



The Hilltop Institute

UMB ICTR Enrichment Seminar: The Hilltop Institute March 24, 2026

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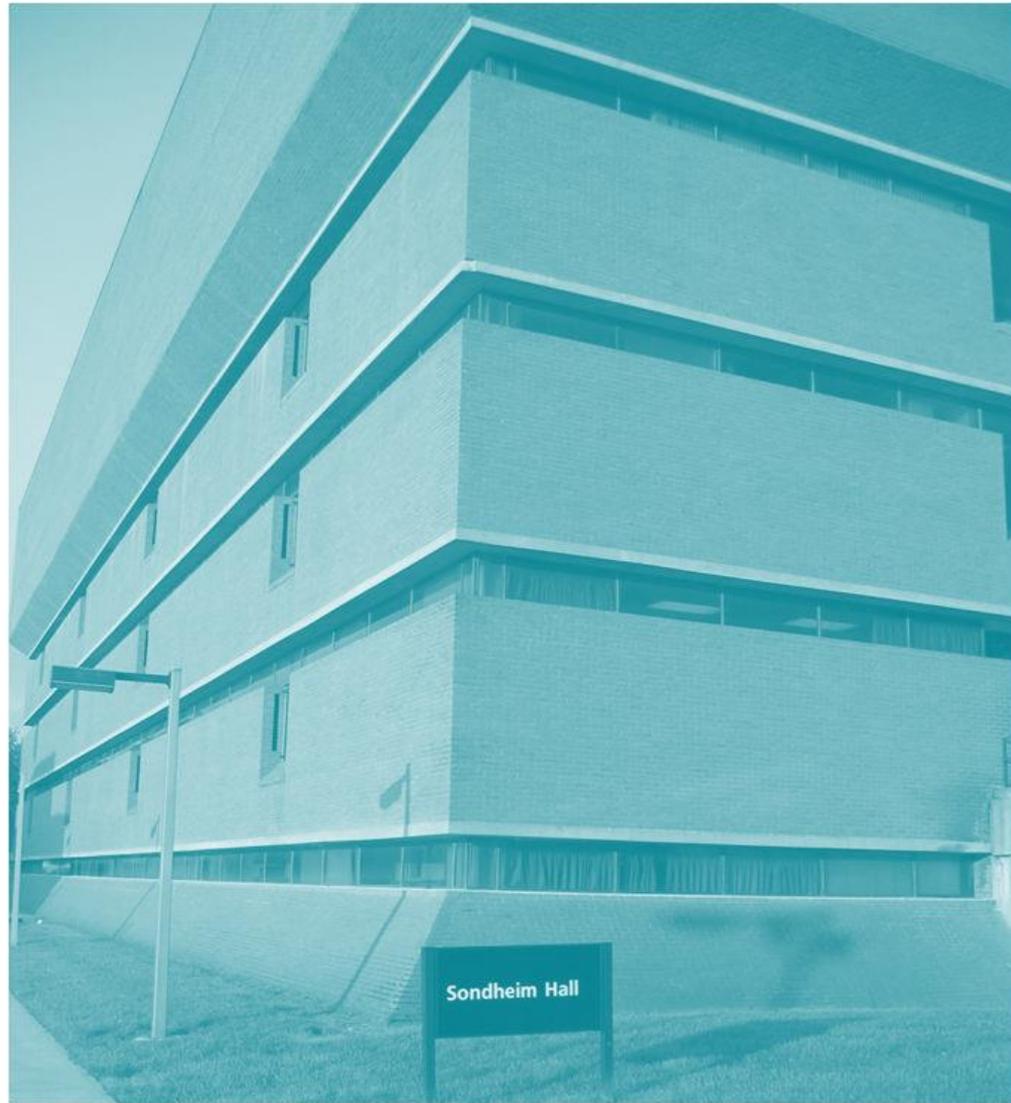


UMBC

Agenda

- ❑ Overview of Hilltop
- ❑ Partnership and Current Work with Maryland Department of Health
- ❑ Data Availability
- ❑ Questions and Discussion

