

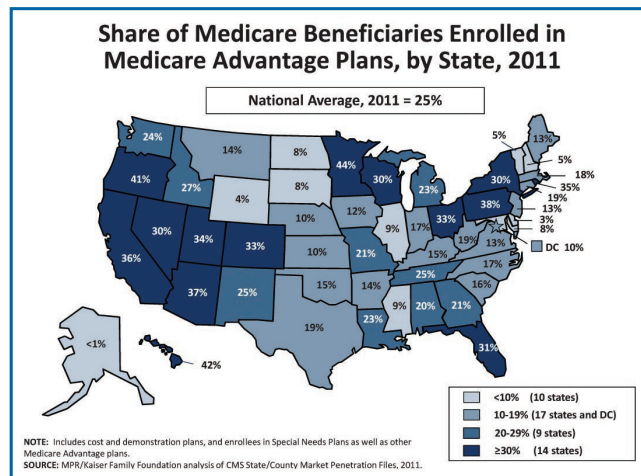
### Mathematica Research in Review

Studies and analyses released by Mathematica in 2011 provide critical data to help guide evidence-based decisions in wide-ranging policy areas.

*Mathematica Research in Review* is a snapshot of some of the year's research results.

#### Health

▶ One option for Medicare beneficiaries is to enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan that combines Medicare and supplemental coverage. An [issue brief](#) prepared for the Kaiser Family Foundation's Program on Medicare Policy found that **Medicare Advantage enrollment** has continued to rise, despite concerns about the effects of 2010 health reform payment reductions. **Nearly 12 million beneficiaries—25 percent of the Medicare population—are enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan**, an increase of 7 percent over 2010. Enrollment varies substantially by state, in part reflecting the greater prevalence of Medicare Advantage plans in urban counties.



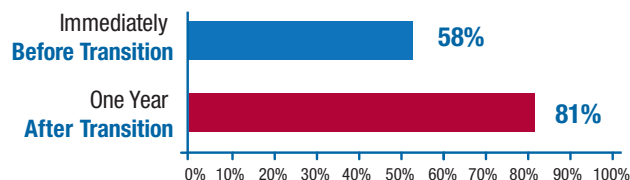
▶ A Mathematica [analysis](#) of **health care cost trends in Massachusetts** found that **higher prices, not changes in use, accounted for all of the growth in spending** from 2007 to 2009 for inpatient and outpatient hospital care, and most of the growth in spending for professional services. In addition, prices for the same service varied widely—more than might occur if providers competed on price. There was **at least a three-fold difference** in price for every medical service examined and for most, a variation of **six- or seven-fold**.

▶ A national [evaluation](#) of the **Money Follows the Person (MFP)** demonstration finds that the majority of Medicaid beneficiaries who are elderly or have disabilities and leave long-term care institutions to return to the community **fare well living in the community**.

**85%** of previously institutionalized Medicaid beneficiaries remain in the community for at least a year, and their **quality of life improves**, in some cases substantially.

▶ A new [study](#) found that the economic **cost of excessive drinking** was approximately **\$223.5 billion** for the nation in 2006.

