

The Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®) Health Plan Survey Database

2023 Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Chartbook

What Enrollees Say About Their Experiences With Their Health Plans and Medical Care

Authors:

Teresa Dodson, M.A. Aisha Marsono Naomi Yount, Ph.D. Joann Sorra, Ph.D. Dale Shaller, M.P.A.

Prepared by:

Westat 1600 Research Boulevard Rockville, Maryland 20850-3129

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1. Overview

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2023 Health Plan Survey Database Summary Results

This overview of results summarizes how Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) health plan respondents assess their health plan based on the 2023 Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®) Health Plan Survey Database.

HEALTH PLAN DATABASE RESPONDENTS

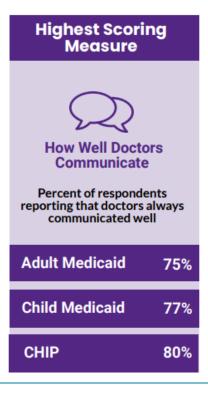
65,261 Adult Medicaid Respondents

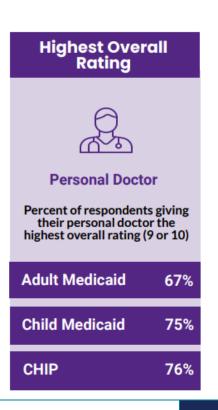
103,515 Child Medicaid Respondents

23,008 CHIP Respondents

ACROSS THE THREE ENROLLEE POPULATIONS...

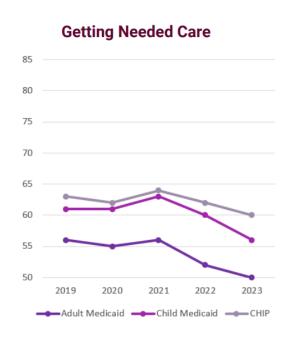
Getting Needed Care Percent of respondents reporting that they could always get needed care Adult Medicaid 50% Child Medicaid 56% CHIP 60%

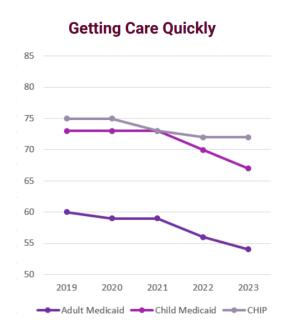


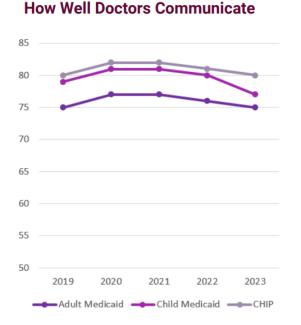


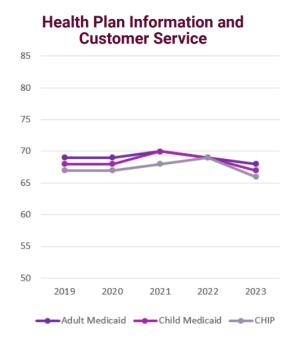
Trends in Health Plan Composite Measure Results by Respondent Population

Top box scores for all composite measures were relatively stable or slightly increasing until 2021. However, Getting Needed Care and Getting Care Quickly showed large declines between 2021-2023. How Well Doctors Communicate and Health Plan Information and Customer Service showed smaller declines between 2021-2023.









2. Introduction

The Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®) Health Plan Survey Database receives data voluntarily submitted by survey sponsors that have administered the CAHPS Health Plan Survey Version 5.1/5.1H: (https://www.ahrq.gov/cahps/surveys-guidance/hp/index.html). The CAHPS Database aggregates the data to facilitate comparisons of CAHPS survey results.

This Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Chartbook presents summary-level results calculated from CAHPS Health Plan Survey data submitted in 2023 for the following enrollee populations:

- Adult Medicaid
- Child Medicaid
- CHIP

Detailed results for each enrollee population are provided for the core survey composite measures, individual question items (including HEDIS and Children with Chronic Conditions Item Set), and ratings. In addition, selected trend results for 2013-2023 are presented for each enrollee population.

Results are also presented on the CAHPS Data Tools (https://datatools.ahrq.gov/cahps), an online platform that allows users to explore the results for survey composite measures, ratings, and individual question items. The CAHPS Data Tool is updated when new data are added to the CAHPS Health Plan Survey findings, coinciding with the release of this Chartbook.

Table 1 presents the percentage of respondents reporting the most positive survey response options (9 or 10 on a scale of 0-10; or "top box" scores) for the percentage of respondents for the composite measures of the three health plan enrollee populations.

Table 1. 2023 Top Box Scores by Enrollee Populatio	n		
Composite Measure/Rating	Adult Medicaid	Child Medicaid	CHIP
Number of Plans	221	233	69
Number of Respondents	65,261	103,515	23,008
Composite Measure			
Getting Needed Care	50%	56%	60%
Getting Care Quickly	54%	67%	72%
How Well Doctors Communicate	75%	77%	80%
Health Plan Information and Customer Service	68%	67%	66%
Ratings			
Rating of Personal Doctor	67%	75%	76%
Rating of Specialist	66%	71%	73%
Rating of Health Care	54%	66%	69%
Rating of Health Plan	60%	69%	70%



3. Data Sources, Limitations and Research Datasets

Data Sources

The data presented in this Chartbook were compiled from CAHPS Health Plan Survey responses submitted to the CAHPS Database by various survey sponsors, including State Medicaid agencies, CHIP programs, and individual health plans. The 2023 results are based on survey data collected between July 2022 and June 2023.

As shown in Table 2, all the data submitted were collected with the 5.1/5.1H survey versions of the CAHPS Health Plan Survey. The 5.1 version of the CAHPS Health Plan Survey, released in the fall of 2020, explicitly asks about respondents' experiences with care received in person, by phone, and by video. The HEDIS designation (H) refers to supplemental questions added to the survey as part of the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) sponsored by the National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA). The 5.1H version of the survey is included in both the 2023 Adult and Child Core Health Care Quality Measurement Sets sponsored by the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services. Table 2 also shows the number of plans and respondents for the Child Medicaid and CHIP populations that included the 5.1H survey with the supplemental Item Set for Children with Chronic Conditions: (https://www.ahrq.gov/cahps/surveys-guidance/item-sets/children-chronic/index.html). These are supplemental questions designed to assess the experiences of children with special health care needs.

Table 2.	2023 Survey Versions By Enrollee Popula	tion	
Population	Survey Version	Number of Plans	Number of Respondents
Adult Medicaid	5.1	1	419
	5.1H	220	64,842
	Adult Medicaid Combined	221	65,261
Child Medicaid	5.1	1	327
	5.1 with Chronic Conditions	1	227
	5.1H	145	50,925
	5.1H with Chronic Conditions Items	86	52,036
	Child Medicaid Combined	233	103,515*
CHIP	5.1	1	381
	5.1 with Chronic Conditions	2	1,083
	5.1H	343	10,646
	5.1H with Chronic Conditions Items	23	10,898
	CHIP Combined	69	23,008*

^{*} Based on respondents who get the Chronic Conditions supplemental item set but may not qualify as Children with Chronic Conditions

This Chartbook presents combined results for the core survey measures for the 5.1/5.1H versions of the CAHPS Health Plan Survey. In addition, results for the core survey measures for the Child Survey have been combined to include the 5.1/5.1H versions both with and without the Children with Chronic Conditions Item Set.

Data Limitations

The organizations that (voluntarily) contribute data to the CAHPS Database do not represent a statistically drawn sample of all U.S. health plans or State agencies and CHIP programs. Currently, the majority of these organizations voluntarily choose whether to participate in the CAHPS Database. Therefore, the data presented here are not representative of all U.S. Medicaid or CHIP health plans or enrollee populations. In addition, the number and mix of survey sponsors contributing data vary slightly from year to year. Furthermore, all three enrollee populations had varying non-response rates to questions. Therefore, caution should be used to interpret the current results as well as for comparisons among for the current year and previous years. Users of these data should also note that variations in health plan benefit and program design and other factors might also affect patterns of survey responses and non-responses.

Research Datasets and Technical Assistance

De-identified CAHPS Health Plan Survey data research files are available upon request according to the CAHPS Database Data Release Policy. To learn more, visit https://www.ahrq.gov/cahps/cahps-database.

Questions or comments regarding this Chartbook or the CAHPS Health Plan Survey Database may be directed to the CAHPS Database by email CAHPSDatabase@westat.com or the toll-free help line at 888-808-7108.

4. Results by Enrollee Population

Summary results for each of the three health plan enrollee populations included in the 2023 CAHPS Health Plan Survey Database are presented in the sections that follow. Results are presented for the four composite measures, the individual question items that compose each composite measure, the four ratings, HEDIS questions, and Children with Chronic Conditions measures.

Survey results are presented in the following order:

- Adult Medicaid
- Child Medicaid
- CHIP

To provide context for the 2023 results, selected respondent demographic characteristics are shown at the beginning of each section. Detailed tables of respondent characteristics are provided in Appendix B.

Each section presents the number of survey respondents by State and a set of bar charts showing the distribution of scores for each response category. Next, a table showing the distribution of results for selected percentiles is shown. Each section concludes with a series of line graphs showing trend data for the period 2013 to 2023, followed by a table that provides the number of plans and respondents for each year.

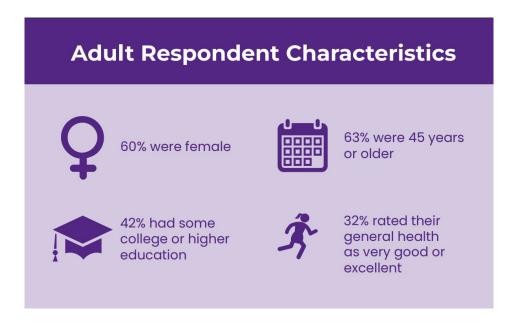
All results presented in the bar charts and trends were calculated at the respondent level, and percentiles were calculated at the health plan level (see Appendix H for details on calculations).



Adult Medicaid

This section describes results for 65,261 Adult Medicaid respondents in the 2023 CAHPS Health Plan Survey Database. Selected respondent characteristics are highlighted below. Additional details are provided in Appendix B.

Respondent Characteristics Highlights



2023 Adult Medicaid Number of Survey Respondents by State

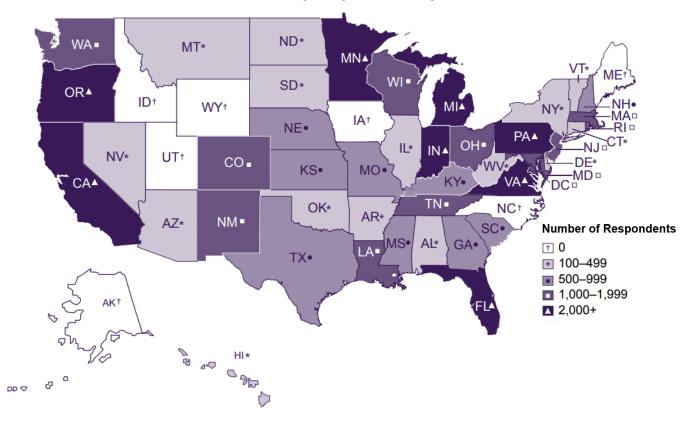


Chart 4-1. Composite Measure Item Results - Adult Medicaid 2023 Results (Page 1 of 2)

Adult Medicaid 2023 Results

Composite Measure/Individual Item Always Never + Sometimes Usually Ν **Getting Needed Care** 45.925 20% 30% 31% 40,651 Easy to get necessary care, tests, or treatment 17% Got appointment with a specialist as soon as needed 23% 29% 28,221 Getting Care Quickly 43,940 21% 19% 23% 22,362 Got care for illness, injury or condition as soon as needed Got check-up or routine care appointment as soon as needed 27% 38,211 How Well Doctors Communicate 37,637 17% 75% Doctor explained things in a way that was easy to understand 18% 37,472 37,409 Doctor listened carefully 17% Doctor showed respect for what enrollee had to say 13% 37,351 Doctor spent enough time with enrollee 10% 21% 37.261 Health Plan Information and Customer Service 21% 22.834 Customer service gave necessary information or help 22,618 16% 27% Customer service was courteous and respectful 16% 22,525



Chart 4-1. Composite Measure Item Results— Adult Medicaid 2023 Results (Page 2 of 2)

Adult Medicaid 2023 Results (continued)

Rating 0-6 7-8 9–10 N 48,385 Rating of personal doctor 22% Rating of specialist 11% 22% 26,663 15% 31% 40,780 Rating of health care Rating of health plan 14% 61,411 25% **HEDIS Item Set** Never + Sometimes Usually Always Personal doctor seemed informed and up-to-date 23,228 16% 27% about care from other providers No Yes Had a flu shot or flu spray (Age 18-64 only) 60% 50,764 Never Sometimes + Usually + Always Advised to guit smoking or using tobacco 14,674 Doctor/provider discussed medication to help quit smoking 48% 14,609 or using tobacco Doctor/provider discussed methods to guit smoking 55% 14,479 or using tobacco

Table 3 presents the Adult Medicaid percentiles for each composite measure, rating, and selected HEDIS items. These percentile scores are calculated at the plan level and represent the percentage of plans that scored at or below a particular top box score for the measure.

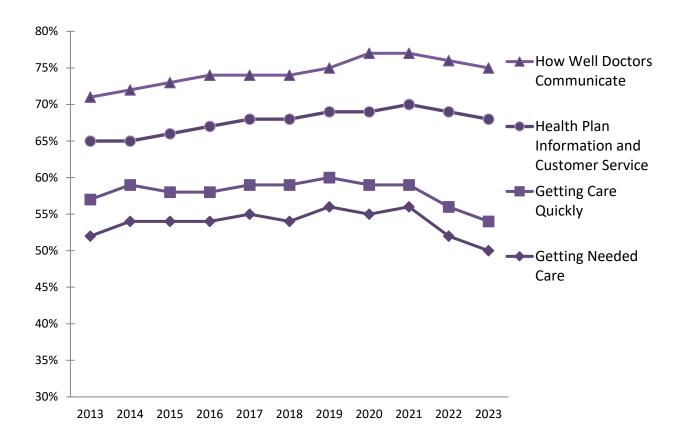
			Top Box Perc	entiles				
Composite Measure/Rating	Database Average	Lowest Score	10 th Percentile	25 th Percentile	50 th Percentile	75 th Percentile	90 th Percentile	Highest Score
Composite Measure								
Getting Needed Care	50%	34%	41%	46%	52%	55%	59%	64%
Getting Care Quickly	54%	35%	45%	49%	55%	60%	63%	67%
How Well Doctors Communicate	75%	53%	68%	72%	76%	79%	81%	88%
Health Plan Information and Customer Service	68%	48%	58%	64%	69%	72%	76%	83%
Ratings								
Rating of personal doctor	67%	49%	61%	64%	68%	72%	74%	77%
Rating of specialist	66%	49%	59%	63%	66%	70%	74%	83%
Rating of health care	54%	38%	46%	50%	55%	58%	62%	68%
Rating of health plan	60%	44%	51%	56%	61%	65%	69%	81%
HEDIS Items								
Personal doctor seemed informed and up-to-date about care from other providers	57%	33%	46%	52%	58%	62%	66%	77%
Had a flu shot or flu spray (Age 18-64 only)	40%	17%	30%	35%	40%	46%	53%	68%
Advised to quit smoking or using tobacco*	73%	44%	61%	66%	73%	78%	83%	91%
Doctor/provider discussed medication to help quit smoking or using tobacco*	52%	22%	38%	44%	50%	58%	65%	82%
Doctor/provider discussed methods to quit smoking or using tobacco*	45%	23%	33%	39%	45%	51%	58%	66%

^{*} HEDIS Items top box score includes the following response options: sometimes, usually, and always.



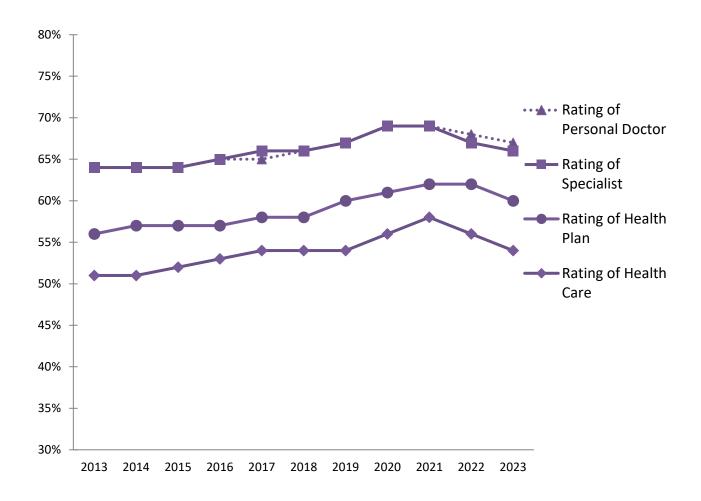
Adult Medicaid Trends

Figure 1. Adult Medicaid Top Box Composite Measure Scores 2013-2023



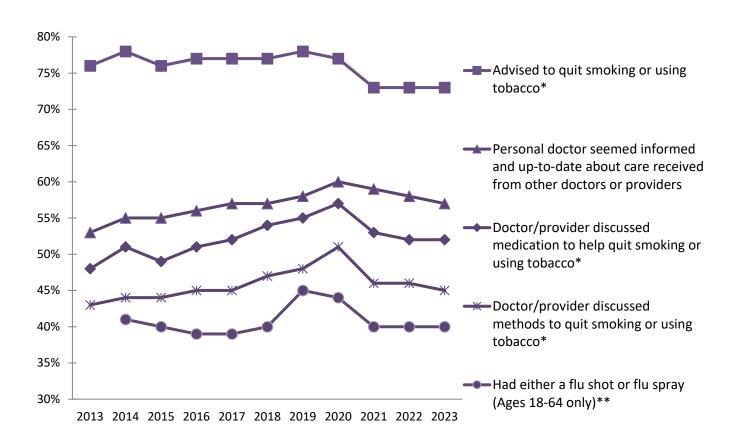
Adult Medicaid Trends (continued)