Overview of Hilltop

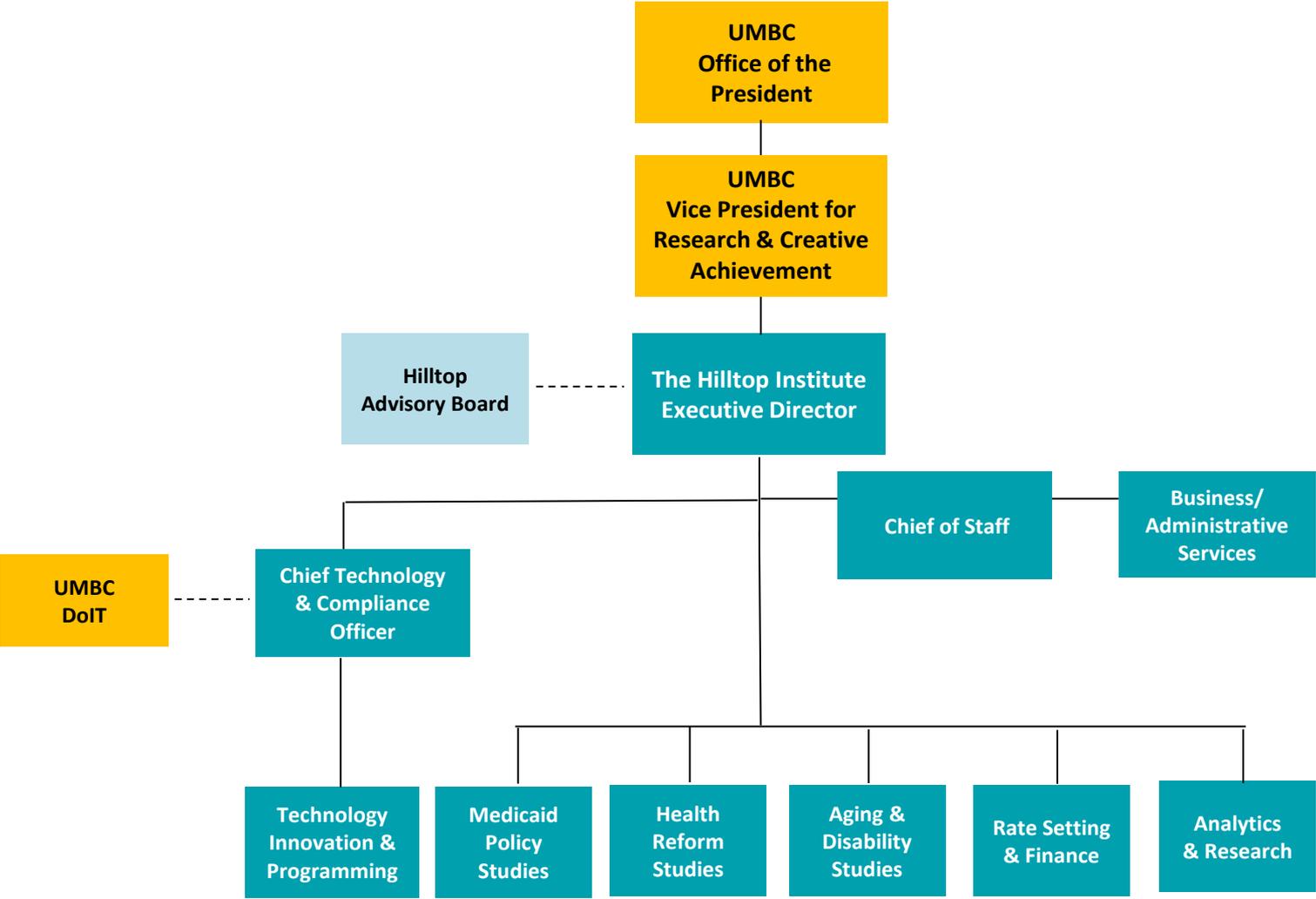


Who are we?

- One of the largest research centers on the UMBC campus
- About 70 staff—health services researchers, social scientists, public health professionals, economists, financial analysts, attorneys, SAS programmers
- Student engagement: a mix of experiential learning opportunities for UMBC students
- Guided by an external advisory board of nationally recognized experts



Hilltop Organizational Chart



The Hilltop Institute

- Mission

- The Hilltop Institute works to advance the health and wellbeing of people and communities through research and analysis.