#### Satisfaction With Life Increased by 40%



#### Cost of Excessive Drinking

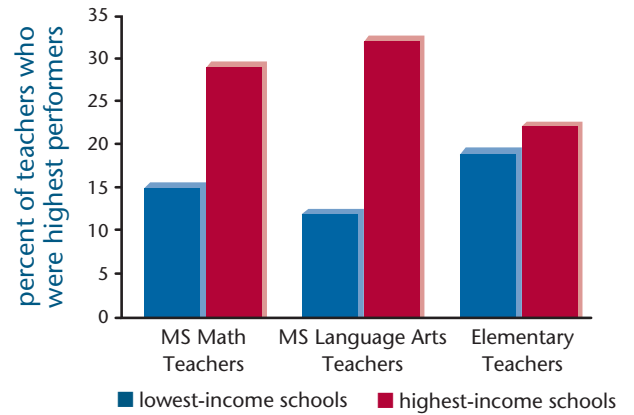
Total **\$223.5 billion**

**\$94.2 billion** cost to government (42.1 % of the total cost)

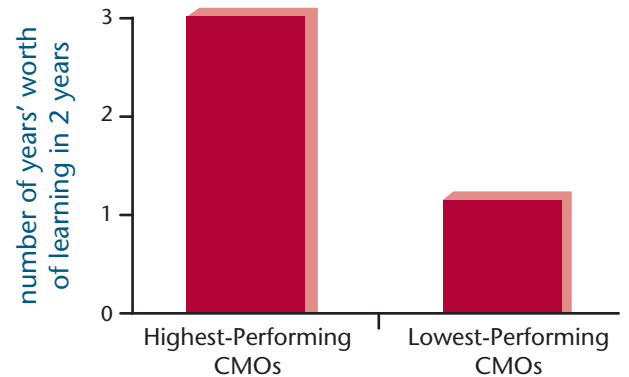


# Education

▶ A Mathematica [research brief](#) found that on average, low-income middle school students were significantly less likely to have **access to the highest-performing teachers**. Such under-representation was not found for elementary schools when all districts were considered collectively.



▶ A national [study](#) of **charter-school management organizations** (CMOs) found that students in the **highest-performing CMOs achieved three years' worth of learning in just two years**, while those in the **lowest-performing CMOs achieved not much more than one year of learning** after two years in school.



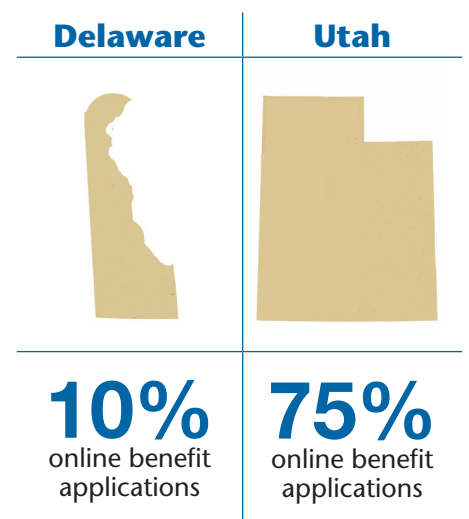
# Family Support

▶ In an [article](#) published in the *Journal of Behavioral Health Services and Research*, Mathematica experts highlight findings indicating that as many as **68%** of **women who receive outpatient substance abuse treatment have at least one child**.



Only **6.5%** of outpatient substance abuse facilities that serve women provide child care.

▶ The struggling economy and difficult employment situation have increased the need for work and family supports. At the same time, fiscal constraints are driving efforts to reduce program administrative costs and increase efficiencies. A [study](#) examining **tools for improving benefits access and program efficiency** found that, **in some states, almost all applications for public assistance are received online; in other states, adoption of web-based technologies is still evolving**.



Many states are modernizing the way clients access benefits.

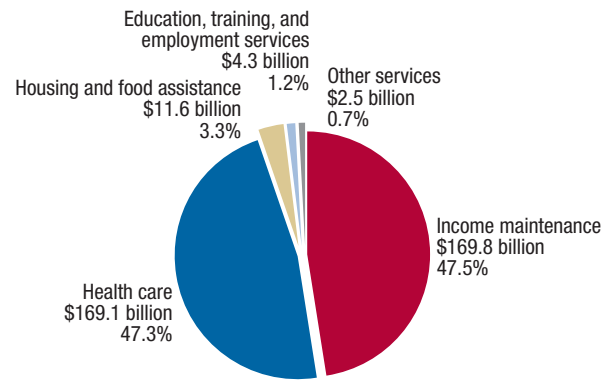
# Disability

▶ An **issue brief** from Mathematica's Center for Studying Disability Policy reveals that **12%** of the total **federal expenditures** in 2008 (**\$357 billion**) was **directed toward working-age people with disabilities**.

Just **1.2%** of federal funds spent on programs to assist working-age people with disabilities is dedicated to education, training, and employment.

▶ Mathematica **testimony** before the U.S. House of Representatives highlighted troubling **outcomes for Child SSI recipients** between the ages of 19 and 23.

