



HEALTH CARE  
COST INSTITUTE

# Ambulance Trends 2012-2021 for Employer Sponsored Insurance

September, 2023

**HCCL is a mission-driven, independent, non-profit organization at the nexus of data, analytics, and action.**

We were founded in 2011 to leverage unique, high-quality data and extraordinary expertise in research and policy to give decisionmakers the tools they need to lower health care costs and increase value in the health care system.





# What HCCI does



## Data Aggregation, Governance, Licensing

*Academic and policy researchers use our data for their projects.*



## Thought Leadership and Original Research

*HCCI conducts impactful, relevant research using our dataset and government data sources.*



## Government Data Analytics

*HCCI works with clients to analyze Medicare and Medicaid data. HCCI is also a national Qualified Entity.*



## Multi-Payer Datasets and Transparency Tools

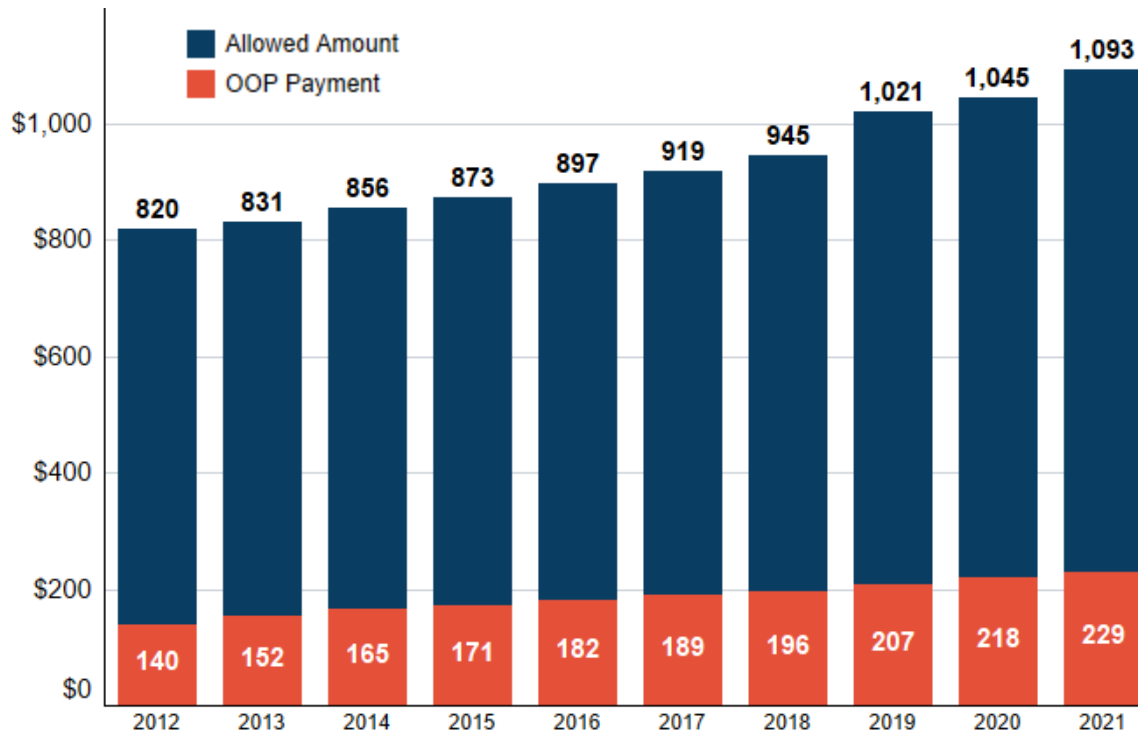
*Guroo.org is HCCI's consumer-facing price transparency tool. HCCI also operates Florida's All Payer Claims Database.*



# Ground Ambulance Basics

Note: All the results we present today is for people with employer-sponsored insurance

