HCBS Waiver Wait Lists: National Estimates 2012

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Pamela Doty presenting on his behalf HCBS Waiver Conference, Arlington VA September 10, 2013
There were an estimated 523,710 individuals on HCBS waiver waiting lists in 2012.

The ratio of wait listed individuals to waiver slots was .34

The average wait time across all waivers was 27 months.

Almost three quarters (72%) prioritize those on the list; two thirds screen for Medicaid eligibility and 91% offer non waiver services.

Only a handful of states reported no waiting lists -- D.C., DE, HI, ID, KY, MA, ND, NH, and OR. NY, reported “unknown” for children, but otherwise no waiting lists.
Individuals on IDD HCBS waiver waiting lists represent 58 percent of the total on all waiver waiting lists.

The ratio of individuals on IDD waiver waiting lists (303,909) to total IDD waiver slots (618,872) is .49.

The average wait time is 47 months.

Two thirds of IDD waiver wait lists screen those waiting for Medicaid eligibility.

Almost three quarters (74%) prioritize those on waiting lists.

The great majority (94%) provide non-waiver services.
Waiting Lists for HCBS Waivers Targeted to Children

- Waivers for children (25) are most likely to have waiting lists.
- The total number of children on waiting lists for these waivers was 40,712 compared to total slots of 45,689 – a ratio of .89.
- The average waiting time was 21 months.
- Two thirds of those on wait lists for children’s waivers are in Texas. Most of the remainder are in Louisiana (5,339), Maryland (3,376), WI (1,938), Colorado (1,075), and Iowa (1,061).
- 80% screened for Medicaid eligibility.
- Only 52% prioritized; 72% offered non-waiver services.
Elderly Only Waiver Waiting lists

- Twenty one states have “elderly only” waivers, of which five have wait listed a total of 35,463 individuals relative to 162,177 slots (ratio = .22).
- Most of the wait listed individuals for elderly-only waivers were in Maryland (18,369), Florida (8,505), and PA (8,065).
- The average reported wait time was 13 months.
- All prioritized individuals on the waiting list.
- Eighty percent screened for Medicaid eligibility.
- All provided non-waiver services to those on the waiting list.
Physically Disabled Adult Waivers

- Twenty-four states have waivers targeted exclusively to adults under age 65 with physical disabilities. 12 have waiting lists.
- Individuals on physical disabilities waiver waiting lists totaled 11,360 relative to 85,236 slots (ratio = .13).
- Iowa, Kansas, Mississippi, Minnesota, and Maryland accounted for 89 percent of those wait listed for physically disabled only waivers.
- Two thirds (67%) screen for Medicaid eligibility.
- However, only 58% prioritize those waiting.
- All provide non-waiver services.
Aged/Disabled Waiver Waiting Lists

- Thirty-seven states serve the elderly and younger adults with physical disabilities in the same waivers (a total of 62 waivers).
- Twenty-six of these waivers have waiting lists.
- These waiver waiting lists individuals totaling 129,758 relative to 586,844 slots (ratio = .22).
- The average waiting time was 10 months.
- 80% screen for Medicaid eligibility.
- 81% prioritize.
- 88% offer non-waiver services to those waiting.
Other Waivers

- Other waivers include those targeted to persons with HIV/AIDS, Mental Illness, or Traumatic Brain Injury/Spinal Cord Injuries.
- HIV/AIDS and MI waivers have relatively few slots (16,006 and 2,221) respectively and very few wait listed individuals (87 and 15 respectively).
- TBI/SCI waivers had a total 19,488 slots in 21 waivers.
- 12 TBI/SCI waivers had waiting lists totaling 2,406 individual (ratio = .12)
- TBI/SCI waivers had a reported wait time of 17 months.
The Impacts of Waiting Periods for Home- and Community-Based Services on Consumers and Medicaid Costs in Iowa

September 11, 2013
National Home & Community Based Services Conference
Arlington, VA
Greg Peterson • Randy Brown • Allison Barrett
Most states use Medicaid 1915(c) waivers to provide home- and community-based services (HCBS)

Waiting periods are common

Research questions: do long wait times

- Increase the risk of entering a nursing home?
- Affect hospitalization rates?
- Affect total spending on long-term care?
Population and Data

- Population: adults age 18–64 who applied for three waivers in 2002–2007 (n = 5,254)
  - Health and disability (H&D)
  - Physical disability (PD)
  - Brain injury (BI)

