

QUALITY OF WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE

Health care quality indicators can provide important information about the effectiveness, safety, timeliness, patient-centeredness, and efficiency of health services.¹⁹ Some common indicators used to monitor women's health care in managed care plans include screening for chlamydia and cervical cancer, and the receipt of timely prenatal and postpartum care.²⁰

In 2009, women aged 21–24 years enrolled in Medicaid were more likely than those enrolled in commercial plans to have had a chlamydia screening (61.6 versus 45.4 percent, respectively). Since 2001, the percentage of sexually active females screened for chlamydia has increased by

120 percent among those in commercial plans and 50 percent among Medicaid participants (data not shown).

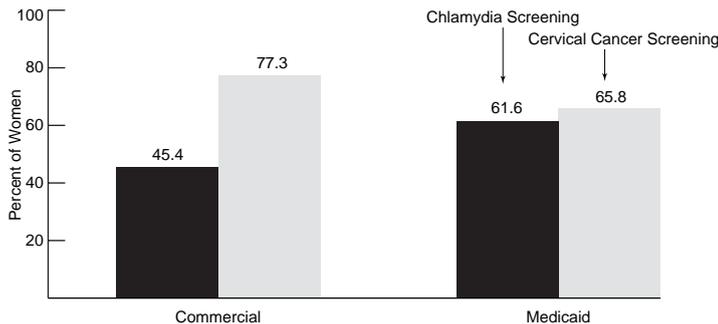
By contrast, cervical cancer screenings appear to be more accessible to women with commercial coverage than to those covered by Medicaid. Among women aged 21–64 years, cervical cancer screenings were received at least once during the previous 3 years by 77.3 percent of commercially-insured women and 65.8 percent of those covered by Medicaid.

In 2009, women with commercial insurance coverage were also more likely than those with Medicaid to have received timely prenatal and postpartum care. More than 93 percent of commercially-insured women received prenatal

care in either their first trimester or within 42 days of enrollment, compared to 83.4 percent of those covered by Medicaid. Similarly, 83.6 percent of women with commercial coverage had a postpartum visit between 21 and 56 days after delivery, compared to 64.1 percent of women participating in Medicaid. Although Medicaid-insured women are less likely to have received timely prenatal and postpartum care than commercially-insured women, they have made greater improvements since 2001. For example, the proportion of women receiving timely postpartum care increased 20.9 percent among Medicaid participants, compared to 8.6 percent among commercially-insured postpartum women.

HEDIS®* Screening for Chlamydia** and Cervical Cancer,† by Payer, 2009

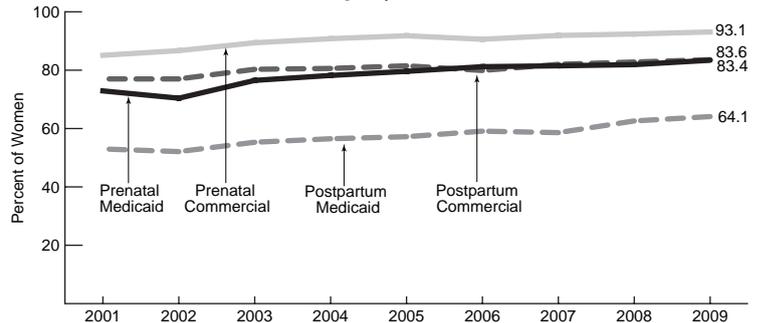
Source III.8: National Committee for Quality Assurance



*Health Plan Employer Data and Information Set is a registered trademark of NCQA. **The percentage of sexually active women aged 21–24 years who had at least one test for Chlamydia in the past year. †The percentage of women aged 21–64 years who had at least one Pap test in the past 3 years.

HEDIS®* Timeliness of Prenatal** and Postpartum Care,† by Payer, 2001–2009

Source III.8: National Committee for Quality Assurance



*Health Plan Employer Data and Information Set is a registered trademark of NCQA. **The percentage of pregnant women who received a prenatal care visit in either the first trimester or within 42 days of enrollment. †The percentage of women who had a postpartum visit on or between 21 and 56 days after delivery.