Figure 2. Adult Medicaid Top Box Rating Scores 2013-2023



Adult Medicaid Trends (continued)

Figure 3. Adult Medicaid Top Box Scores for Selected HEDIS Measures 2013-2023



^{*} HEDIS Items top box score includes the following response options: sometimes, usually and always

^{**}The flu question was first collected in 2014

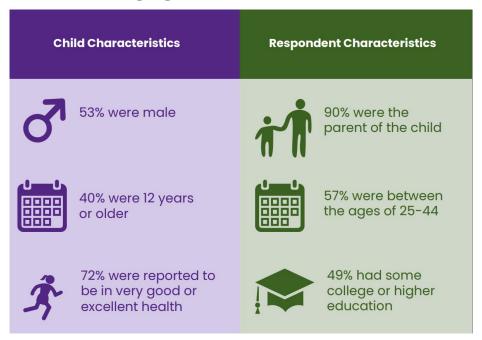
Table 4.	Adult Medicaid Composition of the CAHPS Health Plan Survey Database 2013-2023										
	Adult Medicaid Composition										
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of Plans	124	149	133	157	152	146	131	159	162	197	221
Number of Respondents	60,249	68,234	61,369	73,155	65,053	54,362	43,588	51,211	49,997	50,336	65,261

Notes: (1) From 2013-2020, the Database reported Adult Medicaid version 5.0. (2) Beginning in 2021, the Database reported Adult Medicaid versions 5.0 and 5.1 combined. In 2023, the Database reported Adult Medicaid version 5.1 only.

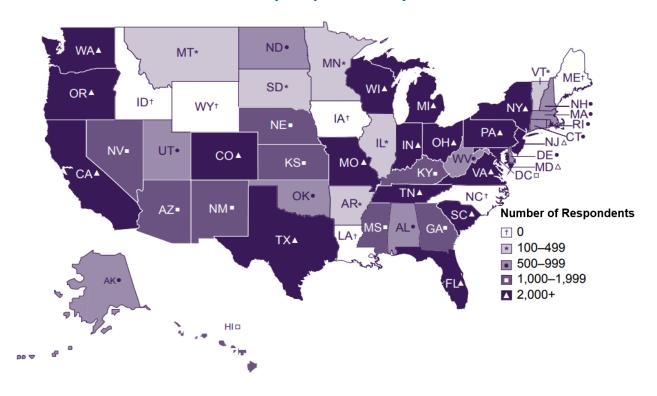
Child Medicaid

This section describes results for 103,515 Child Medicaid respondents in the 2023 CAHPS Health Plan Survey Database. As with Adult Medicaid, Child Medicaid also has varying non-responses at the question-level. Selected respondent characteristics are highlighted below. Note that the respondent characteristics refer to the parent, relative, or guardian completing the survey on behalf of the child. The respondent also provides information on the characteristics of the child. Additional details are provided in Appendix B.

Respondent Characteristics Highlights



2023 Child Medicaid Number of Survey Respondents by State



Child Medicaid 2023 Results

Composite Measure/Individual Item

Getting Needed Care for a Child

Easy to get necessary care, tests, or treatment for child

Got appointment for child with a specialist as soon as needed

Getting Care Quickly for a Child

Child got care for illness, injury, or condition as soon as needed

Child got check-up or routine care appointment as soon as needed

How Well the Child's Doctors Communicate

Child's doctor explained things in a way that was easy to understand

Child's doctor listened carefully to respondent

Child's doctor showed respect for what respondent had to say

Child's doctor explained things in a way that was easy for child to understand

Child's doctor spent enough time with child

Health Plan Information and Customer Service

Customer service at child's health plan gave necessary information or help

Customer service staff at child's health plan was courteous and respectful

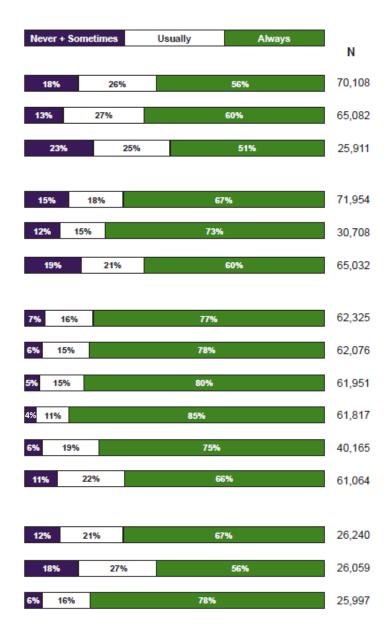
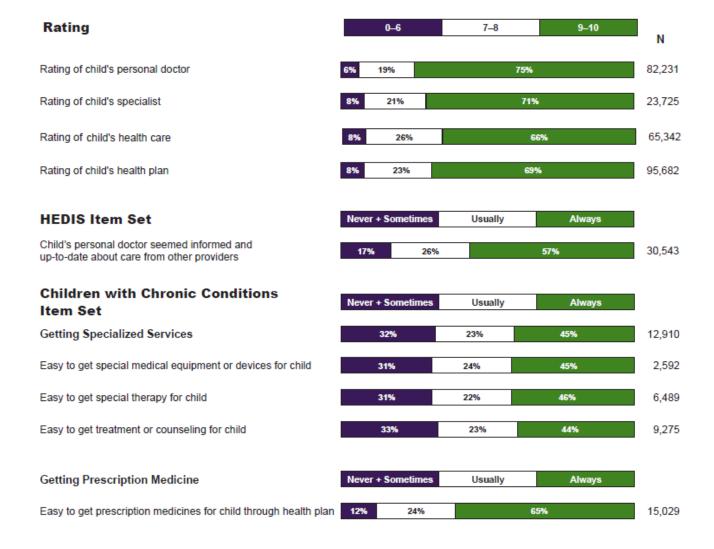




Chart 4-2. Composite Measure Item Results - Child Medicaid 2023 Results (Page 2 of 3)

Child Medicaid 2023 Results (continued)

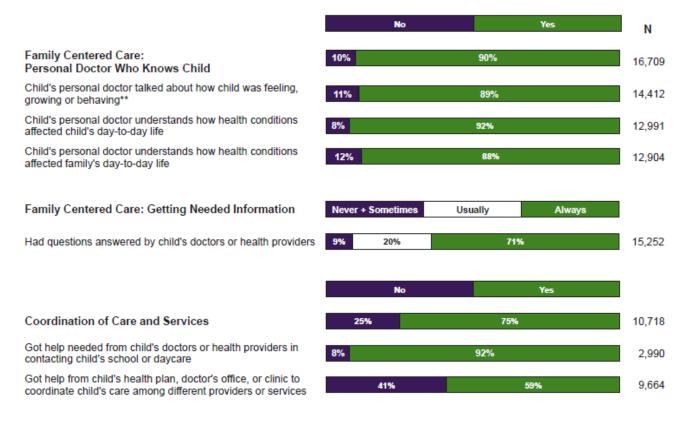


Note: Getting Prescription Medicine is a single item measure



Chart 4-2. Composite Measure Item Results - Child Medicaid 2023 Results (Page 3 of 3)

Child Medicaid 2023 Results (continued)



Note: Family Centered Care - Getting Needed Information is a single item measure



^{**}This item is not part of the Children with Chronic Conditions Items Set but is included in the "Family Centered Care: Personal Doctor Who Knows Child" composite measure.

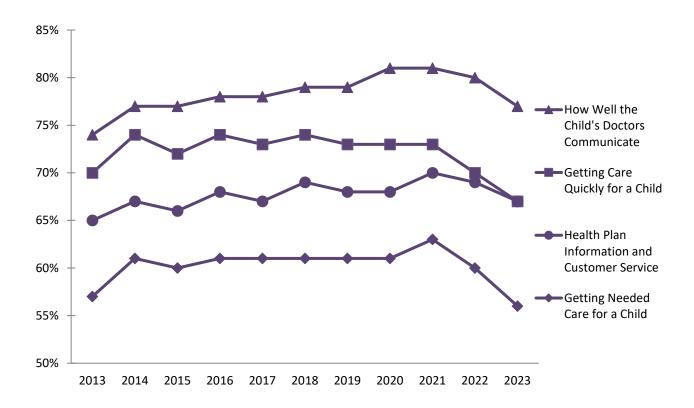
Table 5 presents the Child Medicaid percentiles for each composite measure, rating, HEDIS item, and selected chronic condition measure. These percentile scores are calculated at the plan level and represent the percentage of plans that scored at or below a particular top box score for a measure.

