

Differences between T-MSIS and T-MSIS Analytic File (TAF) data quality assessments

	T-MSIS	TAF
Data	<p>T-MSIS is the rawest form of data, which is submitted by states monthly and organized by submission date across eight file types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beneficiary eligibility and enrollment • Inpatient services • Long-term care services • Other services • Prescription drugs • Provider demographics • Managed care plan information • Third party liability 	<p>TAF is a user-friendly version of the T-MSIS data that is organized by calendar year and is designed to support analysis, research, and data-driven decisions on key dimensions of Medicaid and CHIP. TAF does not include claims denied at the header.</p> <p>TAF-RIF is a de-identified subset of the T-MSIS data designed for use in public research projects.</p>
Product	Data quality is presented on the T-MSIS data quality assessment maps.	Data quality is presented in a web-based tool, DQ Atlas.
Purpose	To assess state compliance with the T-MSIS validation rules and data quality measures (collectively referred to as DQ checks) for data completeness, accuracy, and timeliness. States are responsible for meeting T-MSIS data quality compliance requirements.	To provide information about usability and quality of TAF data to help data users conduct sound analyses using TAF or TAF Research Identifiable Files (TAF RIF) data ^a
Audience	State Medicaid agencies, CMS	TAF and TAF RIF users, both internal and external to CMS
Access and availability	<p>T-MSIS data quality assessment maps^b are publicly available at: https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/data-systems/macbis/transformed-medicaid-statistical-information-system-t-msis/index.html.</p> <p>Historical T-MSIS assessment maps are not retained on Medicaid.gov.</p>	<p>DQ Atlas is publicly available at: https://www.medicaid.gov/dq-atlas/welcome</p> <p>Historical TAF DQ assessments are retained on DQ Atlas.</p>
Frequency of updates	T-MSIS data quality assessment maps on Medicaid.gov are updated monthly.	<p>DQ assessments in DQ Atlas for each state and topic are updated for each new calendar year of available TAF RIF data after there has been enough runout of TAF data for the publicly available TAF RIF to be produced for that year (at least 6 months of runout for each month of the given year for the preliminary TAF RIF and at least 12 months for the final TAF RIF). For example, DQ Atlas was updated with 2020 Preliminary TAF DQ assessments shortly before the release of the 2020 Preliminary TAF RIF.</p> <p>DQ assessments in DQ Atlas are also updated for any new versions of TAF RIF data for a previous data year that are produced using improved data (e.g., 2017 Release 2).</p>
Period of analysis	Monthly: Each state's status on the map is based on the data quality issues identified in their most recent monthly T-MSIS submission through the DQ checks.	Annual: DQ Atlas measures are calculated for each calendar year and version of TAF produced as a TAF RIF.

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Areas of focus	Data quality categories ^c	Topic areas ^d
Assessments	DQ checks have a standardized expected range. If the state's metric does not fall within the expected range, the issue is reported to the state and counted in the T-MSIS DQ Assessment if it relates to one of the data quality areas currently prioritized by CMS.	DQ Atlas specifies DQ assessment criteria for each topic and assigns states to a category based on the level of concern with a state's data quality: low concern, medium concern, high concern, unusable, or unclassified.
Claims measures	Measures use the month in which the state submitted a claim to T-MSIS to categorize claims into each monthly reporting period.	Measures use dates of service to categorize claims into each calendar year.
Issue resolution	As a result of the technical assistance work with states, issues may be excluded from the T-MSIS assessment map based on state explanations of programmatic, operational or policy reasons for a metric falling outside of the expected range.	DQ assessments are standardized for all states. Exceptions based on state-specific policy or programmatic features are typically not considered unless specified in the topic's Background and Methods sections.
Notifications	There are no push notifications when a new T-MSIS data quality assessment map is posted to Medicaid.gov.	Users can subscribe to a Medicaid.gov list to receive email notifications when new data or features are added to DQ Atlas. To get started, enter your email address on the Medicaid.gov subscription page, and then click Submit to view subscription topics. Check the box for DQ Atlas and click Submit to subscribe to DQ Atlas alerts.
Contact	States should contact their DQ lead or CMS liaison with questions about the T-MSIS data quality assessment.	DQ Atlas users can contact the DataConnect Support Team at DataConnectSupport@cms.hhs.gov for any feedback or questions about the DQ Atlas site.
Reference	https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/data-systems/macbis/transformed-medicaid-statistical-information-system-t-msis/index.html	https://www.medicaid.gov/dq-atlas/landing/resources

^a External users can request permission to access the TAF RIF (the deidentified version of the TAF). To request access to the TAF RIF, please refer to ResDAC.org. For more information about how the TAF RIF are produced, see https://www.medicaid.gov/dq-atlas/downloads/supplemental/9010_Production_of_TAF_RIF.pdf.

^b The T-MSIS data quality assessment map displayed on Medicaid.gov is based on the open issues in each state's data quality report, which summarizes data quality issues in each state's monthly T-MSIS submission based on a suite of validation rules and data quality measures. States can access the list of data quality issues identified by CMS in the Operations Dashboard (OD). The OD also contains T-MSIS data quality assessment maps that reflect the most recent data submitted by states. Access to the OD is mostly limited to CMS, state Medicaid agencies, and CMS contractors providing technical assistance to states on T-MSIS. To access the OD for operational T-MSIS work, States should contact their T-MSIS State Liaisons or email T-MSIS_Helpdesk@cms.hhs.gov.

^c A complete list and general description of each data quality category can be found on the T-MSIS webpage: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/data-systems/macbis/transformed-medicaid-statistical-information-system-t-msis/index.html>

^d DQ Atlas topic areas include enrollment benchmarking, enrollment patterns over time, beneficiary information, claims file completeness, expenditure benchmarking, payments, service use information, non-claim records, provider information, and managed care plans, as shown on the DQ Atlas "Explore by Topic" view: <https://www.medicaid.gov/dq-atlas/landing/topics/info>.