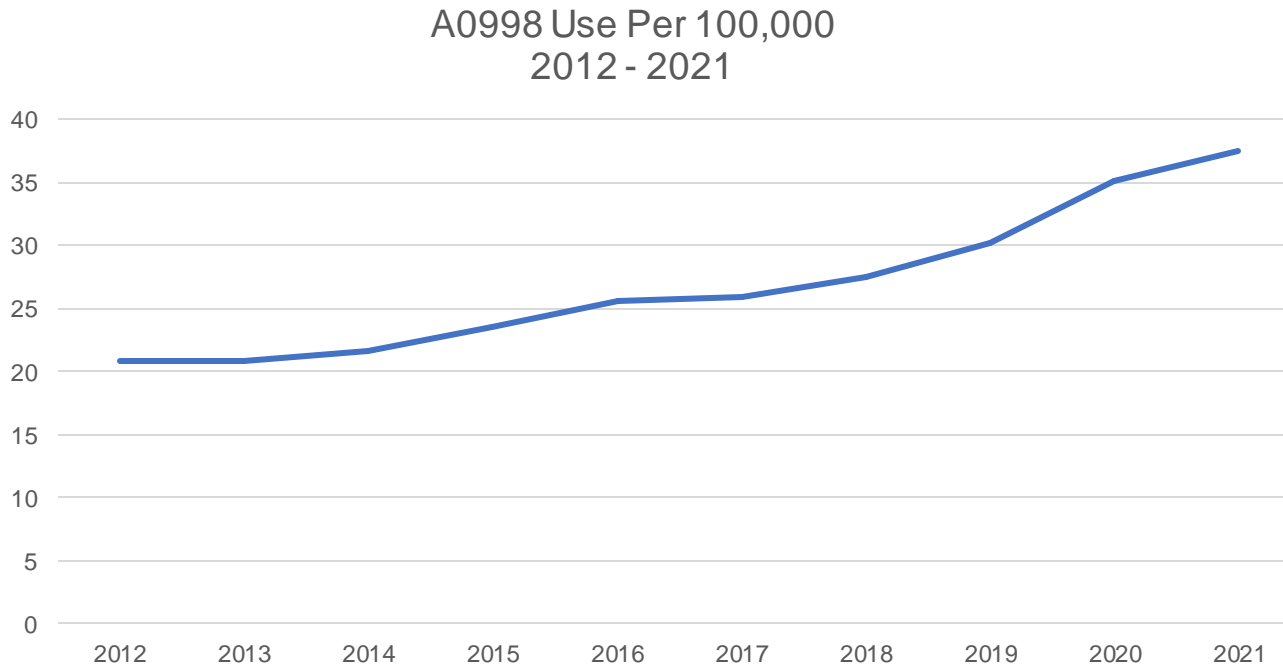
- Overall, the average price of a ground ambulance trip in 2021 was \$1,093
  - 33% higher than in 2012
- People paid an average of \$229 out-of-pocket on ground ambulance trips in 2021
  - 64% higher than in 2012





