



# DATA SHORTS

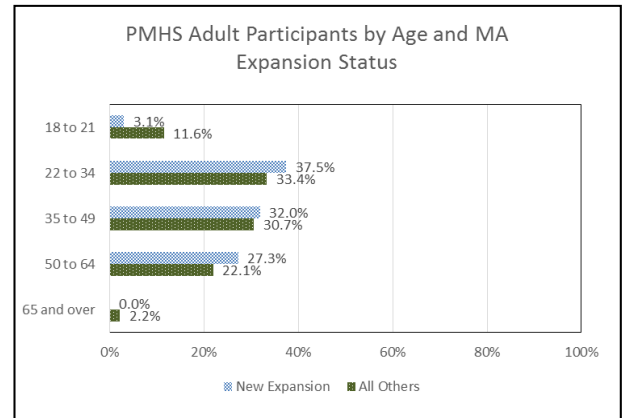
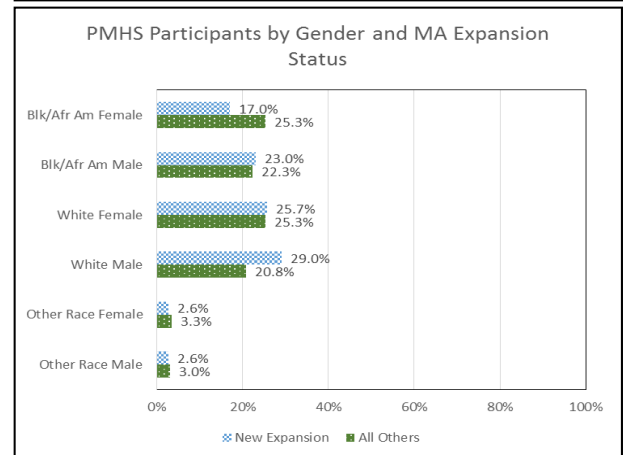
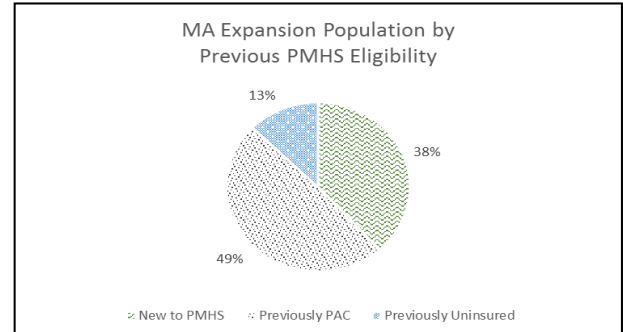
## The Effect of Medicaid Expansion on People Treated In the Public Mental Health System

On January 1, 2014, the midpoint of Fiscal Year 2014, Medical Assistance (MA) eligibility was expanded as a result of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The MA expansion covered everyone whose income was about 138% of the poverty level or below; previously, the income limit was about 113% of poverty and eligibility was limited to individuals with disabilities or single parents with children.

Some people who gained this new, expanded eligibility status had already been active in the Public Mental Health System (PMHS) under either the Primary Adult Care (PAC) MA waiver program or the uninsured (UI) benefit. The pie chart breaks down those completely new to the PMHS (“expansion population”, 38%), those previously active though PAC (49%), and those previously active through UI (13%) benefits. In the remaining graphs, the characteristics of expansion population are compared with all other FY 2014 PMHS participants.

The first bar graph examines gender and race. Generally, the new expansion population consists of a lower percentage of African American/Black females as well as a higher percentage of white males when compared with the rest of the PMHS. In the second bar graph, the data is displayed by age. The expansion population consisted of a higher percentage in all age categories from 22 to 64 than the rest of the PMHS population. However, relatively few individuals ages 18 to 21 or 65 were in the expansion population and no one under 18 was in the expansion population.

The map shows the differences between the expansion and other PMHS population percentages by jurisdiction. The counties in white, mostly rural counties, are those where the percentage of the expansion population was much greater than that of others served in the PMHS. These large differences are seen in Garrett, Allegany, Calvert, Charles, St. Mary’s, Carroll, Howard, Cecil, Queen Anne’s, Caroline, and Talbot. Those in light gray had expansion percentages



above the percentage of others, but with smaller differences. These include Washington, Frederick, Harford, Kent, Somerset and Worcester. The dark gray counties-Montgomery, Anne Arundel, and Wicomico, had roughly equal percentages of expansion and all other populations. Finally, in the most urban jurisdictions-Baltimore City and County, and Prince George’s Counties, the percentages of the expansion were below those of other PMHS participants.

% of Expansion Population vs. % of Previous MA Population

