

STATE OF MARYLAND PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER POPULATION

2014 Provider Satisfaction Survey

Executive Summary

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Starting in 2008, the State of Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) selected WBA Research (WBA), a certified National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) survey vendor, to conduct its Provider Satisfaction Survey. WBA administered this survey to primary care providers (PCPs) participating in Maryland's Medicaid managed care program, HealthChoice, via a mixed methodology (mail with telephone follow-up and an online survey option).

- PCPs participating with each of the seven managed care organizations (MCOs) that provide Medicaid services in the HealthChoice Program participated in this survey:
 - AMERIGROUP Community Care
 - Jai Medical Systems
 - Maryland Physicians Care
 - MedStar Family Choice
 - Priority Partners
 - Riverside Health¹
 - UnitedHealthcare

The provider survey measures how well MCOs are meeting their PCPs' expectations and needs. From this survey, we can determine PCPs' ratings of and experiences with the MCOs with which they participate. Then, based on PCPs' experiences, potential opportunities for improvement can be identified.

- Specifically, the results obtained from this provider survey will allow DHMH to determine how well participating MCOs are taking appropriate and timely actions in processing claims, assisting provider offices with accessible and helpful representatives, maintaining an adequate network of specialists and providing timely authorizations.
- Results from the provider survey summarize satisfaction through ratings, composites and question Summary Rates. In general, Summary Rates represent the percentage of respondents who chose the most positive response categories.

The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) did not make any changes to the Provider Satisfaction Survey in 2014.

WBA administered a mixed-methodology which involved mail with telephone follow-up and an online survey option.

- Specifically, two questionnaire packages and follow-up reminder postcards were sent to samples of eligible PCPs from each of the seven MCOs with “Return Service Requested” and WBA’s toll-free telephone number included. The mail materials also included a toll-free number for Spanish-speaking PCPs to complete the survey over the telephone. Additionally, the materials included a web address providers could visit to complete the survey online, if desired. Those who did not respond by mail were contacted by telephone to complete the survey. During the telephone follow-up, PCPs had the option to complete the survey in either English or Spanish.
- WBA received an electronic file of participating PCPs from each of the seven MCOs. WBA then combined the files and sorted the list by the PCP’s license number and de-duplicated so that a PCP only received one survey from a specified MCO regardless of the number of MCOs with which they participate.

Between March and June 2014, WBA collected 1,346 valid surveys from the eligible PCP population. Specifically, 528 were returned by mail, 753 were conducted via telephone and 65 were completed online. None of the surveys were completed in Spanish. The overall response rate for 2014 was 24%, compared to 22% in 2013.

- Ineligible PCPs included those who were deceased, did not meet eligible population criteria (indicated non-participation in the selected MCO) or had a language barrier (non-English or Spanish). Non-respondents included those who had refused to participate, could not be reached due to a bad address or telephone number or were unable to be contacted during the survey time period.
- Ineligible surveys were subtracted from the sample size when computing a response rate.

Table 1 shows the total number of PCPs in the sample that fell into each disposition category.

Table 1: Sample Dispositions

Disposition Group	Disposition Category ¹	Number
Ineligible	Deceased (M20/T20)	10
	Does not meet eligibility criteria (M21/T21)	151
	Language barrier (M22/T22)	7
	Mentally/Physically incapacitated (M24/T24)	0
	Total Ineligible	168
Non-Response	Bad address/phone (M23/T23)	630
	Refusal (M32/T32)	781
	Maximum attempts made* (M33/T33)	2,868
	Total Non-Response	4,279

*Maximum attempts made include two survey mailings and an average of three to four call attempts during office hours.

¹Disposition category is the final status given to each Provider record within the sample surveyed. The code signifies both the survey administration used to complete the survey (M=Mail, T=Telephone) and the status of the member record (10=Deceased, 32=Refusal, etc).

Table 2 illustrates the number of PCP surveys mailed, the number of completed surveys (mail and phone) and the response rate for each MCO.

