

Maternal Demographic Characteristics by Medicaid Reimbursement



Fact Sheet Purpose

The purpose of this fact sheet is to highlight the characteristics and birth outcomes of women whose labor and delivery costs were reimbursed by Medicaid compared to women whose labor and delivery costs were not reimbursed by Medicaid.

Background

Medicaid is a state/federal program that provides health insurance for certain groups of low-income people, including pregnant women. Iowa Medicaid is administered by the Iowa Department of Human Services through Iowa Medicaid Enterprise. In Iowa, pregnant women may be eligible for Medicaid if their household income is below 375 percent of the federal poverty level.

In 2014, the labor and delivery costs for nearly 40 percent of Iowa resident births were reimbursed by Medicaid (38.4%; n=15,299 of 39,685 resident births).

Data Sources

Data for this report were derived from a matched file of the 2014 birth certificate and Medicaid paid claims for calendar year 2014. Medicaid status was based on a paid claim for a delivery related diagnostic related group between 765 and 775, and linked to a birth certificate. Birth certificate data were used to determine maternal demographic characteristics, pre-existing conditions, cigarette smoking during pregnancy, prenatal care initiation, and infant birth outcomes.

Table 1. Selected maternal demographic characteristics, Medicaid reimbursed deliveries compared to non-Medicaid reimbursed deliveries, Iowa resident births, calendar year 2014

Characteristic	Medicaid reimbursed		NOT Medicaid reimbursed	
	Number	%	Number	%
Age				
17 and younger	379	2.5	154	0.6
18-19	1,125	7.4	411	1.7
20-24	5,402	35.5	3,443	14.1
25-29	4,510	29.6	8,788	35.9
30 and older	3,813	25.0	11,658	47.7
Race/ethnicity				
Non-Hispanic White	10,734	70.5	21,638	88.5
Non-Hispanic Black	1,501	9.9	849	3.5
Non-Hispanic Other	655	4.3	982	4.0
Hispanic	2,331	15.3	978	4.0

- Medicaid reimbursement for deliveries was inversely related to age; Medicaid is an important source of health care coverage during pregnancy for young women.
- The majority of Medicaid reimbursed deliveries were among non-Hispanic White women. However, Medicaid reimbursed deliveries represent a higher percentage of deliveries to non-Hispanic Black women and Hispanic women. Medicaid is an important source of health care coverage during pregnancy for women of racial and ethnic minorities.

Table 2. Selected pre-existing conditions, cigarette smoking during pregnancy, and prenatal care initiation, Medicaid reimbursed deliveries compared to non-Medicaid reimbursed deliveries, Iowa resident births, calendar year 2014

Characteristic	Medicaid reimbursed		NOT Medicaid reimbursed	
	Number	%	Number	%
Gestational diabetes	1,138	7.5	1,614	6.6
Pregnancy related hypertension	959	6.3	1,699	6.9
Previous preterm birth	763	5.0	853	3.5
Smoked cigarettes during pregnancy	1,909	20.8	1,347	5.5
First trimester prenatal care initiation	11,642	77.0	21,428	88.1

- A higher percentage of women with Medicaid reimbursed deliveries had gestational diabetes compared to women with non-Medicaid reimbursed deliveries.
- A higher percentage of women with Medicaid reimbursed deliveries also experienced a previous preterm birth compared to women with non-Medicaid reimbursed deliveries.
- A much higher percentage of women with Medicaid reimbursed deliveries smoked cigarettes during pregnancy compared to women with non-Medicaid reimbursed deliveries.
- The percent of women who initiated prenatal care during the first trimester was lower among women with Medicaid reimbursed deliveries compared to women with non-Medicaid reimbursed deliveries

Table 3. Birth outcomes, Medicaid reimbursed deliveries compared to non-Medicaid reimbursed deliveries, Iowa resident births, calendar year 2014

Characteristic	Medicaid reimbursed		NOT Medicaid reimbursed	
	Number	%	Number	%
Low birth weight	1,090	7.2	1,557	6.4
Pre-term birth	1,424	9.4	2,273	9.3

- A higher percentage of women with Medicaid reimbursed deliveries gave birth to a low birth weight infant compared to women with non-Medicaid reimbursed deliveries.

Additional Information¹

For additional information or to obtain copies of this fact sheet, contact the Iowa Department of Public Health, Bureau of Family Health, at 321 E. 12th Street, Des Moines, IA 50309 or toll-free at 1-800-383-3826.

¹ The Iowa Department of Public Health acknowledges the Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Program, Field Support Branch, Division of Reproductive Health, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Public Health Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for analytic support and preparation of this fact sheet.