

Background Resources on the Child and Adult Core Sets

This resource list includes reporting and analytic resources related to the Child and Adult Core Sets as well as other quality measurement resources. We hope these resources will help inform the 2029 Child and Adult Core Sets Annual Review.

Core Sets Reporting Years, Mandatory Reporting, and the Annual Review Cycle

First, it might be helpful to understand the Core Sets reporting and review cycle, as we work on multiple years simultaneously. The resources listed cover one or more of these reporting years.

- The most recent publicly reported data are for the **2024 Child and Adult Core Sets**; 2024 Core Set data products were released by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in September 2025. Links are provided below.
 - In August 2023, CMS released the final rule for Mandatory Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Core Set Reporting. Beginning with 2024 Core Sets reporting, states are required to report on all measures of the Child Core Set and the behavioral health measures on the Adult Core Set. More information is available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection/2023-18669/mandatory-medicaid-and-childrens-health-insurance-program-core-set-reporting>.
- State reporting of data for the **2025 Child and Adult Core Sets** took place in fall 2025 and is currently in CMS review. CMS expects to release 2025 data in September 2026.
 - A State Health Official (SHO) letter that describes updates to the 2025 Child and Adult Core Sets and provides mandatory reporting guidance was released in May 2024. It is available at <https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/sho24001.pdf>.
- State reporting of data for the **2026 Child and Adult Core Sets** will take place in fall 2026.
 - A SHO letter that describes updates to the 2026 Child and Adult Core Sets and provides mandatory reporting guidance was released in December 2024. It is available at <https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/sho24007.pdf>.
 - CMS announced additional updates to the 2026 Core Sets in the 2027 SHO letter and released updated measure lists in December 2025. Links are provided below.
 - The technical specifications and related resources for the 2026 Child and Adult Core Sets were released in January 2026. Links are provided below.

- State reporting of data for the **2027 Child and Adult Core Sets** will take place in fall 2027.
 - A SHO letter that describes updates to the 2026 and 2027 Child and Adult Core Sets and provides mandatory reporting guidance was released in December 2025. It is available at <https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/sho25005.pdf>.
 - Links to the 2027 Child and Adult Core Set measure lists are provided below.
- State reporting of data for the **2028 Child and Adult Core Sets** will take place in fall 2028.
 - The final report of the 2028 Child and Adult Core Sets Annual Review, containing recommendations for the 2028 Child and Adult Core Sets, was released in June 2026 and is available at <https://www.mathematica.org/features/MACCoreSetReview>.
 - CMCS expects to release the 2028 Child and Adult Core Sets by the end of 2026.
- The **2029 Child and Adult Core Sets** Annual Review Workgroup is charged with assessing the existing Core Sets and recommending measures for removal or addition to strengthen and improve the 2029 Child and Adult Core Sets.
 - More information about the Child and Adult Core Sets Annual Review and Selection Process is available at <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/downloads/annual-core-set-review.pdf>.

2027 Core Set Reporting Resources

CMS announced updates to the Child and Adult Core Sets in December 2025. The following resources related to the 2027 Core Set measures are available on Medicaid.gov.

- The **2027 Child and Adult Core Set measure lists** show the measure names, measure stewards, CMS Measures Inventory Tool (CMIT) number, and the data collection method.
 - The 2027 Child Core Set measure list is available at <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/downloads/2027-child-core-set.pdf>.
 - The 2027 Adult Core Set measure list is available at <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/downloads/2027-adult-core-set.pdf>.
- The **2027 Core Sets History Table** provides a list of the measures included in the Child Core Set from 2010 to 2027 and in the Adult Core Set from 2013 to 2027. The table also documents CMS's reasons for adding and removing measures over time. The table is available at <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/downloads/core-set-history-table.pdf>.

2026 Core Set Reporting Resources

The 2026 Child and Adult Core Set reporting resources provide detailed information on the technical specifications and technical assistance resources to help states report the Core Set measures. The following 2026 Core Set reporting resources are available on Medicaid.gov at the links shown in the table below.

- The **2026 Child and Adult Core Set** measure lists show the measure names, measure stewards, CMIT number, and the data collection method.
- The **2026 Core Set Technical Specifications and Resource Manuals** provide general information on data collection and reporting, and include technical specifications and measure-specific reporting guidance for each measure included in the 2026 Core Sets.
 - CMS released a **2026 Resource Manual Stratification Addendum** in May 2026 to provide additional guidance on two new optional stratifications: (1) children in foster care at any time during the measurement period; and (2) adults who are eligible for Medicaid under Medicaid expansion programs.
- A **Summary of Updates** describes the changes between the 2025 and 2026 Core Set resource manuals.
- **2026 Core Set Data Quality Checklists** help states improve the completeness, accuracy, consistency, and documentation of data reported for the Core Set measures. The checklists include common issues noted in reviewing state data, and help states review the data entered into the web-based reporting system.
- **2026 Core Set Measurement Period Tables** specify the measurement period for the denominators, numerators, and continuous enrollment periods for each Core Set measure.
- **Reporting Stratified Results in the QMR System for the 2026 Core Sets** resource identifies the stratification categories and subcategories for 2026 Core Sets reporting and provides additional reporting guidance.

Child Core Set	Adult Core Set
Child Core Set Measure List	Adult Core Set Measure List
Core Set Technical Specifications and Resource Manual	Core Set Technical Specifications and Resource Manual
Resource Manual Stratification Addendum	Resource Manual Stratification Addendum
Core Set Summary of Changes	Core Set Summary of Changes
Core Set Data Quality Checklist	Core Set Data Quality Checklist
Core Set Measurement Period Table	Core Set Measurement Period Table
Reporting Stratified Results in the QMR System for the Core Sets	Reporting Stratified Results in the QMR System for the Core Sets

2024 Core Sets Measure Performance

The most recent year of public reporting available is for the 2024 Core Sets, which generally reflects care delivered in 2023. The following resources are available on Medicaid.gov at the links shown in the table below.