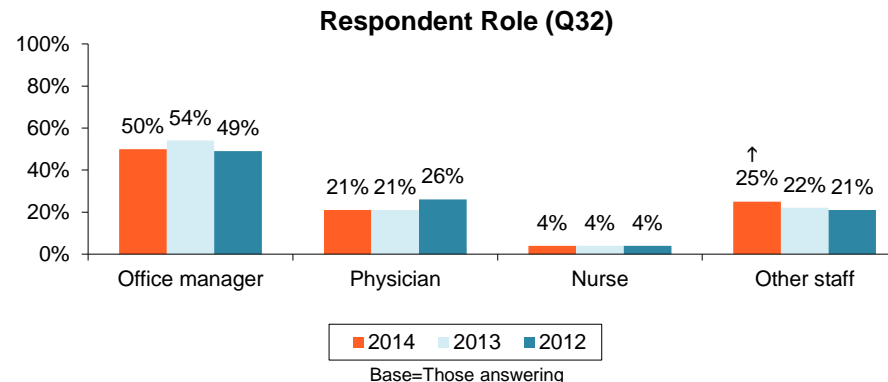
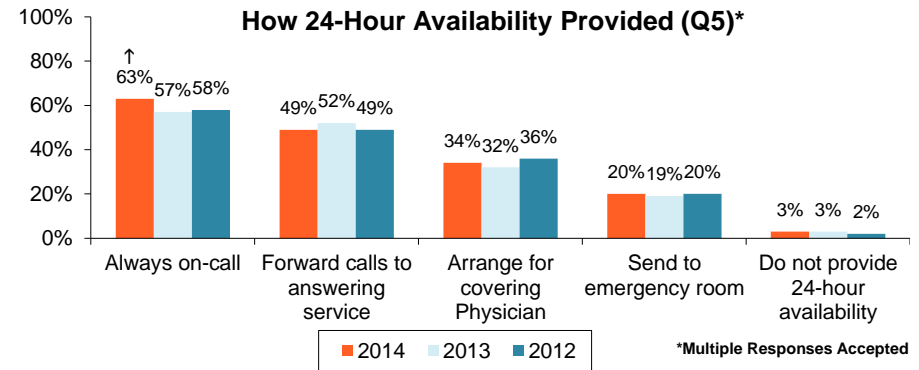
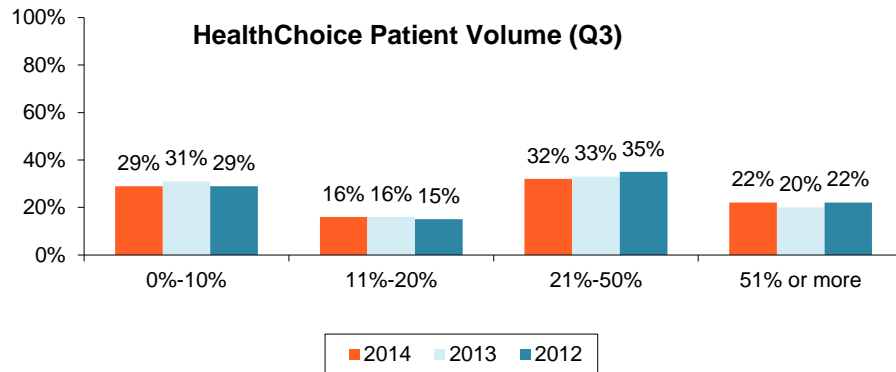
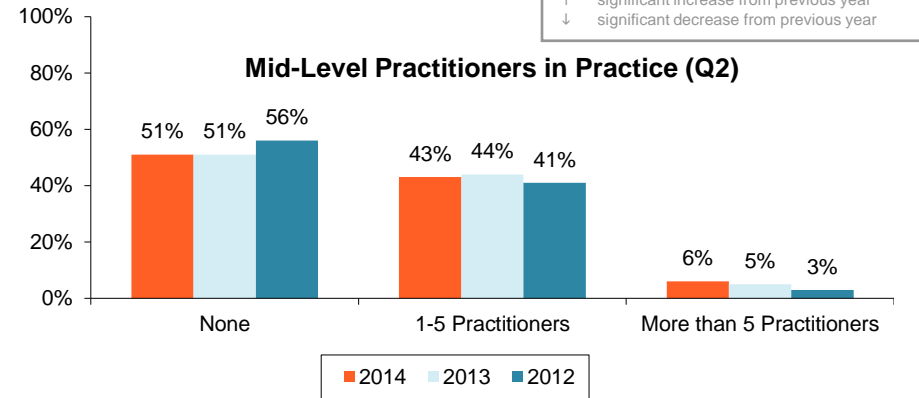
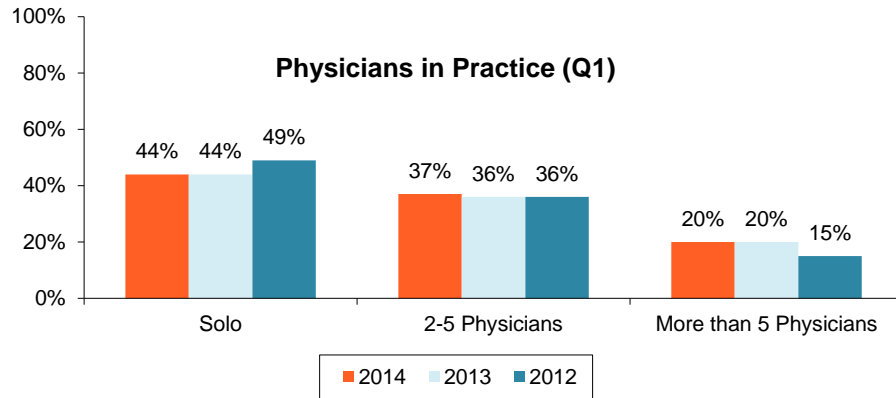
Table 2: Provider Survey

