

Prime Enrollees Consumer Watch

USA MHS • Quarter 1 FY 2021

DIRECTORATE OF STRATEGY, PLANNING AND FUNCTIONAL INTEGRATION (J-5)



Inside Consumer Watch

TRICARE Consumer Watch shows what TRICARE Prime enrollees in USA MHS say about their health care in the Health Care Survey of DoD Beneficiaries (HCSDB). Every quarter, a representative sample of adult TRICARE beneficiaries are asked about the care they received in the last 12 months, and the results are adjusted for age and health status. This publication reports results for beneficiaries younger than 65 and compares the responses of beneficiaries who have a military primary care manager (PCM; direct care) to responses of those with a TRICARE-authorized civilian provider (purchased care). These results are compared to civilian benchmarks that are adjusted for age and health status to match the population of TRICARE beneficiaries.

The HCSDB includes questions from the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS), a survey designed to help consumers choose between health plans. Benchmark data come from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) for 2018 and from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Healthy People 2020 (HP2020) goals.

Results

Source: **Health Care Survey of DoD Beneficiaries**

In this section, a series of charts shows the percentages of beneficiaries who rated a certain aspect of their care highly in the surveys fielded in the first quarter of fiscal year 2021, describing the period October 2019 to September 2020, and each of the 2 previous quarters. These ratings are compared to the civilian benchmark, which is indicated with a horizontal line. Percentages that differ significantly from the benchmark are indicated with filled points, and percentages that do not differ significantly from the benchmark are indicated with open points.

The same information shown in Figures 1–8 is shown in tabular form in the corresponding tables in the appendix.

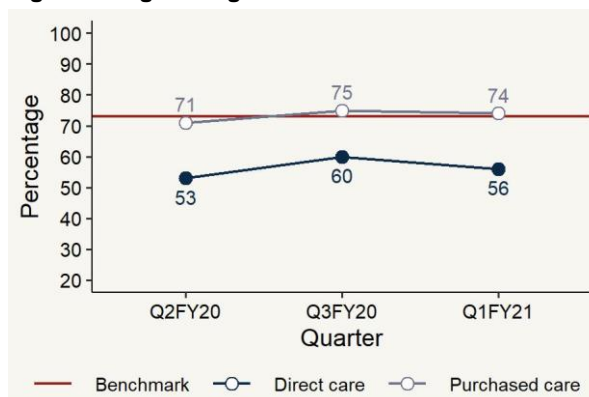
How to read the charts:

● 61	Percentage of direct care users giving a high rating
○ 61	Percentage of purchased care users giving a high rating
●	Value differs significantly from benchmark
○	Value does not differ significantly from benchmark
—	Benchmark (horizontal red line without point)

Health Care

Prime enrollees were asked to rate their health care on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 is the worst rating, and 10 is the best. For each reporting period, Figure 1 shows the percentage of direct care and purchased care users who gave their health care a rating of 8 or higher. Health care ratings depend on things like access to care and how patients get along with the doctors, nurses, and other care providers who treat them.

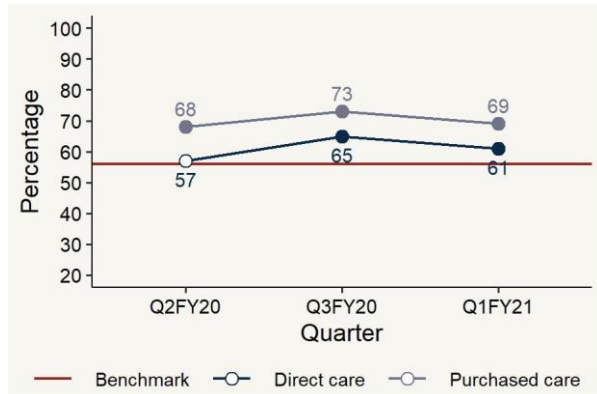
Figure 1. High rating of health care



Health Plan

Prime enrollees were asked to rate their health plan on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 is the worst rating, and 10 is the best. For each reporting period, Figure 2 shows the percentage of direct care and purchased care users who gave their plan a rating of 8 or higher. Health plan ratings depend on access to care and how the plan handles things like claims, referrals, and customer complaints.

