

Review of Naloxone Access Law Enactment and Utilization of Naloxone in State Medicaid Populations from 2013 through 2017



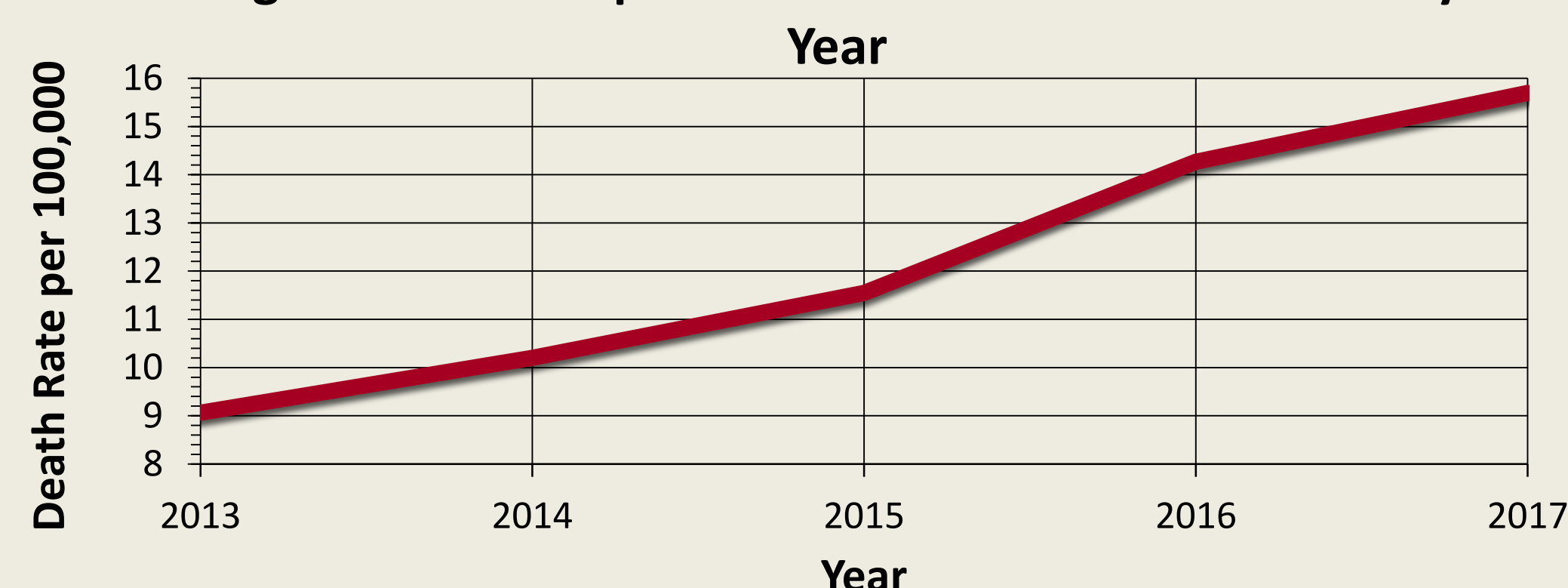
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Background

- Opioid overdose deaths rate continue to rise
 - The opioid overdose death rate per 100,000 increased by 6.6 over the study period (Figure 1)¹
- As part of overall opioid overdose prevention, states have enacted naloxone access laws (NAL) to expand access to naloxone
- Naloxone is an opioid antagonist that acts to reverse opioid overdoses by blocking the binding of opioids at the mu receptors²
- Identifying utilization trends for naloxone claims in relation to NAL enactment by payer type [fee-for-service (FFS) or managed Medicaid (MCO)] could assist policy makers with further decisions about coverage and access to naloxone for their population

Figure 1. Mean Opioid Overdose Crude Death Rate by Year



¹Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC WONDER: Multiple Cause of Death. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA. <https://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd.html>.
²Lexicomp Online, 2019. Naloxone. Lexi-Drugs. Hudson, Ohio: Walters Kluwer Clinical Drug Information, Inc. Last updated 01/17/2019. Accessed 02/05/2019.