Table 5. 2023 Child Medicaid Percentile	s							
		Тор В	ox Percentiles	3				
Measure	Database Average	Lowest Score	10 th Percentile	25 th Percentile	50 th Percentile	75 th Percentile	90 th Percentile	Highest Score
Composites								
Getting Needed Care for a Child	56%	39%	44%	50%	56%	62%	65%	75%
Getting Care Quickly for a Child	67%	42%	54%	61%	68%	73%	76%	82%
How Well the Child's Doctors Communicate	77%	62%	71%	74%	78%	81%	83%	87%
Health Plan Information and Customer Service	67%	46%	57%	62%	67%	71%	74%	81%
Ratings								
Rating of child's personal doctor	75%	51%	70%	72%	75%	78%	80%	85%
Rating of child's specialist	71%	46%	62%	67%	72%	76%	79%	89%
Rating of child's health care	66%	45%	60%	63%	68%	70%	72%	77%
Rating of child's health plan	69%	47%	61%	66%	70%	73%	76%	82%
HEDIS Items								
Child's personal doctor seemed informed and upto-date about care from other providers	57%	38%	48%	53%	58%	62%	67%	75%
Children with Chronic Conditions Measures								
Getting Specialized Services	45%	22%	34%	40%	46%	53%	60%	70%
Getting Prescription Medicine	65%	39%	56%	59%	66%	70%	72%	77%
Family Centered Care: Personal Doctor Who Knows Child	90%	70%	87%	89%	90%	92%	93%	95%
Family Centered Care: Getting Needed Information	71%	49%	58%	66%	72%	75%	78%	88%
Coordination of Care and Services	75%	62%	68%	72%	76%	78%	81%	87%



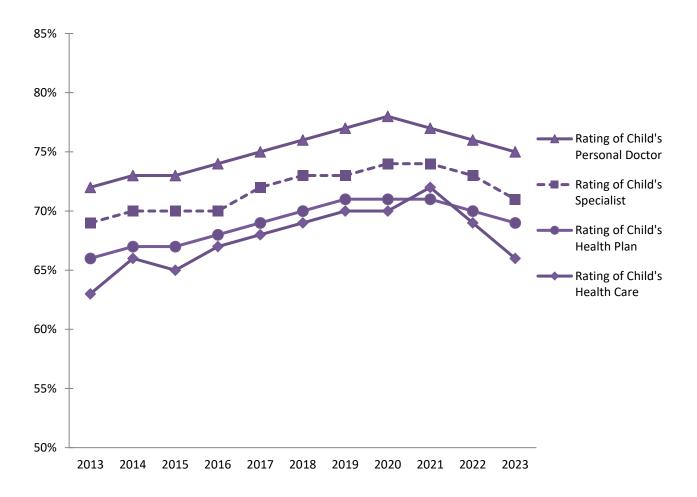
Child Medicaid Trends

Figure 4. Child Medicaid Top Box Composite Measure Scores 2013-2023



Child Medicaid Trends (continued)

Figure 5. Child Medicaid Top Box Rating Scores 2013-2023



Child Medicaid Trends (continued)

Figure 6. Child Medicaid Top Box HEDIS Score 2013-2023

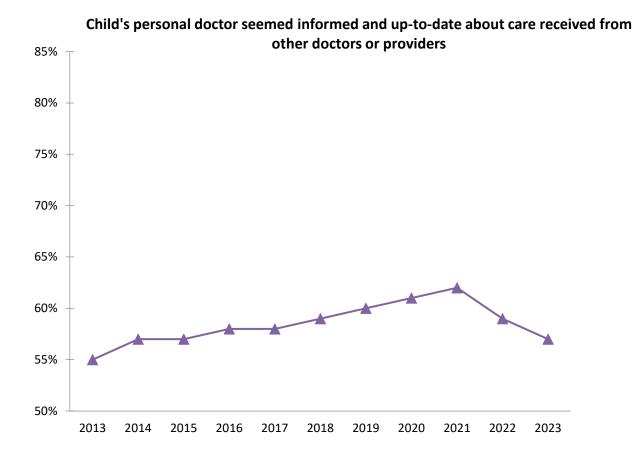


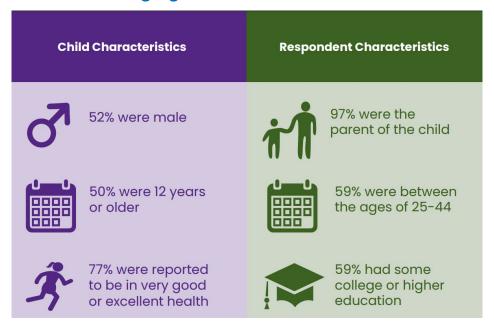
Table 6.	Child M	Child Medicaid Composition of the CAHPS Health Plan Survey Database 2013-2023									
	Child Medicaid Composition										
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of Plans	105	100	136	132	169	150	152	137	175	166	233
Number of Respondents	66,804	60,153	91,049	79,058	103,283	79,736	72,429	56,311	86,597	66,182	103,515

Notes: (1) From 2013-2020, the Database reported Child Medicaid version 5.0. (2) Beginning in 2021, the Database reported Child Medicaid versions 5.0 and 5.1 combined. In 2023, the Database reported Child Medicaid version 5.1 only.

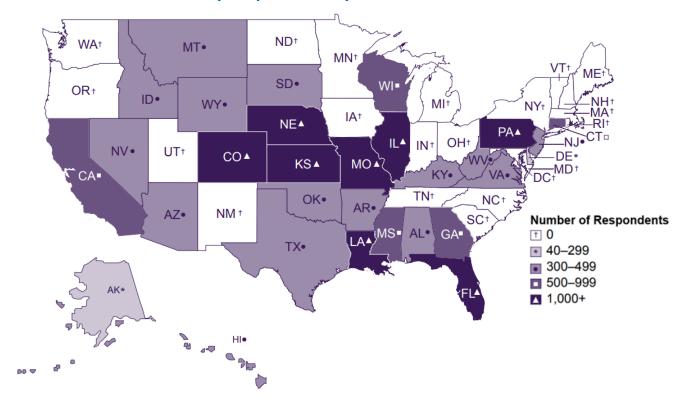
Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

This section describes results for 23,008 CHIP respondents in the 2023 CAHPS Health Plan Survey Database. As with the previous two enrollee populations, the CHIP data has non-response at the question-level. Selected respondent characteristics are highlighted below. Note that the respondent characteristics refer to the parent, relative, or guardian completing the survey on behalf of the child. The respondent also provides information on the characteristics of the child. Additional details are provided in Appendix B.

Respondent Characteristics Highlights



2023 CHIP Number of Survey Respondents by State



CHIP 2023 Results

Composite Measure/Individual Item

Getting Needed Care for a Child

Easy to get necessary care, tests, or treatment for child

Got appointment for child with a specialist as soon as needed

Getting Care Quickly for a Child

Child got care for illness, injury, or condition as soon as needed

Child got check-up or routine care appointment as soon as needed

How Well the Child's Doctors Communicate

Child's doctor explained things in a way that was easy to understand

Child's doctor listened carefully to respondent

Child's doctor showed respect for what respondent had to say

Child's doctor explained things in a way that was easy for child to understand

Child's doctor spent enough time with child

Health Plan Information and Customer Service

Customer service at child's health plan gave necessary information or help

Customer service staff at child's health plan was courteous and respectful

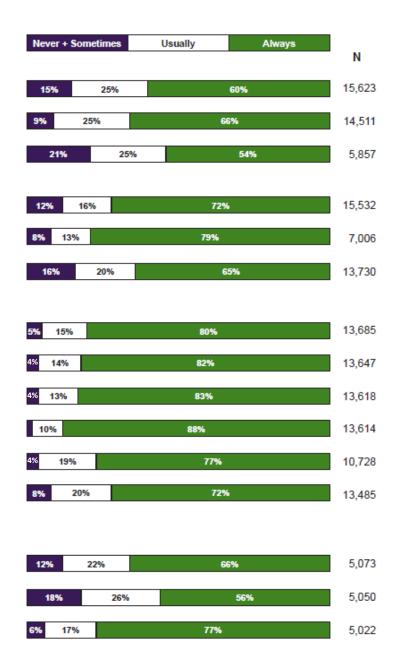
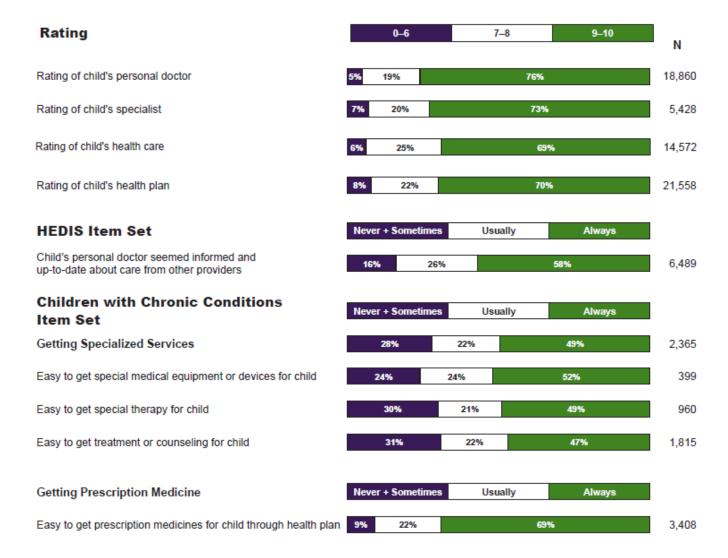




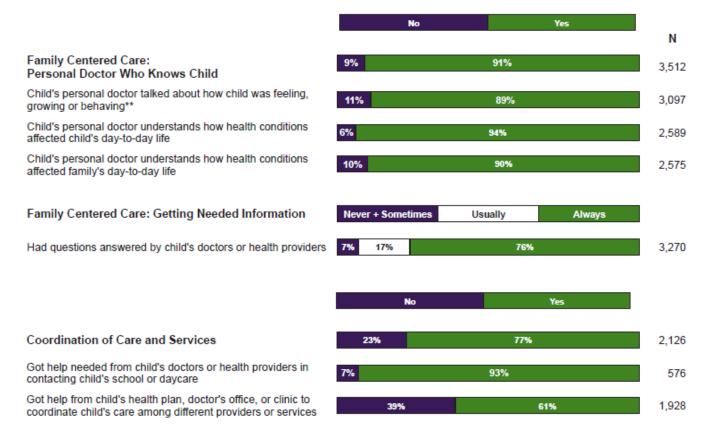
Chart 4-3 Composite Measure Item Results—CHIP 2023 Results (Page 2 of 3)

CHIP 2023 Results (continued)



Note: Getting Prescription Medicine is a single item measure.