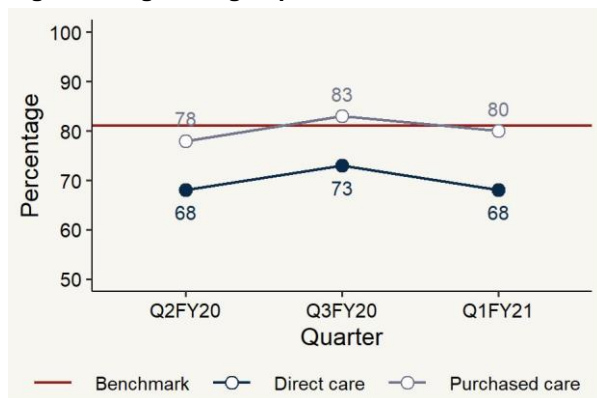
Figure 2. High rating of health plan



Personal Doctor

Prime enrollees who have a personal doctor were asked to rate this doctor on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 is the worst rating, and 10 is the best. For each reporting period, Figure 3 shows the percentage of direct care and purchased care users who gave their doctor a rating of 8 or higher. Personal doctor ratings depend on how patients get along with the doctor responsible for their basic care.

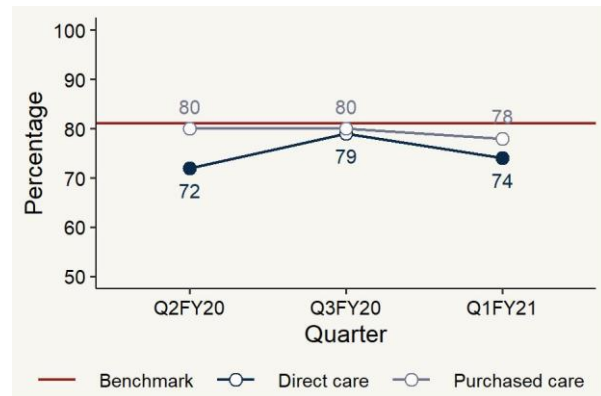
Figure 3. High rating of personal doctor



Specialist

Prime enrollees who have consulted specialist physicians were asked to rate the specialist they had seen most in the previous 12 months on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 is the worst rating, and 10 is the best. For each reporting period, Figure 4 shows the percentage of direct care users and purchased care users who gave their specialist a rating of 8 or higher. Specialist ratings depend on beneficiaries' access to doctors with the special skills they need.

Figure 4. High rating of specialty care

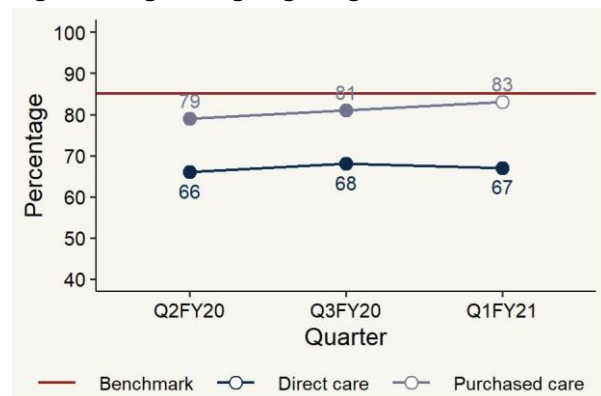


Health Care Topics

Health care topics scores are averages of the scores for sets of related questions. Each score is the percentage of Prime enrollees who “usually” or “always” got the treatment they wanted, or had “no problem” getting a desired service.

