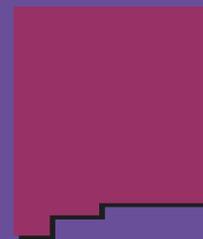


MEDICAID PAID BIRTHS

**HOW ARE NEWBORNS AND
MOTHERS FARING UNDER MEDICAID?**

THE STATE CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS AT
OFFICE OF NEW MEXICO VITAL RECORDS
AND HEALTH STATISTICS
PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



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Medicaid Paid Births 2003 Update

How Are Newborns and Mothers Faring Under Medicaid?

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New Mexico Linked Medicaid and Vital Statistics

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 1999 and 2000 nearly half (49%) of all births to New Mexico residents were paid by Medicaid. Beginning in 1997, Salud! was introduced to the New Mexico Medicaid population through Managed Care Organizations (MCOs).

During the 1999-2000 time period:

- Salud! provided the majority of Medicaid Services (72%);
- The highest proportions of births that were paid by Medicaid were outside of the major metropolitan areas.

Compared to non-Medicaid mothers, Medicaid mothers tended to:

- Be younger (63.6% of Medicaid mothers were under age 24, compared to 32.5% of non-Medicaid mothers);
- Be White Hispanic (58.6% compared to 43.1% of non-Medicaid);
- Have fewer years of education;
- Have lower levels of prenatal care.

Compared to non-Medicaid newborns, Medicaid newborns were more likely to be low birthweight (under 5½ pounds) at birth.

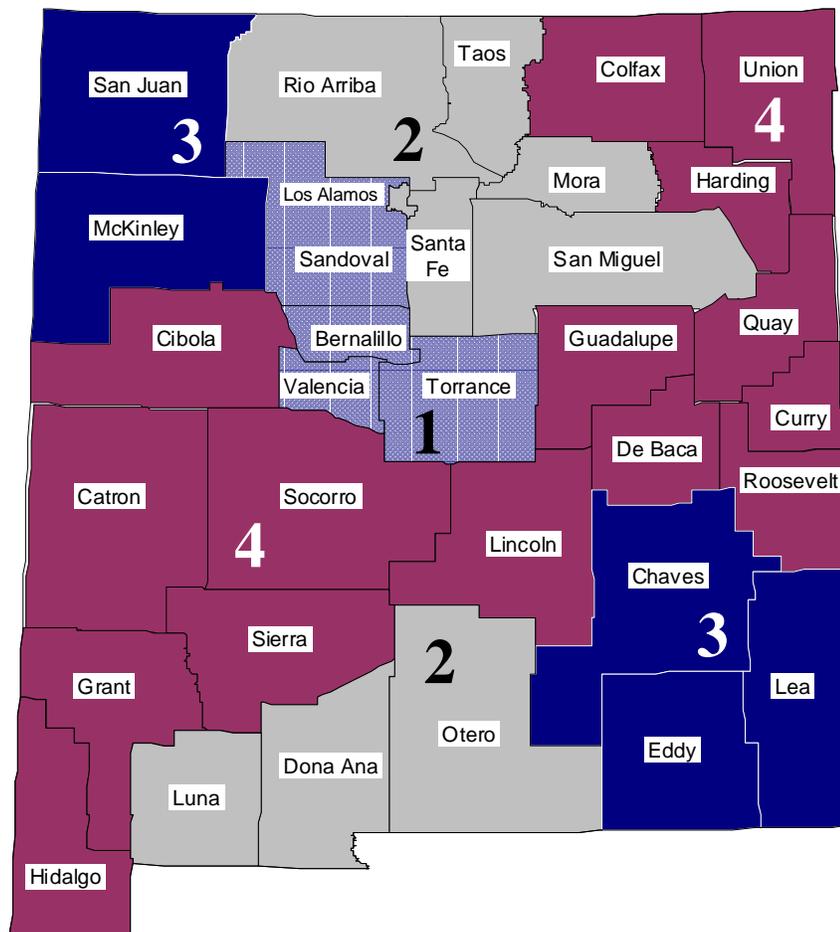
Both Fee for Service (FFS) and Salud! provided Medicaid services between 1999-2000. Salud! participants appear to have fared better than FFS participants. Comparing Salud! to FFS shows that:

- Salud! mothers had higher levels of prenatal care and began care earlier;
- American Indian mothers were more likely to use FFS while all other groups were more likely to use Salud!;
- FFS mothers were more likely to have fewer years of education;
- FFS mothers were more likely to be older;
- FFS newborns were more likely to be born low birthweight.