CHIP 2023 Results (continued)



Note: Family Centered Care: Getting Needed Information is a single item measure

^{**}This item is not part of the Children with Chronic Conditions Items Set, but is included in the "Family Centered Care: Personal Doctor Who Knows Child" composite measure.

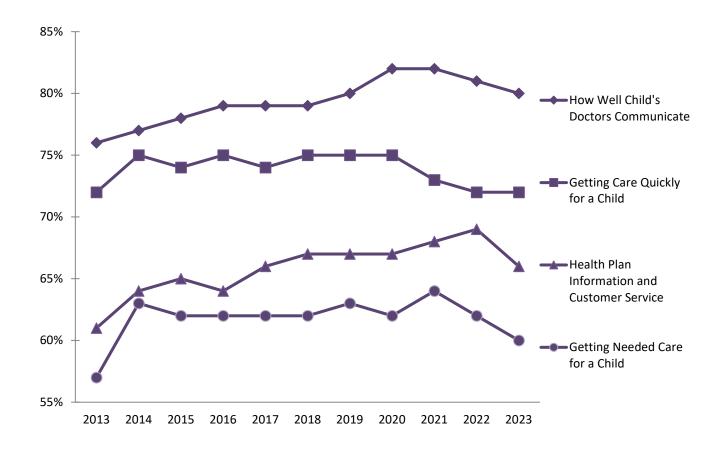
Table 7 presents the CHIP percentiles for each composite measure, rating, HEDIS item, and selected chronic condition measure. These percentile scores are calculated at the plan level and represent the percentage of plans that scored at or below a particular top box score for a measure.

Table 7. 2023 CHIP Percentiles								
		Тор Вох	Percentiles					
Measure	Database Average	Lowest Score	10 th Percentile	25 th Percentile	50 th Percentile	75 th Percentile	90 th Percentile	Highest Score
Composites								
Getting Needed Care for a Child	60%	43%	49%	54%	59%	64%	70%	77%
Getting Care Quickly for a Child	72%	51%	60%	65%	71%	76%	80%	83%
How Well the Child's Doctors Communicate	80%	64%	74%	78%	81%	83%	86%	93%
Health Plan Information and Customer Service	66%	54%	58%	61%	67%	71%	76%	80%
Ratings								
Rating of child's personal doctor	76%	68%	70%	74%	76%	80%	82%	90%
Rating of child's specialist	73%	63%	67%	70%	73%	77%	78%	86%
Rating of child's health care	69%	59%	62%	66%	70%	72%	75%	81%
Rating of child's health plan	70%	54%	61%	65%	70%	75%	77%	83%
HEDIS Items								
Child's personal doctor seemed informed and up-to- date about care from other providers	58%	44%	47%	53%	57%	62%	67%	75%
Children with Chronic Conditions Measures								
Getting Specialized Services	49%	33%	37%	41%	49%	56%	61%	64%
Getting Prescription Medicine	69%	58%	61%	65%	69%	73%	77%	78%
Family Centered Care: Personal Doctor Who Knows Child	91%	81%	87%	88%	92%	75%	94%	98%
Family Centered Care: Getting Needed Information	76%	57%	61%	70%	77%	79%	83%	88%
Coordination of Care and Services	77%	71%	73%	75%	78%	80%	82%	85%



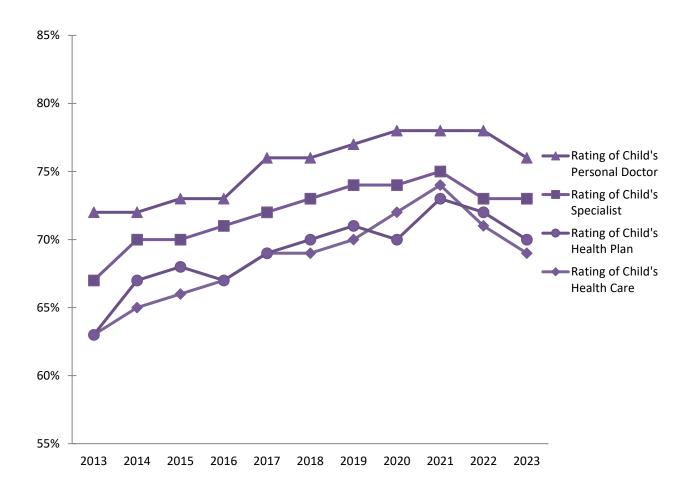
CHIP Trends

Figure 7. CHIP Top Box Composite Measure Scores 2013-2023



CHIP Trends (continued)

Figure 8. CHIP Top Box Rating Scores 2013-2023



CHIP Trends (continued)

Figure 9. CHIP Top Box HEDIS Score 2013-2023

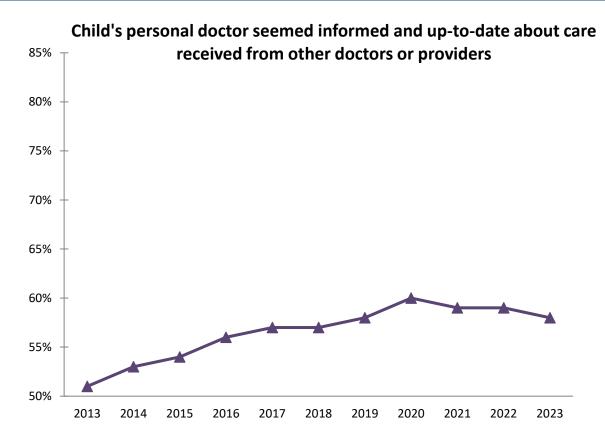


Table 8.	Table 8. CHIP Composition of the CAHPS Health Plan Survey Database 2013-2023										
	CHIP Composition										
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of Plans	12	15	19	21	23	25	48	42	52	59	69
Number of Respondents	9,149	11,762	13,466	14,999	15,221	13,933	18,090	12,448	17,615	18,592	23,008

Notes: (1) From 2013-2020, the Database reported Child Medicaid version 5.0. (2) Beginning in 2021, the Database reported Child Medicaid versions 5.0 and 5.1 combined. In 2023, the Database reported Child Medicaid version 5.1 only.

Appendix A Distribution of Responses by Response Mode

Table A-1.	Distribution of 2023 CAHPS Health Plan Database Respondents by Response Mode							
	Response Mode	Adult Medicaid	Child Medicaid	CHIP				
Mail		65%	52%	59%				
Telephone		24%	34%	27%				
Internet		11%	13%	14%				

Appendix B Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Table B-1. 2023 Adult Medicaid Respondent Demographic Characteristics							
Demographic Characteristics	Percent						
Gender							
Male	40%						
Female	60%						
Age							
18 - 24	10%						
25 - 34	14%						
35 - 44	14%						
45 - 54	17%						
55 - 64	31%						
65 - 74	10%						
75+	5%						
Education							
8th grade or less	7%						
Some high school, but did not graduate	13%						
High school graduate or GED	38%						
Some college or 2-year degree	28%						
4-year college graduate	9%						
More than 4-year college degree	5%						
Race/Ethnicity							
White	57%						
African-American	17%						
Asian	7%						
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1%						
American Indian/Native Alaskan	1%						
Other	9%						
Multi-racial Section 1997	8%						
Hispanic/Latino origin or descent							
Yes	22%						
No	78%						
General Health Status							
Excellent	10%						
Very Good	22%						
Good	35%						
Fair	26%						
Poor	7%						
Mental Health Status							
Excellent	17%						
Very Good	22%						
Good	31%						
Fair	23%						
Poor	7%						

	Child	
Demographic Characteristics	Medicaid	CHIP
Demographic endracerosis	Percent	Percent
Gender (respondent)		
Male	13%	15%
Female	87%	85%
Gender (child)		
Male	53%	52%
Female	47%	48%
Age (respondent)		
< 18	7%	8%
18 - 24	4%	2%
25 - 34	23%	19%
35 - 44	34%	40%
45 - 54	19%	23%
55 - 64	7%	5%
65 - 74	4%	2%
75+	1%	0%
Age (child)		
0 - 3 years	18%	9%
4 - 7 years	21%	19%
8 - 11 years	21%	23%
12+ years	40%	50%
Education (respondent)		
8th grade or less	8%	6%
Some high school, but did not graduate	11%	8%
High school graduate or GED	32%	27%
Some college or 2-year degree	30%	33%
4-year college graduate	11%	16%
More than 4-year college degree	8%	10%
Race/Ethnicity (child)		
White	50%	60%
African-American	16%	13%
Asian	6%	6%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1%	0%
American Indian/Native Alaskan	2%	1%
Other	14%	11%
Multi-racial	13%	10%
Hispanic/Latino origin or descent (child)		
Yes	38%	33%
No	62%	67%
General Health Status of child	32,3	
(as reported by respondent)		
Excellent	36%	38%
Very Good	36%	39%
Good	22%	19%
Fair	6%	4%
Poor	1%	0%



Table B-2. 2023 Child Medicaid and CHIP Respondent Demographic Characteristics (cont'd)					
Demographic Characteristics	Child Medicaid Percent	CHIP Percent			
Mental Health Status of child					
(as reported by respondent)					
Excellent	37%	38%			
Very Good	28%	32%			
Good	22%	21%			
Fair	10%	8%			
Poor	2%	2%			
Relationship to the child					
(as reported by respondent)					
Mother or Father	90%	97%			
Grandparent	6%	2%			
Aunt or Uncle	1%	0%			
Older Brother or Sister	0%	0%			
Other Relative	0%	0%			
Legal Guardian	2%	1%			
Someone Else	0%	0%			

Appendix C Respondent Utilization Data

Table C-1.	2023 CAHPS Health Plan Survey Respond	ondent Utilization Data		
	Respondent Utilization Questions	Adult Medicaid	Child Medicaid	CHIP
Have a perso	nal doctor?			
Yes		80%	86%	87%
No		20%	14%	13%
Number of vi	sits to personal doctor?			
None		22%	25%	27%
1 time		28%	34%	34%
2		22%	20%	19%
3		12%	10%	10%
4		6%	5%	5%
5 to 9		7%	5%	4%
10 or more ti	mes	2%	1%	1%
Number of vi	sits to doctor's office or clinic?			
None		33%	33%	33%
1 time		16%	22%	23%
2		16%	18%	18%
3		11%	11%	11%
4		7%	6%	6%
5 to 9		11%	7%	6%
10 or more ti	mes	5%	3%	2%
Made an app	ointment to see a specialist?			
Yes		47%	27%	27%
No		53%	73%	73%
Number of sp	pecialists seen?			
None		4%	7%	6%
1		45%	55%	63%
2		27%	23%	21%
3		14%	9%	6%
4		5%	4%	2%
5+		5%	4%	2%

Appendix D Survey Respondents by State

State	Adult Medicaid	Child Medicaid	CHIP
Alabama	337	549	414
Alaska	-	531	72
Arkansas	435	464	453
Arizona	479	1,163	477
California	12,362	16,300	985
Colorado	1,671	2,218	1,232
Connecticut	272	793	624
Delaware	472	746	48
District Of Columbia	1,222	1,270	-
Florida	2,279	6,813	2,077
Georgia	626	1,646	655
Hawaii	315	1,421	444
Idaho	-	-	470
Illinois	405	448	1,083
Indiana	2,329	2,281	-
Kansas	992	1,989	1,901
Kentucky	919	1,711	357
Louisiana	1,219	-	2,658
Maryland	1,871	6,950	-
Massachusetts	1,714	560	-
Michigan	2,744	2,567	-
Minnesota	3,137	121	-
Mississippi	590	1,681	924
Missouri	554	2,382	1,752
Montana	298	309	416
Nebraska	703	1,457	1,146
Nevada	450	1,117	333
New Hampshire	696	642	-
New Jersey	1,270	2,020	473
New Mexico	1,014	1,722	-
New York	139	2,698	-
North Dakota	394	725	-
Ohio	1,091	2,897	-
Oklahoma	362	756	467
Oregon	6,522	8,330	-
Pennsylvania	4,831	2,105	1,197
Rhode Island	1,183	508	-

Table D-1. 2023 Survey Respondents by State (cont'd)					
State	Adult Medicaid	Child Medicaid	CHIP		
South Carolina	909	3,043	-		
South Dakota	329	307	361		
Tennessee	1,155	3,127	-		
Texas	580	3,505	396		
Utah	-	734	-		
Vermont	419	327	-		
Virginia	3,567	4,724	366		
Washington	1,115	3,909	-		
West Virginia	258	634	321		
Wisconsin	1032	3,315	525		
Wyoming	-	-	381		
Tota	65,261	103,515	23,008		



Appendix E Top Box Scores by Census Region

Table E-1. 2023 Adult Medicaid Top Box Scores by Census Adult Medicaid	CAHPS DB	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Composite Measure/Individual Item	Overall	Region	Region	Region	Region
Number of Plans	221	36	58	67	60
Number of Respondents	65,261	10,524	13,710	16,801	24,226
Getting Needed Care	50%	53%	53%	54%	44%
Easy to get necessary care, tests, or treatment	52%	56%	56%	57%	45%
Got appointment with a specialist as soon as needed	48%	50%	50%	52%	42%
Getting Care Quickly	54%	58%	58%	58%	47%
Got care for illness, injury or condition as soon as needed	58%	62%	62%	60%	51%
Got check-up or routine care appointment as soon as needed	50%	55%	53%	55%	43%
How Well Doctors Communicate	75%	77%	78%	77%	71%
Doctor explained things in a way that was easy to understand	74%	76%	78%	76%	70%
Doctor listened carefully	76%	78%	78%	78%	72%
Doctor showed respect for what enrollee had to say	81%	83%	83%	83%	78%
Doctor spent enough time with enrollee	69%	72%	73%	71%	63%
Health Plan Information and Customer Service	68%	71%	70%	71%	63%
Customer service gave necessary information or help	57%	60%	60%	60%	52%
Customer service was courteous and respectful	78%	81%	80%	81%	74%
Overall Ratings					
Rating of personal doctor	67%	70%	69%	69%	64%
Rating of specialist	66%	69%	66%	68%	65%
Rating of health care	54%	58%	54%	56%	51%
Rating of health plan	60%	67%	61%	61%	56%
HEDIS Items					
Personal doctor seemed informed and up-to-date about care from other providers	57%	61%	60%	59%	52%
Had a flu shot or flu spray (Age 18-64 only)	40%	46%	38%	37%	42%
Advised to quit smoking or using tobacco (Always, Sometimes, Usually)	73%	79%	74%	75%	67%
Doctor/provider discussed medication to help quit smoking or using tobacco (Always, Sometimes, Usually)	52%	59%	53%	52%	46%
Doctor/provider discussed methods to quit smoking or using tobacco (Always, Sometimes, Usually)	45%	52%	46%	44%	41%



Child Medicaid Composite Measure/Individual Item	CAHPS DB	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Number of Plans	Overall 233	Region 33	Region 58	Region 77	Region 65
Number of Respondents	103,515	9,653	18,489	37,619	37,754
Getting Needed Care for a Child	56%	55%	61%	60%	49%
Easy to get necessary care, tests, or treatment for child	60%	61%	65%	66%	52%
Got appointment for child with a specialist as soon as needed	51%	48%	56%	54%	45%
Getting Care Quickly for a Child	67%	67%	72%	71%	59%
Child got care for illness, injury, or condition as soon as needed	73%	74%	79%	77%	65%
Child got check-up or routine care appointment as soon as needed	60%	60%	66%	64%	53%
How Well the Child's Doctors Communicate	77%	77%	81%	79%	73%
Child's doctor explained things in a way that was easy to understand	78%	77%	83%	80%	74%
Child's doctor listened carefully to respondent	80%	80%	84%	82%	77%
Child's doctor showed respect for what respondent had to say	85%	85%	88%	87%	83%
Child's doctor explained things in a way that was easy for child to understand	75%	75%	76%	77%	72%
Child's doctor spent enough time with child	66%	67%	73%	68%	61%
Health Plan Information and Customer Service	67%	65%	69%	70%	63%
Customer service at child's health plan gave necessary information or help	56%	55%	58%	59%	52%
Customer service staff at child's health plan was courteous and respectful	78%	75%	80%	81%	74%
Overall Ratings					
Rating of child's personal doctor	75%	74%	76%	76%	72%
Rating of child's specialist	71%	68%	72%	73%	69%
Rating of all child's health care	66%	66%	66%	69%	62%
Rating of child's health plan	69%	68%	69%	72%	66%
HEDIS Items					
Child's personal doctor seemed informed and up-to-date about care from other providers	57%	56%	61%	59%	53%



Child Medicaid Composite Measure/Individual Item	CAHPS DB Overall	Northeast Region	Midwest Region	South Region	West Region
Children with Chronic Conditions Measures					
Getting Specialized Services	45%	46%	51%	45%	42%
Easy to get special medical equipment or devices for child	45%	51%	46%	44%	44%
Easy to get special therapy for child	46%	45%	55%	47%	43%
Easy to get treatment or counseling for child	44%	42%	53%	45%	37%
Getting Prescription Medicine					
Easy to get prescription medicines for child through health plan	65%	64%	69%	66%	59%
Family Centered Care: Personal Doctor Who Knows Child	90%	90%	90%	91%	88%
Child's personal doctor talked about how child was feeling, growing or behaving**	89%	90%	90%	89%	88%
Child's personal doctor understands how health conditions affected child's day-to-day life	92%	92%	92%	93%	91%
Child's personal doctor understands how health conditions affected family's day-to-day life	88%	88%	88%	90%	86%
Family Centered Care: Getting Needed Information					
Had questions answered by child's doctors or health providers	71%	71%	72%	74%	65%
Coordination of Care and Services	75%	75%	74%	76%	76%
Got help needed from child's doctors or health providers in contacting child's school or daycare	92%	94%	92%	92%	91%
Got help from child's health plan, doctor's office, or clinic to coordinate child's care among different providers or services	59%	55%	56%	60%	60%

^{**} This item is not part of the Children with Chronic Conditions Items Set, but is included in the "Family Centered Care: Personal Doctor Who Knows Child" composite measure.



