

Oregon Project Independence

Program Description

Oregon Project Independence (OPI) serves seniors and people with physical disabilities by providing services while living in their own homes. Services are provided statewide through Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) local offices. Services include personal and home care, chore services, adult day care, assistive technology, registered nursing services, home delivered meals and service coordination provided by AAA staff.

Funding

Oregon Project Independence is funded by Oregon's State General Fund.

Scope or Reach

Eligibility for the Oregon Project Independence program is based on level of need using a common assessment tool; there are no financial eligibility requirements, however, income is used to determine how much the consumer will pay toward the cost of services. OPI has traditionally served those who are 60 years of age or older or who have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder, and meet the requirement of Oregon's long-term care services priority rule. OPI Consumers may not receive federal benefits with the exception of food stamps and Supplemental Low Income Medicare Beneficiary Program benefits.

People Served

In Fiscal Year 2014, there 2,802 unduplicated OPI Consumers. A quarter (26.5%) of OPI consumers are registered with Multnomah County Aging & Disability Services (Multnomah County residents) and 17.9% are with NorthWest Senior and Disability Services (Marion, Polk, Yamhill, Clatsop & Tillamook Counties).

OPI Consumers in FY13-14 had an average gross monthly income of \$1,225. With an average annual gross income of \$14,689, the vast majority of OPI Consumers are 125% of Federal Poverty Guidelines for FY2014.

OPI consumers 60+ years of age are similar to Medicaid consumers 60+ in FY2014. The average age for OPI is 79 and 74 for Medicaid and roughly a third of both consumer populations is over 85. Majority are female (70% for OPI and 71% for Medicaid). More Medicaid 60+ consumers are Hispanic or Latino at 5.4% compared to OPI's 1.7%. Of the known data, OPI consumers are 86% white or Caucasian, compared to 81% for Medicaid.

Key highlights

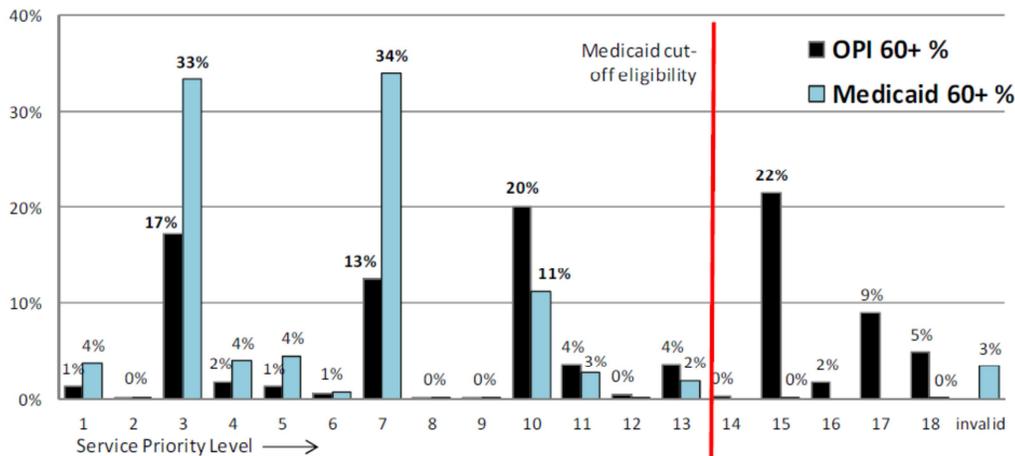
- OPI served 2,802 Oregonians in Fiscal Year 2014.
- Vast majority of OPI Consumers are 125% of Federal Poverty.
- OPI Consumers are 5.9% racial minority and 1.7% Hispanic or Latino. Majority (70%) are female.
- Majority of OPI consumers have a Service Priority Level within Medicaid eligibility.

Key highlights

- The annual median cost for service delivery of an OPI Consumer was \$3,144.91 in 2014.
- When comparing direct service costs only, excluding service coordination and administrative costs, OPI's cost per client is \$1,621. Medicaid consumers over the age of 60 had a cost per client of \$9,507.