- Vision

- The Hilltop Institute strives to be a pre-eminent resource for federal, state, and local policymakers and to contribute to the broad understanding of how better to serve people and communities.

*Long-standing partnership with the
Maryland Department of Health (MDH)*

Hilltop's Core Competencies and Focus Areas

Hilltop's Core Competencies

Data Repository

Sophisticated Analytics

Knowledge of State Health Policy

University Resources and Reputation

Exemplary State-Public University Partnership



Research and Engaged Scholarship



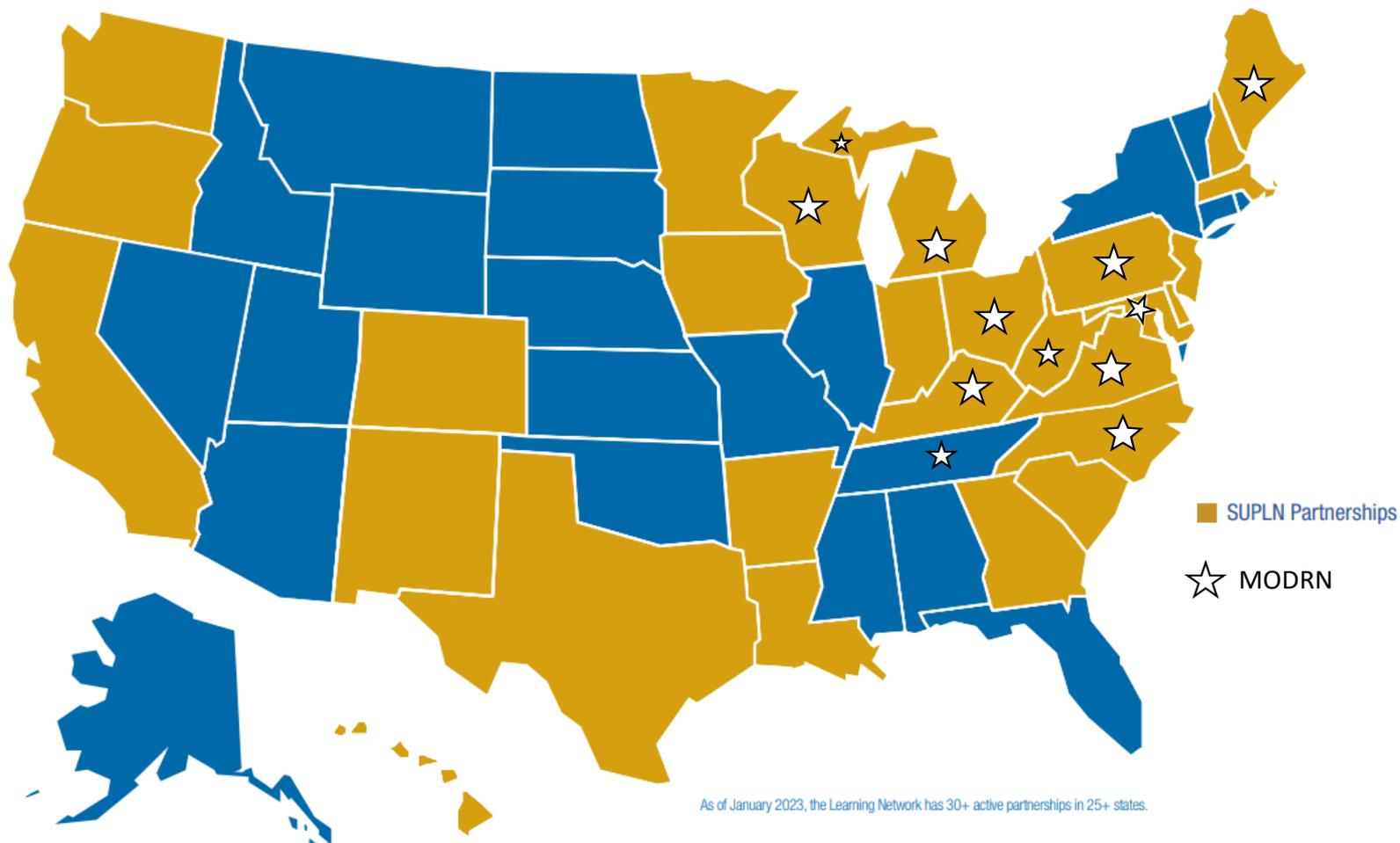
Service to the State of Maryland



Student Engagement/ Experiential Learning



State-University Partnership Learning Network (SUPLN)/ Medicaid Outcomes Distributed Research Network (MODRN)



