

Michigan Physicians' Perceptions of Medicaid Redetermination

CHRT

Insured

Uninsured

Medicaid redetermination: Checking back in with providers

In March 2023, states began to re-check Medicaid eligibility for current enrollees after a three-year disenrollment freeze during the COVID-19 pandemic. In July 2023, two months into Michigan's Medicaid redetermination process, CHRT surveyed Michigan Physicians to ask what they thought about the Medicaid redetermination policy.*

Front line health care workers interact with patients daily and can share important insights about the impact of coverage changes on both patients and their organization's operations. Providers who saw more Medicaid patients, including Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), community mental health organizations (CMH), and hospitals, reported concerns about the implications of Medicaid redetermination policies.

While enrollments were expected to drop during redeterminations, recent research shows that disenrollments have exceeded initial projections in many states. As of February 2024, over 687,000 Michiganders have been disenrolled from Medicaid. Eighty two percent of those disenrolled were denied coverage due to procedural reasons including difficulties with the state's renewal system, missing documentation, or missed notices. Nationwide, about seventy percent of all people disenrolled from Medicaid were denied coverage due to procedural reasons. Disenrollment due to procedural issues does not necessarily mean that these individuals were ineligible for Medicaid coverage.

It is important for Michigan policymakers, government administrators, payers, and health systems to be aware of how physicians and their patients are being impacted by this crisis to determine where to concentrate support.

*The survey was conducted online between June and August 2023 using the survey platform Qualtrics. The sample for the survey consisted of 29,164 licensed Michigan physicians identified through the "Medicine" and "Osteopathic" Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) datasets. The datasets were downloaded in April 2023. To be included in the sample, physicians had to be practicing in Michigan and have a valid and unique email address. Both primary care and specialty care physicians were invited to participate in the survey. The final sample included 1,596 licensed physicians. The survey had a response rate of 5.5% and has a margin of error of ± 2.4 percent. To adjust for non-response, the final sample was weighted by the region in which the physician practices, as well as years in practice.

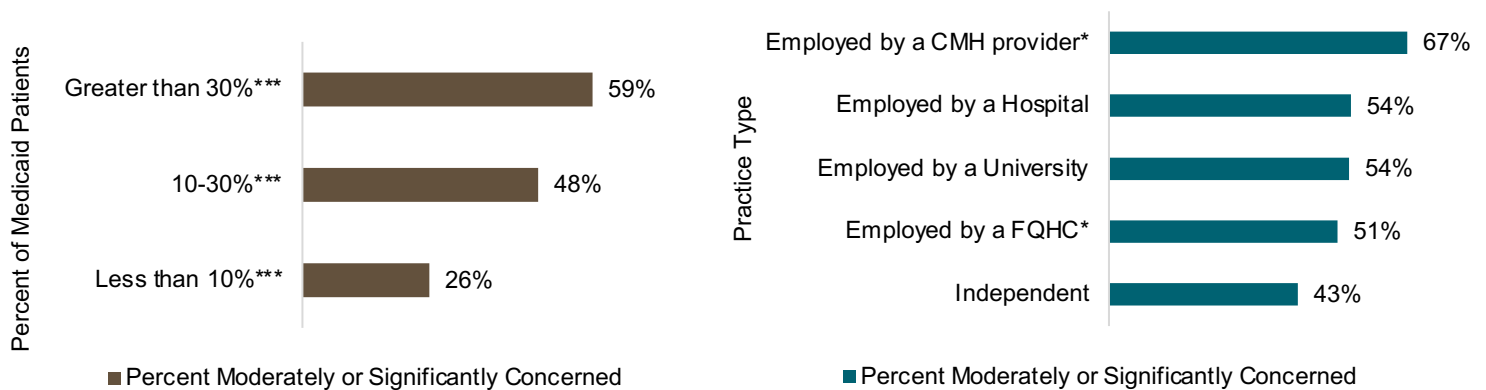
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To what extent are you concerned that patients at your practice will experience disruptions in their care due to Medicaid redeterminations?

Overall, nearly half of the physicians who filled out the survey were concerned about disruptions in care. Physicians employed at community mental health organizations (CMH) and those that saw more Medicaid patients were most concerned about disruptions in care.

