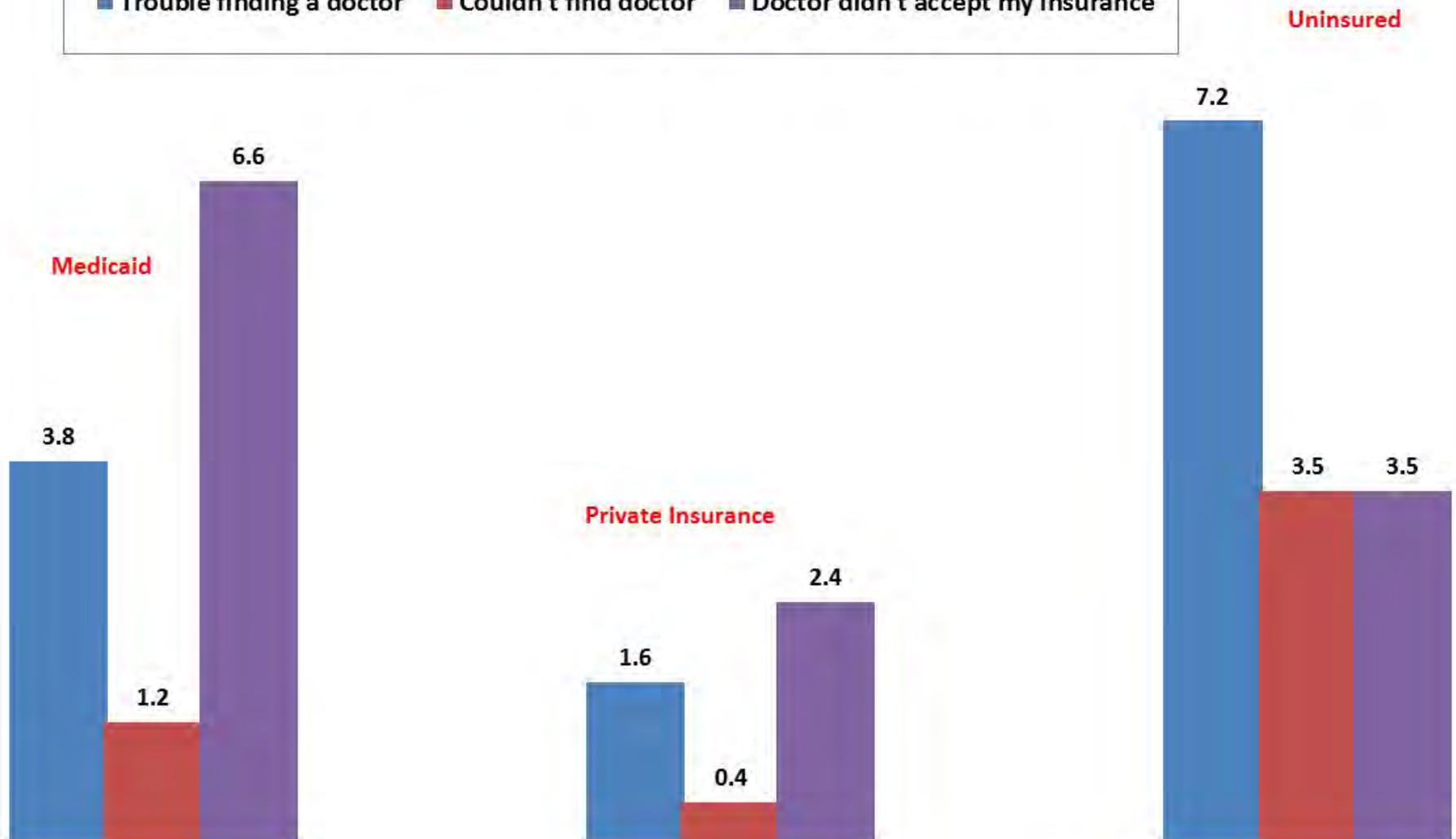
New Questions in 2011

Sample consists of 37,689 sample adults and children under age 65 (7,193 on Medicaid)

- (1) During the past 12 months, did you have any trouble finding a general doctor or provider who would see you?**
- (2) Were you able to find a general doctor or provider who could see you?**
- (3) During the past 12 months, were you told by a doctor's office or clinic that they did not accept your accept your health care coverage?**

Percent of Individuals with Problems with Access to Health Care, NHIS 2011

■ Trouble finding a doctor ■ Couldn't find doctor ■ Doctor didn't accept my insurance



**Predictors of Access Problems Among Those on Medicaid
NHIS 2011**

Preliminary

	Trouble finding a doctor	Could Not Find a Doctor	Doctor Did Not Accept My Insurance
<i>Effect of a one percentage point change in each independent variable * 100</i>			
Female	0.73	0.22	2.54***
Age	0.10***	0.02**	0.11***
Non-Hispanic black	-1.43	0.04	-5.08***
Hispanic	-2.53***	-0.78*	-5.30***
Non-Hispanic other race	-2.18*	-0.66	-4.68***
State number of physicians per per million population, 2009	-2.16	-12.02	20.53
State Medicaid managed care penetration rate (2010, per 100)	-0.54	-0.16	-0.98
State percent of physicians accepting (2011, NAMCS)	5.83*	3.03*	10.35**

Mean of dependent variable	3.8	1.2	6.6

Percent effect of a 10 percentage point change in the percent of physicians accepting Medicaid	15.3%	25.3%	22.3%

The table reports coefficients from linear probability models. Sample weights are used and standard errors reflect the complex design of the NHIS.

The symbols *, **, and **** indicate statistical significance at the 10, 5, and 1 percent levels respectively



Summary



- **96% of office-based physicians accepted new patients in 2011 (lower for physicians in primary care)**
- **The percent of physicians accepting new patients with Medicaid was lower than the percent accepting new self-pay, Medicare, or privately-insured patients**
- **Physicians in New Jersey were least likely to accept new Medicaid patients.**
- **The acceptance rate for new Medicaid patients was positively associated with the average Medicaid-to-Medicare fee ratio in the state**



ACA



- **As part of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Medicaid payments for primary care services provided by primary care doctors (family medicine, general internal medicine or pediatrics) will increase to 100% of the Medicare payment rates for 2013 and 2014.**
- **The information presented today suggest that this change may increase the number of physician visits among Medicaid patients and shift site of care away from hospitals and toward physician offices. But many questions remain:**



Questions



- **What will be the implications of very large increases in the fee ratio in some states?**
- **What will be the effect of the fact that the intended increase in Medicaid physician fees is temporary?**
- **What will be the effect of increases in Medicaid eligibility? Will there be capacity issues?**



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