Partnership with Maryland Medicaid



Hilltop and Medicaid: A 31-Year Partnership

- Hilltop has a unique partnership with the Maryland Medicaid program
- Work is policy- and data-driven, quick turn-around
 - Research and policy analysis
 - Analytics and predictive modeling
 - Rate setting; actuarial and financial analysis
 - Program development, monitoring, and evaluation
 - Stakeholder engagement
 - Decision support systems (DataPort, *LTSSMaryland*)
 - Extensive data warehouse (Medicaid, Medicare, hospital discharge, assessment, commercial data)
 - Ad hoc analytics and support

Hallmarks of the Medicaid/ Hilltop Partnership

- A partnership that builds on UMBC's mission of public service and shared MDH/Hilltop goals to improve the health and wellbeing of Marylanders
- A joint commitment to data-driven policy making
- Flexibility to respond to changing needs
- Continuity and cost-effectiveness

Other Maryland State Agencies

- Hilltop also works with other state agencies
 - Health Services Cost Review Commission
 - Maryland Health Benefit Exchange
 - Maryland Health Care Commission
 - Maryland Primary Care Program

Current State Health Priorities

- **Implement OBBBA:** Focus on protecting coverage for eligible Marylanders, consistent with federal requirements.
- **Execute and Plan for AHEAD:** Collaborate with state partners to execute the multi-agency AHEAD work plan.
- **Improve HCBS Waiver Eligibility Processes:** Improve systems, processes, and communications for waiver applications and redets.
- **Strengthen Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization:** Continue to improve Carelon payments and processes.
- **Drive HealthChoice Quality and Savings:** Work with HealthChoice MCOs to help control costs while continuing to advance quality.

Current Work for Maryland Medicaid



HealthChoice

- Rate Setting: Sets payment rates and provides financial analysis
- Provides ongoing program evaluation and data analysis
 - CMS Annual and Interim/Summative Evaluation of the HealthChoice program
 - Routine reporting, such as annual and quarterly reports
- Wrote the initial managed care waiver application and regulations for HealthChoice
 - Assist in drafting regulations or providing legal analysis
- Perform special studies and legislatively mandated reports
- Support for the AHEAD model
- Ad hoc reporting as requested
 - Warehouse MMIS data: Allows for flexibility to support evolving state needs

Behavioral Health

- Medicaid Behavioral Health System: Administrative Service Organization (ASO) transition and data exchanges
 - Provide a copy of MMIS data to ASO
 - Receive Health Home Program data from ASO
 - Receive release of information data from ASO
- Overdose data
- Collaborative Care Model
- Maternal Opioid Misuse (MOM) Program
- IMD 1115 SUD Waiver
 - SUD and SMI Monitoring Protocol
 - Provider capacity analysis

Long-Term Services and Supports

- Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waivers: Program Development, Analysis, and Reporting
- Nursing Home Pay-for-Performance
- PACE Expansion
- D-SNP Coordination
- LTSS Reform

Developmental Disabilities Administration

- Data analytics to support program development, monitoring, and sustainability
- Rate review and development for waiver programs
 - General Ledger Data Collection and Reporting
 - Support for the Rate Review Advisory Group (RRAG) stakeholder meetings