BACKGROUND

Medicaid is a Federal-State matching entitlement program that pays for medical assistance. Originating in 1965 as Title XIX of the Social Security Act, it was created as a medical care extension of the federally funded cash income assistance program, emphasizing care for dependent children and their mothers, the disabled, and the elderly.

In 1996 the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Act was enacted with the intention of allowing states to further expand Medicaid eligibility. A key component of the act was to enable Medicaid eligibility to be independent of cash assistance programs. It was in this same time frame that Salud! was introduced to the New Mexico Medicaid population through Managed Care Organizations (MCO's).



Implementation of managed care for Medicaid participants began in July, 1997. The Salud! Program began with (1) Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance and Valencia Counties. In October, (2) Los Alamos, Mora, Rio Arriba, San Miguel, Santa Fe, Taos, Dona Ana, Luna and Otero counties were brought into Salud! The remaining counties (3 & 4) were phased in during 1998. Salud! was implemented as a waiver from the traditional fee-for-service (FFS) program and was designed to help control costs while maintaining services. The above map indicates the timing of the Salud! program implementation.

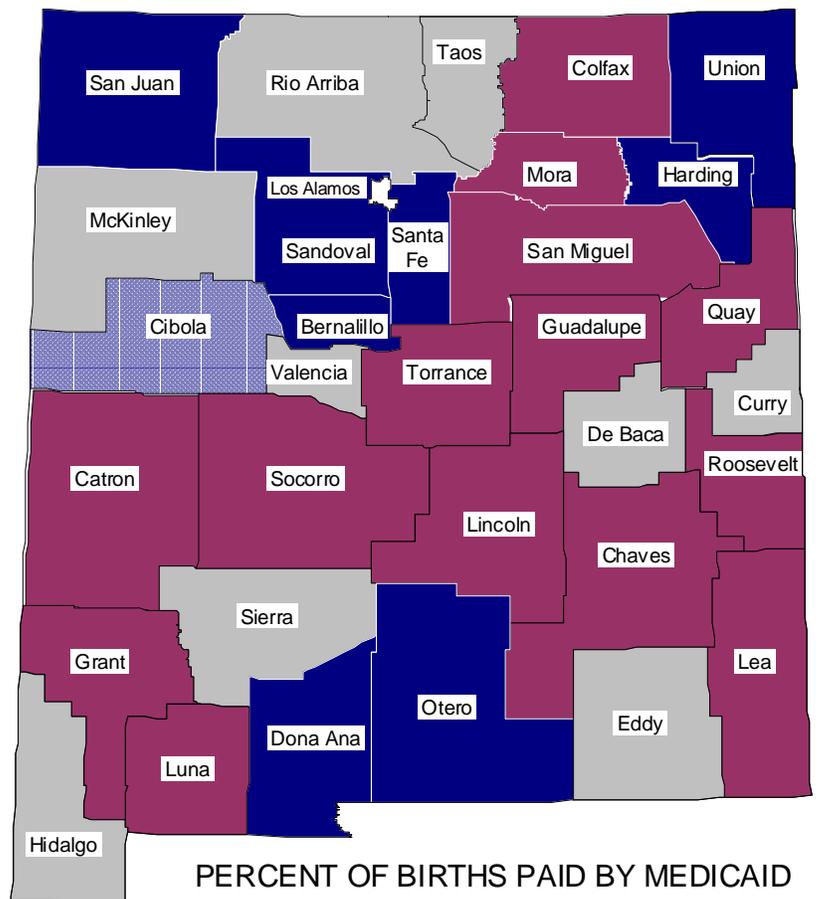
PRELIMINARY RESULTS

As a result of the linkage of Medicaid claims data and New Mexico birth data, we were able to determine the following for 1999-2000 New Mexico resident births:

- The majority (3 to 1) of Medicaid services were provided by Salud!.
- In 15 counties--all outside of major metropolitan areas--over 60 percent of births were paid by Medicaid.
- There were differences in demographic characteristics, prenatal care, and outcomes for Non-Medicaid and Medicaid paid births and between the two subcategories of Medicaid paid births: FFS and Salud!.

Specifically, as presented in Tables 1 - 4:

- The Medicaid population was disproportionately Hispanic, Black, and American Indian.
- Births to women with less than a high school education were much more likely to be covered by Medicaid than those with more education.
- Births to teen mothers comprised an important proportion of the Medicaid covered births.
- Participants in Salud! fared better than Medicaid participants covered under FFS in both level of prenatal care received and timing of the initiation of prenatal care.
- Medicaid and non-Medicaid births continued to show differences in prenatal care utilization.
- Births linked to FFS claims showed the highest percentage of low birth weight infants (infants born weighing less than 5 ½ lbs) – a critical indicator of newborn health.



As shown in the map on the preceding page, with the exception of Los Alamos County, at least 40 percent of the births in each New Mexico County were paid by Medicaid. The highest percentages were in Cibola County (71.9%), followed by Chaves (69.8%) and Colfax (68.3%) counties. The metropolitan areas of Albuquerque, Las Cruces and Santa Fe were among the lowest in the state in terms of births paid by Medicaid.

The current (1999-2000) linkage revealed the following characteristics of Non-Medicaid births as well as the two sub-categories of births paid by Medicaid .

Table 1
Distribution by Specific Demographic Characteristics

Selected Characteristics	Total Resident Births		Medicaid Services				Non-Medicaid	
	Number	Percent	Fee for Service		Salud!		Number	Percent
			Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Mother's Race								
White Non-Hispanic	18,161	33.4	954	12.8	5,248	27.4	11,959	43.2
White Hispanic	27,521	50.7	3,681	49.5	11,907	62.2	11,933	43.1
American Indian	6,868	12.7	2,681	36.0	1,392	7.3	2,795	10.1
Black	990	1.8	76	1.0	468	2.4	446	1.6
Asian or Pacific Islander & Other	770	1.4	49	0.7	144	0.8	577	2.1
Totals	54,310	100.0	7,441	100.0	19,159	100.1	27,710	100.1
Mother's Education								
< 12 Years	14,745	27.2	3,228	43.4	6,933	36.2	4,584	16.5
12 Years	18,625	34.3	2,589	34.8	7,550	39.4	8,486	30.6
13 Years or More	18,747	34.5	1,213	16.3	3,802	19.8	13,732	49.6
Unknown	2,193	4.0	411	5.5	874	4.6	908	3.3
Totals	54,310	100.0	7,441	100.0	19,159	100.0	27,710	100.0
Mother's Age								
<15	180	0.3	49	0.7	98	0.5	33	0.1
15-19	9,387	17.3	1,773	23.8	5,045	26.3	2,569	9.3
20-24	16,346	30.1	2,381	32.0	7,574	39.5	6,391	23.1
25-34	22,516	41.5	2,661	35.8	5,416	28.3	14,439	52.1
35 and older	5,822	10.7	575	7.7	1,016	5.3	4,231	15.3
Unknown	59	0.1	2	0.0	10	0.1	47	0.2
Totals	54,310	100.0	7,441	100.0	19,159	100.0	27,710	100.1

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

Births to White Non-Hispanic mothers constituted 33.4% of all births in the state but only 23.3% all births paid by Medicaid. In contrast, births to White Hispanic mothers were slightly more than half of all New Mexico resident births but 58.6% of all births paid by Medicaid.

Of all New Mexico resident births, 27.2% were to mothers with less than a high school education. Of those births to Medicaid women covered by the FFS system, 43.4% percent were to mothers with less than a high school education; 36.2% of births to Medicaid women covered by Salud! were to mothers with less than a high school education. Only 16.5% of births not paid by Medicaid were to mothers with less than a high school education.

Part of the difference in mothers' education levels is due to the younger age of the Medicaid population. Births to mothers under the age of 20 constituted a much larger proportion of births paid by Medicaid than of those that were not paid by Medicaid. Only 1 in 11 (9.4%) of births not paid by Medicaid were to mothers under the age of 20, while over 1 in 4 (26.2%) births paid by Medicaid were to mothers under the age of 20.

Level of Prenatal Care	Total New Mexico Resident Births		Medicaid Services				Non-Medicaid	
			Fee for Service		Salud!			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Low/No	7,183	13.2	1,525	20.5	2,381	12.4	3,277	11.8
Mid	16,298	30.0	2,402	32.3	6,481	33.8	7,415	26.8
High	27,049	49.8	2,958	39.7	8,975	46.8	15,115	54.6
Unknown	3,780	7.0	556	7.5	1,322	6.9	1,902	6.9