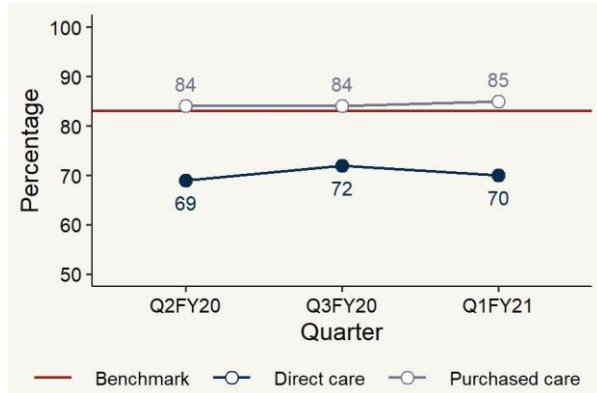
For each reporting period, Figure 5 shows the percentage of direct care and purchased care users who were able to get needed care. Scores for getting needed care are based on getting to see a specialist and getting needed treatments.

Figure 5. High rating of getting needed care



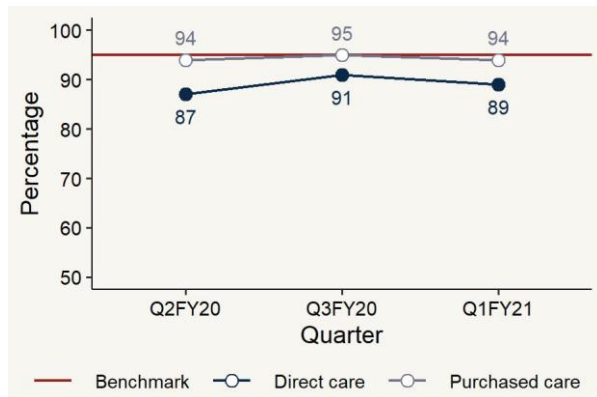
For each reporting period, Figure 6 shows the percentage of direct care and purchased care users who were able to get care quickly. Scores for getting care quickly reflect how long patients wait for an appointment or urgent care.

Figure 6. High rating of getting care quickly



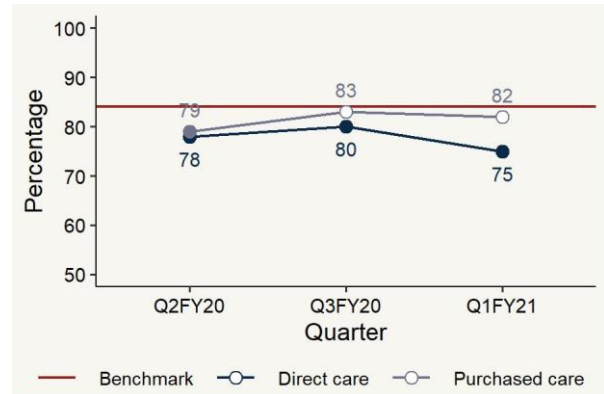
For each reporting period, Figure 7 shows the percentage of direct care and purchased care users who gave a high rating for doctor communication. Scores in this composite are based on whether the personal doctor spends enough time with patients, treats them respectfully, listens to them, and explains things in an understandable way.

Figure 7. High rating of doctor communication



For each reporting period, Figure 8 shows the percentage of direct care and purchased care users who gave a high rating for customer service. Scores in this composite reflect patients' ability to get courteous service and to get information about their health plan.

Figure 8. High rating of customer service



Preventive Care

Table 1 compares direct and purchased care users' rates for diagnostic screening tests, smoking cessation, and obesity to goals from Healthy People 2020, a government initiative to improve Americans' health by preventing illness.

The mammography rate shown is the proportion of women age 40 or older who had a mammogram in the past two years. The pap smear rate refers to the proportion of adult women screened for cervical cancer in the past three years. The hypertension rate is the proportion of adults whose blood pressure was checked in the past two years, and who know whether their pressure is too high. The prenatal care rate is the proportion of women who are pregnant now or have been in the past 12 months who received prenatal care in their first trimester.

