Children in foster care tend to have greater behavioral health needs than other American children. It is important that Medicaid programs that serve these children have systems and services in place to address these needs. This can help improve these children’s overall health and well-being, as well as increase the chances of stable placement in a loving and supportive family.

**Children in Foster Care Tend to Have Greater Behavioral Health Needs and Spend**

Children in foster care, compared to the broader population, are:

- **3x as likely to have substance use disorder**
- **2x as likely to have depression**
- **2x as likely to have ADD/ADHD**
- **2x as likely to have PTSD**
- **2x as likely to have anxiety**
- **2.6x higher behavioral health costs for the foster care population compared to the TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)population**

**Behavioral health issues later in life**

- **Children in foster care, compared to the broader population, are**
  - 3x as likely to have depression
  - 2x as likely to have ADD/ADHD
  - 2x as likely to have PTSD
  - 2x as likely to have anxiety

**Most common behavioral health services used by children in foster care (2013)**

- 47% Psychotherapy
- 27% Medication Management/Care Coordination
- 20% Specialty Therapy
- 16% Medication Therapy
- 15% Psychotropic Medications
- 13% Psychiatric Consultation

**Children in Foster Care Tend to Have Greater Behavioral Health Needs and Spend**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children in Foster Care</th>
<th>Comparison to Broader Population</th>
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Children in foster care are part of a specialty population, with higher service needs and spend, thereby requiring a unique approach to clinical coordination. Optum can help design a solution to meet the specific needs of children in foster care within your Medicaid population. Simply contact 1-800-765-6092 or email innovate@optum.com.

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