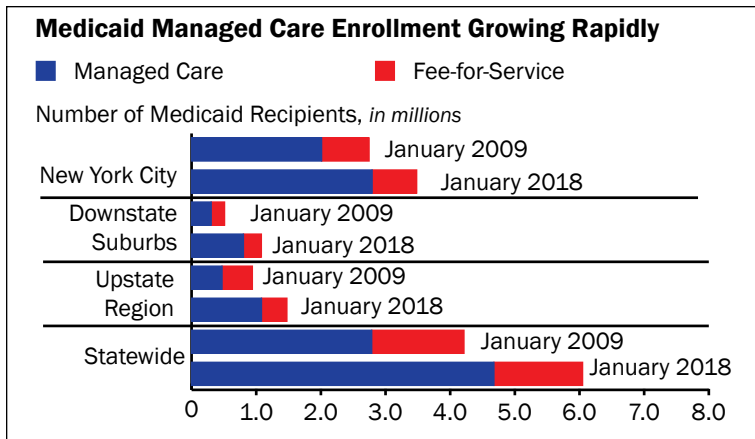


# Is the Shift of Medicaid Enrollment into Managed Care Almost Complete?

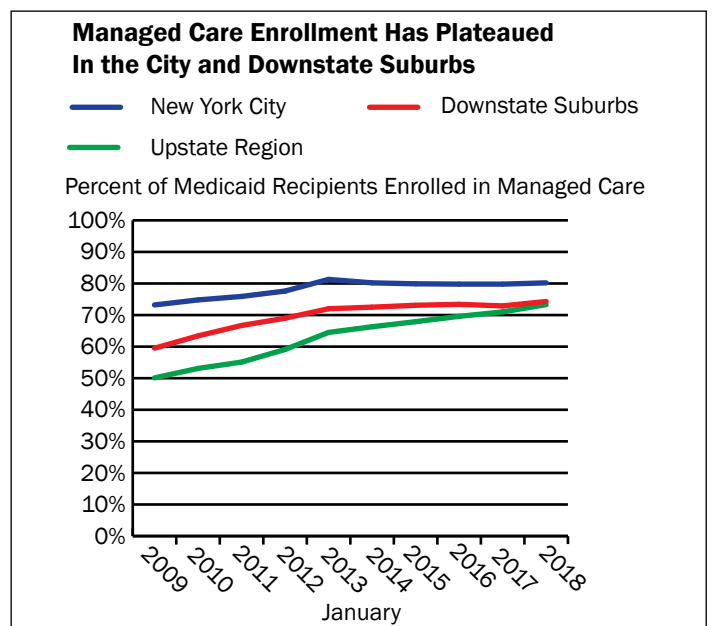
Medicaid provides health care coverage to more than 6 million New Yorkers, including those with low incomes and residents with disabilities. The program, which is expected to cost more than \$70 billion this year, is administered by the state and funded by Washington, Albany, and City Hall. Over the past two decades, the state has been moving recipients into managed care plans with the goals of providing better health care and reducing costs. Organizations operating managed care programs are paid a per person rate for providing each enrollee's health care rather than a fee for each service.

Mandatory Medicaid managed care programs began in 1997 with comparatively healthy children and adults under the age of 65. Since then the state has mandated that other Medicaid recipients must join these plans. For example, in 2006 any children, disabled, or aged New Yorkers eligible for Supplemental Security Income had to join a managed care program and in 2011 people with HIV/AIDS were required to enroll. In 2012, seniors needing community-based long-term care who were eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid had to enroll in a managed care plan. IBO has tracked the statewide changes in Medicaid managed care enrollment over the past decade.



- In January 2018, the number of enrollees in Medicaid managed care programs exceeded 4.6 million, up from 2.7 million in January 2009—a nearly 68 percent increase. This growth occurred across the state.
- Over that same period, the number of Medicaid recipients enrolled statewide in fee-for-service plans fell from 1.4 million to 1.3 million—a nearly 4 percent decline. While fee-for-service enrollment declined in New York City and upstate, it rose in the downstate suburbs although not as sharply as the suburbs' increase in managed care enrollment.

- Statewide, 77 percent of Medicaid recipients were enrolled in managed care plans in January 2018, up from 66 percent in January 2009. But enrollment in the city and downstate suburbs had largely plateaued while it continued to increase upstate.
- New York City still had the highest share of Medicaid recipients enrolled in managed care plans in January 2018, but the regional differences have narrowed. In 2009 the share of Medicaid enrollees who were in managed care plans ranged from a high of 73 percent in New York City to a low of 50 percent upstate. By 2018 the managed care share was 80 percent in the city and 73 percent upstate.



The state next plans to expand managed care to children with behavioral health and home- and community-based service needs, as well as children in foster care with developmental disabilities. Achieving the hoped for savings from managed care may become increasingly difficult as it expands to more New Yorkers with complex and long-term health care needs.

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SOURCES: New York State Department of Health. [Medicaid Program Enrollment by Month](#): Beginning 2009. Updated August 24, 2018. Accessed September 10, 2018.  
NOTE: New York City: Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens, and Richmond counties. Downstate Suburbs: Dutchess, Nassau, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Suffolk, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester counties. Upstate: New York's 48 other counties.