



Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2018

Welcome to the Spring 2018 Arkansas APCD Newsletter! Here we will provide status updates and other important information to Arkansas APCD submitting entities. Thank you for your participation and hard work as we improve healthcare transparency in Arkansas.































Arkansas Data Submission Guide Update

The latest version, 6.0.2018, [is now available](#). In this version, the Arkansas APCD team has added a few new fields to the end of each record to accommodate potential member ID changes resulting from system changes.

The biggest change in the new guide is a modification in requirements for control count files. This new process reduces the number of required files to be submitted and makes it easier for submitting entities and the Arkansas APCD team to validate data.

A technical change to DSG 6.0.2018 was published on January 29, 2018. Submitting entities should expect another technical change to be published near the first week of May. ***This change should have no impact on current submitting entities.*** It is being released in anticipation of data receipt from managed care organizations that will begin submitting data in the near future.

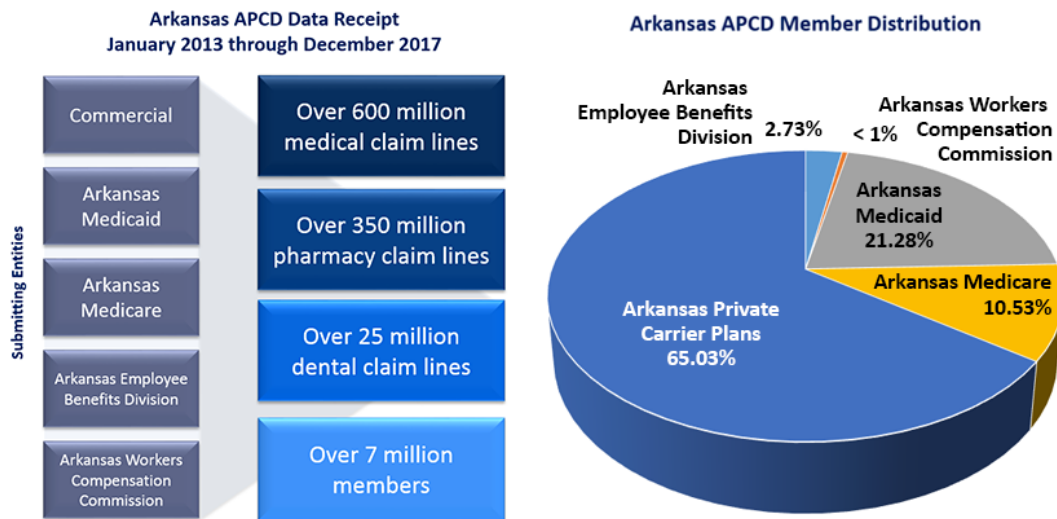
Helpful Hint: Before submitting data in the 6.0.2018 format, contact the Arkansas APCD technical support team to test the new control count data elements. A little testing ahead of time can pay off in the end. As we get closer to the June 30 submission date, the Arkansas APCD technical support team is standing by to lend any assistance needed.

	 MEDICAL	 PHARMACY	 DENTAL	 ENROLLMENT	 PROVIDER
COMMERCIAL 4,824,781 Covered Individuals	 2013 - 2017	 2013 - 2017	 2013 - 2017	 2013 - 2017	 2013 - 2017
ARKANSAS MEDICAID 1,427,441 Covered Individuals	 2013 - 2017	 2013 - 2017	 2013 - 2017	 2013 - 2017	 2013 - 2017
MEDICARE 611,466 Covered Individuals	 2013 - 2016	 2013 - 2016		 2013 - 2016	
ARKANSAS STATE/ SCHOOL EMPLOYEES 193,662 Covered Individuals	 2013 - 2017	 2013 - 2017		 2013 - 2017	
ARKANSAS WORKERS' COMPENSATION 26,707 Covered Individuals	 2013 - 2017				

The Arkansas APCD has been collecting data for more than two years.
Data coverage begins with 2013 and extends through 2017.

Current Data Coverage Status and Member Distribution

The Arkansas APCD has been collecting data for over two years. Data coverage begins with 2013 and extends through 2017. The graphics below illustrate data submission counts and member distribution to date. The Arkansas APCD team has implemented an improved data collection process with Arkansas Medicaid, which changed the amount of medical claim data received. The medical claim data feeds previously included supporting data that had to be combined to create the APCD submission. The new submission eliminates the extra data and aggregation processes—improving APCD processing efficiency.