The percentage not obese is the proportion of adults with a body mass index below 30. The nonsmoking rate is the proportion of adults who currently do not smoke. The percentage counseled to quit is the proportion of smokers or tobacco users, with an office visit in the past 12 months, whose doctor told them to quit smoking.

Table 1: Preventive care

Type of Care	Group	Q2FY20	Q3FY20	Q1FY21	HP2020 Goal
Mammography	Direct care	80 (1016)	83 (1268)	77 (735)	81
Mammography	Purchased care	84 (303)	83 (403)	82 (597)	81
Pap smear	Direct care	75 ^b (1946)	77 ^b (2494)	73 ^b (1550)	93
Pap smear	Purchased care	78 ^b (559)	77 ^b (805)	75 ^b (1122)	93
Hypertension	Direct care	89 ^b (4661)	89 ^b (5673)	86 ^b (3515)	95
Hypertension	Purchased care	93 (828)	93 (1212)	93 ^b (1599)	95
Prenatal care (in 1st trimester)	Direct care	94 ^a (168)	92 ^a (220)	88 (146)	85
Prenatal care (in 1st trimester)	Purchased care	98 ^a (61)	86 (114)	94 ^a (140)	85
Percent not obese	Direct care	78 ^a (4303)	80 ^a (5282)	79 ^a (3221)	69
Percent not obese	Purchased care	75 ^a (750)	71 (1117)	69 (1478)	69
Non-smokers (adults)	Direct care	93 ^a (4483)	93 ^a (5459)	95 ^a (3345)	88
Non-smokers (adults)	Purchased care	95 ^a (794)	94 ^a (1177)	96 ^a (1546)	88
Counseled to quit (adults)	Direct care	72 (508)	77 (548)	68 (350)	76
Counseled to quit (adults)	Purchased care	69 (48)	87 ^a (89)	87 ^a (96)	76

^a Significantly exceeded the Healthy People 2020 goal ($p < .05$).

^b Significantly fell short of the Healthy People 2020 goal ($p < .05$).

- Suppressed because of small sample size.

The numbers in parentheses indicate number of respondents.

Appendix

Tables in the Appendix show the same information shown in Figures 1–8 and in Table 1.

Table A.1. High rating of health care

Group	Percentage	Significance
Benchmark Q1FY21	73	NA
Direct care Q2FY20	53	Significantly lower than benchmark (p < .05)
Direct care Q3FY20	60	Significantly lower than benchmark (p < .05)
Direct care Q1FY21	56	Significantly lower than benchmark (p < .05)
Purchased care Q2FY20	71	Value is not significantly different than benchmark
Purchased care Q3FY20	75	Value is not significantly different than benchmark
Purchased care Q1FY21	74	Value is not significantly different than benchmark

Table A.2. High rating of health plan

Group	Percentage	Significance
Benchmark Q1FY21	56	NA
Direct care Q2FY20	57	Value is not significantly different than benchmark
Direct care Q3FY20	65	Significantly higher than benchmark (p < .05)
Direct care Q1FY21	61	Significantly higher than benchmark (p < .05)
Purchased care Q2FY20	68	Significantly higher than benchmark (p < .05)
Purchased care Q3FY20	73	Significantly higher than benchmark (p < .05)
Purchased care Q1FY21	69	Significantly higher than benchmark (p < .05)

Table A.3. High rating of personal doctor

Group	Percentage	Significance
Benchmark Q1FY21	81	NA
Direct care Q2FY20	68	Significantly lower than benchmark (p < .05)
Direct care Q3FY20	73	Significantly lower than benchmark (p < .05)
Direct care Q1FY21	68	Significantly lower than benchmark (p < .05)
Purchased care Q2FY20	78	Value is not significantly different than benchmark
Purchased care Q3FY20	83	Value is not significantly different than benchmark
Purchased care Q1FY21	80	Value is not significantly different than benchmark

