

HEALTH MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES

THE  
**MICHIGAN  
UPDATE**  
2021

JANUARY



**Table of Contents**

**MEDICAID MANAGED CARE ENROLLMENT ACTIVITY .....3**

**MI HEALTH LINK .....5**

**MICHIGAN MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLANS .....7**

**HEALTHY MICHIGAN PLAN ENROLLMENT .....8**

**MEDICAID POLICIES .....9**





### MEDICAID MANAGED CARE ENROLLMENT ACTIVITY

As of January 1, 2021, there were **2,066,337 Medicaid beneficiaries, including 703,821 Healthy Michigan Plan (HMP) beneficiaries**, enrolled in the 10 Michigan Medicaid Health Plans (HMOs). As the table below shows, this is an overall **increase of 23,653** since December 1, 2020. The number of HMP beneficiaries enrolled in HMOs increased by 15,353 and the number of non-HMP beneficiaries increased by 8,300.

As the table below illustrates, **managed care enrollment has grown significantly** over the last year and is about **320,000 higher in January 2021 than in January 2020**.

More than half of the growth can be seen in the Healthy Michigan Plan (HMP) enrollment figures; the count of HMP beneficiaries enrolled in the 10 Michigan Medicaid Health Plans (HMOs) in January 2021 is almost 173,000 higher than in January 2020. The count of non-HMP enrollees has also increased during the same period.

Some of this growth can surely be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic and the loss of income and health insurance by many in Michigan’s population, but a contributing factor as well was the decision in April 2020 by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to temporarily discontinue annual eligibility redeterminations and case closures.

	Jan 2020	March 2020	June 2020	Sept 2020	Nov 2020	Dec. 2020	Jan 2021
<b>All Medicaid Beneficiaries Enrolled</b>	<b>1,746,449</b>	<b>1,766,779</b>	<b>1,880,759</b>	<b>1,972,839</b>	<b>2,030,019</b>	<b>2,042,684</b>	<b>2,066,337</b>
• Total HMP Enrollees	530,415	540,935	596,382	651,134	680,653	688,468	703,821
• Total CSHCS/ Medicaid Enrollees	23,863	24,292	25,750	24,924	26,345	26,469	26,645
• Total Medicare/ Medicaid Enrollees (Duals)	39,107	39,293	40,724	41,446	45,021	45,244	45,122
• Total MICHild Enrollees	39,933	38,909	35,351	35,795	35,785	35,747	35,713

The number of beneficiaries identified as mandatory managed care enrollees but not yet enrolled in a Medicaid HMO has varied dramatically over the last two and a half years, from a low of 45,305 in July 2018 to a high of 149,746 in May 2020. In January 2021, the number of mandatory but not yet enrolled beneficiaries was 71,624, up from 70,667 in December 2020.





As the enrollment reports for January ([pdf](#), [xls](#)) reflect, every county in the state is served by at least one Medicaid HMO. Auto-assignment of beneficiaries into the HMOs is available in every county. In addition to the HMOs with smaller service areas, there are three HMOs – McLaren Health Plan, Meridian Health Plan of Michigan, and Molina Healthcare of Michigan – authorized to serve all counties in the Lower Peninsula and a fourth – UnitedHealthcare Community Plan – authorized to serve all but three of the Lower Peninsula counties. Beneficiaries in all 15 counties in the Upper Peninsula are auto-assigned, through federal “Rural Exception” authority, to the one HMO serving these counties, Upper Peninsula Health Plan.

The plans with the highest total enrollment in January 2021 were Meridian Health Plan of Michigan with about 27 percent of the total, Molina Healthcare of Michigan with about 18 percent, and Blue Cross Complete of Michigan with about 14 percent of the total number of enrollees.

*Healthy Michigan Plan (HMP)*

The **total count of HMP enrollees in the Medicaid HMOs in January 2021 was 703,821, an increase of 15,353** over the count for December 2020. All Medicaid HMOs have HMP beneficiaries enrolled, although the numbers vary across plans. The plans with the highest HMP enrollment in January 2021 were Meridian Health Plan of Michigan with about 25 percent of the total, Blue Cross Complete with almost 18 percent, and Molina Healthcare of Michigan with about 15 percent of the total number of enrollees.