MCO	Surveys Mailed	Mail, Phone and Online Completes*	Response Rate
AMERIGROUP Community Care	1,363	330	25%
Jai Medical Systems	113	30	28%
Maryland Physicians Care	727	234	33%
MedStar Family Choice	533	126	24%
Priority Partners	1,228	257	22%
Riverside Health ¹	453	115	26%
UnitedHealthcare	1,376	254	19%
Total HealthChoice MCOs	5,793	1,346	24%

*During the telephone follow-up, PCPs had the option to complete the survey in either English or Spanish.

¹First-year HealthChoice MCO.

Profile of PCPs Surveyed




A loyal PCP can be defined as someone who is both very satisfied with the MCO and willing to recommend that MCO to patients and other physicians.

- From the survey, a “loyalty” analysis was conducted by combining the responses to overall satisfaction with HealthChoice MCOs (Q25), likelihood of recommending HealthChoice MCOs to patients (Q27) and likelihood of recommending HealthChoice MCOs to other physicians (Q28). This analysis produced three categories which are used to describe PCP loyalty – *Loyal, Not Loyal and Indifferent*.
- Table 3 shows PCPs’ ratings of the HealthChoice MCO about which they were surveyed (as well as All Other HealthChoice MCOs with which they participate) on the measures that comprise the loyalty analysis.

Table 3: Overall Ratings

	Overall Satisfaction			Would Recommend to Patients			Would Recommend to Other Physicians		
	Summary Rate – <i>Very or Somewhat Satisfied</i>			Summary Rate – <i>Definitely or Probably Yes</i>			Summary Rate – <i>Definitely or Probably Yes</i>		
	2014	2013	2012	2014	2013	2012	2014	2013	2012
Specified HealthChoice MCO (Aggregate)	78%	77%	76%	87%	85%	85%	84%	84%	82%
AMERIGROUP Community Care	76%	78%	79%	83%	86%	88%	81%	85%	85%
Jai Medical Systems	76%	88%	81%	85%	88%	87%	75%	85%	87%
Maryland Physicians Care	80%	82%	76%	92%	87%	83%	89%	86%	81%
MedStar Family Choice	77%	84%	88%	94%	95%	95%	88%	93%	95%
Priority Partners	80%	78%	77%	88%	90%	90%	86%	88%	85%
Riverside Health ¹	93%	N/A	N/A	94%	N/A	N/A	94%	N/A	N/A
UnitedHealthcare	71%	67%	65%	77%	75%	75%	76%	73%	71%
All Other HealthChoice MCOs (Aggregate)	75%	74%	72%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

 HealthChoice MCO with the highest Summary Rate in 2014.

¹First-year HealthChoice MCO.

N/A=These questions were not asked of All Other HealthChoice MCOs.

Note: Caution should be taken when comparing results between MCOs as a small sample size (n<35) can lead to results that do not accurately represent the MCO population as a whole.

Table 4 shows PCPs' ratings of the specific HealthChoice MCO about which they were surveyed with regard to Primary Care Provider Loyalty, as defined on page 6.

- Given that the PCPs were not asked to rate their likelihood of recommending All Other HealthChoice MCOs with which they participate, this measure is not available for All Other HealthChoice MCOs.

