



Quality Health Care for Louisiana Kids

September 2022

A review of Louisiana performance on health care quality measures for children enrolled in Medicaid and LaCHIP



Overview

Medicaid and the Louisiana Child Health Insurance Program (LaCHIP) remain the most common source of health insurance coverage for Louisiana's low-income women and children - providing access care for about 1 million women and children. Five private health insurance companies, also called managed care organizations (MCOs), administer the state's Medicaid and LaCHIP programs. The quality care provided through these programs can have long-term, positive impacts on community, family and child health.

Data from the Child Core Set (CCS), developed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS), offers an annual glimpse into the quality of care provided to Medicaid and LaCHIP families. The 2020 Child Core Set, the most recent data available, reflects care delivered in calendar year 2019, before the pandemic. It contains 24 measures, 20 of which are publicly reported by CMS with state-specific performance in five categories: Primary Care Access and Preventative Care, Maternal and Perinatal Health, Care of Acute and Chronic Conditions, Behavioral Health Care and Dental and Oral Health Services.

States have discretion in the amount of data they report until 2024 when reporting is mandatory. Louisiana is among the most robust in the nation, reporting 22 measures - the second-highest reported by all states. But Louisiana's performance on these measures is mixed. While the state continued incremental progress in several areas going into the Covid-19 pandemic, Louisiana's progress also slowed or reversed in several areas:

- ❖ **Louisiana ranks in the top half of states on about half of the items measured in the Child Core Set. The state ranks in the bottom quartile on five measures - two more than in the previous year:** developmental screenings for children under age 3, the percentage of low-weight births, the number of emergency department visits, dental sealants for children 6 to 9 years old and metabolic monitoring for children on antipsychotics.
- ❖ **Louisiana improved in eight measures and lost ground on three measures between 2018 and 2020. The state lost ground on two measures where it performs in the bottom-half of states:** well-child visits in the third, fourth, fifth and sixth years of life and dental sealants for 6-9 year old children. **Louisiana lost ground on one measure where it performs in the top quartile of states:** follow-up care for children prescribed ADHD medication. While still trending positive overall, progress in emergency department visits reversed in 2020 and stalled in developmental screening in the first three years of life. (11 of 20 measures are recommended for trending by CMS. Please see Resources for more information.)
- ❖ **Progress compared to other states largely stalled.** Louisiana's quartile ranking improved in three measures, remained the same in 14 measures and went down in three measure from 2018 to 2020. This compared to improvement in six measures, remaining the same in 11 measures and going down in one measure from 2017 to 2019.

As the nation approaches the end of Covid-19 public health emergency, the Louisiana Department of Health has a dual mandate to ensure eligible children and mothers remain covered and to improve the quality of care they receive. Decades of under- and disinvestment in drivers of health like housing, neighborhoods, transportation and climate change left low-income communities especially vulnerable during the Covid-19 pandemic. Louisiana must invest in its youngest residents, their families and communities to build a healthier and more equitable tomorrow.

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Louisiana Child Core Set (2018-2020)