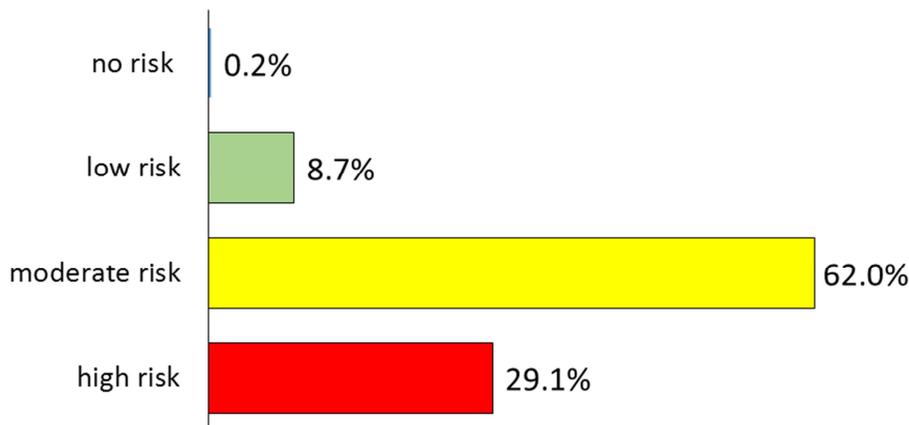
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Service Priority Levels (SPL) determine a consumer’s need and are the result of an annual consumer assessment. The higher the SPL, the higher the consumer’s independent functioning. The average SPL for FY14 OPI consumers is 10.7 on a 1-18 scale. Medicaid consumers 60 years of age or older have an average SPL of 8.3 but are on a 1 to 13 scale because 13 is the eligibility cut-off for Medicaid consumers. As shown in the graph below, the majority of OPI consumers have a Service Priority Level within Medicaid eligibility.



OPI Risk Assessment Summary

To assess Oregon Project Independence Consumers’ overall level of risk of moving to a higher level of care outside of their home, a summary of OPI Consumer’s Risk Assessment Tool scores was analyzed. OPI Risk Assessment Tool (RAT) was originally modeled after the Minnesota Live Well at Home *Know Your Risk* tool which was validated for use in 2007. At the time of screening, all potential consumers live in their own homes.



- Half (50%) of those who are screened for OPI need help with at least two activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing, or walking.
- 40% of respondents have had either three or more falls in the last six months or one fall that resulted in an injury.

- OPI 60+ consumers have more hours for IADL needs and 60+ Medicaid consumers have more utilization of ADL needs; however, OPI’s average service utilization for both is far less than Medicaid consumers.
- 81% of OPI consumers did not enroll in Medicaid during FY14.
- 62% of OPI consumers are in moderate risk and 29% in high risk of moving to a higher level of care outside of their home.
- Half (50%) of those who are screened for OPI need help with at least two activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing, or walking.
- 40% of OPI consumers have had either three or more falls in the last six months or one fall that resulted in an injury.
- Over a third (36%) do not feel that they have help from a family or friend.

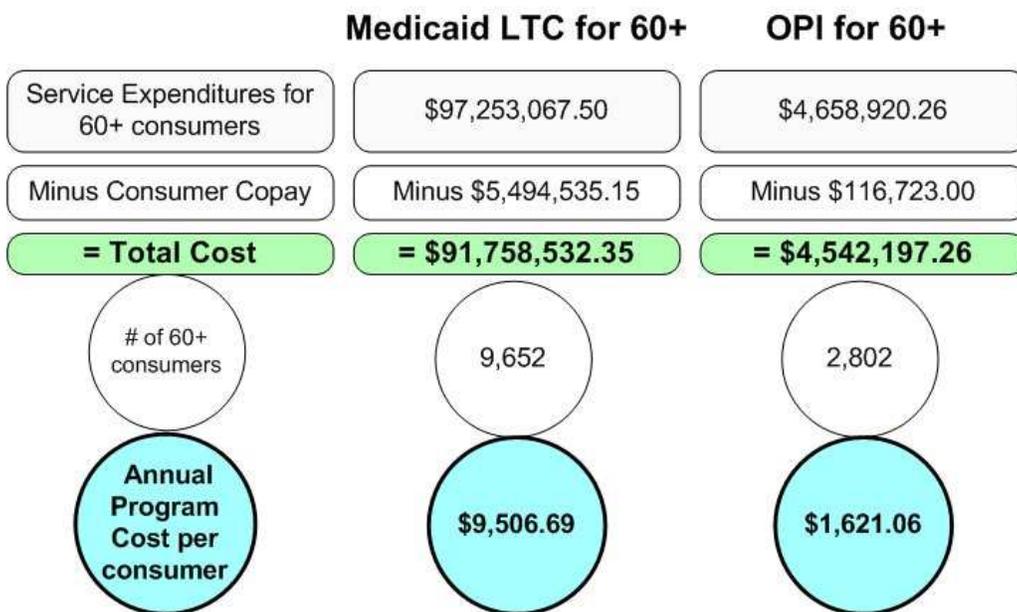
ADRC REPORT

- Over a third (36%) of respondents do not feel that they have help from a family or friend. OPI consumers perceive their caregivers as stressed in 41% of those with a Risk Assessment. OPI consumers report having very little financial resources; two-thirds have less than \$10K (or less than \$15,000 for a couple).

Cost Comparison to Medicaid Consumers

Based on Area Agency on Aging (AAA) expenditures for 7/1/2013-6/30/2014 audited expenses submitted by each agency, the average annual cost per OPI consumer at each AAA is \$3,176.89 which includes service coordination and administrative costs. Area Agencies on Aging range from \$1,844 to \$5,314 in annual cost per OPI consumer for fiscal year 2014.

The reason for the stark difference in Medicaid and OPI direct consumer program costs is not that the services are more expensive on Medicaid. The cost difference exists because OPI has capped funding and Area Agencies on Aging must limit service hours to manage the program within budget. Medicaid is a federal entitlement program and does not have a hard budgetary cap, service hours are typically authorized based on the service plan generated through the assessment. Medicaid eligibility also provides individuals with benefits for healthcare under the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) and pays for these costs, which are not included in the graph below. OPI consumers do not access OHP so the healthcare expenditures to state funding are \$0.



Note: Comparison is for direct service costs and does not include case management or administrative costs.

- 41% of OPI consumers perceive their caregivers as stressed because of caregiving responsibilities.
- 60% of OPI consumers live alone.
- Half (51%) of OPI consumers were very, or somewhat, concerned about their memory, thinking or decision-making ability.
- 67% of OPI consumers have little to no savings at all, less than \$10,000 for an individual or less than \$15,000 for a couple.

Service Utilization Comparison

In FY14, Oregon Project Independence 60+ consumers have more units for Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL) needs and 60+ Medicaid consumers have more utilization of Activities of Daily Living (ADL) needs, both indicative of the consumer populations. Most consumers in both programs do receive services for both ADL and IADL services. For FY14 OPI and Medicaid consumers 60 years of age or older:

- Average annual ADL hours of service: OPI is 45; Medicaid is 522
- Average annual IADL hours of service: OPI is 80; Medicaid is 399
- Average annual In-home Care Agency hours: OPI is included in ADL hours; Medicaid consumer's average is 1,780

OPI Consumers Transfer to Medicaid

To investigate how many OPI consumers left OPI to enroll in Medicaid Long Term Care (MLTC), we compared the OPI consumer list to those receiving MLTC in the DHS database (OACCESS). We examined OPI consumers from July 1 2013 to June 30, 2014 to those who received MLTC from July 1, 2013 to December 30, 2014. Of the 2,821 OPI duplicated cases, as compared to the 2,802 unduplicated consumers from FY14, 19% (538) enrolled in Medicaid Long Term Care (MLTC) during this 18 month time period.

Of those OPI consumers who enrolled in Medicaid the average gross income was \$1,291. Those who enrolled in Medicaid had an average Service Priority Level of 8, as determined by level of impairment in Activities of Daily Living with 1 being most impaired/highest priority and 13 being least impaired. The demographics of those OPI consumers who did not enroll in Medicaid were similar but their average Service Priority Level was 11.

For more information

For the full Oregon Project Independence report, please visit:

<http://www.oregon.gov/dhs/spwpd/pages/sua/in-home-ss.aspx>

To learn more about Oregon Project Independence, please contact the Aging & Disability Resource Connection of Oregon at 1-855-ORE-ADRC (673-2372) or at www.ADRCofofOregon.org.

For questions related to the Oregon Project Independence evaluation, please contact Elizabeth O'Neill, Oregon State Unit on Aging, Program Evaluation and Research, Elizabeth.A.ONeill@state.or.us.

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