IHS Medicaid encounter rate

48 contiguous states | 2000-2026

Annual outpatient rate, excluding Medicare. Dollar and percentage changes compare with the preceding year. CPI columns show annual-average consumer inflation.

Year	Encounter rate	Dollar change	Rate change	CPI-U all items	CPI-U medical care
2000	$172	--	--	3.4%	4.1%
2001	$185	+$13	+7.6%	2.8%	4.6%
2002	$197	+$12	+6.5%	1.6%	4.7%
2003	$206	+$9	+4.6%	2.3%	4.0%
2004	$216	+$10	+4.9%	2.7%	4.4%
2005	$223	+$7	+3.2%	3.4%	4.2%
2006	$242	+$19	+8.5%	3.2%	4.0%
2007	$256	+$14	+5.8%	2.8%	4.4%
2008	$253	-$3	-1.2%	3.8%	3.7%
2009	$268	+$15	+5.9%	-0.4%	3.2%
2010	$289	+$21	+7.8%	1.6%	3.4%
2011	$294	+$5	+1.7%	3.2%	3.0%
2012	$316	+$22	+7.5%	2.1%	3.7%
2013	$330	+$14	+4.4%	1.5%	2.5%
2014	$342	+$12	+3.6%	1.6%	2.4%
2015	$350	+$8	+2.3%	0.1%	2.6%
2016	$368	+$18	+5.1%	1.3%	3.8%
2017	$391	+$23	+6.3%	2.1%	2.5%
2018	$427	+$36	+9.2%	2.4%	2.0%
2019	$455	+$28	+6.6%	1.8%	2.8%
2020	$479	+$24	+5.3%	1.2%	4.1%
2021	$519	+$40	+8.4%	4.7%	1.2%
2022	$640	+$121	+23.3%	8.0%	4.1%
2023	$654	+$14	+2.2%	4.1%	0.5%
2024	$719	+$65	+9.9%	2.9%	2.7%
2025	$801	+$82	+11.4%	2.6%*	2.9%*
2026	**$826**	**+$25**	**+3.1%**	**Pending**	**Pending**

*2025 CPI averages use 11 published months; October is missing. Full-year 2026 CPI averages are not yet available. Definitions, calculations, and references appear on page 2.

Notes and references

How to read and reproduce the comparison

1. Which rate? The Lower-48 IHS outpatient per-visit rate excluding Medicare, commonly called the IHS-OMB or all-inclusive encounter rate. It is a payment rate, not a measure of IHS appropriations or total program revenue. Alaska and Medicare have separate rates.

2. Annual changes. Dollar change = current rate minus prior-year rate. Rate change = (current rate / prior-year rate - 1) x 100. The first row is the rate-series baseline, so its rate change is not shown. CPI inflation in 2000 compares the 2000 average with 1999. Percentages are calculated before rounding to one decimal. The 2017 rate increase is 6.3%, correcting 6.2% in the companion paper.

3. Inflation basis. Both CPI series are U.S. city average, all urban consumers, not seasonally adjusted. Inflation = (current calendar-year average index / prior calendar-year average index - 1) x 100. These are annual-average changes, not December-to-December changes or fiscal-year averages. CPI-U Medical Care includes medical commodities and services; it is not an exact index of IHS or Tribal provider costs.

4. Incomplete years. BLS annual-average observations (M13) are used. The 2025 averages use 11 months because October data were not collected during the shutdown. The 2026 annual averages are pending; partial-year values are not substituted.

5. Source scope. Historical encounter rates are transcribed from the companion paper; the 2026 rate is also checked against the official IHS rate notice. Annual dollar and percentage changes were recalculated. CPI values were retrieved directly from the BLS public API on November 5, 2026. This comparison does not establish why the encounter rate changed in a particular year.

References

1. Fox, E. J. (2026). *The IHS-OMB Rate and FMAP: An Underappreciated Driver of Indian Health Program Medicaid Financing.* Historical table, PDF p. 3. Companion Medicaid financing paper.

2. Indian Health Service. (2026). *Reimbursement Rates for Calendar Year 2026.* Federal Register, 91 FR 2787, January 22. Lower-48 outpatient rate excluding Medicare: $826. IHS reimbursement rates and annual notices.

3. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. CPI-U annual-average index observations: all items (CUUR0000SA0) and medical care (CUUR0000SAM). All-items CPI-U series.

4. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Medical Care CPI-U series and 2025 missing-month methodology. Medical Care CPI-U series.

5. BLS methodology note: 2025 annual averages use the published observations when October is unavailable. BLS shutdown and annual-average FAQ.