



## Health

# Progress Together: Transforming the Nation's Medicaid and CHIP Data

## Mathematica Experts Support Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in historic data transformation effort

Since 1999, states have been required to submit to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) detailed enrollment and claims information for beneficiaries of Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Known as the Medicaid Statistical Information System (MSIS) format, these state data submissions allowed national and cross-state analyses. As an initial national data system, MSIS data provided basic information on Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries, their characteristics, enrollment patterns, service utilization, and costs of their care. However, as Medicaid and CHIP have evolved and become more complex programs, MSIS became inadequate as a national data system for these critical safety net programs. Recognizing this, CMS redesigned the national data system for Medicaid and CHIP, and, beginning in 2017, all states had to transition from MSIS to the Transformed MSIS, or T-MSIS, format.

### Transforming the nation's Medicaid and CHIP data system

**T-MSIS, the new national data system for Medicaid and CHIP, will be the source of information policymakers and others will use to understand who enrolls in these programs, what services are provided, the quality of the services received, and their costs. T-MSIS data support analyses of the following:**

- Medicaid and CHIP beneficiary enrollment patterns and demographic characteristics, including enrollment in delivery systems (fee for service or managed care) and waiver programs (1115(a) demonstrations and 1915(c) home and community-based services waivers)
- Utilization overall, by beneficiary subgroups, and by service setting (inpatient, outpatient, physician offices, community health centers, and long-term care facilities)
- Costs of care
- Providers and managed-care plans serving the beneficiaries

### Mathematica supports development of T-MSIS data sets

**Mathematica is proud to support CMS as it rolls out T-MSIS and derivative data products. As a major provider of technical assistance to states, we worked with CMS to help each state and territory enter the T-MSIS production process. Since 2017, we have been providing several different forms of technical assistance to states to help them improve the quality of their T-MSIS submissions.**

Working with CMS, we helped to design and develop the research-optimized versions of T-MSIS data, known as the T-MSIS Analytic Files (TAF). TAF include monthly and annual enrollment files, four claims files (inpatient, long-term care, pharmacy, and other services), and provider and managed-care plan files. TAF will be the version of T-MSIS that most policymakers and research analysts will use to study Medicaid and CHIP policies. We also support CMS efforts to engage stakeholders in design and data quality issues and have developed several analytic

tools for the Innovation Accelerator Program. We also develop analytic products for CMS and end users of the data, including a library of TAF data quality briefs and two different TAF user guides. Mathematica has also used the data to help CMS develop the T-MSIS Substance Use Disorder Data Book released in October 2019 and estimate per capita expenditure information for the Medicaid and CHIP Scorecard.

### About Us

Mathematica applies expertise at the intersection of data, methods, policy, and practice to improve well-being around the world. We collaborate closely with public- and private-sector partners to translate big questions into deep insights that improve programs, refine strategies, and enhance understanding.

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### T-MSIS Analytic Files (TAF) for Research

The research-optimized version of T-MSIS, known as the T-MSIS Analytic Files (TAF), will also be available to the research community as Research Identifiable Files (TAF RIFs) from the Research Data Assistance Center. TAF RIFs will include the Annual Demographic and Enrollment file and the four claims files. These files will exclude information about the identity of beneficiaries but include a universal beneficiary identifier that allows easy linkage to Medicare data for those dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. This identifier also facilitates tracking of beneficiaries over time and across states.

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