

Hilary S. response to questions regarding source of Smoking Information provided to the MaineCare Redesign Task Force on September 25, 2012

Hi Nick.

At the MaineCare Redesign Task Force meeting this week, there was a question about the source for my information about smoking rates of MaineCare members compared to the Maine adult smoking rate and the national rate. I believe it was Jim Clair who asked the question. Could you please share the following information with members of the MaineCare Redesign Task Force?

- Approximately 41% of individuals enrolled in MaineCare smoke (source: BRFSS, 2008. BRFSS is the CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. For more information, see: <http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/>)
- This is compared to a smoking rate of 17% for adults in Maine (source: BRFSS, 2009)
- and 37% for Medicaid enrollees nationally (source: Pleis JR, Lucas JW, Ward BW. Summary health statistics for U.S. adults: National Health Interview Survey, 2008. Vital Health Stat 2009;10(242):1--157. As cited in: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5941a4.htm>)
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I pulled these statistics from testimony that I delivered to the Legislature last session and at the time, they were the most recently available data. After I presented this information to the Task Force this week, I realized there is newer data that has recently become available. While the statistics are slightly different with the updated data, the overall trends are the same.

Here is the updated data:

- Approximately 40% of MaineCare members reported being smokers (source: BRFSS 2010, Part B analysis provided by Maine CDC).
- 18.2% of all adults in Maine report being smokers (source: BRFSS 2010)
- Nationally, 31 percent of adults under the age of 65 with Medicaid coverage smoke (source: Summary of Health Statistics for US Adults: National Health Interview Survey, 2010, http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_10/sr10_249.pdf.)
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Please let me know if you have any additional questions or need further information.

Best,
Hilary