FACES OF MEDICAID:
CHILDREN’S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE UTILIZATION & EXPENDITURES

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

Children using only physical health services: $2,492
Children using both physical and behavioral health services: $10,259

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