Table E-3. 2023 CHIP Top Box scores by Census Region				
CHIP Composite Measure/Individual Item	CAHPS DB Overall	Midwest Region	South Region	West Region
Number of Plans	69	27	23	13
Number of Respondents	23,008	6,768	9,136	4,810
Getting Needed Care for a Child	60%	61%	64%	53%
Easy to get necessary care, tests, or treatment for child	66%	66%	71%	57%
Got appointment for child with a specialist as soon as needed	54%	55%	57%	50%
Getting Care Quickly for a Child	72%	72%	76%	63%
Child got care for illness, injury, or condition as soon as needed	79%	80%	82%	71%
Child got check-up or routine care appointment as soon as needed	65%	65%	70%	56%
How Well the Child's Doctors Communicate	80%	81%	83%	75%
Child's doctor explained things in a way that was easy to understand	82%	83%	85%	75%
Child's doctor listened carefully to respondent	83%	84%	85%	78%
Child's doctor showed respect for what respondent had to say	88%	88%	89%	84%
Child's doctor explained things in a way that was easy for child to understand	77%	76%	80%	72%
Child's doctor spent enough time with child	72%	74%	75%	65%
Health Plan Information and Customer Service	66%	65%	70%	60%
Customer service at child's health plan gave necessary information or help	56%	55%	60%	49%
Customer service staff at child's health plan was courteous and respectful	77%	76%	81%	70%
Overall Ratings				
Rating of child's personal doctor	76%	76%	77%	75%
Rating of child's specialist	73%	71%	75%	73%
Rating of child's health care	69%	69%	71%	67%
Rating of child's health plan	70%	71%	71%	70%
HEDIS Items				
Child's personal doctor seemed informed and up-to-date about care from other providers	58%	58%	61%	51%

Note: NA for the Chronic Conditions items for all regions = did not have enough respondents to report

- Northeast: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont
- Midwest: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin
- South: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, DC, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia
- West: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming



Appendix F Top Box Scores by General Child and Children with Chronic Conditions

Child Medicaid Composite Measure/Individual Item	CAHPS DB Overall	General Child	Children with Chronic Conditions
Number of Plans	233	146	87
Number of Respondents	103,515	83,582*	19,933*
Getting Needed Care for a Child	56%	56%	54%
Easy to get necessary care, tests, or treatment for child	60%	61%	58%
Got appointment for child with a specialist as soon as needed	51%	52%	51%
Getting Care Quickly for a Child	67%	66%	68%
Child got care for illness, injury, or condition as soon as needed	73%	73%	74%
Child got check-up or routine care appointment as soon as needed	60%	59%	63%
How Well the Child's Doctors Communicate	77%	77%	77%
Child's doctor explained things in a way that was easy to understand	78%	78%	79%
Child's doctor listened carefully to respondent	80%	81%	79%
Child's doctor showed respect for what respondent had to say	85%	86%	84%
Child's doctor explained things in a way that was easy for child to understand	75%	75%	73%
Child's doctor spent enough time with child	66%	66%	68%
Health Plan Information and Customer Service	67 %	67%	66%
Customer service at child's health plan gave necessary information or help	56%	56%	55%
Customer service staff at child's health plan was courteous and respectful	78%	78%	78%
Overall Ratings			
Rating of child's personal doctor	75%	75%	73%
Rating of child's specialist	71%	72%	70%
Rating of child's health care	66%	67%	62%
Rating of child's health plan	69%	70%	64%
HEDIS Items			
Child's personal doctor seemed informed and up-to-date about care from other providers	57%	58%	54%

Table F-2. CHIP Composite Measures Top Box by Ge	neral Child and Ch	ildren with Chronic	Conditions
Composite Measure/Individual Item	CAHPS DB Overall	General Child	Children with Chronic Conditions
Number of Plans	69	44	25
Number of Respondents	23,008	18,846*	4,162*
Getting Needed Care for a Child	60%	60%	60%
Easy to get necessary care, tests, or treatment for child	66%	66%	65%
Got appointment for child with a specialist as soon as needed	54%	54%	56%
Getting Care Quickly for a Child	72 %	71%	73%
Child got care for illness, injury, or condition as soon as needed	79%	79%	78%
Child got check-up or routine care appointment as soon as needed	65%	64%	68%
How Well the Child's Doctors Communicate	80%	81%	80%
Child's doctor explained things in a way that was easy to understand	82%	82%	81%
Child's doctor listened carefully to respondent	83%	83%	82%
Child's doctor showed respect for what respondent had to say	88%	88%	87%
Child's doctor explained things in a way that was easy for child to understand	77%	77%	76%
Child's doctor spent enough time with child	72%	72%	72%
Health Plan Information and Customer Service	66%	66%	68%
Customer service at child's health plan gave necessary information or help	56%	55%	58%
Customer service staff at child's health plan was courteous and respectful	77%	77%	78%
Overall Ratings			
Rating of child's personal doctor	76%	76%	76%
Rating of child's specialist	73%	74%	71%
Rating of child's health care	69%	70%	67%
Rating of child's health plan	70%	70%	68%
HEDIS Items			
Child's personal doctor seemed informed and up-to-date about care from other providers	58%	58%	56%

^{*} Includes only responses that qualified as Children with Chronic Conditions.

Appendix G Definition of Composite Measures, Ratings, HEDIS Items, and Children with Chronic Condition Items

The following tables present the composite measures, individual items and ratings for the 5.1 Adult Medicaid and Child versions of the CAHPS Health Plan Survey. The table for the 5.1 Child versions also presents the supplemental item set for Children with Chronic Conditions.

Table G-1. Adult Medicaid Composite Measures and Rating Items for 5.1 Version of CAHPS Health Plan Survey				
Question Text	Response Options			
Getting Needed Care				
In the last 6 months, how often did you get an appointment with a specialist as soon as you needed?	Response Options • Never • Sometimes			
In the last 6 months, how often was it easy to get the care, tests, or treatment you needed?	Usually Always			
Getting Care Quickly				
In the last 6 months, when you needed care right away, how often did you get care as soon as you needed?	Response Options • Never • Sometimes			
In the last 6 months, how often did you get an appointment for a check-up or routine care as soon as you needed?	Usually Always			
How Well Doctors Communicate				
In the last 6 months, how often did your personal doctor explain things in a way that was easy to understand?	Response Options			
In the last 6 months, how often did your personal doctor listen carefully to you?	Never			
In the last 6 months, how often did your personal doctor show respect for what you had to say?	Sometimes Usually			
In the last 6 months, how often did your personal doctor spend enough time with you?	Always			
Health Plan Information & Customer Service				
In the last 6 months, how often did your health plan's customer service give you the information or help you needed?	Response Options • Never • Sometimes			
In the last 6 months, how often did your health plan's customer service staff treat you with courtesy and respect?	Usually Always			
Overall Ratings				
Using any number from 0 to 10, where 0 is the worst health care possible and 10 is the best health care possible, what number would you use to rate all your health care in the last 6 months?				
Using any number from 0 to 10, where 0 is the worst personal doctor possible and 10 is the best personal doctor possible, what number would you use to rate your personal doctor?	Response Options			
Using any number from 0 to 10, where 0 is the worst specialist possible and 10 is the best specialist possible, what number would you use to rate the specialist?	• 0-10			
Using any number from 0 to 10, where 0 is the worst health plan possible and 10 is the best health plan possible, what number would you use to rate your health plan?				