Federal Expenditures for Working-Age People With Disabilities, by Type of Expenditure, Billions of Dollars, Fiscal Year 2008



Approximately **one-fifth** have **been arrested**



**2 in 5** do not have a **high school diploma** and are not enrolled in school

More than **3 in 5** continue to **rely on SSI benefits into adulthood**



**4 in 5** are **not employed**

# International

▶ A new Mathematica **report** presents baseline findings from an evaluation of the Rwanda Threshold Program, which aims to **promote political rights, civil liberties, and political accountability** through several initiatives, including strengthening police accountability, an independent media environment, and civic participation.



▶ Mathematica's **evaluation** of the IMAGINE program, designed to improve **educational outcomes of girls in Niger**, found **slight increases in enrollment but no statistically significant impact on attendance or test scores**—a marked difference from a similar intervention in neighboring Burkina Faso. The generally higher level of schooling availability, coupled with IMAGINE implementation challenges associated with political turmoil in Niger, may have limited the program's impact.

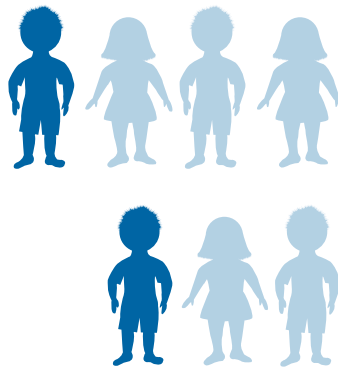
## BASELINE FINDINGS SUGGEST

**63%** of those surveyed **believed their voice could influence government policy** in their district.

**51%** felt they **could openly disagree with a government official** in their district without facing negative consequences for themselves or their families.

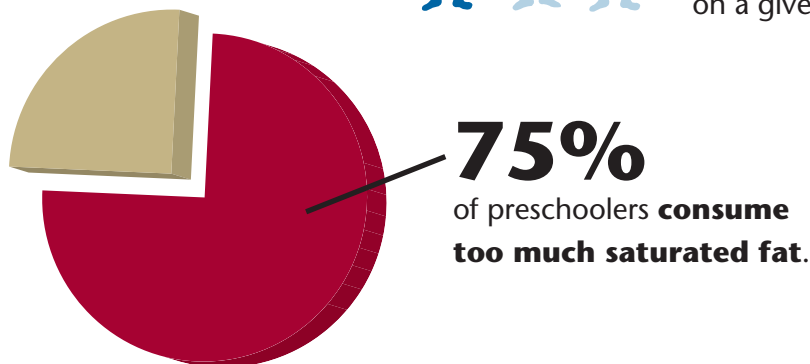
# Nutrition

Findings from the landmark Nestlé Feeding Infants and Toddlers Study indicated that **troublesome eating habits and lifestyle behaviors are found in children from birth to 48 months**, which may contribute to childhood obesity.

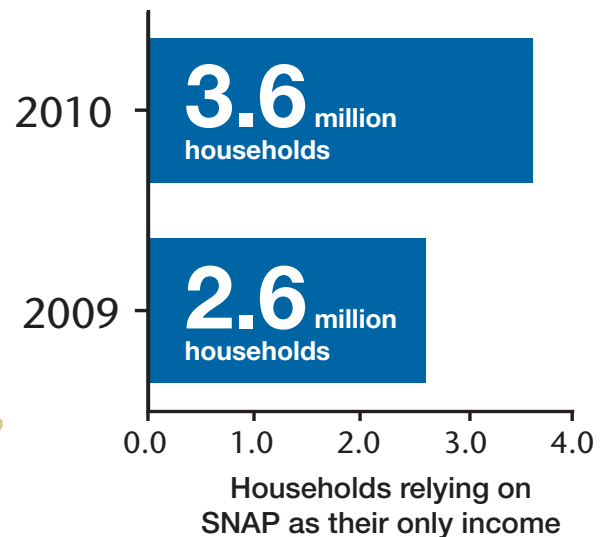


About **1 in 4** preschoolers do not consume a discrete serving of **fruit** on a given day.

About **1 in 3** preschoolers do not consume a discrete serving of **vegetables** on a given day.



The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a central component of the national policy to alleviate **hunger and poverty**. Mathematica found that approximately **one in five** SNAP households **rely on their SNAP benefits as the only source of income**.



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For more information, contact [communications@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:communications@mathematica-mpr.com).