Table 4: Primary Care Provider Loyalty

	Loyal			Indifferent			Not Loyal		
	2014	2013	2012	2014	2013	2012	2014	2013	2012
Specified HealthChoice MCO (Aggregate)	36%	31%	32%	62%	67%	65%	2%	2%	3%
AMERIGROUP Community Care	36%	34%	30%	62%	64%	68%	2%	2%	2%
Jai Medical Services	60%	59%	60%	40%	38%	37%	0%	3%	3%
Maryland Physicians Care	33%	33%	35%	65%	67%	64%	1%	0%	1%
MedStar Family Choice	42%	39%	51%	58%	60%	46%	0%	2%	3%
Priority Partners	34%	31%	36%	64%	68%	62%	2%	1%	2%
Riverside Health ¹	51%	N/A	N/A	49%	N/A	N/A	0%	N/A	N/A
UnitedHealthcare	26%	21%	19%	68%	75%	76%	6%	4%	5%

Note: Caution should be taken when comparing results between MCOs as a small sample size (n<35) can lead to results that do not accurately represent the MCO population as a whole.

¹First-year HealthChoice MCO.

Composite measures assess results for main issues/areas of concern. These composite measures were derived by combining survey results of similar questions (*note: two of the composite measures are comprised of only one question*). The Provider Satisfaction Survey includes six composite measures, defined in Table 5.

Table 5: Composite Measure Definitions

Composite Measure/Rating Item	Survey Question Number	What is Measured	Summary Rate ¹
Finance Issues	6-8	Measures PCPs' experiences with the accuracy of claims processing, the timeliness of initial claims processing and the timeliness of adjustment/appeal claims processing	% of PCPs who responded "Excellent or Very Good"
Customer Service/ Provider Relations	9-16	Measures PCPs' experiences with the process of obtaining member eligibility information, the PCP's interaction with Customer Service/Provider Relations, the quality of written communications as well as the adequacy of the specialist network	% of PCPs who responded "Excellent or Very Good"
Coordination of Care/ Case Management	19	Asks PCPs to rate their experience with coordination of care and case management	% of PCPs who responded "Excellent or Very Good"
No-Show HealthChoice Appointments	20	Asks PCPs to give the percentage of no-show appointments each week	% of PCPs who responded "None or 1%-25%"
Utilization Management	21-24	Measures PCPs' experiences with the timeliness of the authorization process	% of PCPs who responded "Excellent or Very Good"
Overall Satisfaction	25, 27 and 28	Measures overall satisfaction with plan, likelihood of recommending plan to patients as well as to other physicians	% of PCPs who responded "Very Satisfied or Somewhat Satisfied" or "Definitely Yes or Probably Yes"

¹Summary Rates most often represent the most favorable responses for that question.

Table 6 shows PCPs' composite measure ratings of the specified MCO about which they were surveyed (as well as All Other HealthChoice MCOs with which they participate).

Table 6: Composite Measures

Composite Measures																		
	No-Show HealthChoice Appointments			Overall Satisfaction			Finance Issues			Customer Service/ Provider Relations			Coordination of Care/Case Management			Utilization Management		
	Summary Rate – 0%-25%			Summary Rate – Very or Somewhat Satisfied/ Definitely or Probably Yes			Summary Rate – Excellent/Very Good			Summary Rate – Excellent/Very Good			Summary Rate – Excellent/Very Good			Summary Rate – Excellent/Very Good		
	2014	2013	2012	2014	2013	2012	2014	2013	2012	2014	2013	2012	2014	2013	2012	2014	2013	2012
Specified HealthChoice MCO (Aggregate)	84%	81%	82%	83%	82%	81%	47%	43%	44%	44%	41%	41%	42%	38%	38%	34%	29%	32%
AMERIGROUP Community Care	86%	82%	82%	80%	83%	84%	46%	45%	50%	45%	42%	44%	41%	37%	41%	33%	29%	32%
Jai Medical Services	40%	44%	45%	78%	87%	85%	69%	69%	73%	57%	64%	68%	62%	67%	77%	68%	69%	72%
Maryland Physicians Care	85%	79%	80%	87%	85%	80%	44%	46%	47%	40%	42%	41%	34%	38%	35%	26%	29%	29%
MedStar Family Choice	83%	91%	85%	86%	91%	93%	45%	47%	54%	49%	46%	60%	56%	38%	66%	38%	39%	51%
Priority Partners	85%	78%	81%	85%	85%	84%	49%	45%	43%	45%	45%	39%	43%	42%	35%	36%	33%	31%
Riverside Health ¹	85%	N/A	N/A	94%	N/A	N/A	70%	N/A	N/A	58%	N/A	N/A	51%	N/A	N/A	46%	N/A	N/A
UnitedHealthcare	86%	85%	87%	75%	72%	70%	37%	36%	29%	35%	33%	30%	34%	31%	23%	27%	19%	25%
All Other HealthChoice MCOs (Aggregate)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	33%	31%	32%	32%	29%	29%	N/A	N/A	N/A	24%	20%	21%

○ Healthchoice MCO with the highest Summary Rate in 2014.