	Louisiana Rate			Quartile	Trend
	2018	2019	2020	2020	'18-'20
Primary Care Access and Preventive Care					
1. Well-Child Visits in the First 15 Months of Life*	57.3	59.7	61.4	★★★★	↗
2. Well-Child Visits in the Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Years of Life*	68.1	68	67.9	★★★★	↘
3. Adolescent Well-Care Visits*	54.2	56.7	59	★★★★	↗
4.1. Childhood Immunizations in the First Two Years – Combination 3*	68.4	68.8	69.2	★★★★	X
4.2. Childhood Immunizations in the First Two Years – Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)*	88.7 ¹	88.5	88.2	★★★★	X
5.1. Immunizations for Adolescents – Combination 1*	88.9	89.2	89.1	★★★★	↗
5.2. Immunizations for Adolescents – 3 Doses HPV Vaccine by Age 13*	41.1	42.6	46	★★★★	↗
6. Developmental Screening in the First Three Years of Life	16.1	18.3	18.3	★☆☆☆	↗
7. Chlamydia Screening Women Ages 16 – 20*	63.4	64.8	65.8	★★★★	↗
8. Weight Assessment and Counseling for Nutrition and Physical Activity – BMI Index*	62.4	65.7	68.6	★★★★	X
Maternal and Perinatal Health					
1. Timeliness of Prenatal Care*	78.4	79.4	85.8	★★★★	X
2. Percentage of Low Weight Live Births (< 2500 grams) (lower rate is better)*	12.1	12.5	13.1	★☆☆☆	X
3.1. Most Effective Contraception Provided for Postpartum Women (within 3 days)*	3.2	4.2	5	★★★★	↗
3.2. Most Effective Contraception Provided for Postpartum Women (within 60 days)*	50.1	51.1	52.6	★★★★	↗
3.3. Long-Acting Reversible Contraception Provided for Postpartum Women (within 3 days)*	2.3	2.4	3.6	★★★★	↗
3.4. Long-Acting Reversible Contraception Provided for Postpartum Women (within 60 days)*	15	14	17.3	★★★★	↗
4.1. Most Effective Contraception Provided for Women at Risk for Unintended Pregnancy	x	35.2	35.5	★★★★	↗
4.2. Long-Acting Reversible Contraception Provided for Women at Risk for Unintended Pregnancy	x	3.7	4.1	★★★★	↗
Care of Acute and Chronic Conditions					
1. Ambulatory Care: Emergency Department Visits per 1,000 Enrollees (lower rate is better)	57	52.7	55.9	★☆☆☆	↗
2.1. Persistent Asthma Medication Ratio, Ages 5 – 18	69.6	72.8	73.4	★★★★	X
2.2. Persistent Asthma Medication Ratio, Ages 5 – 11	73.7	78	77	★★★★	X
2.3. Persistent Asthma Medication Ratio, Ages 12 – 18	64	66.9	69.2	★★★★	X
Behavioral Health Care					
1. Use of First-Line Psychosocial Care for Children and Adolescents on Antipsychotics	68.7	65.9	66.2	★★★★	X
2.1. Follow-up Care After Hospitalization for Mental Illness, Ages 6 – 17 (within 7 days)	40.3	40.5	38.6	★★★★	X
2.2. Follow-up Care After Hospitalization for Mental Illness, Ages 6 – 17 (within 30 days)	63	63.7	61.2	★★★★	X
3.1. Follow-up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication (within 30-day initiation phase)*	56.7	56.3	54.6	★★★★	↘
3.2. Follow-up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication (9 months following the initiation phase)*	70.2	70.2	68.2	★★★★	↘
4.1. Metabolic Monitoring for Children & Adolescents on Antipsychotics: Ages 1 to 17 (Blood Glucose)	--	--	52.5	★★★★	—
4.2. Metabolic Monitoring for Children & Adolescents on Antipsychotics: Ages 1 to 17 (Cholesterol)	--	--	27.4	★★★★	—
4.3. Metabolic Monitoring for Children & Adolescents on Antipsychotics: Ages 1 to 17 (Glucose & Cholesterol)	--	--	26.4	★☆☆☆	—
Dental and Oral Health Services					
1. Percentage of Eligibles Who Received Preventive Dental Services	50	49.6	40.9	★★★★	X
2. Dental Sealants for 6-9 Year Old Children at Elevated Cavities Risk	20.4	20.4	19.4	★☆☆☆	↘

"-" Was not included in the Child Core Set in the reporting year.

1. Though this measure was not included in 2018 CCS, LDH provided the value for 2018.

* Reported by Louisiana Managed Care Organizations (MCOs)

"X" Not recommended for trending by CMS

Resources

- ❖ State and national performance on the Child Core Set was retrieved from the Center on Medicaid and Medicare (CMS) data.medicare.gov.
- ❖ CMS's "Criteria for Using the Child and Adult Core Set Measures to Assess Trends in State Performance in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program" is available at <https://www.medicare.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/downloads/methods-brief-ffy-2020.pdf>.
- ❖ The Louisiana Department of Health Medicaid Managed Care Quality Dashboard has been identified as a national best practice in managed care plan transparency. It may be accessed at <https://qualitydashboard.ldh.la.gov/>.
- ❖ More information about the Child Core Set, including detailed descriptions of measures and domains of care, may be found in LBP's "Quality Health Care for Louisiana Kids August 2021", available at <https://www.labudget.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/LBP-Quality-Health-Care-for-Louisiana-Kids-CMS-Child-Core-Set-2019.pdf>