# Ground Ambulance Basics

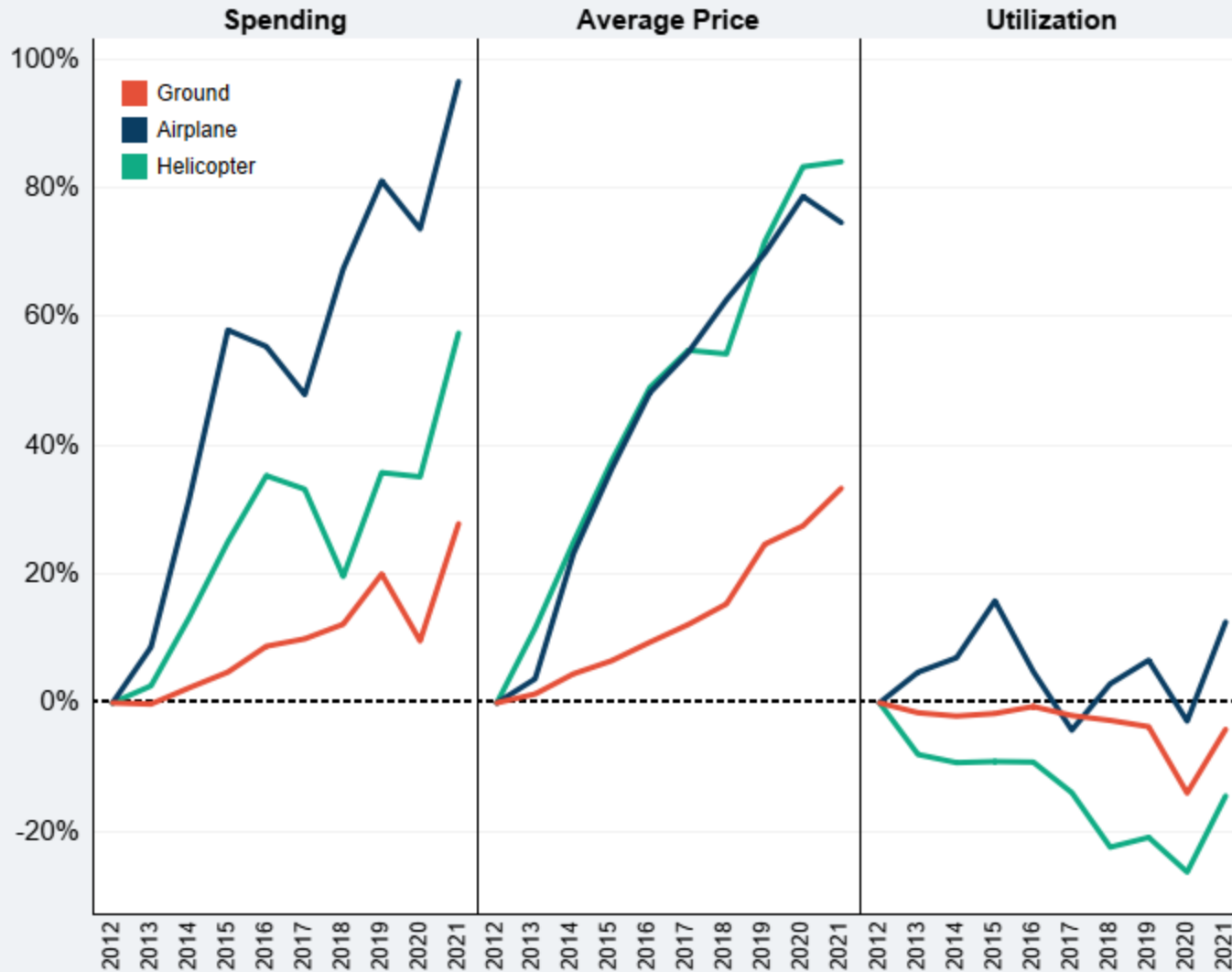
- Most frequently billed codes, by far were Base (A0429) and Mileage (A0425)
- All of the other codes were much less common
- For example, non-transport ground ambulance code A0998 was rarely used
  - Though, its use is increasing over time
  - Also did not dip in 2020





