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**Quarterly Insight: Care**

So far in 2018, we've been to see a doctor or others who provide care more than 13 million times. We've been admitted to the hospital about 124,000 times, spending nearly 600,000 days hospitalized. While the number of visits, hospital admissions and length of time we've been hospitalized are all down on average compared to this time last year, the amount we spent on that care is up about 1 percent.

This mid-year look includes people who had health insurance from the [seven members](#) of the Minnesota Council of Health Plans from Jan. 1 to June 30, 2018. The table below shows the care received per 1,000 people.

|  | 2015             |                  | 2016     |                  | 2017     |                  | 2018     |  |
|--|------------------|------------------|----------|------------------|----------|------------------|----------|--|
|  | Per 1,000 people | Per 1,000 people | % change | Per 1,000 people | % change | Per 1,000 people | % change |  |
| <b>Doctor Visits</b>                             | 3,245            | 4,051            | 25%      | 4015             | (1%)     | 3,250            | (19%)    |  |
| <b>Visits with providers who are not doctors</b> | 1,414            | 1,667            | 18%      | 1,776            | 7%       | 1,684            | (5%)     |  |
| <b>Admissions to the hospital</b>                | 57               | 53               | (8%)     | 49               | (8%)     | 47               | (5%)     |  |
| <b>Days in the hospital</b>                      | 233              | 239              | 2%       | 224              | (6%)     | 219              | (2)      |  |

To date, medical bills for care totaled more than \$7 billion. Health insurers received about \$8.4 billion from premiums and government payments. On June 30, 2018, 2.7 million people who buy their own insurance, get it through work, or have Medicare or Medicaid got help from Council member companies to pay their medical bills. If the final six months of 2018 are like years past, we'll be getting more care. Data over time show 10 to 20 percent more visits in December than in an average month.

*Note:* Data is from second quarter reports filed Aug. 15, 2018, by Council member health insurers with the [National Association of Insurance Commissioners](#) and analyzed by the Minnesota Council of Health Plans. Contact Eileen Smith at [smith@mnhealthplans.org](mailto:smith@mnhealthplans.org) with questions. The Minnesota Council of Health Plans brings our country's top health insurance companies together to solve problems. We work in a space where our insurers put aside competitive concerns to work together with partners across the state to make medical care more effective and less expensive for everyone. The seven local health insurance companies that work with the Council serve policyholders, not shareholders on Wall Street.