Objectives

- The objective of this study was to review Naloxone Access Law (NAL) enactment in conjunction with the number of naloxone claims reimbursed through Medicaid by payer type.

Methods

- Primary data sources used for this study were:
 - The 2013-2017 Medicaid State Drug Utilization Datasets available from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)³
 - NAL dates and law types were compiled from the Prescription Drug Abuse Policy System⁴
- Where state specific data was reported, naloxone prescription counts and costs were aggregated by quarter and by payer type
- Trends in naloxone prescription counts, naloxone reimbursement costs, and reimbursement per prescription for each quarter were reviewed

³Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, 2018. State Drug Utilization Data. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Baltimore, MD. <https://www.medicare.gov/medicaid/prescription-drugs/state-drug-utilization-data/index.html>.
⁴Prescription Drug Abuse Policy System, 2018. Naloxone Overdose Prevention Laws. National Institute on Drug Abuse, Rockville, MD.

Results

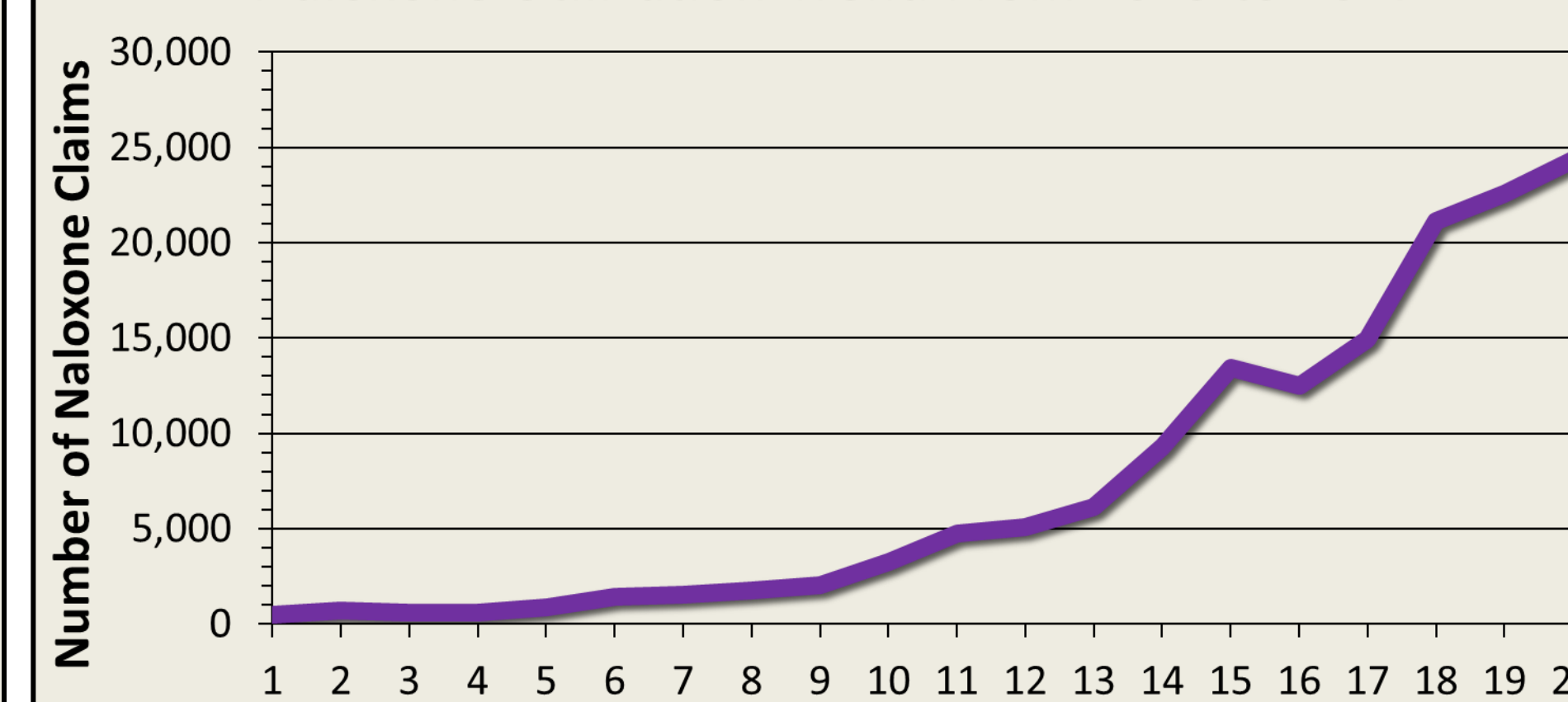
State	Law Passed	Third-Party	Standing Order	Per-Protocol	Prescriptive Authority
ALABAMA	✓	✓	✓		
ALASKA	✓	✓	✓	✓	
ARIZONA	✓	✓	✓	✓	
ARKANSAS	✓	✓	✓		
CALIFORNIA	✓	✓	✓	✓	
COLORADO	✓	✓	✓		
CONNECTICUT	✓	✓			✓
DELAWARE	✓		✓		
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	✓	✓	✓		✓
FLORIDA	✓	✓	✓		
GEORGIA	✓	✓	✓		
HAWAII	✓	✓	✓		
IDAHO	✓	✓			✓
ILLINOIS	✓		✓	✓	
INDIANA	✓	✓	✓		
IOWA	✓	✓	✓		
KANSAS	✓		✓	✓	
KENTUCKY	✓	✓	✓		
LOUISIANA	✓	✓	✓		
MAINE	✓	✓	✓	✓	
MARYLAND	✓	✓	✓		
MASSACHUSETTS	✓	✓	✓		
MICHIGAN	✓	✓	✓		
MINNESOTA	✓		✓		
MISSISSIPPI	✓	✓	✓		
MISSOURI	✓		✓		
MONTANA	✓	✓	✓		
NEBRASKA	✓	✓			
NEVADA	✓	✓	✓	✓	
NEW HAMPSHIRE	✓	✓	✓		✓
NEW JERSEY	✓	✓	✓		
NEW MEXICO	✓	✓	✓		✓
NEW YORK	✓	✓	✓		
NORTH CAROLINA	✓	✓	✓		
NORTH DAKOTA	✓	✓	✓		✓
OHIO	✓	✓	✓	✓	
OKLAHOMA	✓	✓			
OREGON	✓	✓		✓	✓
PENNSYLVANIA	✓	✓	✓		
RHODE ISLAND	✓	✓	✓		
SOUTH CAROLINA	✓	✓	✓	✓	
SOUTH DAKOTA	✓	✓	✓		
TENNESSEE	✓	✓	✓	✓	
TEXAS	✓	✓	✓		
UTAH	✓	✓	✓		
VERMONT	✓	✓	✓	✓	
VIRGINIA	✓	✓	✓	✓	
WASHINGTON	✓	✓	✓		
WEST VIRGINIA	✓	✓	✓	✓	
WISCONSIN	✓	✓	✓		
WYOMING	✓	✓	✓		✓

