



PROVIDER PARTICIPATION IN MEDICAID: TRENDS OVER TIME

SOCIAL SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
STAFF: ANNETTE HARRIS

ISSUE BRIEF

SUMMARY

From 2012 through 2016, the number of Medicaid fee-for-service enrolled providers who received one or more payments decreased while the overall number of licensures in Utah increased in three provider categories: Physical/Occupational Therapists, Physicians, and Speech & Hearing Therapists. Data from the Department of Health for all Medicaid enrolled providers in those categories (including managed care provider networks) shows that Medicaid enrolled provider status has increased in those categories, when looking at all Medicaid providers (fee-for-service and managed care). Overall licensure trends for the categories show a larger growth over time than the Medicaid provider growth. The Medicaid client population grew by 16% during the same period. This brief is for informational purposes only and requires no Legislative action.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Background

Based on the numbers of Medicaid providers enrolled in fee-for-service from 2012 through 2016, we know that the number of Utah licensed healthcare providers has increased by 8% overall, but the number of providers receiving Medicaid fee-for-service reimbursement has decreased by 3%. Concurrently, the Medicaid population has increased by 16%. In regard to these figures, the Department of Health explains “The information...is aggregated from data in the 2016 Annual Report of Medicaid and CHIP. Utah Medicaid implemented significant delivery system changes in fiscal year 2013 and fiscal year 2015 by moving to mandated managed care in additional counties. The Medicaid provider counts in the table only represent the count of provider enrollments (a single provider may enroll multiple times) paid on a fee-for-service basis in the fiscal years presented and do not capture managed care provider networks.”

The trend data pulled from fee-for-service (FFS) enrolled providers revealed three provider categories that increased in total licenses in the state but decreased in Medicaid enrollment: Physical & Occupational Therapists, Physicians, and Speech & Hearing Therapists (as seen below).

Licensed Providers Increasing and Medicaid Providers Decreasing - 2012 to 2016 Data	Utah Licenses		Medicaid FFS Providers Reimbursed	
	Diff.	% Diff.	Diff.	% Diff.
Physical & Occupational Therapists	539	21%	(49)	-17%
Physicians	2,890	25%	(549)	-14%
Speech and Hearing Therapists	349	38%	(3)	-3%

In order to better understand the trend of Utah provider participation in Medicaid, based on the initial FFS data, the Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee passed the following motion on Oct 18, 2017: *The Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee intends that the Department Health report to the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst by January 1, 2018 on the trend over time of the number of Medicaid service providers from 2012 through 2017 for physical and occupational therapists, physicians, and speech and hearing therapists”.*

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Findings

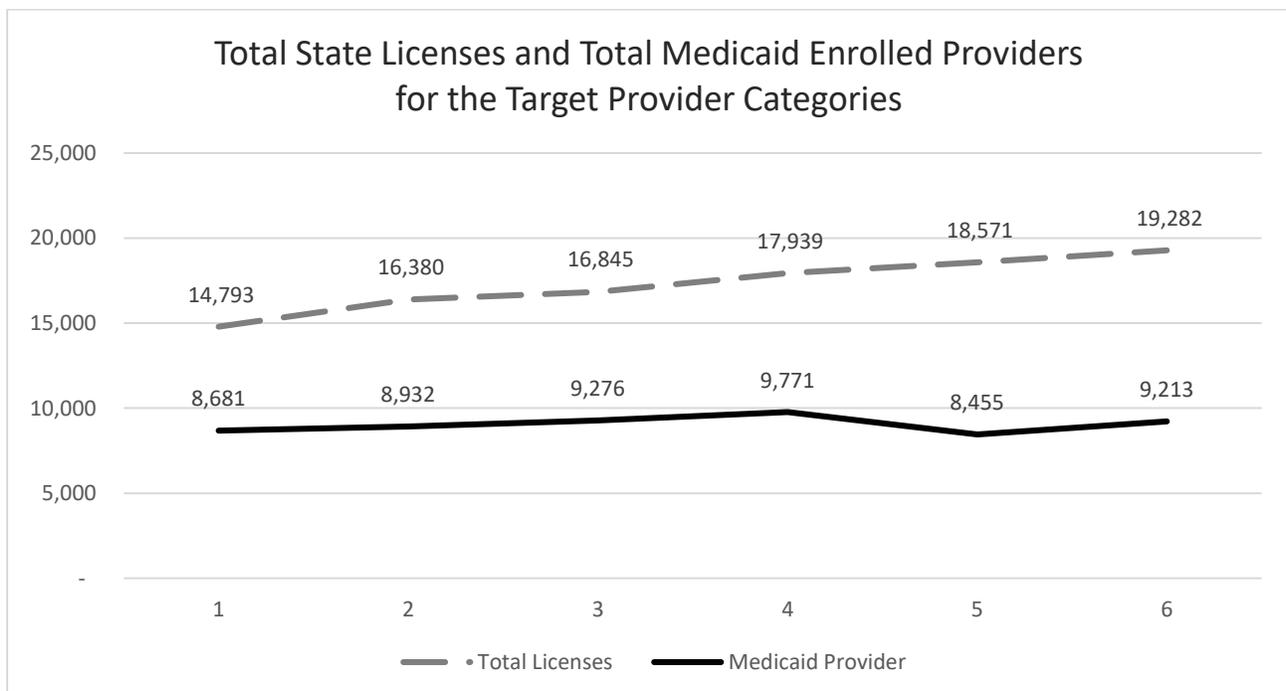
Medicaid Providers Increased in Number in Each Target Category

The table below shows the number of Medicaid enrolled providers (including both fee-for-service and managed care provider networks) from fiscal year 2012 through 2017. All categories have increased the number of providers enrolled as Medicaid providers, with the largest percent growth in Physical & Occupational Therapists (13% growth). Considering all target categories together, there was a 6% increase.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Diff	% Diff
Physicians/Osteopaths (M.D./D.O.)	7,474	7,630	7,963	8,398	7,298	7,871	397	5%
Physical/Occupational Therapists	919	1,000	1,026	1,068	895	1,034	115	13%
Speech and Hearing Therapists	288	302	287	305	262	308	20	7%
Total	8,681	8,932	9,276	9,771	8,455	9,213	532	6%

Increase in Licensure Outpaced Medicaid Enrollment in Each Target Category

The table below shows the trends in total state licenses (by calendar year) and total Medicaid enrolled providers and (by fiscal year) for 2012-2017 in the three target provider categories—Physicians/Osteopaths, Physical & Occupational Therapists, and Speech and Hearing Therapists. The trend lines show that the total licensure for these categories is increasing faster than Medicaid provider enrollment in the same categories. For all provider types, the percent difference and overall growth for state licensure is higher than the Medicaid provider enrollment percent increase. This suggests that fewer providers proportionally are enrolling as Medicaid providers over time, which could limit access to healthcare services for the Medicaid population. A note about state licensure numbers: the numbers reported here are total individuals with a current license to practice within Utah. It does not necessarily mean those providers are practicing in the state. Recent reports from the Utah Medical Education Council (UMEC) show that 60% of Utah-licensed physicians practice in state, and 79% of Utah-licensed physical therapists practice in state. There is no UMEC data about in-state practice for speech and hearing therapists.



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Medicaid Population Increase is Outpacing Provider Enrollment in Target Categories

While provider licensures are increasing, and Medicaid provider enrollments are increasing (at slower rates), the Medicaid client population is also increasing. From fiscal years 2012 to 2016, there has been a 16% increase in the Medicaid client population. This indicates that the demand for Medicaid enrolled providers is increasing over time.