*CSHCS/Medicaid*

The MDHHS requires children (and a few adults) receiving services from both the Children’s Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) program and the Medicaid program to enroll in Medicaid HMOs. There were **26,645 joint CSHCS/Medicaid beneficiaries enrolled in the Medicaid HMOs in January 2021, an increase of 176** since December 2020. All Medicaid HMOs have CSHCS/Medicaid enrollees, although the numbers vary across plans. The plans with the highest enrollment in January 2021 were Meridian Health Plan of Michigan with about 23 percent of the total, Molina Healthcare of Michigan with about 21 percent, and Blue Cross Complete with about 15 percent of the total number of enrollees.

*MiChild*

There were **35,713 MiChild beneficiaries enrolled in the Medicaid HMOs in January 2021, a decrease of 34** since December 2020. All Medicaid HMOs have MiChild beneficiaries enrolled, although the numbers vary dramatically across plans. The plans with the highest enrollment in January were Meridian Health Plan of Michigan with about 28 percent of the total, Molina Healthcare of Michigan with about 15 percent, and Blue Cross Complete with about 13 percent of the total number of enrollees.





Medicare/Medicaid

Aside from Michigan’s Medicare/Medicaid financial alignment demonstration, MI Health Link, there were an additional **45,122 Medicaid beneficiaries dually eligible for Medicare (duals) enrolled in January 2021 in Medicaid HMOs** for their acute care Medicaid benefits. As the table above reflects, the number of enrolled duals **decreased by 122** between December 2020 and January 2021. All Medicaid HMOs have duals enrolled, although the numbers vary significantly across plans. The plans with the highest enrollment in January 2021 were Meridian Health Plan of Michigan with about 29 percent of the total, Molina Healthcare of Michigan with about 22 percent, and UnitedHealthCare Community Plan with about 13 percent of the total number of enrollees.

For additional information, contact [Cammie Cantrell](#), at 517-482-9236.

**MI HEALTH LINK**

In previous editions of *The Michigan Update* we have written about Michigan’s implementation of an integrated healthcare delivery system demonstration for adults dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid (duals). The demonstration, called MI Health Link, operates in four regions of the state. The entire Upper Peninsula is one region; eight counties in the southwest corner of the state (Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren) form another region; and Macomb County and Wayne County are two single-county regions. Medicaid and Medicare physical healthcare services (including long-term services and supports) are provided by HMOs that have contracts as Integrated Care Organizations (ICOs) to serve the duals.

The number of MI Health Link enrollees continues to fluctuate, with increases in some months and decreases in others. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) reports that **in January 2021, the MI Health Link enrollment total was 39,250, a decrease of 549** enrollees since December 2020.

The tables below illustrate MI Health Link enrollment by month during 2019 and 2020 as well as for January 2021. Enrollment fluctuations are clear. The lowest enrollment count on the tables was in May 2019 when there were 33,095 enrollees; and the highest enrollment count was in November 2020 when there were 39,889 enrollees.

Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019	March 2019	April 2019	May 2019	June 2019
34,367	34,444	33,672	33,145	33,095	35,612
July 2019	August 2019	Sept. 2019	Oct. 2019	Nov. 2019	Dec. 2019
34,771	36,621	37,295	37,018	37,377	37,321





Jan. 2020	Feb. 2020	March 2020	April 2020	May 2020	June 2020
36,647	37,575	37,006	36,864	37,675	37,898
July 2020	August 2020	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2020	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020
38,473	39,206	39,055	39,269	39,889	39,799

Jan. 2021
39,250

There are seven ICOs serving one or more of the demonstration regions. The table below provides enrollment information by region for each ICO for **January 2021**.

MI Health Link Enrollment	Upper Peninsula Region	SW MI Region	Macomb Region	Wayne Region	Total
Aetna Better Health of MI		3,156	969	3,455	7,580
AmeriHealth Michigan			699	2,289	2,988
HAP Empowered Health Plan			1,006	3,387	4,393
Meridian Health Plan of MI		5,050			5,050
MI Complete Health			723	2,251	2,974
Molina Healthcare of MI			2,136	9,933	12,069
Upper Peninsula Health Plan	4,196				4,196
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,196</b>	<b>8,206</b>	<b>5,533</b>	<b>21,315</b>	<b>39,250</b>

The plans with the highest enrollment in January 2021 were Molina Healthcare of Michigan with 31 percent of the total, Aetna Better Health of Michigan with about 19 percent, and Meridian Health Plan of Michigan with about 13 percent of the total number of enrollees.

During January 2021, about 95 percent of the MI Health Link enrollees were living in a community setting, and the remaining five percent of enrollees resided in a nursing facility. About six percent of the total enrollees living in a community setting were receiving home and community-based long-term services and supports through the MI Health Link program waiver; however, a significant number of the other enrollees living in a community setting received in-home services and supports from the ICOs through the Medicaid State Plan personal care benefit called Home Help.

While all plans have enrollees receiving care in nursing facilities, Aetna Better Health of Michigan had the largest share during January 2021; nearly 21 percent of the total enrollees residing in nursing facilities were part of Aetna. Molina Healthcare of Michigan had almost 19 percent of total enrollees residing in nursing facilities during January 2021, and Upper Peninsula Health Plan had 18 percent.





The majority of MI Health Link enrollees are passively enrolled; they are auto assigned to a health plan based on their eligibility but are able to opt out of the demonstration at any time. Beneficiaries may also voluntarily enroll in the demonstration; and during January 2021, more than 17 percent of the demonstration's participants were voluntarily enrolled.

MDHHS also reports that about 61,100 duals eligible for participation in the demonstration have chosen to opt out. These individuals receive their Medicaid benefits on a fee-for-service basis but retain the option to voluntarily enroll, or re-enroll, in the demonstration at any time.

More than half of the MI Health Link enrollees are individuals under the age of 65. These younger individuals qualified for Medicare and Medicaid based on a disability.

**For additional information, contact [Cammie Cantrell](#), at 517-482-9236.**

## MICHIGAN MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLANS

There are multiple types of Medicare Advantage Special Needs Plans (SNPs). Some plans focus on Medicare beneficiaries with certain chronic medical conditions; these are called C-SNPs. Other plans focus on Medicare beneficiaries residing in institutions; these are I-SNPs. Plans that focus on Medicare beneficiaries dually eligible for Medicaid (duals) are called D-SNPs. All three types of plans provide Medicare benefits, and all are available in Michigan.

Meridian Health Plan of Michigan is offering a C-SNP focused on Medicare beneficiaries with diabetes and had 63 enrollees in January 2021. Align Senior Care Michigan is offering a C-SNP focused on beneficiaries with dementia and had 13 enrollees in January; this plan has apparently changed its focus from diabetes and cardiac issues. Align is also offering an I-SNP and had 136 enrollees in January 2021. Zing Health of Michigan is also offering a C-SNP beginning in January 2021; this plan will focus on beneficiaries with diabetes or cardiac issues but does not yet have any enrollees.

Four of the 10 Medicaid HMOs in Michigan are also federally contracted as D-SNPs: Meridian Health Plan of Michigan, Molina Healthcare of Michigan, Priority Health Choice, and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan. As of January 1, 2021, these four D-SNPs had a combined enrollment of 38,258 duals for whom they provide Medicare services.

More than 37 percent of the duals enrolled in a Michigan D-SNP (14,311 individuals) in January 2021 were enrolled with Molina; about 31 percent (11,778 individuals) were enrolled with Meridian; about 20 percent (7,669 individuals) were enrolled with UnitedHealthcare; and about 12 percent (4,500 individuals) were enrolled with Priority. None of these duals are participating in the MI Health Link demonstration, but some may also be enrolled in these same plans to receive their Medicaid services.



