Total Annual Medicaid Cost and Monthly Enrollment in Montana

*Enrollment data is not final. In order to present the data consistently the numbers have not been adjusted.

The above chart represents the total annual Medicaid Cost and monthly enrollment for Medicaid in Montana by fiscal year (FY). The Department of Public Health and Human Services provided this data in their report to the 2015 legislature, which can be found here.

In fiscal year 2013, Montana's Medicaid total cost exceeded $1.0 billion. There is an evident correlation between enrolled participants and total cost of Medicaid, but enrollment is not the only factor that drives Medicaid costs. There may also be changes to reimbursement rates for providers, pharmacy costs, and service utilization trends, and even changes in the proportion of enrollees in each eligibility category, some of which have generally higher costs than others.

Compared to 2006, the 2015 cost estimate is a 57.1% increase, averaging 5.2% growth each year. Enrollment reflects a 57.9% increase over the same time period, averaging 4.8% growth each year. From 2006 to 2014 (the most recent year for which U.S. census data is available), the total population of Montana grew 7.5%, (from 952,692 to 1,024,000) averaging 0.9% growth each year.

Increased enrollment from 2009 to 2011 can be explained in part by the Great Recession, as well as the implementation of the Healthy Montana Kids program enacted by citizen initiative.

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