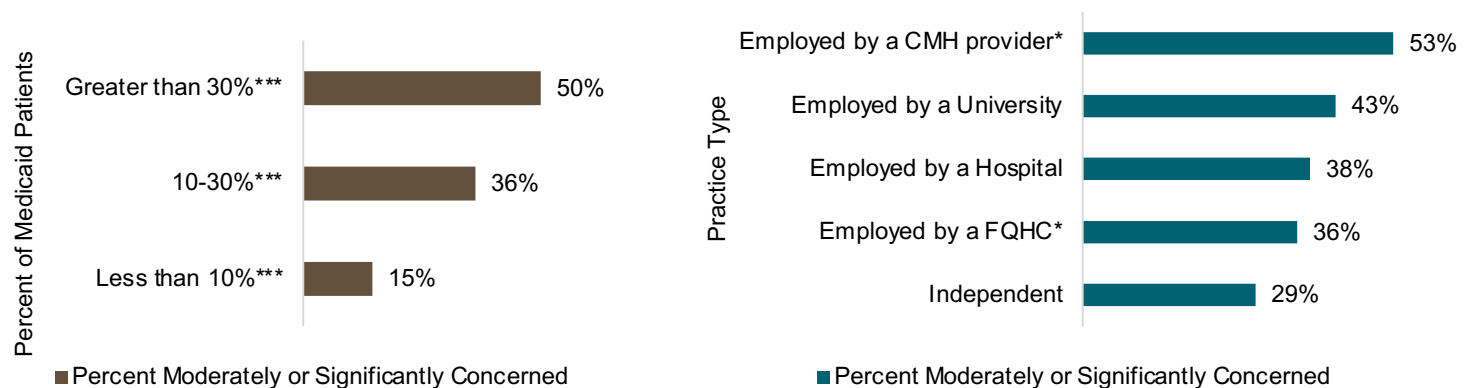
Percent of physicians concerned about disruptions in patient care



To what extent are you concerned that your practice will experience financial challenges as a result of Medicaid redeterminations?

Over 50 percent of physicians employed by community mental health organizations (CMH) and 50 percent of those with the highest percentage of patients on Medicaid were concerned about financial challenges related to Medicaid redeterminations disruptions in care.

Percent of physicians concerned about financial challenges



*significant p-value at 5% level, ** significant p-value at 1%, *** significant p-value at 0.1% | All values weighted | Significance indicates difference between those employed a practice group and those not employed at that practice group.



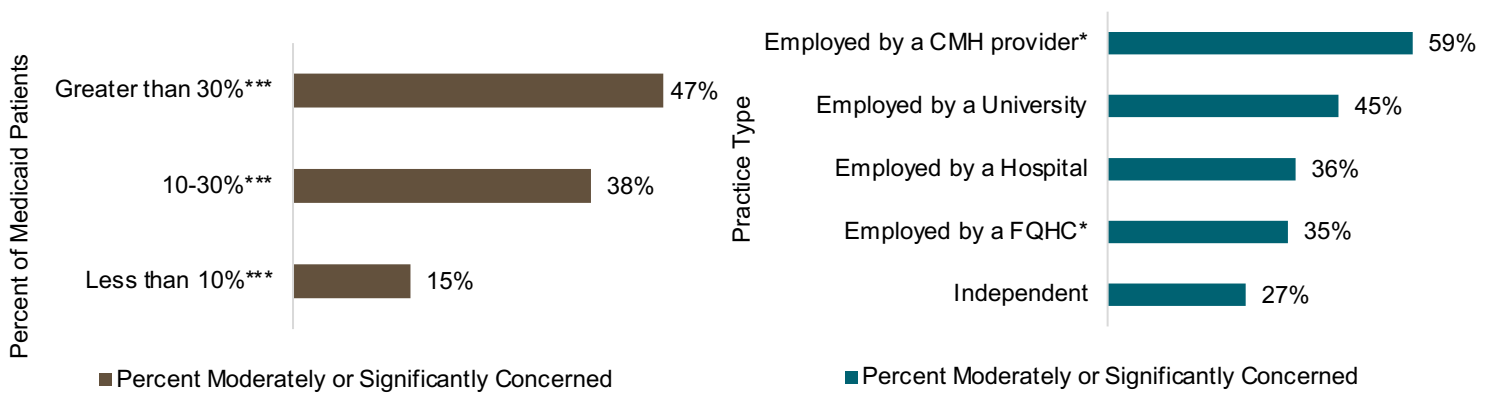
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To what extent are you concerned that your practice will experience operational challenges as a result of Medicaid redeterminations?

Almost 60 percent of physicians employed by community mental health organizations (CMH) and 50 percent of physicians seeing the highest percentage of Medicaid patients expressed concern about operational challenges due to Medicaid redeterminations.

Percent of physicians concerned about operational challenges



*significant p-value at 5% level, ** significant p-value at 1%, *** significant p-value at 0.1% | All values weighted | Significance indicates difference between those employed a practice group and those not employed at that practice group.

Implications for Michigan

Michigan policymakers should continue to work closely with community mental health organizations, FQHCs, and health systems to better understand how Medicaid losses have impacted their practices and populations in order to direct support most affectively.

By understanding the challenges highlighted by frontline healthcare workers, Michigan can develop more supportive strategies to stabilize Medicaid coverage and prevent further disruptions in the healthcare system.



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