FACES OF MEDICAID: CHILDREN RECEIVING PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATIONS

Between 2005 and 2011, the number of **children covered by Medicaid increased by nearly 11%** to 32 million

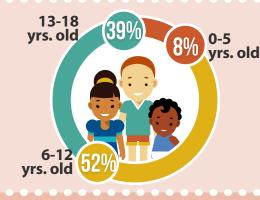


During the same period, children on Medicaid getting **psychotropic medications increased by 28%**



Over 2.1 million children in Medicaid received psychotropic medications in 2011. Prescribing rates were distributed, by age, as follows:

Of the over 2.1 million children receiving these medications, **nearly** half (47%) did not receive accompanying behavioral services



Prescribing for children ages 0-5 increased by 130% from 2005 to 2011 — increasing from 77,812 to 178,599



And almost **one-third** (30%) are getting more than one of these medications — 47% for children in foster care



Psychotropic medication expenditures increased by 70% for children in Medicaid between 2005 and 2011



That is an **increase of over \$1 billion** in expenditures — from \$1.6 billion to \$2.7 billion

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STATES TO IMPROVE QUALITY



Expand access to a comprehensive array of psycho-social interventions

CHCS Center for Health Care Strategies, Inc. www.chcs.org/childrens-faces-of-medicaid/

Rx

Implement clinically informed oversight and monitoring for assessing the appropriateness of care



Establish data-sharing agreements across agencies to monitor medication use

SOURCE: Pires, S., McLean, J., and Allen, K., (2018). *Faces of Medicaid Data Series: Examining Children's Behavioral Health Service Use and Expenditures, 2005-2011.* Center for Health Care Strategies: Hamilton, NJ.

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