State Health Plan Data (SHP)

The State Health Plan Data is part of the Carolina Cost and Quality Initiative (CCQI)

The *Carolina Cost and Quality Initiative* is a collaborative partnership between UNC's School of Public Health and the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research to build, maintain and oversee the use of data for research. Periodic updates from the payers keep the research database current and relevant.

The mission of the *Carolina Cost and Quality Initiative* is to promote population based research on the incidence and prevalence of disease in insured populations, patterns of utilization, treatment and cost of care in North Carolina with an objective to improve the delivery and quality of care to its residents.

Database Description

Claims data from BCBSNC for the State Health Plan. Data includes inpatient, outpatient, professional, member, and pharmacy data.

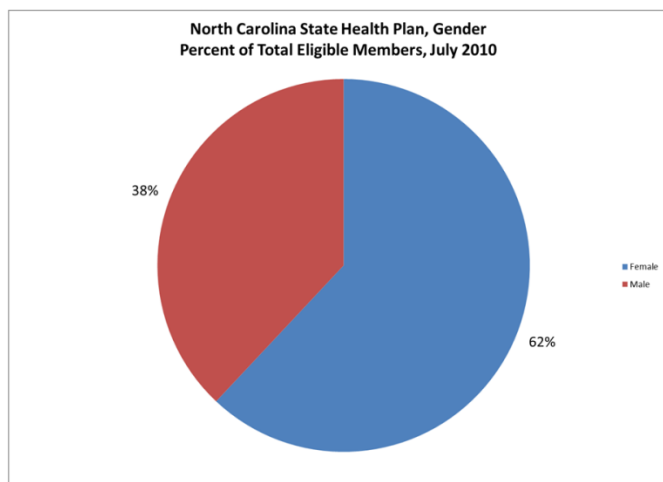Data currently available: January 1, 2001 - December 31, 2012

-Claims through December 2011 are final adjudicated claims
-Claims from January-December 2012 are provisional claims
-Claims are included based on date of admission or date of service

Data Dictionary

State Health Plan Data Dictionary 06_13_2012

Descriptive Statistics

NC State Health Plan, Utilization, July 2010	Average Number of Members	Number of Admissions per 1000	Number of Inpatient Days per 1000	Number of office visits per person
Active SHP employees	479,167	54.6	221.4	7.1
Retired, Non-Medicare	62,436	69.0	348.5	9.3
Retired, Medicare	112,682	195.5	980.7	12.3

**North Carolina State Health Plan, Gender
Percent of Total Eligible Members, July 2010**

38%

62%

- Female
- Male

NC State Health Plan, Gender, July 2010	Female	Male	Total
Active SHP employees	293,528	183,928	477,456
Retired, Non-Medicare	39,047	22,225	61,272
Retired, Medicare	74,222	38,215	112,437
Total	406,797	244,368	651,165

**North Carolina State Health Plan, Age Group
Number of Total Eligible Members, July 2010**
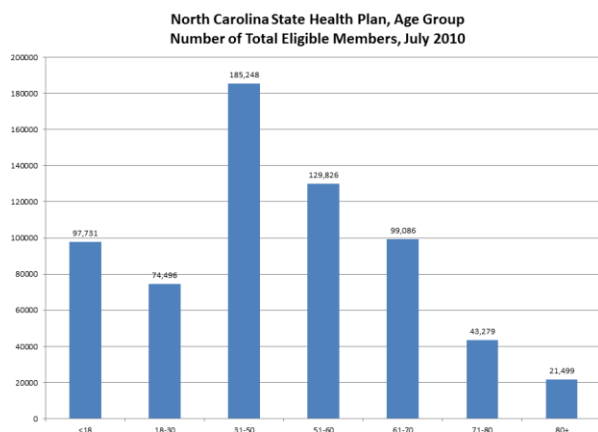
NC State Health Plan, Age July 2010	<18	18-30	31-50	51-60	61-70	71-80	80+	Total
Active SHP employees	96,427	71,739	182,421	98,522	27,024	1,281	42	477,456
Retired, Non-Medicare	1,303	2,697	1,610	27,092	28,444	102	24	61,272
Retired, Medicare	1	60	1,217	4,212	43,618	41,896	21,433	112,437
Total	97,731	74,496	185,248	129,826	99,086	43,279	21,499	651,165
% Total	15	11	28	20	15	7	3	100

North Carolina State Health Plan, Employee Status
Total Eligible Members, July 2010
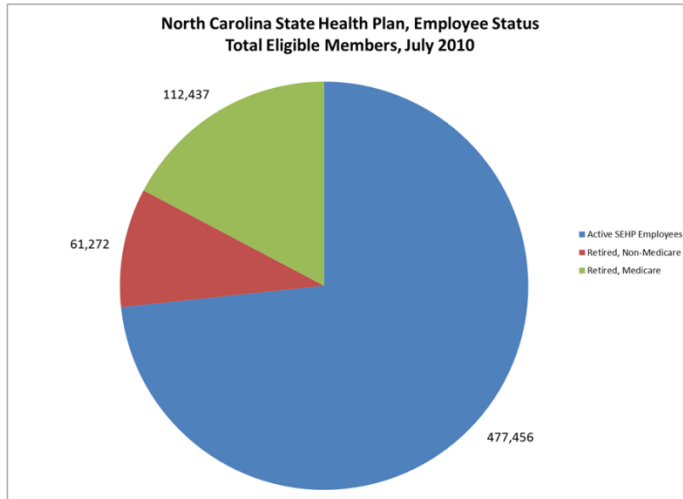
NC State Health Plan, Status, July 2010	N	%
Active SHP Employees	477,456	73
Retired, Non-Medicare	61,272	9
Retired, Medicare	112,437	17

