



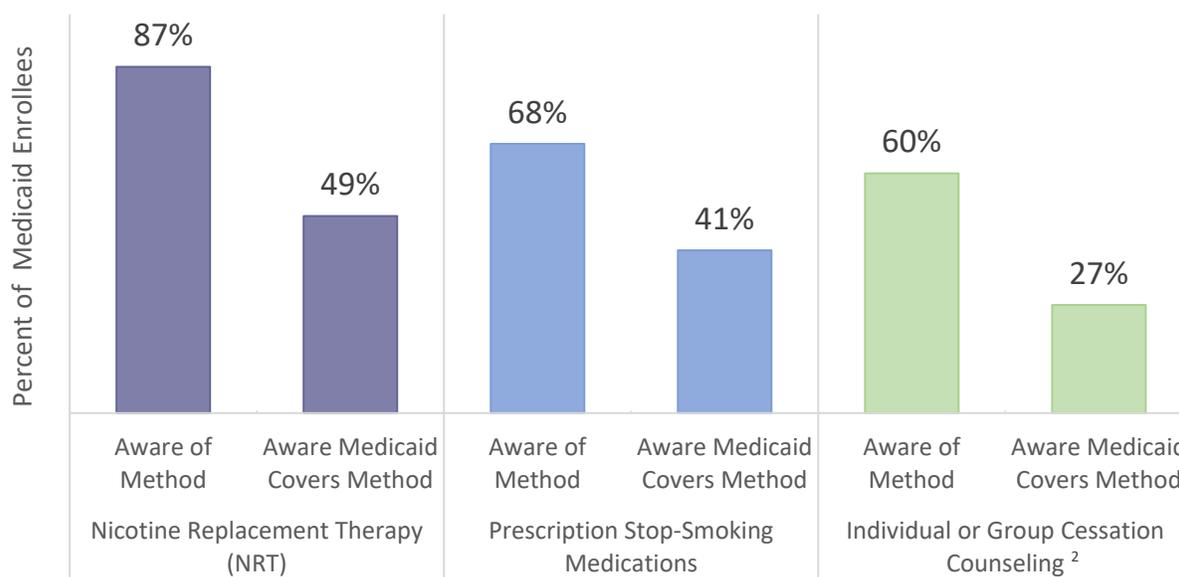
Awareness of Tobacco Cessation Methods and Benefit Coverage among Medicaid Enrollees in New York State, 2017

In New York, the smoking rate among adults enrolled in Medicaid is 24.1% which is more than twice as high as the smoking rate among adults with private insurance (11.4%).1 In accordance with evidence-based best practices that call on health systems and insurers to make effective tobacco dependence treatments available, the New York State (NYS) Medicaid Program expanded its benefits to enrollees to cover counseling and medication. Specifically, the NYS Medicaid Program covers the following US Food and Drug Administration approved medications for treatment of tobacco dependence: nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) via transdermal patch, gum, nasal spray, inhaler and lozenges; bupropion (brand names Zyban and Wellbutrin) and varenicline (brand name Chantix).

A 2017 survey of Medicaid enrollees who are either current smokers or recent quitters (n=266) was conducted to assess enrollee awareness of tobacco dependence treatments available to them. It also assessed enrollee awareness of Medicaid's coverage of the benefit. Findings reveal that while most are aware of NRT (87%), less than half (49%) are aware Medicaid covers NRT for enrollees. Similar trends were noted for prescription stop-smoking medications and cessation counseling.2

The NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH) has implemented efforts to promote Medicaid's expanded tobacco cessation benefits, including educating NYS Quitline callers and directing ad campaigns aimed at providers and enrollees to raise awareness. Providers are also educated about the benefit through NYSDOH's Health Systems for a Tobacco-Free NY work. Continued efforts are needed to educate smokers enrolled in Medicaid on the effectiveness of evidence-based cessation services and on the coverage provided by the NYS Medicaid Program.

NYS Medicaid Program Enrollee Awareness of Tobacco Cessation Methods and Benefit Coverage, 2017



1. New York State Department of Health (2017). BRFSS Brief Number 1802. Cigarette Smoking: New York State Adults, 2016.
2. Full text of question: As far as you know, does Medicaid pay for smoking cessation classes, programs, or counseling to help people quit smoking?
Source: New York Medicaid Enrollee Survey, 2017.
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Contact the Bureau of Chronic Disease Evaluation and Research, New York State Department of Health at (518) 473-0673 or send an e-mail to tcp@health.ny.gov.
StatShots can be accessed online at: https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/tobacco_control/reports/statshots/