Medicaid Enrollment of Inmates
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Alliance for Health Reform
Health Care Out from Behind Bars: Meeting Prisoners’ Needs Efficiently
Washington, DC
December 11, 2015

Correctional Health Research

Objectives:
• Provide a long-term look at state prison health care spending
• Help policymakers understanding and preserve the value of state and local spending
• Highlight policies and practices that may contain costs while maintaining or improving public health and safety

pewtrusts.org/correctionalhealth
Inmate Medicaid Eligibility

Individuals who meet states’ Medicaid eligibility criteria “may be enrolled in the program before, during, and after the time in which they are held” in jail or prison.

~CMS (2004)

Optional ACA Medicaid Expansion

All individuals with incomes below 138% of federal poverty level with enhanced federal support

- Children
- Pregnant women
- Parents of dependent children
- Elderly and disabled adults
Examples of State and Local Enrollment Action

- Massachusetts (pre-ACA)
- Ohio
- New Mexico & Bernalillo County
- Wisconsin (1115 waiver, not ACA expansion)

Sources: Stateline; Ohio ODRC; Albuquerque Journal; Wisconsin DHS

Medicaid Reimbursement for Inpatient Costs

States may not seek federal reimbursement for health care services provided to jail or prison inmates, with one exception: care delivered outside of prison, such as at a hospital or nursing home, when the inmate has been admitted for more than 24 hours.

~HHS (1997)
<table>
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<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
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<td>Michigan</td>
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Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation