Medicaid Provides Access to Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Along With Comprehensive Coverage

Beyond the substantial and essential funding that Medicaid brings to states, Medicaid provides access to prevention, treatment, and recovery services for those with an OUD, as well as comprehensive coverage for the full array of physical and behavioral health services to treat co-occurring conditions, increasing their odds of long-term recovery. Medicaid also provides a structured system of accountability for providers, and accountability and access for those enrolled, with multiple touch points throughout the health care delivery system—community health centers, emergency rooms, inpatient and outpatient care settings—as well as data systems that can help to identify those with addiction and engage them in treatment.

In the full issue brief, data from three states—New Hampshire, Ohio and West Virginia—highlight Medicaid’s role as the linchpin in states’ efforts to combat the opioid epidemic.
Conclusion

While recent federal efforts to provide OUD-specific grant funding are an essential contribution, the profound economic and social consequences of addiction require substantial and sustained investment in coverage and treatment through the Medicaid program. In short, Medicaid is an existing, robust and stable base from which states are battling, and will continue to battle, the opioid epidemic and SUD issues more broadly. This is particularly true in states that have expanded Medicaid; Medicaid expansion enables these states to provide a wider range of services to a larger group of people suffering from an OUD.

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ABOUT THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

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ABOUT STATE HEALTH AND VALUE STRATEGIES—PRINCETON UNIVERSITY WOODROW WILSON SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

State Health and Value Strategies (SHVS) assists states in their efforts to transform health and health care by providing targeted technical assistance to state officials and agencies. The program is a grantee of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, led by staff at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.

The program connects states with experts and peers to undertake health care transformation initiatives. By engaging state officials, the program provides lessons learned, highlights successful strategies and brings together states with experts in the field. Learn more at www.shvs.org.

ABOUT MANATT HEALTH

This brief was prepared by April Grady, Patricia Boozang, Deborah Bachrach, Adam Striar, and Kevin McAvey. Manatt Health is an interdisciplinary policy and business advisory division of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP, one of the nation’s premier law and consulting firms. Manatt Health helps clients develop and implement strategies to address their greatest challenges, improve performance, and position themselves for long-term sustainability and growth. For more information, visit www.manatt.com/ManattHealth.aspx.

Endnotes