Public Health Analytics

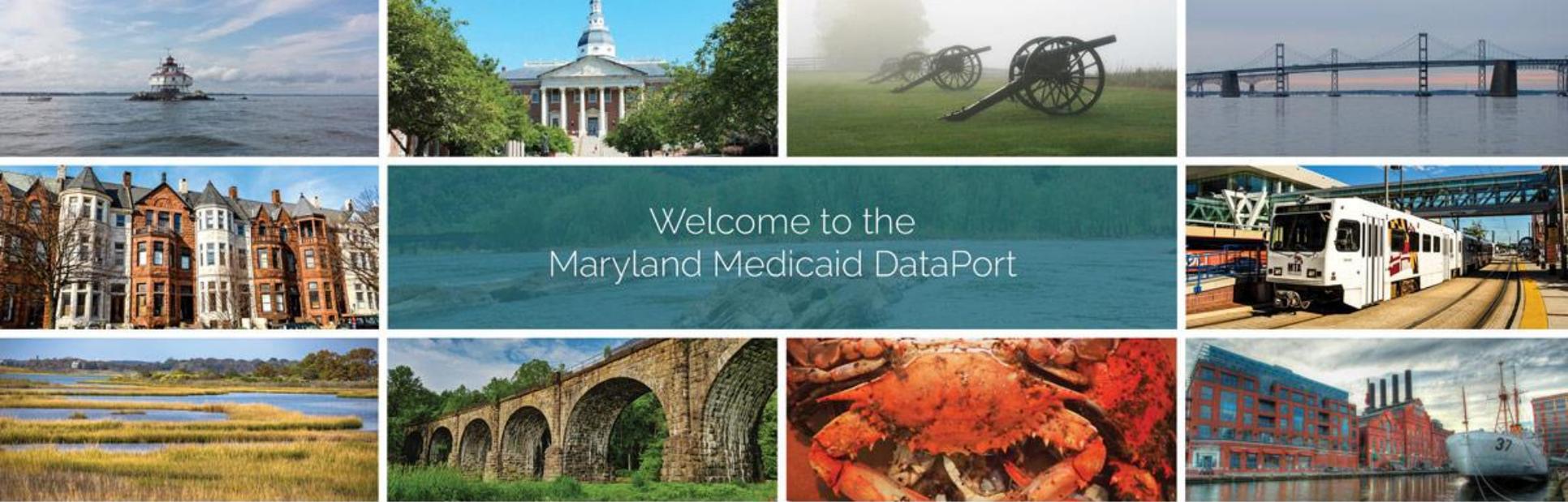
- Analytics for Surveillance and Screening Programs (HIV, Hepatitis C, Syphilis)
- Dental Services
- School-Based Health Centers
- Immunization Records

Cyber Security

- Trusted Data Partner of the Department (Since 2023)
- HITRUST i1 Certified
- Cyber Sec accomplished through partnership with UMBC's Division of IT (DoIT) and Hilltop's DevSecOps group
 - Primarily on-premise infrastructure, with a HIPAA secure AWS environment
 - Mitigations in place for ransomware attacks
 - Appliances (firewall, intrusion detection, vmware, etc.) are configured for HIPAA
 - Applications (Microsoft Word, Excel) are operated under BAAs with Microsoft, Cisco, etc.
- Data organization is tightly coupled with DUAs and legal compliance:
 - Separation/isolation of data
 - Adherence to Maryland and University System IT policies

The DataPort

- Data Sources
 - MMIS
 - *LTSSMaryland*
- Modules
 - Eligibility
 - Capitation
 - Service Utilization
 - LTSS
 - Cost Reporting
 - CCW Conditions
 - Redeterminations
 - Calendar Year Research



Welcome to the Maryland Medicaid DataPort

Through our interactive DataPort, you can configure custom reports on Medicaid enrollment, long-term services and supports (LTSS) enrollment, LTSS services, Community First Choice (CFC) services, and nursing facilities, by coverage category, fiscal or calendar year, county or region of residence, and participant demographics. The DataPort can also generate custom reports on health plans participating in HealthChoice—Maryland’s Medicaid managed care program. The DataPort contains data going back several years, which is updated monthly from Maryland Medicaid MMIS2.

Maryland Medicaid DataPort

Medicaid Enrollment

LTSS Enrollment

LTSS Services

CFC Services

Nursing Facilities

Resources ⓘ

Annual | Monthly

Display Options:

Enrolled Population: Medical Assistance - Med...
 Year Type: Calendar Year
 Year(s): (Multiple values)
 Report Type: Region
 Age Group: All Ages

Medical Assistance - Medicaid+CHIP by Region, Age: All Ages.