- Data sources
  - Iowa Medicaid: who applied, when, wait time
  - Medicare/Medicaid claims in 2002–2010
Variation in wait times from 2002 to 2007

Applicants grouped by median wait time for application cohort

Compared outcomes up to three years after application, by group
Study Variables

- **Outcomes**
  - Long-term stays (> 90 days) in nursing homes
  - Hospitalizations (any, potentially preventable)
  - Medicaid spending on long-term care (nursing home, community)

- **Control variables**
  - Demographics
  - Medical conditions
  - Application year
Waiver Eligibility Criteria

- All three waivers: institutional level of care, Medicaid eligible, younger than 65
- PD: physical impairment, ineligible for intellectual disability waiver, older than 18
- H&D: income under 300 percent of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and over 100 percent of SSI (if older than 25)
- BI: qualifying brain injury
Wait Lists and Alternative Services

- **Wait lists**
  - Administered centrally
  - First come, first served
  - No formal screening to join wait list

- **Some support available while on wait list, if person qualifies**
  - Home health aide through state plan
  - In-home health-related care services
Nursing Home Entry

Percentage who entered a nursing home within three years of application

Wait time > six months
Wait time < six months

* BI applicants over age 40, H&D and PD applicants over age 55
## Nursing Home Entry: Regression-Adjusted

### Percentage Entering a Nursing Home Within Three Years of Application

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicants</th>
<th>&gt; Six-Month Wait</th>
<th>&lt; Six-Month Wait</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>10.1 (n = 4,513)</td>
<td>7.6 (n = 741)</td>
<td>-2.5* (-25%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher-risk</td>
<td>13.9 (n = 1,876)</td>
<td>7.2 (n = 308)</td>
<td>-6.7*** (-48%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower-risk</td>
<td>7.4 (n = 2,637)</td>
<td>7.6 (n = 433)</td>
<td>0.2 (+3%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p < .10, **p < .05, *** p < .01
## Hospitalizations

### Mean Hospitalization Rate in the Three Years After Application (\# of stays/person/year)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicants</th>
<th>&gt; Six-Month Wait</th>
<th>&lt; Six-Month Wait</th>
<th>Difference&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any Stay</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>0.93</td>
<td>0.91</td>
<td>-0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher-risk</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower-risk</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>-0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potentially Preventable Stays</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>0.28</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>-0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher-risk</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>-0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower-risk</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>-0.05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>a</sup>None of the differences are statistically significant
### Medicaid Long-Term Care Expenditures

#### Difference in Mean Medicaid Expenditures for Applicants with a Wait Less Than Six Months vs. More Than Six Months ($/person/month)\(^a\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Long-Term Care Cost Category</th>
<th>All Applicants</th>
<th>Higher-Risk Applicants</th>
<th>Lower-Risk Applicants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>70***</td>
<td>91***</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional</td>
<td>-56*</td>
<td>-111***</td>
<td>-29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>-20</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^a\)Over three years after waiver application

\(* p < .10, ** p < .05, *** p < .01\)
For PD and H&D waivers, short wait times decreased nursing home entry for *higher-risk* applicants
- Similar to results for all waivers combined

For BI waiver, short wait times decreased nursing home entry for *both* lower- and higher-risk applicants
- May be due to more HCBS needed (waiver expenditures three times larger for BI than for other waivers)
Summary

- Short wait times
  - Decreased nursing home entry
  - Did not affect hospitalizations

- Across all three waivers, large effects for higher-risk applicants
  - Lower institutional costs fully offset higher HCBS costs over three years

- For BI applicants, effects for both higher- and lower-risk applicants
Policy Implications

- Results support the value of prioritizing waiting lists based on
  - Risk of nursing home entry
  - Amount of HCBS needed

- 2 out of 3 waivers programs nationally use some form of prioritization, but scope varies widely
Acknowledgments

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- **Mathematica**: Beny Wu, Joe Mastrianni, Christal Valenzano, Bart Baker, Mark Flick, and Shinu Verghese
For More Information

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Supplemental Slide
Frequently Used Waiver Services

Percentage of Waiver Enrollees Who Ever Used a Service, by Type of Service

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Waiver Service</th>
<th>BI Waiver</th>
<th>H&amp;D Waiver</th>
<th>PD Waiver</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consumer-directed attendant care</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supported community living</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case management</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals and nutrition counseling</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal emergency response</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home and vehicle modifications</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A dash (--) indicates a service not included as a benefit under the waiver program.