Additionally, we have included two graphs to illustrate the distribution of members by age and gender between commercial, Arkansas Medicaid, and Arkansas Medicare. Note, these distributions stopped at 2016 because Arkansas Medicare data is not yet available for 2017.



Submitting Entity User Resources

The Arkansas APCD team works closely with submitting entities, covering all aspects of data submission. Helpful information highlights:

- Additional Exception Review – The Arkansas APCD technical support team has been paying close attention to exception requests to understand the data gaps that submitting entities (SEs) may have that prevents them from being compliant with the Arkansas APCD DSG threshold requirements. Their goal is to increase

data coverage in as many data elements as possible. They are working with submitting entities to provide additional data element values, including 'other,' 'not applicable,' and 'unknown,' as mapping options instead of leaving data element values NULL (when NULL is used, an exception must be requested for approval to allow reduced thresholds). We are committed to reducing the need for exceptions and working with SEs to use mapping strategies to increase data coverage and accuracy.

- FIPS county codes – The original requirements for member county data allowed for either the county name or FIPS codes. Allowing different value formats created data transformation challenges in the Arkansas APCD load. Therefore, county code values are now restricted to FIPS codes. This change was put in place in DSG 6.0.2018.

[Click for more resources...](#)

Also, SEs may find the information at these two links useful as they fulfill the requirements of the Arkansas APCD DSG:

[Arkansas APCD Data Submission Tips](#)
[Arkansas APCD Data Submission FAQ](#)



The Arkansas APCD recently published the following to the [Reports and Maps](#) page:

- Reports:
 - [Prevalence of Breast Cancer in Arkansas](#)
 - [Arkansas APCD - Biennial Report 2017](#)
 - [Arkansas APCD - Profiles of Individuals Registered for Medical Marijuana](#)
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UPCOMING DATES

June 30

Quarter 2 2018 Data Submission
Data required: Jan. 1, 2018 - March 31, 2018

September 30

Quarter 3 2018 Data Submission
Data required: April 1, 2018 - June 30, 2018

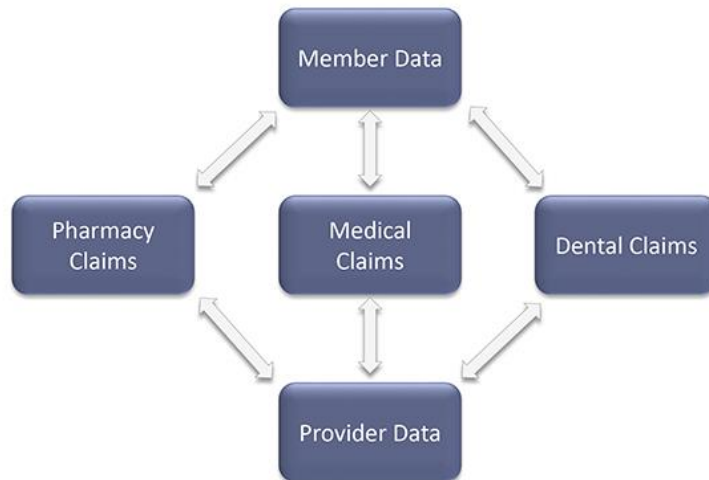
December 31

Quarter 4 2018 Data Submission
Data required: July 1, 2018 - September 30, 2018

About the Arkansas APCD

The Arkansas All-Payer Claims Database (APCD) is enabled by the Arkansas Healthcare Transparency Initiative. The vision of the Arkansas APCD is to help empower Arkansans to seek out value in the healthcare system as part of the Arkansas Health Information Transparency Initiative. Its mission is to serve as a trusted and timely source of dynamic information to guide meaningful action to improve health, enhance healthcare quality, and lower costs. The Arkansas APCD team strives to build and maintain a rich data asset to enable this vision and mission, helping advance the health and well-being of Arkansans through relevant, accessible health information.

The Arkansas APCD is based on a logical data platform that associates the five main data categories (member data, medical claims, pharmacy claims, dental claims, and provider data) at both the submitter/individual and provider levels. This model facilitates health data relationships that can address complex health care utilization and access questions.



The Arkansas All-Payer Claims Database (APCD) is administered by the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement (ACHI) with support from the Arkansas Insurance Department Health Insurance Rate Review Division.



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