Data are as of the end of October 2023

	CY 2014	CY 2015	CY 2016	CY 2017	CY 2018	CY 2019	CY 2020	CY 2021	CY 2022
Baltimore City	293,584	294,141	280,514	286,877	286,556	282,700	281,849	294,186	306,863
Baltimore Suburban	428,579	451,018	451,247	471,898	481,784	480,422	488,955	520,025	551,146
Eastern Shore	139,665	143,849	142,762	148,262	150,342	148,004	147,483	155,956	164,747
Out of State	3,288	3,240	3,146	3,174	2,902	2,548	2,221	2,145	2,144
Southern Maryland	75,005	78,412	77,153	80,270	81,594	81,131	82,045	87,202	92,148
Washington Suburban	444,583	472,631	453,706	473,888	481,317	477,920	490,268	529,573	567,430
Western Maryland	122,860	127,655	127,962	134,292	137,207	136,690	137,626	145,350	153,384
Total	1,507,564	1,570,946	1,536,490	1,598,661	1,621,702	1,609,415	1,630,447	1,734,437	1,837,862

Source: The Maryland Medicaid DataPort, The Hilltop Institute at UMBC

Note: In annual reporting, each person is counted only once with their most recent data (e.g. County, Region, MCO) and only includes complete years. Each person's age is calculated as of the last month they were enrolled during the year.

Source: The Hilltop Institute. <https://www.hilltopinstitute.org/data/dataport/>

Data Sharing on Behalf of the Department of Health

- Data for external researchers
- Data for sister agencies and federal programs
- More than 75 active data use agreements

Data Requests

- Researchers request Medicaid data through MDH's website
- Hilltop will work with the researcher on the following items:
 - Scope of work
 - Draft budget: based on staff effort
- The researcher works with MDH team on the DUA and IRB submission
- The researcher finalizes a service agreement (commitment to pay Hilltop for the services)
- Once the above process is complete, Hilltop fulfills the data request

Data Requests: Scope of Work

- The scope of work includes the details of the request, such as the study population, timeframe, and data elements.
- Hilltop assists researchers in developing the scope of work and data use agreement in collaboration with MDH.
- Hilltop will provide:
 - Instructions for drafting a scope of work
 - An example of a scope of work
 - A Medicaid data dictionary
 - An example of commonly requested variables (since the entire data dictionary can be overwhelming)

Data Requests: Useful Links

- How to request Maryland Medicaid Data: <https://hilltopinstitute.org/data/>
- MDH Data request form: <https://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/datarequests/Pages/default.aspx>
- Maryland Department of Health IRB: <https://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/datarequests/Pages/Frequently-Asked-Questions-Step-3.aspx>
- Other Hilltop data and publications: <https://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/datarequests/pages/default.aspx>

T-MSIS

- What T-MSIS enables
 - CMS's national Medicaid and CHIP data set standardizes eligibility, enrollment, claims, managed care, and provider data across states, enabling rigorous multi-state and longitudinal research using T-MSIS Analytic Files (TAF).
- How researchers are using it
 - T-MSIS supports studies of Medicaid eligibility policy, service utilization, spending patterns, and health outcomes, including cross-state comparisons and linkages to other federal data sources.
- Recent federal data release (currently unavailable)
 - In February 2026, HHS released a public, aggregated Medicaid Provider Spending data set derived from T-MSIS; the data set is temporarily unavailable while HHS makes improvements.
- Hilltop's role and plans
 - Hilltop is using T-MSIS to validate Maryland Medicaid data, support multi-state policy research, and develop tools and mappings that lower barriers for researchers working with complex Medicaid administrative data.

Maryland's All-Payer Claims Database

- Also known as the Medical Care Database (MCDB)
- Maintained by the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC)
- Contains private health plan claims for fully-insured (non-ERISA) plans and state employees
- Data release process, data dictionaries, and fee schedules available [here](#)

About Hilltop

The Hilltop Institute is a nonpartisan research organization at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of people and communities. We conduct cutting-edge data analytics and translational research on behalf of government agencies, foundations, and nonprofit organizations to inform public policy at the national, state, and local levels.

www.hilltopinstitute.org

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Questions & Discussion

