Of the 32 million children covered by Medicaid, about 1-in-10 use behavioral health care services. … and those children account for over 1/3 of all costs for children in Medicaid — totaling over $30.2 billion.

These children have mean expenditures 4x higher than children in Medicaid who only use physical health care.

Children covered by foster care and SSI/disability account for:
- Over 1/4 of behavioral health service use among children in Medicaid
- Half of total behavioral health care costs for children in Medicaid
- Only a small portion of children covered by Medicaid

Opportunities for states to improve quality:
- Expand access to evidence-based therapeutic interventions
- Invest in care coordination models that use a wraparound approach to facilitate service delivery
- Ensure collaboration across child-serving systems to improve care coordination and oversight

Sources: