MAX 2005 data should be available to data users in the fall of 2008. Users are advised that there are new data dictionaries for MAX data for 2005 and later years. This is to accommodate new data elements being collected in the Medicaid Statistical Information System (MSIS) beginning in Fiscal 2005. The new data dictionaries are under development and are not ready for the user community as of April 1, 2008. However, new data element lists have been prepared and are available so that users can see the new data elements added beginning with 2005.

The MAX data provide a fairly complete and accurate view of Medicaid and Medicaid expansion SCHIP (M-SCHIP enrollment) and payments and utilization for services provided under fee-for-service arrangements. However, MAX data (and source data from MSIS) may be incomplete for Medicaid enrollees in prepaid plans. States are required to submit encounter records for services provided to enrollees in prepaid plans. However, CMSO analyses indicate that encounter reporting lacks the consistency and completeness to support many research activities.

A report titled, "Using MSIS Data to Analyze Medicaid Eligibility and Managed Care Enrollment Patterns in 1999" was prepared under contract #HHS-100-97-0013 between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of Disability, Aging and Long-Term Care Policy (DALTCP) and Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. With DALTCP permission, table 4C from that report is reproduced here to provide MAX users with data on the numbers of Medicaid enrollees in various managed care plan type combinations as of December, 1999. For additional information about the study, you may visit the DALTCP home page at http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/home.htm, you may visit the web site for the full report at http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/reports/msisdata-file.htm, or you may contact the ASPE Project Officer, John Drabek, at HHS/ASPE/DALTCP, Room 424E, H.H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20201. His e-mail address is: john.drabek@hhs.gov. This report provides a wealth of statistics on Medicaid enrollment, in addition to the statistics presented here on managed care plan enrollment.

For technical assistance with the data or to report data problems, please contact the Research Data Assistance Center (ResDAC) Help Desk, toll-free at 888-973-7322. You may also reach the ResDAC staff via the web at www.resdac.umn.edu , via email at resdac@umn.edu or via FAX at 612-378-4866.

The following is the naming convention applicable to MAX files prior to 2001:

P#MAX.#SMRF.ST.YNNNN.FT where

ST = the postal abbreviation of the state,
YNNNN = the year of the file (e.g. Y1999 is 1999), and
FT = file type, where IP = Inpatient hospital, LT = Long-term care, RX = prescribed drugs, OT = Other (ambulatory) services, and PS = Person Summary.

The following is the naming convention applicable to MAX files after 2000:

MW00.@BF32955.ST.YNNNN.FT where ST, YNNNN and FT are defined as above.