North Carolina State Health Plan, Group Composition
Percent of Total Eligible Members, July 2010
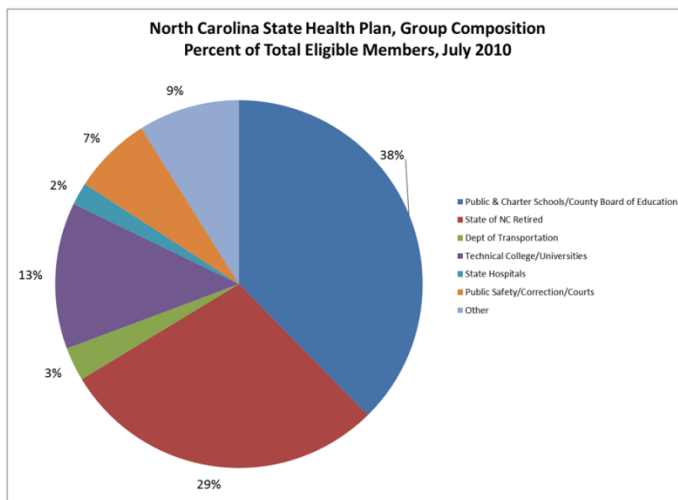
NC State Health Plan, Group Composition, July 2010	%	N
Public & Charter Schools/County Board of Education	38%	247,143
State of NC Retired	29%	189,316
Dept of Transportation	3%	16,797
Technical College/Universities	13%	86,776
State Hospitals	2%	10,023
Public Safety/Correction/Courts	7%	43,581
Other	9%	57,529

Data Access Guidelines

Who can use the data?

Researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill can apply to use the State Health Plan Claims Dataset. Project proposals must be submitted to a review committee for prior approval in order to assure the feasibility of the proposed research using these specialized datasets. Guidelines for project submission are available in the Requests for Analytic Data section below.

Cost of data

(Updated 9.11.15) Preliminary data management and programming costs to prepare research files tailored to each individual researcher's project, and to assist the researcher in learning how to use the data are covered internally. There are no fees for initial consultations or for creation of basic analytic data sets of reasonable size. It is anticipated that these basic services will take up to 10 hours (2 hours of analytic consultation and 8 hours of analytic time). There may be costs to the researcher for data management and programming work beyond the preliminary support mentioned above. The cost to the researcher will be estimated based on a needs assessment using an hourly rate of $65/hour. Funded projects will be asked to pay for all analytic costs, and we recommend including sufficient funding for analytic time in all proposals where work on the SHP data is included. Funding to pay for data management and programming time must be arranged and documented before the data request is submitted.

Data Access Guidelines: Preliminary Data Requests

Requests for preliminary data for grant submissions or planning purposes, can be submitted by email to the contact information listed below. Include a paragraph describing your project and what information is needed. Preliminary information is limited to counts and basic descriptive statistics.

Data Access Guidelines: Requests for Analytic Data

Researchers at UNC may submit a **State Health Plan data request form** to the CCQI Oversight Committee to use these specialized data sets. The Oversight Committee includes researchers from the Sheps Center, and staff at the State Health Plan. The full approval process can take several months, depending on whether revisions are required.

We recommend a phone consult prior to submitting your data request. Please see the [contact information](#) section for phone numbers.

Review Criteria

Criteria used by the Oversight Committee, to evaluate each request, are described briefly below:

1. Is the research question one that is in keeping with the overall focus of Initiative and important to be answered, for North Carolinians or to the US health system as a whole, either from a policy or practice perspective?
2. Can the research question be adequately answered using the requested database?
   Are there an adequate number of cases to be studied for the proposed analysis?
   Are the right data elements available and specified?
   For the key data elements needed, is the quality of the data adequate?
3. Is the proposed methodology sound and viable with respect to the research questions, population and data requested?
4. Does the research team possess the requisite skills/experience and proposed resources to conduct the research with high standards and in an adequately specified time frame?

Data Request Forms

Completed data request forms may be emailed to Charlotte Williams at chwilliams@schsr.unc.edu

State Health Plan Data Request Form

State Health Plan WAIVER OF HIPAA AUTHORIZATION (only for those who receive an IRB Waiver of HIPAA Authorization)

Provide copy of IRB approval letter on letterhead (from IRBIS)

State Health Plan DUA for Researcher – Must be executed before request can be submitted for approval to the State Health Plan.

Researcher Responsibilities

Funding acknowledgement should be included in all journal articles or conference abstracts:

Funding Acknowledgement: The database infrastructure used for this project was funded by the Department of Health Policy and Management, UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health; the CER Strategic Initiative of UNC's Clinical Translational Science Award (UL1TR001111); and the UNC School of Medicine.

Data Use Agreements must be kept up to date. All staff and researchers with access to the data set must sign the DUA.

As described in the Data Use Agreement all journal articles and abstracts must be submitted to the Sheps Center for review by the State Health Plan. *"The User agrees that a preliminary copy of the findings will be shared with the Recipient and Covered Component one month prior to submission for publication. Abstract submissions must also be shared at least five business days prior to submission."*

Contact Information

For more information on BCBSNC Claims Data or the CCQI project please contact:

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Charlotte Williams, MPH, Research Associate/Project Manager919 966-7927