- By 2017, every state had passed a NAL with specifications varying by state
 - 46 states allow for third-party prescriptions
 - Pharmacy dispensing without a written prescription is allowed in:
 - 44 states by standing order
 - 14 states by per-protocol orders
 - 7 states have pharmacist prescriptive authority

Results

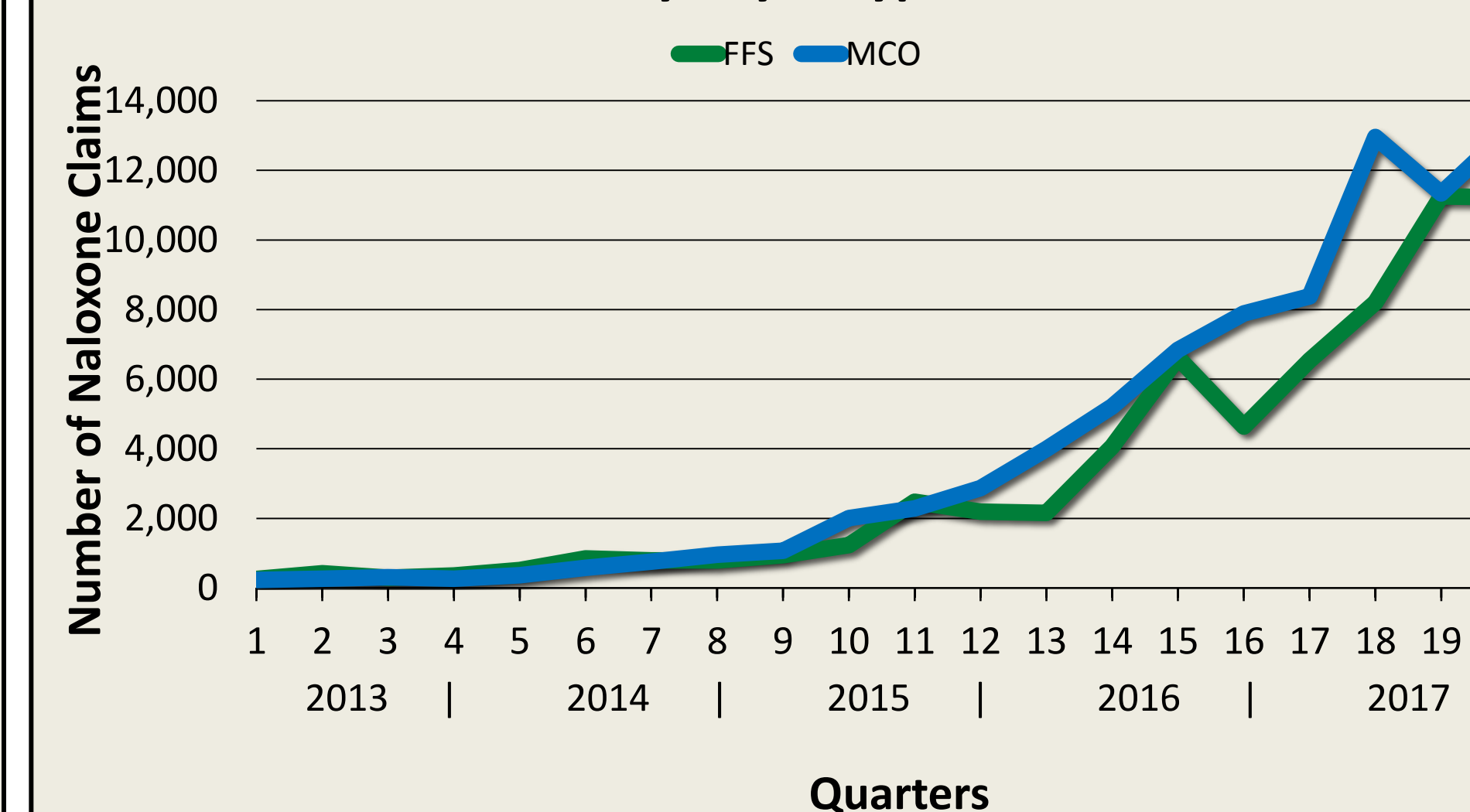
- Naloxone utilization has increased each year with the greatest increase starting in 2015 (corresponding with the largest number of new law enactments)
- In 2016, the amount Medicaid spent on naloxone sharply increased from an average of \$181.03 per claim in quarter 4 (Q4) of 2015 to an average of \$593.00 per claim in Q1 of 2016
- While the rate of increase in naloxone claims was similar for both FFS and MCOs, MCOs averaged 100 more claims per quarter