# Prices drive spending growth for ambulance services

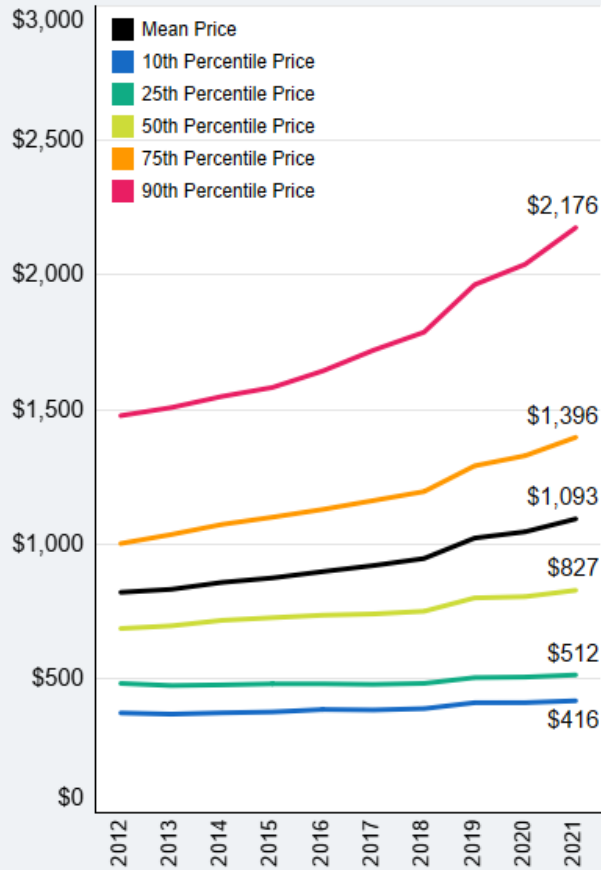
## Cumulative Change in Spending, Price, and Utilization of Ambulance Services



