Health Insurance Marketplace Enrollment: Lessons Learned

Arnold M. Epstein, MD, MA

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health Policy
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
July 11, 2014



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Most Individuals Shopping in the Marketplace Had a Wide Choice of Plans

On average, consumers could choose from 5 health insurers and 47
 Marketplace plans

Metric*	Issuers	Total Marketplace Plans**	Bronze Plans	Silver Plans	Gold Plans	Platinum Plans
Minimum	1	6	1	2	2	1
Average	5	47	14	16	13	5
Maximum	11	165	42	67	45	23

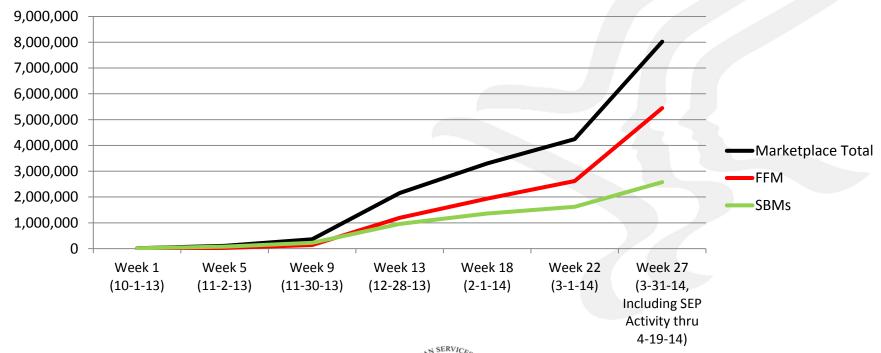
^{*} Represents the Minimum, Average, or Maximum across all rating areas.



^{**} Total excludes Catastrophic Plans.

Cumulative Marketplace Plan Selections During The Open Enrollment Period

Fewer than 5 percent chose a plan during the first 9 weeks. Nearly half (47 percent) chose a plan during the last 4 weeks.





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Characteristics of Marketplace Plan Selections During the Initial Open Enrollment Period

By Financial Assistance Status:

85 percent qualify for Financial Assistance (APTC with or without CSR)

• By Age:

28 percent between the ages of 18 and 34

By Gender:

54 percent female

By Metal Level:

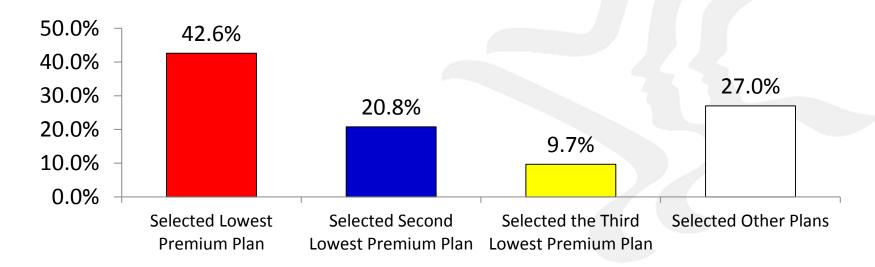
- 20 percent selected a Bronze plan
- 65 percent selected a Silver plan
- 9 percent selected a Gold plan
- 5 percent selected a Platinum plan
- 2 percent selected a Catastrophic plan



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Individuals Tended to Choose Lower Premium Marketplace Plans

 Within the FFM, three-quarters (73 percent) chose a plan with the lowest, second-lowest, or third-lowest premium available in their rating area (within the applicable metal level)





In the FFM, Tax Credits Improved the Affordability of Plans

 People who selected silver plans with tax credits have an average premium of \$69 per month

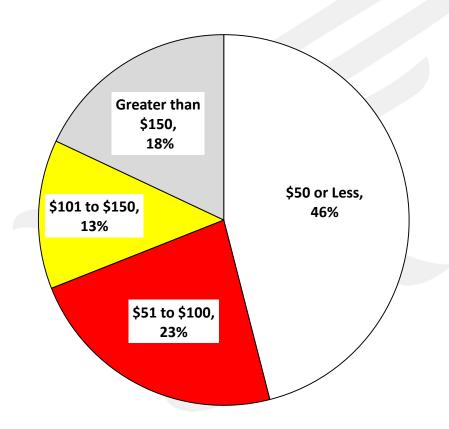
Metal Level	Percent of Individuals Who Selected Plans With Tax Credits*	Average Premium before Tax Credits	Average Tax Credit Amount	Average Premium after Tax Credits	Average Percent Reduction in Premium after Tax Credits
Silver	94%	\$345	\$276	\$69	80%
All Metal Levels**	87%	\$346	\$264	\$82	76%



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Many People Had Very Low Premiums After The Tax Credit

In the FFM, 69
 percent of
 individuals who
 selected plans with
 tax credits had
 premiums of \$100 a
 month or less after
 tax credits





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Competition (Number of Issuers in a Rating Area) Is Associated With More Affordable Benchmark Plans

 An additional issuer in a rating area is associated with a lower benchmark premium (i.e., second-lowest premium silver plan)





Note: Controlling for percent of established issuers, whether the issuer is a CO-OP, whether the state is a Federally-facilitated marketplace state, whether the state is a Medicaid expansion state, full-community rating state, hospital market concentration, proportion of uninsured population, state level health care expenditure, and population density.