Naloxone Utilization Trend From 2013 to 2017

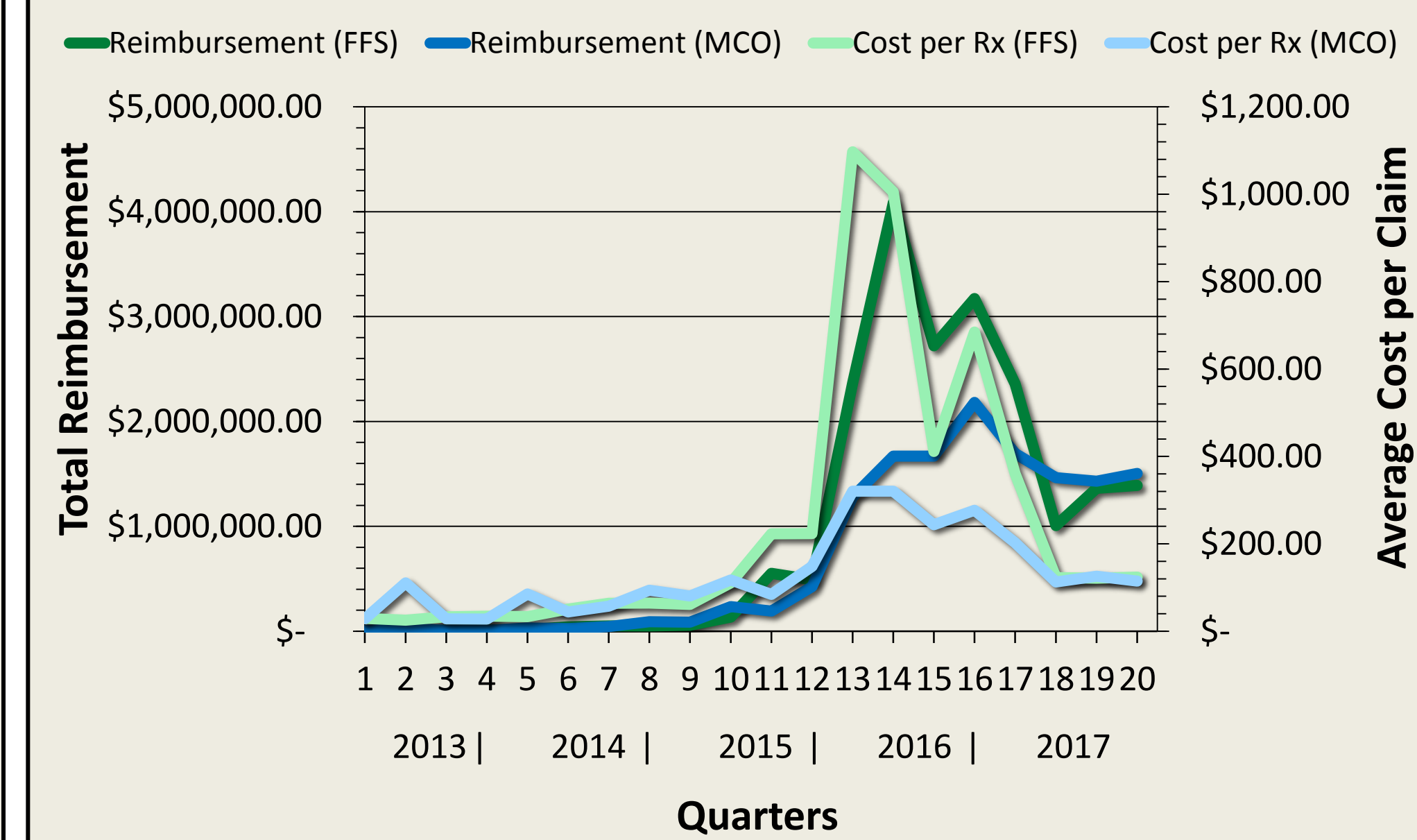


NAL enacted States/Year (Cumulative)

Naloxone Utilization Trend From 2013 to 2017 by Payer Type



Naloxone Reimbursement Trend From 2013 to 2017 by Payer Type



Limitations

- This study did not account for changes in coverage criteria for naloxone products
- This data does not account for public health programs that distribute naloxone or commercially insured patients
- Data was suppressed if the claim count for an NDC was less than 11, which may cause lower reported numbers for utilization compared to actual utilization for some states
- Enrollment values for each payer type was not accounted for within the comparison for MCO and FFS
- Rebates are not accounted for in the reimbursement values or the cost per claim

Conclusions

- This study shows that the passage of NALs led to an increase in the number of claims for naloxone dispensed in the Medicaid population
- Increased naloxone claims mean an increase in access for Medicaid members for this life saving drug
- Additional research on the types of laws and the association with number of naloxone claims is underway
- Further research into the relation of naloxone claims and overdose death rates is needed

Disclosure Statement

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