In addition to these four health plans, five additional D-SNPs serve Michigan. Humana Medical/Dental Plan and Health Alliance Plan (HAP) of Michigan were serving enrollees in 2020; and Aetna Health of Michigan, Reliance Medicare Advantage, and Longevity Health Plan of Michigan are new to Michigan in January 2021. Humana had 15,028 enrollees in January 2021; HAP had 237 enrollees, Aetna had 563 enrollees, and Reliance had 132 enrollees. Federal reports did not show any January enrollees for Longevity. These enrollment totals are not counted in the aforementioned statistics. HAP is the parent organization for HAP Empowered Health Plan and Aetna Health of Michigan is the parent organization for Aetna Better Health of Michigan, both of which are Michigan Medicaid HMOs and ICOs participating in MI Health Link.

Not all duals enrolled in the D-SNPs are eligible to receive full Medicaid benefits. Some only receive assistance from the Medicaid program with their Medicare coinsurance and deductible payments and/or monthly Medicare premiums.

For additional information, contact [Cammie Cantrell](#), at 517-482-9236.

## HEALTHY MICHIGAN PLAN ENROLLMENT

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) reports enrollment counts for the Healthy Michigan Plan (HMP), its Medicaid expansion program for low-income non-elderly adults who do not meet eligibility criteria for traditional program coverage, at the beginning of each week on its [website](#). Enrollment stood at **873,535 as of January 25, 2021**, the last counting day of the month. **This is an increase of 18,557 since December 21, 2020** (enrollment numbers for December 28, 2020 were unavailable). **The enrollment count for January 25, 2021 is the highest ever for the program and nearly 199,000 higher than one year ago.**

Normally, the enrollment count drops on the first counting day of each month due to case closures resulting from annual eligibility redeterminations, then grows again by the end of the month as new applications and redeterminations are processed. However, as reported in the April edition of *The Michigan Update*, MDHHS released a program bulletin on April 6, 2020 (MSA 20-19) announcing that virtually all case closures – for both the HMP and traditional Medicaid eligibility categories – have been temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This temporary suspension as well as an assumed increase in new enrollment requests over the last few months due to the number of newly unemployed individuals losing health care benefits likely explains the dramatic rise in enrollment.

For additional information, contact [Cammie Cantrell](#), at 517-482-9236.



## MEDICAID POLICIES

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) issued several publications in January that is available for review on the department's [website](#).

The website shows one final policy issued in January; it was also simultaneously released for public comment. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has released five final and four proposed policies that merit mention. They are available for review on the department's [website](#).

- **MSA 21-01**, issued January 15, 2021: COVID-19 Response: Update to Bulletin MSA 20-77

The website also shows two proposed policies for which the public comment period is still open. One of the proposed policies was simultaneously released as a final policy and appears above.

- 2101-CRC COVID-19 Response: Update to Bulletin MSA 20-77
- 2067-AUD/OD **Fee-for-Service Coverage of Alcohol Use Disorder and Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Services**

In addition, MDHHS has released eight L-letters of potential interest since our last newsletter, which are available for review on the same website.

- **L21-09**, issued January 28, 2021: Changes in **Access to Payment Information in the SIGMA VSS System**
- **L 21-08**, issued January 27, 2021: **Premium Pay Update Nursing Facilities**
- **L 21-05**, issued January 27, 2021: **Coverage of Doula Services**
- **L 21-06**, issued January 26, 2021: **Coverage of Medication-Assisted Treatment**
- **L 20-73**, issued January 15, 2021: **Medicaid Health Plan (MHP) Reimbursement:** Pharmacies with Seven (7) or Fewer Retail Outlets Effective February 1, 2021
- **L 21-03**, issued January 13, 2021: **COVID-19 Premium Pay Extended** through February 28, 2021
- **L 21-02**, issued January 13, 2021: **COVID-19 Response: Premium Pay**
- **L 21-01**, issued January 12, 2021: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) **Response to Address COVID-19 Public Health Emergency** - December 2020

For additional information, contact [Cammie Cantrell](#), at 517-482-9236.



# HMA HEALTH MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES

Health Management Associates (HMA) is an independent, national research and consulting firm specializing in publicly funded healthcare reform, policy, and programs. We serve government, public and private providers, health systems, health plans, institutional investors, foundations, and associations. Every client matters. Every client gets our best. With over 20 offices and more than 200 multidisciplinary consultants coast to coast, our expertise, our services, and our team are always within client reach.

