

4. Which Medicaid health plans have achieved particularly strong quality scores relative to their same-state competitors?

Our report lists the 25 health plans whose 2013 NCQA score is particularly above the average of that health plan's same-state competitors' average score. Passport Health Plan of Kentucky achieved the widest favorable gap between its score and that of the remaining NCQA-rated Medicaid plans in that state.

5. To what degree have Medicaid health plans improved their quality scores in recent years?

Across the industry, Medicaid health plans' NCQA scores have decreased from 2010 to 2013. Among the 61 Medicaid MCOs accredited by NCQA in 2010, 48 experienced a decrease in their NCQA score as of 2013. However, these reductions are not indicative of a drop in quality, but are rather due to changes in NCQA's scoring methodology, which results in the "bar being raised" with each passing year.

A clearly favorable dynamic in the Medicaid coordinated care arena is the steady growth in the number of health plans that are seeking accreditation and/or are obtaining a quality score from NCQA. Between 2010 and 2013, the number of NCQA-rated Medicaid plans increased from 104 to 131 and the number of NCQA-accredited plans increased from 85 to 110.

6. Which health plans have achieved the largest improvements?

Our report identifies 13 Medicaid health plans who were NCQA accredited as of the 2010 rankings and whose NCQA score increased between 2010 and 2013. Molina Healthcare of California Partner Plan achieved the largest NCQA score increase, 3.4 points, during this timeframe.