- The **Core Set Data Dashboard** is an interactive tool for reviewing Core Set performance data for all publicly reported measures. It aims to improve accessibility of data about the quality of care provided to Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries. The Dashboard currently includes data reported for the 2021 through 2024 Core Sets.
- The **Summary Fact Sheet** highlights key findings from 2024 Child and Adult Core Sets reporting.
- The **Overviews of State Reporting** provide details on which 2024 Child and Adult Core Set measures were reported by each state.
- The **Summary Performance Tables** present the state mean, median, bottom quartile, and top quartile rates for each publicly reported Child and Adult Core Set measure, which is defined as being reported by 25 or more states and meeting CMS's standards for data quality.
- The **Child and Adult Quality Measures Datasets** are data files that provide summary and state-level performance data on publicly reported Child and Adult Core Sets measures.
- The **Trending Criteria Methods Brief** provides an overview of criteria for using the Child and Adult Core Set measures to assess trends in state performance.
- The **Trends in State Performance** resource presents the median state performance rates for Child and Adult Core Set measures that met the criteria for trending analysis over the most recent three-year period available and identifies statistically significant trends. The trend medians are calculated among the set of states that reported in all three years, and therefore may differ from the year-specific medians.

Child Core Set	Adult Core Set
Child Core Set Home Page	Adult Core Set Home Page
Core Set Data Dashboard	Core Set Data Dashboard
Summary Fact Sheet: Quality of Care for Children and Adults in Medicaid and CHIP: CMS Releases Data from the 2024 Child and Adult Core Sets	Summary Fact Sheet: Quality of Care for Children and Adults in Medicaid and CHIP: CMS Releases Data from the 2024 Child and Adult Core Sets
Overview of State Reporting for the 2024 Child Core Set	Overview of State Reporting for the 2024 Adult Core Set
Summary of Performance for the 2024 Child Core Set	Summary of Performance for the 2024 Adult Core Set
2024 Child Core Set Health Quality Measures Dataset	2024 Adult Core Set Health Quality Measures Dataset
2024 Core Set Trending Criteria Methods Brief	2024 Core Set Trending Criteria Methods Brief
Trends in State Performance: 2022 to 2024 Child and Adult Core Sets	Trends in State Performance: 2022 to 2024 Child and Adult Core Sets

Medicaid and CHIP Scorecard

The Medicaid and CHIP Scorecard was first released in 2018 to increase public transparency about the programs' administration and outcomes. The Health Care Quality Performance content area includes publicly reported quality measures that show how states serve Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries across the life span.

- Information about the Medicaid and CHIP Scorecard is available at <https://www.medicaid.gov/state-overviews/scorecard/index.html>.
- While many of the measures in the Health Care Quality Performance content area of the Scorecard are included in the Child and Adult Core Sets, not all measures in the Child and Adult Core Sets are included in the Scorecard.
- The 2025 Scorecard generally includes Child and Adult Core Set data from the 2023 to 2024 Core Sets.

Other Quality Measurement Resources

This section identifies additional quality measurement resources that may inform the discussion of measures for addition to or removal from the 2029 Child and Adult Core Sets, including efforts to reduce reporting burden, facilitate alignment, and address gaps.

- The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Measure Inventory Tool (CMIT)** is the repository of record for information about the measures that CMS uses to promote health care quality and quality improvement. The searchable database provides information on more than 2,000 measures, including title, numerator, denominator, exclusions, measure type, reporting status, use in federal and other programs, measure steward, placement in cascade of Meaningful Measures, and other attributes. The tool is available at <https://cmit.cms.gov/cmit/>. A public access quick start guide for CMIT is available at <https://cmit.cms.gov/cmit/assets/CMIT-QuickStartPublicAccess.pdf>.
- The **Cascade of Meaningful Measures** is a tool CMS developed to help prioritize existing health care quality measures, align or reduce measures where there are too many, and identify gaps where new measures may need to be developed. The tool starts by utilizing the eight health care priorities of the Meaningful Measures 2.0 Framework. More information is available at <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/meaningful-measures-framework/cascade-measures>.
- The **Core Quality Measures Collaborative (CQMC)** is a public-private partnership to facilitate measure alignment across payers through the creation of core sets of quality measures. The CQMC aims to reduce burden by identifying high-impact, evidence-based measures and by eliminating redundancies and inconsistencies in measure specifications and reporting requirements across payers. More information is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityMeasures/Core-Measures>.

- CMS is exploring the use of **Transformed Medicaid Statistical Information System (T-MSIS)** data to calculate Child and Adult Core Sets measures on behalf of states to reduce state burden and increase consistency across states. More information about T-MSIS is available at <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/data-systems/macbis/transformed-medicaid-statistical-information-system-t-msis/index.html>. More information about the **T-MSIS Analytic Files (TAF)** used to calculate the measures is available at <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/data-systems/macbis/medicaid-chip-research-files/transformed-medicaid-statistical-information-system-t-msis-analytic-files-taf/index.html>. The DQ (Data Quality) Atlas provides information about TAF data quality by topic and by state and is available at <https://www.medicaid.gov/dq-atlas/welcome>.
- The **Medicaid and CHIP Beneficiary Profile** and **Medicaid and CHIP At-a-Glance Infographic** provide an overview of the characteristics, health status, access, utilization, expenditures, and experience of Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries. The latest versions of the profile and infographic are available at <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/medicaid-chip-data-products/index.html>.

For More Information

If you have questions, please contact MACCoreSetReview@mathematica-mpr.com.