Table A.4. High rating of specialty care

Group	Percentage	Significance
Benchmark Q1FY21	81	NA
Direct care Q2FY20	72	Significantly lower than benchmark (p < .05)
Direct care Q3FY20	79	Value is not significantly different than benchmark
Direct care Q1FY21	74	Significantly lower than benchmark (p < .05)
Purchased care Q2FY20	80	Value is not significantly different than benchmark
Purchased care Q3FY20	80	Value is not significantly different than benchmark
Purchased care Q1FY21	78	Value is not significantly different than benchmark

Table A.5. High rating of getting needed care

Group	Percentage	Significance
Benchmark Q1FY21	85	NA
Direct care Q2FY20	66	Significantly lower than benchmark (p < .05)
Direct care Q3FY20	68	Significantly lower than benchmark (p < .05)
Direct care Q1FY21	67	Significantly lower than benchmark (p < .05)
Purchased care Q2FY20	79	Significantly lower than benchmark (p < .05)
Purchased care Q3FY20	81	Significantly lower than benchmark (p < .05)
Purchased care Q1FY21	83	Value is not significantly different than benchmark

Table A.6. High rating of getting care quickly

Group	Percentage	Significance
Benchmark Q1FY21	83	NA
Direct care Q2FY20	69	Significantly lower than benchmark (p < .05)
Direct care Q3FY20	72	Significantly lower than benchmark (p < .05)
Direct care Q1FY21	70	Significantly lower than benchmark (p < .05)
Purchased care Q2FY20	84	Value is not significantly different than benchmark
Purchased care Q3FY20	84	Value is not significantly different than benchmark
Purchased care Q1FY21	85	Value is not significantly different than benchmark

Table A.7. High rating of doctor communication

Group	Percentage	Significance
Benchmark Q1FY21	95	NA
Direct care Q2FY20	87	Significantly lower than benchmark (p < .05)
Direct care Q3FY20	91	Significantly lower than benchmark (p < .05)
Direct care Q1FY21	89	Significantly lower than benchmark (p < .05)
Purchased care Q2FY20	94	Value is not significantly different than benchmark
Purchased care Q3FY20	95	Value is not significantly different than benchmark
Purchased care Q1FY21	94	Value is not significantly different than benchmark

Table A.8. High rating of customer service

Group	Percentage	Significance
Benchmark Q1FY21	84	NA
Direct care Q2FY20	78	Significantly lower than benchmark (p < .05)
Direct care Q3FY20	80	Significantly lower than benchmark (p < .05)
Direct care Q1FY21	75	Significantly lower than benchmark (p < .05)
Purchased care Q2FY20	79	Significantly lower than benchmark (p < .05)
Purchased care Q3FY20	83	Value is not significantly different than benchmark
Purchased care Q1FY21	82	Value is not significantly different than benchmark

