
In New York State, Medicaid began reimbursing for prescription smoking cessation medications in October 1999 and for over-the-counter products in February 2000. Smoking prevalence among adults aged 18 to 64 with Medicaid insurance (31%) and among those without any health insurance (27%) remains significantly higher than among adults with private health insurance (14%).

- Since 2000, total claims made for both prescription and over the counter cessation products increased from 7,903 to 146,550 in 2008.
- The number of Medicaid patients receiving smoking cessation benefits increased from 5,549 in 2000 to 74,911 in 2008.

Approximately one million adults in New York State are enrolled in Medicaid at any time.

Number of Medicaid Claims and Recipients (Thousands) of Cessation Prescriptions and Over-the-Counter Medications

Contact the Bureau of Chronic Disease Epidemiology and Surveillance, New York State Department of Health at (518) 473-0673 or type ‘StatShot’ in the subject line of an e-mail and send it to tcp@health.state.ny.us.