



Arkansas Health Care Independence Program

State Legislative Quarterly Report
October 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014



I. Program Enrollment

Enrollment in the **Arkansas Health Care Independence Program** continued to be strong state-wide during the last quarter of 2014. As of December 31, 2014 a total of 230,367 Arkansans had applied and been determined eligible. People in all 75 counties have been approved

Pulaski County led the state with 31,127 sign-ups followed by:

- Washington County — 11,656
- Benton County — 10,366
- Garland County —9,071
- Sebastian County — 8,474
- Craighead County — 7,948
- Faulkner County — 7,431
- Jefferson County —7,577
- Crittenden — 4,895
- White County — 6,116

A. Medically Frail Determinations

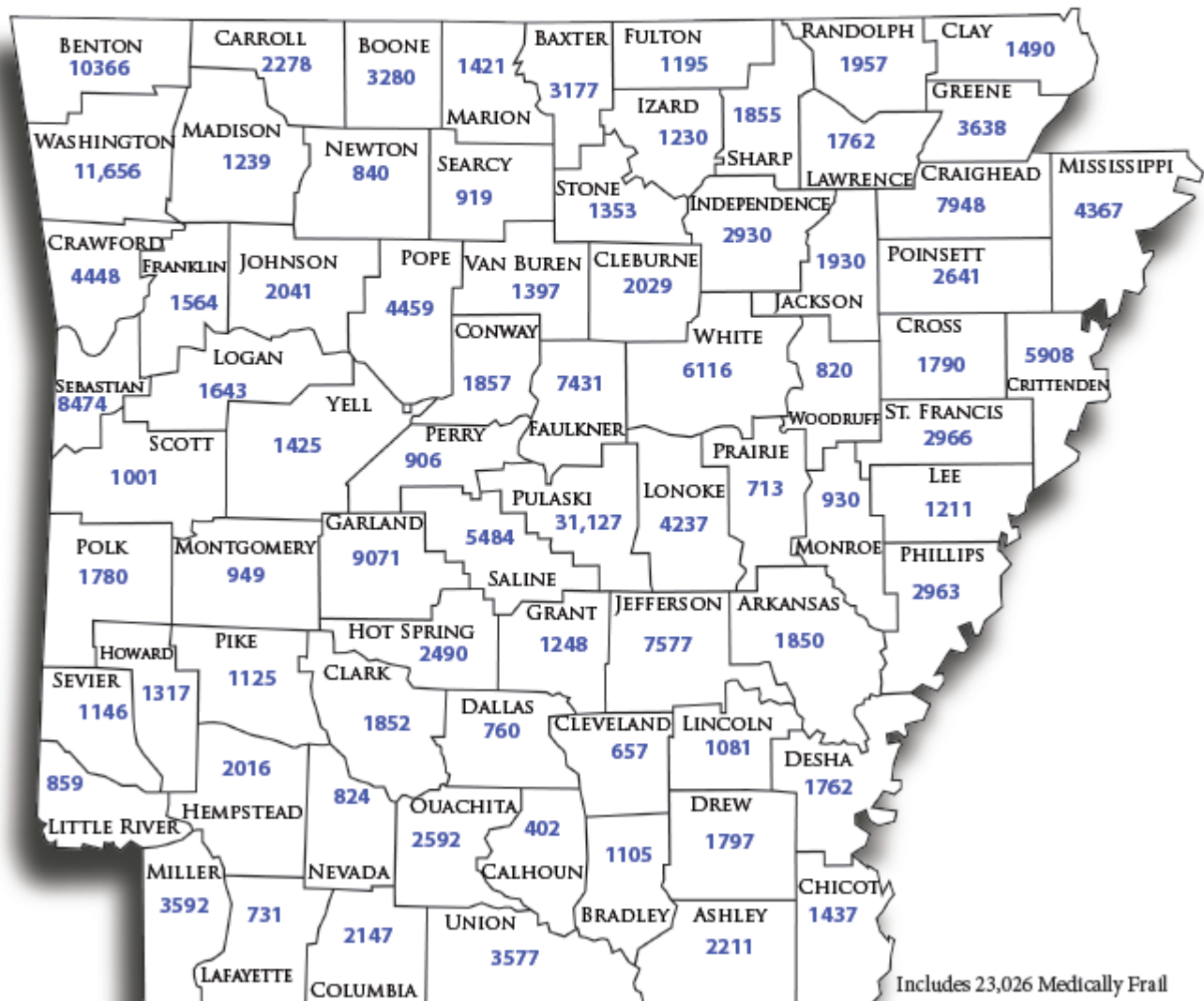
Through December 2014	Medically Frail Determinations (Average %)	ABP-State Plan	ABP-FFS equivalent of QHP
	23,026 (10%)	20,192	2,834

Health Care Independence Program

As of December 30, 2014

230,367 Eligibility Approvals

209,795 Enrollment Complete



II. Patient Experience

Patient experience will be analyzed as part of the evaluation of the program's Demonstration Waiver. Specifically, the evaluation will determine whether, compared to care patients would have gotten in the traditional Medicaid program over time, the Health Care Independence program provides patients:

- Equal or better access to health care
- Equal or better health care and outcomes
- Better continuity of care

Evaluation data on patient experience in the Health Care Independence Program is not yet available, but will be included in this report as it becomes available.

Patient satisfaction data will be collected using the Consumer Assessment of Health Plan Survey (CAHPS) beginning in 2015. CAHPS survey ask consumers and patients to report on their experiences with health care and cover important topics including quality of care, access to care, and experience with care.

III. Economic impact including enrollment distribution

Data on the economic impact of the Health Care Independence Program is not yet available. As information on the economic impact of the program (including the impact of premium tax revenue, increased income and sales tax revenue, and data on offset savings) becomes available, it will be included in this report.