Table G-1. Adult Medicaid Composite Measures and Rating Items for 5.1 Version of CAHPS Health Plan Survey (cont'd)				
Question Text	Response Options			
HEDIS Items				
In the last 6 months, how often did your personal doctor seem informed and upto-date about the care you got from these doctors or other health providers? In the last 6 months, how often were you advised to quit smoking or using				
tobacco by a doctor or other health provider in your plan? In the last 6 months, how often was medication recommended or discussed by a doctor or health provider to assist you with quitting smoking or using tobacco? Examples of medication are: nicotine gum, patch, nasal spray, inhaler, or prescription medication.	Response Options Never Sometimes Usually Always			
In the last 6 months, how often did your doctor or health provider discuss or provide methods and strategies other than medication to assist you with quitting smoking or using tobacco? Examples of methods and strategies are: telephone helpline, individual or group counseling, or cessation program.	ruways			
Have you had either a flu shot or flu spray in the nose?	Response Options • Yes • No • Don't know			



Table G-2. Child Medicaid and CHIP Composite Measures and Rating Items for Health Plan Survey	r the 5.1 Version of CAHPS
Question Text	Response Options
Getting Needed Care	
In the last 6 months, how often was it easy to get the care, tests, or treatment your child needed?	Response OptionsNeverSometimes
In the last 6 months, how often did you get appointments for your child with a specialist as soon as he or she needed?	Usually Always
Getting Care Quickly	
In the last 6 months, when your child needed care right away, how often did your child get care as soon as he or she needed?	Response Options • Never • Sometimes
In the last 6 months, how often did you get an appointment for a check-up or routine care for your child as soon as your child needed?	Usually Always
How Well Doctors Communicate	
In the last 6 months, how often did your child's personal doctor explain things about your child's health in a way that was easy to understand?	
In the last 6 months, how often did your child's personal doctor listen carefully to you?	Response Options
In the last 6 months, how often did your child's personal doctor show respect for what you had to say?	Never Sometimes
In the last 6 months, how often did your child's personal doctor explain things in a way	• Usually
that was easy for your child to understand? In the last 6 months, how often did your child's personal doctor spend enough time with	• Always
your child?	
Health Plan Information & Customer Service	
In the last 6 months, how often did customer service at your child's health plan give you the information or help you needed?	Response Options • Never
In the last 6 months, how often did customer service staff at your child's health plan treat you with courtesy and respect?	SometimesUsuallyAlways
Overall Ratings	,
Using any number from 0 to 10, where 0 is the worst personal doctor possible and 10 is the best personal doctor possible, what number would you use to rate your child's personal doctor?	
Using any number from 0 to 10, where 0 is the worst personal doctor possible and 10 is the best personal doctor possible, what number would you use to rate your child's specialist?	Response Options
Using any number from 0 to 10, where 0 is the worst health care possible and 10 is the best health care possible, what number would you use to rate all your child's health care in the last 6 months?	• 0-10
Using any number from 0 to 10, where 0 is the worst health plan possible and 10 is the best health plan possible, what number would you use to rate your child's health plan?	
HEDIS Item	
In the last 6 months, how often did your child's personal doctor seem informed and upto-date about the care your child got from these doctors or other health providers?	Response Options Never Sometimes Usually Always



Table G-2. Child Medicaid and CHIP Composite Measures and Rating Items for the 5.1 Version of CAHPS Health Plan Survey (cont'd)				
Question Text	Response Options			
Children with Chronic Conditions Item Set				
Getting Specialized Services				
In the last 6 months, how often was it easy to get special medical equipment or devices for your child?	Response Options • Never			
In the last 6 months, how often was it easy to get this therapy for your child?	• Sometimes			
In the last 6 months, how often was it easy to get this treatment or counseling for your child?	UsuallyAlways			
Getting Prescription Medicine				
In the last 6 months, how often was it easy to get prescription medicines for your child through his or her health plan?	Response Options Never Sometimes Usually Always			
Family Centered Care: Personal Doctor Who Knows Child				
In the last 6 months, did your child's personal doctor talk with you about how your child is feeling, growing, or behaving?*	Bear and Ontions			
Does your child's personal doctor understand how these medical, behavioral, or other health conditions affect your child's day-to-day life?	Response Options • Yes • No			
Does your child's personal doctor understand how your child's medical, behavioral, or other health conditions affect your family's day-to-day life?	NO			
Family Centered Care: Getting Needed Information				
In the last 6 months, how often did you have your questions answered by your child's doctors or other health providers?	Response Options Never Sometimes Usually Always			
Coordination of Care and Services				
In the last 6 months, did you get the help you needed from your child's doctors or other health providers in contacting your child's school or daycare? In the last 6 months, did anyone from your child's health plan, doctor's office, or clinic	Response Options • Yes • No			
help coordinate your child's care among these different providers or services?				



Appendix H How Results are Calculated

This appendix provides an overview of how the results were calculated.

Survey Inclusion Rules for the Database

Both complete and partially complete surveys are included in the CAHPS Health Plan Survey Database. A completed survey has responses to 50 percent or more of the key items and a response for one or more composite measures or rating items. A partially complete survey has responses for one or more core composite measures or rating items but less than 50 percent of the key items. A list of the key items can be found in the Fielding the CAHPS Health Plan Survey guidelines.

Levels of Results

CAHPS Health Plan Survey Database results are calculated at both the respondent and health plan levels.

- Respondent: A respondent is defined as an individual enrollee who has completed or partially completed a
 CAHPS Health Plan Survey. Respondent-level survey results are calculated across all respondents in the
 Database, ignoring their association with a particular health plan. All but the percentile results are calculated
 at the respondent level.
- **Health Plan**: Health plan-level survey results are calculated across the respondents within a specific health plan. Health plan-level results are used for the percentiles only.

Types of Results

Top Box and Proportional Scores

Top box scores for survey items are created by calculating the percentage of respondents who chose the most positive response on a given item's response scale (e.g., "Always" on the "Always-Never" scale). The CAHPS Health Plan Survey uses several different response scales. Table H-1 displays the different response scales and how the options are categorized for top box and proportional scoring.

Table H-1. Top Box and Proportional Score Crosswalk to CAHPS Response Scales					
Response Scale	Lower Proportion	Middle Proportion	Top Box Score		
Dichotomous Yes/No	No		Yes		
4-point response scale	Never, Sometimes	Usually	Always		
Global ratings	0-6	7-8	9-10		

Note: The top box and proportional scoring results exclude missing in the calculation of percentages.

Calculating top box and other proportional scores for an individual survey item: Top box and other proportional scores are calculated by aggregating results across respondents for the health plan, sponsor or Database. For example, if 400 out of 1,000 total respondents answered "Always" to a particular item, the top box score for that item would be 40 percent [i.e., $(400 \div 1,000)*100 = 40\%$].

Calculating top box and other proportional scores for a composite measure: The scores for a composite measure are equal to the average or mean of the proportion of responses (excluding missing data) in each response category across the items in the composite. The following steps show how those proportions are calculated:

- Step 1 Calculate the proportion of responses in each proportional score category for **each question** in a composite measure.
- Step 2 –Calculate the average proportion responding to each category across the questions in the composite measure.

As shown in Table H-2, top box scores for composite measures are calculated by averaging the top box scores across the items within the composite measure. This methodology can be applied to any of the CAHPS composite measures. For example, the "Getting Needed Care" composite measure has two items. If the top box score for the first item is 68 percent and the second item is 72 percent, the composite measure score would be 70 percent (i.e., $[68 \text{ percent} + 72 \text{ percent}] \div 2 = 70 \text{ percent}$). The same method is used for the other proportional scores.

Table H-2. Sample Calculation of Top Box and Proportional Scores

Survey: CAHPS Health Plan Composite Measure: Getting Needed Care Composite

Items in Composite Measure	Response Scale	Lower Proportion (Never, Sometimes)	Middle Proportion (Usually)	Top Box Score (Always)
Got appointment for urgent care as soon as needed	Never, Sometimes, Usually, Always	12%	20%	68%
Got appointment for check-up or routine care as soon as needed		7%	21%	72%
Composite Measure Proportional Score		10% = (12% + 7%) / 2	21% = (20% + 21%) / 2	70% = (68% + 72%) / 2

As shown in this computation, each item is given equal weight when calculating the composite measure results. Computationally, this implies calculating the score of each item and then finding the average across the item scores to obtain the composite measure score. The items are weighted equally because there is no evidence to suggest that any item is more important than another.

Similar methods are used to calculate item top box and proportional scores at the health plan level and then used for percentiles.

Percentiles

Percentile scores are calculated at the health plan level and represent the percentage of health plans that scored at or below the top box score for a particular item or composite measure. For example, the 50th percentile, or the median, is the top box score at or below which 50 percent of all health plan top box scores fall. Percentiles range from 0 to 100.



Data Suppression Rules

There are circumstances under which certain item or composite measure scores or reporting categories are suppressed (i.e., 'NA' is displayed). There are also times when certain health plans are excluded from percentile calculations. These instances of data suppression and/or exclusion are due to one or more of the following factors:

- too few respondents responding to an item,
- a health plan having too few completed surveys, or
- too few health plans for a particular reporting category.

The rules for data suppression and exclusion are described below.

1. Item Suppression

If there are fewer than 20 valid responses available for any item, the item's results are suppressed.

2. Health Plan Suppression

If there are fewer than 20 completed surveys for a given health plan, the health plan is excluded from percentile calculations. The health plan's results are still included in overall Database results.

3. Reporting Category Suppression

When displaying scores by health plan characteristic (e.g., region), a particular characteristic's results are suppressed if there are fewer than 10 health plans for that category.