Source: ASPE computations of plan and premium data from the following publicly available sources: Healthcare.gov, state rate filings (where available), and State-based Marketplace websites. Note: Other model specifications included using the second-lowest cost silver plan premiums for 35, 40, 50, and 60-year-olds as the dependent variable, respectively. Results were consistent across different specifications.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Lessons Learned #1

DEADLINES MATTER

- Nearly half of all consumers waited until the end to select a plan
- This shows the importance of an action-forcing event like the end of the open enrollment period



Lessons Learned #2

THE INITIAL OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD SOWED THE SEEDS FOR FUTURE SUCCESS

- Since July 2013, awareness doubled for the Marketplace (from 32% to 62%) and Healthcare.gov (34% to 81%)
- And among those who are aware, visits to Healthcare.gov tripled (from 17% to 57%)



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Lessons Learned #3

PREMIUM PRICES ARE KEY

- Consumers who selected plans chose plans with lower premiums, and those who were eligible but didn't buy were frequently concerned about affordability
- Lower premiums will also encourage more people to enroll in Marketplace plans, which is likely to have a positive effect on fiscal sustainability



Preparing for 2015

Early evidence for 2015 suggests that there will be growth in the number of issuers as the Marketplace matures

Some areas of focus for the 2015 open enrollment period include:

- Focusing on key demographic groups
- Simplifying the consumer experience
 - New proposed rule to help FFM Marketplace consumers get auto-enrolled for the upcoming year
- Engaging partners
 - We will be working closely with partners on the ground to reach targeted communities, and help more Americans enroll in Marketplace coverage



Appendix:

State-Level Monthly Premiums After the Tax Credit



Distribution of FFM Marketplace Plan Selections By the Monthly Premium After Tax Credit, By State

 In 11 FFM states, more than 70 percent of the enrollees who selected Marketplace plans with tax credits had premiums of \$100 a month or less after tax credits

State	\$100 or Less	\$50 or Less	\$51 to \$100	\$101 to \$150	Greater than \$150
Mississippi	85%	68%	17%	7%	7%
Georgia	79%	60%	19%	10%	11%
Missouri	77%	57%	20%	11%	13%
Idaho	77%	50%	27%	11%	12%
Florida	75%	56%	19%	10%	15%
Kansas	75%	52%	22%	12%	14%
Texas	74%	50%	24%	12%	14%
Oklahoma	74%	47%	27%	13%	13%
Alabama	73%	53%	20%	11%	16%
Virginia	73%	48%	25%	12%	15%
North Carolina	71%	48%	23%	12%	16%



Distribution of FFM Marketplace Plan Selections By the Monthly Premium After Tax Credit, By State

 In 14 FFM states, 60 to 70 percent of the enrollees who selected Marketplace plans with tax credits had premiums of \$100 a month or less after tax credits

State	\$100 or Less	\$50 or Less	\$51 to \$100	\$101 to \$150	Greater than \$150
Louisiana	70%	45%	25%	13%	17%
South Carolina	70%	45%	25%	13%	17%
Tennessee	69%	42%	28%	14%	16%
Utah	69%	36%	33%	17%	15%
Pennsylvania	68%	47%	21%	12%	20%
Indiana	67%	41%	26%	14%	18%
Arkansas	65%	35%	30%	15%	19%
Nebraska	64%	38%	26%	15%	21%
Maine	63%	38%	25%	14%	23%
Alaska	62%	42%	21%	14%	23%
Michigan	62%	39%	24%	15%	23%
Montana	62%	37%	26%	16%	22%
New Hampshire	62%	38%	24%	15%	23%
South Dakota	61%	34%	27%	16%	23%



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Distribution of FFM Marketplace Plan Selections By the Monthly Premium After Tax Credit, By State

 In 11 FFM states, 45 to 58 percent of the enrollees who selected Marketplace plans with tax credits had premiums of \$100 a month or less after tax credits

State	\$100 or Less	\$50 or Less	\$51 to \$100	\$101 to \$150	Greater than \$150
West Virginia	58%	31%	27%	15%	27%
Arizona	58%	26%	32%	17%	25%
Wisconsin	57%	32%	25%	16%	27%
Iowa	57%	29%	28%	19%	25%
Illinois	56%	25%	31%	18%	26%
Wyoming	55%	33%	21%	15%	30%
Ohio	52%	24%	28%	19%	29%
Delaware	50%	20%	30%	19%	31%
New Mexico	50%	20%	30%	21%	29%
North Dakota	46%	15%	31%	21%	33%
New Jersey	45%	20%	25%	17%	38%