¹First-year HealthChoice MCO.

N/A=Not all of the questions that comprise the particular composite were asked of All Other HealthChoice MCOs.

Note: Caution should be taken when comparing results between MCOs as a small sample size (n<35) can lead to results that do not accurately represent the MCO population as a whole.

The individual questions (attributes) that comprised the composite measures where HealthChoice MCOs continue to receive lower ratings in 2014 are illustrated in Table 7. Beside each attribute is the corresponding composite measure.

Table 7: Composite Measure Attributes Showing Low Ratings

Attributes	2014 (Summary Rate – Excellent or Very Good)	2013 (Summary Rate – Excellent or Very Good)	2012 (Summary Rate – Excellent or Very Good)
Finance Issues:			
Timeliness of initial claims processing	53%	50%	50%
Accuracy of claims processing	53%	49%	50%
Timeliness of adjustment/appeal claims processing	36%	31%	33%
Customer Service/Provider Relations:			
Process for obtaining member eligibility information	56%	56%	54%
Responsiveness and courtesy of the health plan's Provider Relations/Customer Service representative	53%	52%	49%
Customer Service/Provider Relations overall	50%	46%	46%
Quality of written communications, policy bulletins and manuals	44%	42%	40%
Timeliness to answer questions and/or resolve problems	43%	39%	40%
Telephone system overall	39%	35%	36%
Accuracy and accessibility of drug formulary and formulary updates	37%	34%	35%
Specialist network has an adequate number of specialists to whom I can refer patients	29%	26%	27%
Utilization Management:			
Timeliness of obtaining authorization for outpatient services	36%	33%	34%
Timeliness of obtaining authorization for inpatient services	36%	29%	36%
Overall experience in obtaining prior authorization for medications	32%	27%	30%
Timeliness of obtaining authorization for medication	30%	27%	31%

In an effort to identify the underlying components of PCPs' ratings of their overall satisfaction with HealthChoice MCOs, advanced statistical techniques were employed.

- Specifically, correlation analyses were conducted between each composite measure attribute and overall satisfaction with HealthChoice MCOs in order to ascertain which attributes have the greatest impact.

Overall, the 2014 findings show that HealthChoice MCOs are performing at a moderate to lower level on each of the attributes comprising the various composite measures. In an effort to increase satisfaction, some attention should be given to each of these areas.

The attributes listed below are identified as **unmet needs**¹ and should be considered priority areas for HealthChoice MCOs. If performance on these attributes is improved, it could have a positive impact on PCPs' overall satisfaction.

- **Coordination of Care/Case Management**
- **Timeliness to answer questions and/or resolve problems**

¹**Unmet needs** are key drivers that are of high importance to PCPs where they perceive HealthChoice MCOs to be performing at a comparatively lower level.

- **Attributes** are the questions that relate to a specific service area or composite.
- **Composite Measures** are derived by combining the survey results of similar questions that represent an overall aspect of plan quality. Specifically, it's the average of each response category of the attributes that comprise a particular service area or composite.
- **Confidence Level** is the degree of confidence, expressed as a percentage, that a reported number's true value is between the lower and upper specified range.
- **Correlation Coefficient** is a statistical measure of how closely two variables or measures are related to each other.
- **Disposition Category** is the final status given to a Provider record within the sample surveyed. The category signifies both the survey administration used to complete the survey (M=Mail, T=Telephone) and the status of the member record (M21=Mail, Ineligible; T10=Telephone, Complete).
- **Key Drivers** are composite measures that have been found to impact ratings of overall satisfaction (Q25) among MCO PCPs.
- **Significance Test** is a test used to determine the probability that a given result could not have occurred by chance.
- **Summary Rates** generally represent the most favorable responses for a particular question (e.g., *Excellent and Very Good; Definitely Yes and Probably Yes; Very Satisfied and Somewhat Satisfied*). Keep in mind that a Summary Rate is not assigned to every question.
- **Trending** is the practice of examining several years of data in a comparative way to identify common attributes.