Table A.9. Preventive care

Type of Care	Group	Percentage	Obs	Significance
Mammography	Benchmark Q1FY21	81	NA	NA
Mammography	Direct care Q2FY20	80	1016	Value is not significantly different than benchmark
Mammography	Direct care Q3FY20	83	1268	Value is not significantly different than benchmark
Mammography	Direct care Q1FY21	77	735	Value is not significantly different than benchmark
Mammography	Purchased care Q2FY20	84	303	Value is not significantly different than benchmark
Mammography	Purchased care Q3FY20	83	403	Value is not significantly different than benchmark
Mammography	Purchased care Q1FY21	82	597	Value is not significantly different than benchmark
Pap smear	Benchmark Q1FY21	93	NA	NA
Pap smear	Direct care Q2FY20	75	1946	Significantly lower than benchmark (p < .05)
Pap smear	Direct care Q3FY20	77	2494	Significantly lower than benchmark (p < .05)
Pap smear	Direct care Q1FY21	73	1550	Significantly lower than benchmark (p < .05)
Pap smear	Purchased care Q2FY20	78	559	Significantly lower than benchmark (p < .05)
Pap smear	Purchased care Q3FY20	77	805	Significantly lower than benchmark (p < .05)
Pap smear	Purchased care Q1FY21	75	1122	Significantly lower than benchmark (p < .05)
Hypertension	Benchmark Q1FY21	95	NA	NA
Hypertension	Direct care Q2FY20	89	4661	Significantly lower than benchmark (p < .05)
Hypertension	Direct care Q3FY20	89	5673	Significantly lower than benchmark (p < .05)
Hypertension	Direct care Q1FY21	86	3515	Significantly lower than benchmark (p < .05)
Hypertension	Purchased care Q2FY20	93	828	Value is not significantly different than benchmark
Hypertension	Purchased care Q3FY20	93	1212	Value is not significantly different than benchmark
Hypertension	Purchased care Q1FY21	93	1599	Significantly lower than benchmark (p < .05)
Prenatal care (in 1st trimester)	Benchmark Q1FY21	85	NA	NA
Prenatal care (in 1st trimester)	Direct care Q2FY20	94	168	Significantly higher than benchmark (p < .05)
Prenatal care (in 1st trimester)	Direct care Q3FY20	92	220	Significantly higher than benchmark (p < .05)
Prenatal care (in 1st trimester)	Direct care Q1FY21	88	146	Value is not significantly different than benchmark
Prenatal care (in 1st trimester)	Purchased care Q2FY20	98	61	Significantly higher than benchmark (p < .05)
Prenatal care (in 1st trimester)	Purchased care Q3FY20	86	114	Value is not significantly different than benchmark
Prenatal care (in 1st trimester)	Purchased care Q1FY21	94	140	Significantly higher than benchmark (p < .05)
Percent not obese	Benchmark Q1FY21	69	NA	NA
Percent not obese	Direct care Q2FY20	78	4303	Significantly higher than benchmark (p < .05)
Percent not obese	Direct care Q3FY20	80	5282	Significantly higher than benchmark (p < .05)
Percent not obese	Direct care Q1FY21	79	3221	Significantly higher than benchmark (p < .05)
Percent not obese	Purchased care Q2FY20	75	750	Significantly higher than benchmark (p < .05)
Percent not obese	Purchased care Q3FY20	71	1117	Value is not significantly different than benchmark
Percent not obese	Purchased care Q1FY21	69	1478	Value is not significantly different than benchmark
Non-smokers (adults)	Benchmark Q1FY21	88	NA	NA
Non-smokers (adults)	Direct care Q2FY20	93	4483	Significantly higher than benchmark (p < .05)
Non-smokers (adults)	Direct care Q3FY20	93	5459	Significantly higher than benchmark (p < .05)
Non-smokers (adults)	Direct care Q1FY21	95	3345	Significantly higher than benchmark (p < .05)
Non-smokers (adults)	Purchased care Q2FY20	95	794	Significantly higher than benchmark (p < .05)
Non-smokers (adults)	Purchased care Q3FY20	94	1177	Significantly higher than benchmark (p < .05)
Non-smokers (adults)	Purchased care Q1FY21	96	1546	Significantly higher than benchmark (p < .05)
Counseled to quit (adults)	Benchmark Q1FY21	76	NA	NA
Counseled to quit (adults)	Direct care Q2FY20	72	508	Value is not significantly different than benchmark
Counseled to quit (adults)	Direct care Q3FY20	77	548	Value is not significantly different than benchmark
Counseled to quit (adults)	Direct care Q1FY21	68	350	Value is not significantly different than benchmark
Counseled to quit (adults)	Purchased care Q2FY20	69	48	Value is not significantly different than benchmark
Counseled to quit (adults)	Purchased care Q3FY20	87	89	Significantly higher than benchmark (p < .05)
Counseled to quit (adults)	Purchased care Q1FY21	87	96	Significantly higher than benchmark (p < .05)