Trimester Prenatal Care Began	Total New Mexico Resident Births		Medicaid Services				Non-Medicaid	
			Fee for Service		Salud!			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
First Trimester	34,533	63.6	4,011	53.9	11,619	60.6	18,903	68.2
Second Trimester	11,520	21.2	1,856	24.9	4,889	25.5	4,775	17.2
Third Trimester	3,980	7.3	811	10.9	1,342	7.0	1,827	6.6
No Care	965	1.8	255	3.4	138	0.7	572	2.1
Unknown	3,312	6.1	508	6.8	1,171	6.1	1,633	5.9

Over 20 percent of births covered by FFS received low or no prenatal care compared to 12.4 percent of the births to Salud! participants and 11.8 percent to women not in Medicaid. Less than 54 percent of the Medicaid births covered under FFS were to women who began care in the first trimester compared to nearly 61 percent of the Medicaid births covered by Salud!. Of mothers who were not covered under Medicaid, 68.2 percent began care in the first trimester. Although mothers covered under Salud! fared better than FFS mothers in terms of prenatal care, mothers who were not covered under Medicaid were most likely to begin prenatal care earlier and receive higher levels of prenatal care.

Table 4		
New Mexico Resident Low Birth Weight Births by Medicaid Status		
Medicaid Status	Number	Percent
Fee for Service	742	10.0
Salud!	1,603	8.4
Non-Medicaid	1,904	6.9
Total New Mexico Resident Births	4,249	7.8

During the 1999-2000 time period, 7.8 percent of all New Mexico resident births were low birth weight. The lowest percentage was for births that were not covered under Medicaid (6.9). Both sub-categories of Medicaid births fared worse than non-Medicaid births: 8.4 percent of births covered under Salud! and 10 percent of FFS births were low birth weight.

The next steps, are to investigate the dynamics in Medicaid paid births. Utilization of prenatal care as well as birth weight status are known to be related to demographic characteristics such as race and ethnicity, mother’s age, mother’s education and poverty status.

The next analytical components of this study are to investigate the relationships between these factors to determine if differences between FFS, Salud! and non-Medicaid are due to differences in services or in the populations of those being served.

DATA LINKAGE - TECHNICAL NOTES

The Medical Assistance Division, Human Services Department, provided 21,569 records from the 1999-2000 newborn claims files of births paid by Medicaid as well as 24,480 records from the delivery claims files. The newborn claims files provide infant information while the delivery claims files provide mother information. Electronic birth registrations from New Mexico Vital Records and Health Statistics (NMVRHS), Department of Health (DOH), for the same years were linked to 1) linked records of Medicaid paid deliveries and newborns, 2) unlinked Medicaid paid newborns, and 3) unlinked Medicaid paid deliveries. This linkage provides additional information on maternal and infant health. Two linkage methods were used:

Direct Link: 21,006 Medicaid paid newborn claims that linked to New Mexico registered births: 97% of Medicaid paid births for the combined years 1999 and 2000 and 38% of registered births.

Indirect Link: Additional New Mexico births linked indirectly either through the Medicaid paid delivery claims files or subsequent or multiple births that were not included in the Medicaid files.

- 49% of New Mexico resident births (26,600 out of 54,310) were paid by Medicaid during 1999 - 2000.

Linkage efforts have been ongoing since 1990, with the Information Services Bureau, DOH, conducting the linkage and NMVRHS providing analyses. The first published report was produced in 1993. The current analysis differs in two respects from previous publications: 1) Salud! provided the majority of services paid by Medicaid and 2) NMVRHS conducted the data linkage as well as the analysis.

Medicaid claims files and vital births linkages have progressed from the early 1990s. The percent of direct linkages, using the newborn claims files, climbed from a low of 86% in 1991 to 97% and 98% in 1999 and 2000.

Linkage Status	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1997	1999	2000
Percent Medicaid Newborn Claims Records Linked to NMVRHS Birth Records	88.0	86.0	89.0	96.0			94.0	97.0	98.0
Number of Medicaid Newborn Claims Records Linked to NMVRHS Birth Records							10,327	10,052	10,951
Percent NMVRHS Birth Records Linked to Medicaid Newborn Claims Records (Linked Directly)			47.0	48.0	47.0	47.0	39.0	36.0	39.0
Number of NMVRHS Births Paid By Medicaid (Linked Directly or Indirectly)				13,208	13,022	12,623		12,915	13,685
Percent NMVRHS Births Paid By Medicaid (Linked Directly or Indirectly)				53.0				47.0	50.0
Note: Gray colored cells indicate historical documentation was incomplete on defining direct and indirect linkages. Blank cells indicate no available information.									



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