

Matching with Medicaid Data to Increase Benefits and Access and Improve Health Outcomes

Michael Nolin;✉¹ Charles Betley;¹ Rachel Cahill²
¹ The Hilltop Institute; ² Benefits Data Trust
✉ mnolin@hilltop.umbc.edu

Background

The expanding interest and emphasis on population-based health and the targeting of high-risk/high-cost individuals for intervention, along with a recognition of the broader social determinants of health, have all led states to consider how state person-level databases can be matched to stimulate broader access to public benefits and services that can improve health outcomes.

Project Overview/Goals

PHASE I: Establish population baseline. Match individuals eligible for Maryland Medicare and Medicaid (dual eligibles) with current enrollment in the **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program** (SNAP, formerly Food Stamps) and **Maryland Energy Assistance Program** (MEAP) in order to identify individuals who qualify but are not currently enrolled in SNAP and MEAP by various cost, demographic, and utilization categories.

PHASE II: Design and implement an intervention program targeting the high-risk/high-cost population and facilitate the enrollment of dual eligibles in SNAP and MEAP.

Phase III (currently unfunded): Identify the highest-risk/highest-cost individuals and assess over time whether the additional income support from SNAP and MEAP have a salutary effect on health status and health care utilization through a controlled comparison.

Collaborating Agencies

- Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Systems and Infrastructure Administration, **Department of Health and Mental Hygiene**
- **Maryland Department of Human Resources**
- **Benefits Data Trust** is a not-for-profit organization committed to increasing access to public benefits programs that partners with state agencies to leverage government data to make benefits enrollment more simple, comprehensive, and cost-effective.
- **The Hilltop Institute** works closely with the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and warehouses MMIS data and Maryland Medicare (duals) data.

Participation of Dual Eligibles in MEAP and SNAP in 2012

by Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	Receives MEAP and SNAP	Receives MEAP Only	Receives SNAP Only	Does Not Receive MEAP or SNAP	Total
Asian					
Number of Beneficiaries	516	401	2,839	3,381	7,137
Percentage of group	7.2%	5.6%	39.8%	47.4%	
Black					
Number of Beneficiaries	3,160	1,351	9,361	8,631	22,503
Percentage of group	14.0%	6.0%	41.6%	38.4%	
Caucasian					
Number of Beneficiaries	3,622	2,304	6,533	9,127	21,586
Percentage of group	16.8%	10.7%	30.3%	42.3%	
Hispanic					
Number of Beneficiaries	152	69	1,334	1,551	3,106
Percentage of group	4.9%	2.2%	43.0%	49.9%	
Other					
Number of Beneficiaries	427	284	1,580	3,284	5,575
Percentage of group	7.7%	5.1%	28.3%	58.9%	
Total					
Number of Beneficiaries	7,877	4,409	21,647	25,974	59,907
Percentage of group	13.1%	7.4%	36.1%	43.4%	100.0%

by Age

Age Group	Receives MEAP and SNAP	Receives MEAP Only	Receives SNAP Only	Does Not Receive MEAP or SNAP	Total
Aged 65 to 75					
Number of Beneficiaries	3,990	1,939	11,257	13,320	30,506
Percentage of Group	13.1%	6.4%	36.9%	43.7%	100.0%
Aged 75 to 85					
Number of Beneficiaries	2,882	1,765	7,559	8,084	20,290
Percentage of Group	14.2%	8.7%	37.3%	39.8%	100.0%
Aged 85 and Older					
Number of Beneficiaries	1,005	705	2,831	4,570	9,111
Percentage of Group	11.0%	7.7%	31.1%	50.2%	100.0%
Total					
Number of Beneficiaries	7,877	4,409	21,647	25,974	59,907
Percentage of Group	13.1%	7.4%	36.1%	43.4%	100.0%

by Gender

Gender	Receives MEAP and SNAP	Receives MEAP Only	Receives SNAP Only	Does Not Receive MEAP or SNAP	Total
Female					
Number of Beneficiaries	6,019	3,005	15,295	17,264	41,583
Percentage of group	14.5%	7.2%	36.8%	41.5%	100.0%
Male					
Number of Beneficiaries	1,858	1,404	6,352	8,710	18,324
Percentage of group	10.1%	7.7%	34.7%	47.5%	100.0%
Total					
Number of Beneficiaries	7,877	4,409	21,647	25,974	59,907
Percentage of Group	13.1%	7.4%	36.1%	43.4%	100.0%

by Adjusted Clinical Group

Adjusted Clinical Group	Receives MEAP and SNAP	Receives MEAP Only	Receives SNAP Only	Does Not Receive MEAP or SNAP	Total
Very High Comorbidity					
Number of Beneficiaries	1,583	638	4,535	4,208	10,964
Percentage of group	14.4%	5.8%	41.4%	38.4%	100.0%
High Comorbidity					
Number of Beneficiaries	1,434	546	3,961	3,600	9,541
Percentage of group	15.0%	5.7%	41.5%	37.7%	100.0%
Moderate Comorbidity					
Number of Beneficiaries	2,118	944	6,794	6,917	16,773
Percentage of group	12.6%	5.6%	40.5%	41.2%	100.0%
Low Comorbidity					
Number of Beneficiaries	2,742	2,281	6,352	11,216	22,591
Percentage of group	12.1%	10.1%	28.1%	49.7%	100.0%
Total					
Number of Beneficiaries	7,877	4,409	21,647	25,974	59,907
Percentage of Group	13.1%	7.4%	36.1%	43.4%	100.0%

Phase I analysis indicates that a significant number of older individuals with low income, including those with poor health, are not taking advantage of federally funded benefits, which may affect their health and wellbeing. A benefits expansion intervention is planned in Phase II.

Data Sources

- Maryland Medicaid Eligibility and Claims Data (MMIS), Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 – 2012
- Maryland Medicare Enrollment and claims (dual eligibles), 2008 – 2011
- Maryland SNAP data, Maryland Department of Human Resources (FY 2008 – 2012)
- MEAP data, Maryland Department of Human Resources (2008 – 2012)