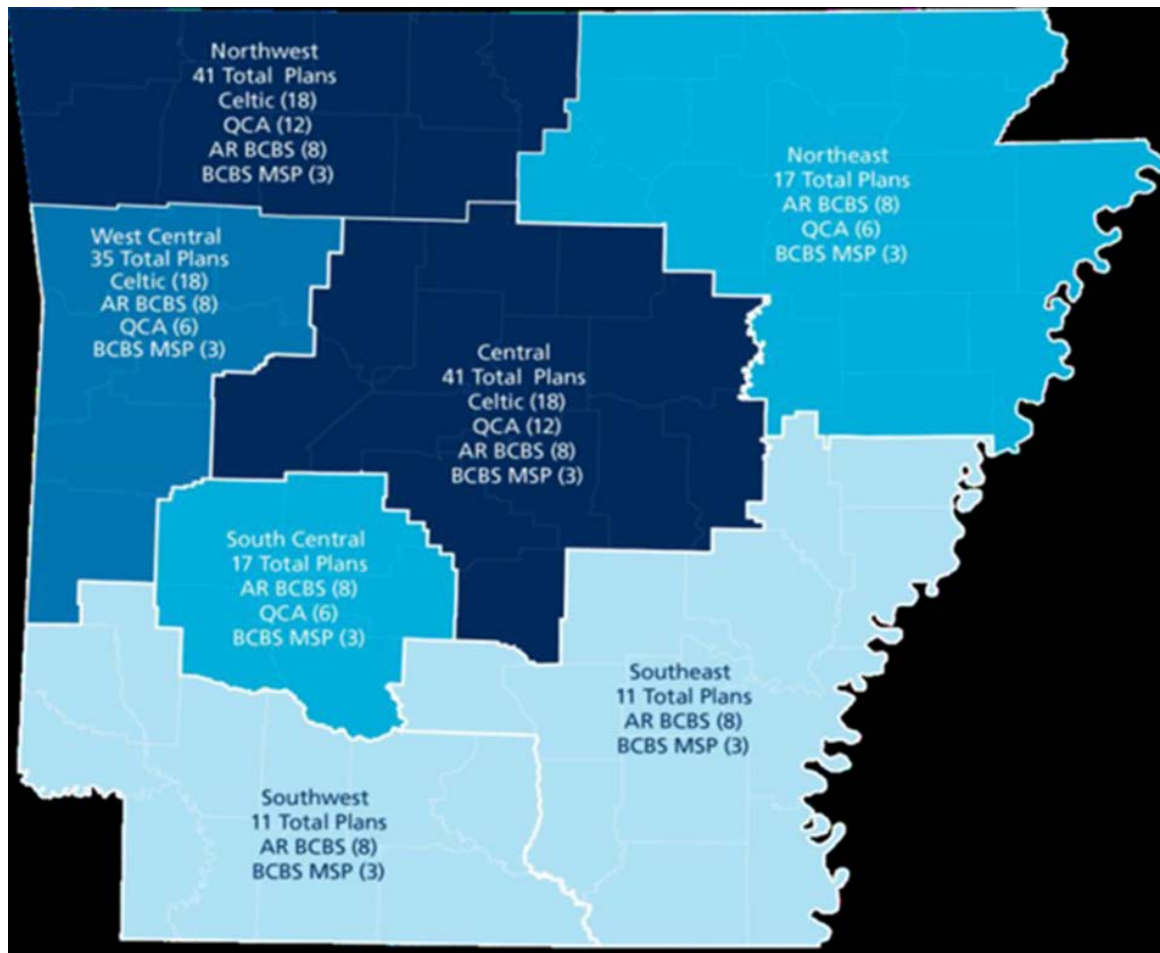
IV. Carrier competition

For Plan Year 2014, the Arkansas Marketplace has four issuers offering 71 Qualified Health Plans (QHPs) and four issuers offering 24 Stand Alone Dental Plans. These plans are offered through seven rating areas and premium rates change per rating area.

The four issuers are:

- Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield
- Celtic doing business as Arkansas Health and Wellness Solution (Ambetter)
- QualChoice of Arkansas
- Blue Cross Blue Shield Multi-State Plan.

Carrier competition has increased with the Private Option. Ambetter and the BCBS Multi-State plan were new entrants for Plan Year 2014. June 15, 2014 was the deadline for carriers to submit plans for approval as QHPs to be offered on the Marketplace in Plan Year 2015. All carriers were required to submit at least one EHB-only Silver Level plan to be offered on the Marketplace; these would be the plans available for consumers under the Private Option Program. All carriers offering Marketplace plans in 2014 have applied for QHP re-certification for 2015. Additionally, a new entrant has applied to offer Marketplace QHPs in 2015. All QHP applicants for 2015 have applied to provide statewide coverage.



V. Uncompensated Care

One goal of the Health Care Independence Program is to reduce uncompensated care provided by Arkansas's hospitals and to reduce the amount of uninsured care provided in emergency departments.

In the first quarter of 2014, a survey was conducted by the Arkansas Hospital Association, AHA, to measure the amount of uncompensated care in hospitals throughout the State. Initial responses showed a decrease in uncompensated care, compared to the first quarter of 2013.

In October of 2014, this survey was updated. The survey results demonstrated that Arkansas's hospitals experienced a 56.4% decrease in uncompensated care losses in the first half of 2014. This decrease resulted in a benefit of \$69.2 million during this six month time period. The number of Arkansans hospitalized without insurance during this timeframe fell by 46.5% when compared with the same time period in 2013. Additional information available at: <http://www.achi.net/Pages/News/Article.aspx?ID=56>.