



Highlights of 2002 AHIP Annual Survey of Health Plans

Preventive Health Care Services

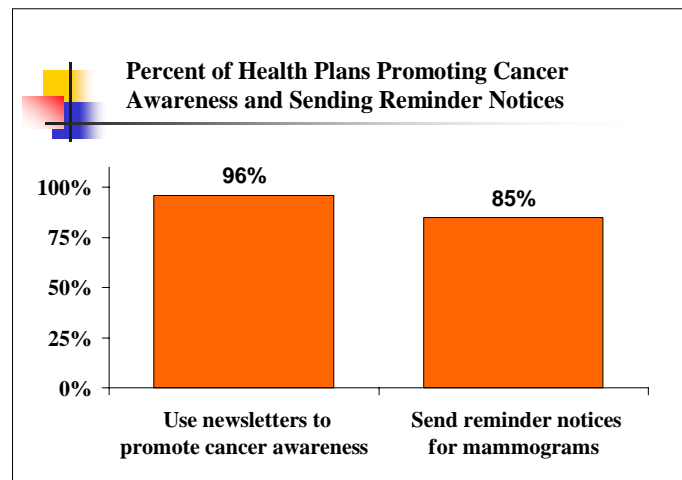
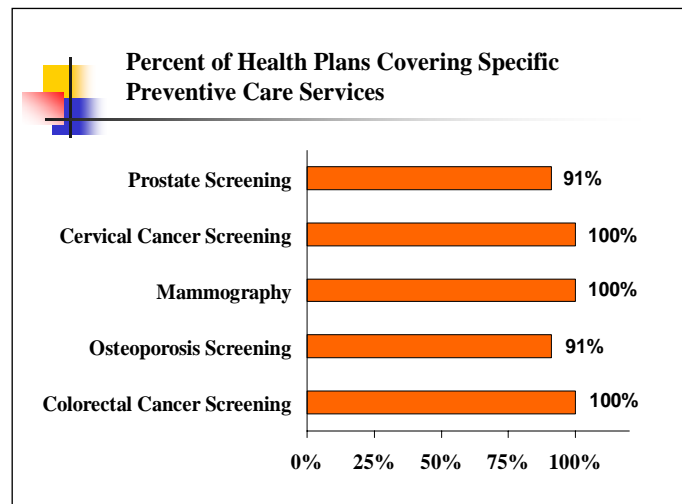
Health plans continue to be on the forefront in offering preventive health services to their members: programs for early detection of chronic and life-threatening diseases as well as programs aimed at healthy lifestyles are mainstay benefits found at all health plans. Advances in technology and increases in utilization of cancer screenings have come together to play a significant role in the reduction of cancer deaths over the past 40 years. Specifically, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, breast cancer screenings among women over age 40 have prevented 16% of all deaths from breast cancer, and colorectal screening in people age 50 and older has reduced the number of deaths from the disease by one-third.

Early Detection and Screening

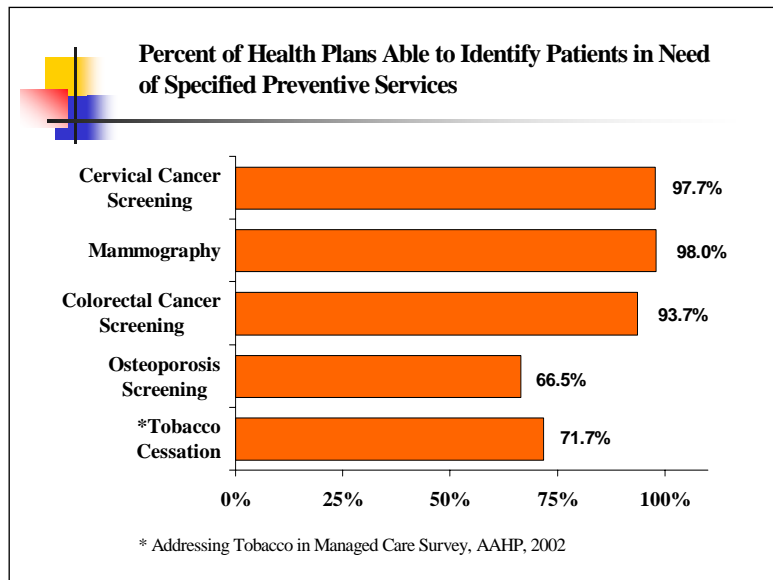
The 2002 AHIP Annual Survey of Health Plans (HMO and POS plans) asked health plan executives about their plans' preventive care and screening programs for cancer and other diseases. Virtually all health plans cover screening tests for colorectal cancer, breast cancer, cervical cancer, and diabetes control.

Health Plans Encourage Preventive Treatments

Health plans use a variety of strategies to promote important preventive benefits. Most health plans (96%) utilize their newsletters to promote cancer awareness to members, most often for cervical and breast cancer checkups; and another 85% send targeted reminders for mammograms directly to members via mail.



Overall, 95% of health plans reported they provide information on health related topics to members by e-health communications (via e-mail or through the health plan web site). These activities include web-based patient education tools (90% of plans), notifying members of screening and immunization recommendations (79% of plans), disease management programs (73% of plans), and many health plans are beginning to use web-based health risk assessments (48%).



Identifying Patients for Services

Most health plans have systems in place to identify members in need of specific preventive services. Seventy-six percent of HMOs and 70% of PPOs identify members for health promotion programs by integrating health plan datasets via their information technology systems; claims and encounter data are most commonly integrated with pharmacy data for the purpose of promoting preventive services.

AHIP Annual Survey of Health Plans

For more than a decade, AHIP has conducted an annual survey of health plans, usually focusing on HMOs and POS plans. As in past years, the 2002 AHIP Survey provides a wealth of information regarding health plan activities in the commercial, Medicaid, and Medicare markets. In 2002, a sample was drawn to participate in the survey, with 58% of the health plans completing the survey instrument. The survey respondents represent a profile of health plans in the United States and provide information on 50 million individuals – approximately 64% of total U.S. enrollment in HMOs and POS plans. The complete “Chart Book of Findings” from the 2002 Survey is available on the AHIP website.

References

2003 Health Plan Information Technology & Preventive Health Assessment, AHIP



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