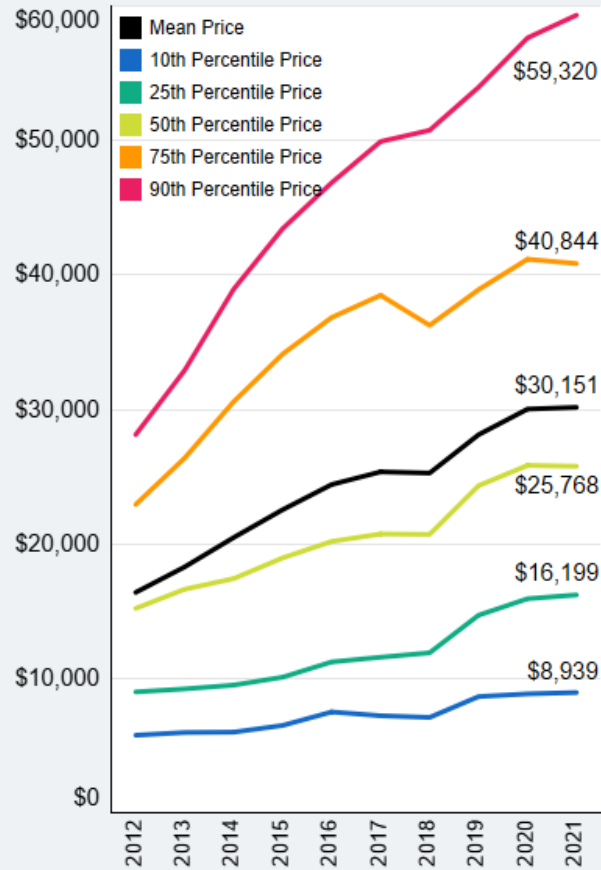


# Price variation is growing for all types of ambulance trips

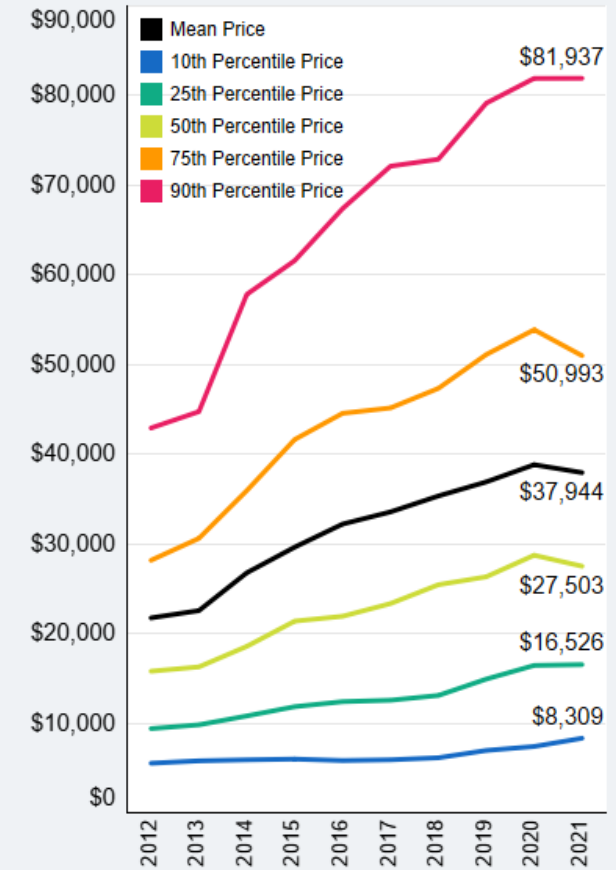
### Variation in Price for Ground Ambulance



### Variation in Price for Helicopter Ambulance



### Variation in Price for Airplane Ambulance

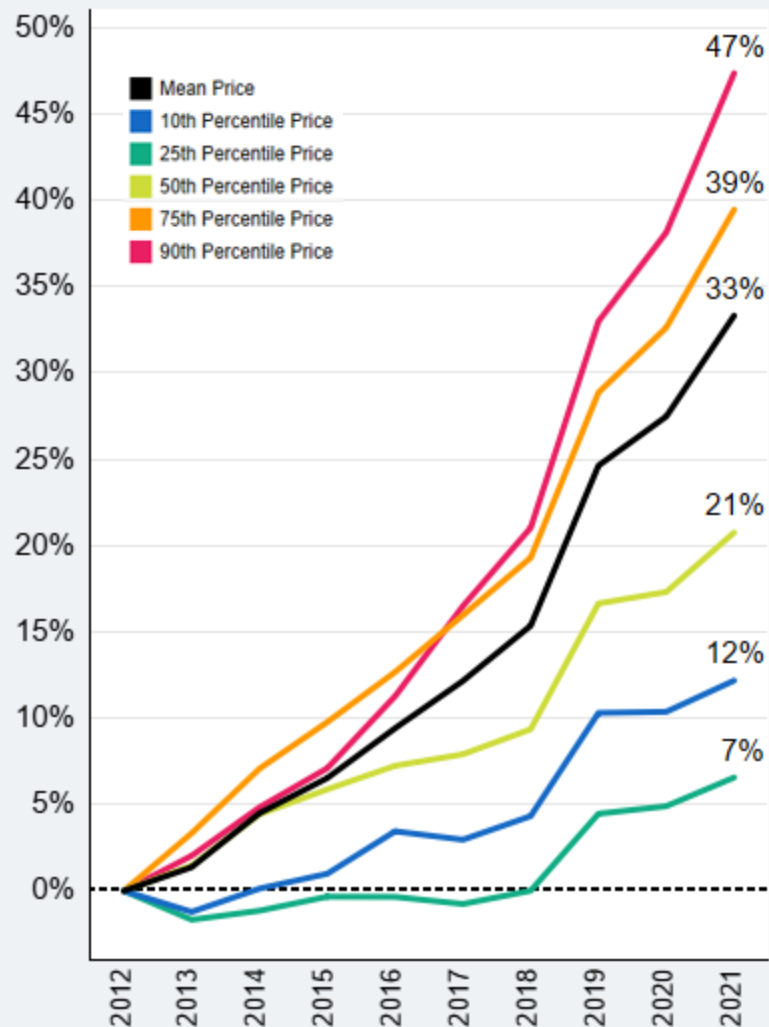




# Price growth driven by high priced trips

- 90<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> percentile prices are growing faster than 10<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> percentiles
- Base price and price per mile are increasing at similar rates
- Little change in average mileage (4% increase over 10 years)

Ground Ambulance: Cumulative Percent Change in Prices

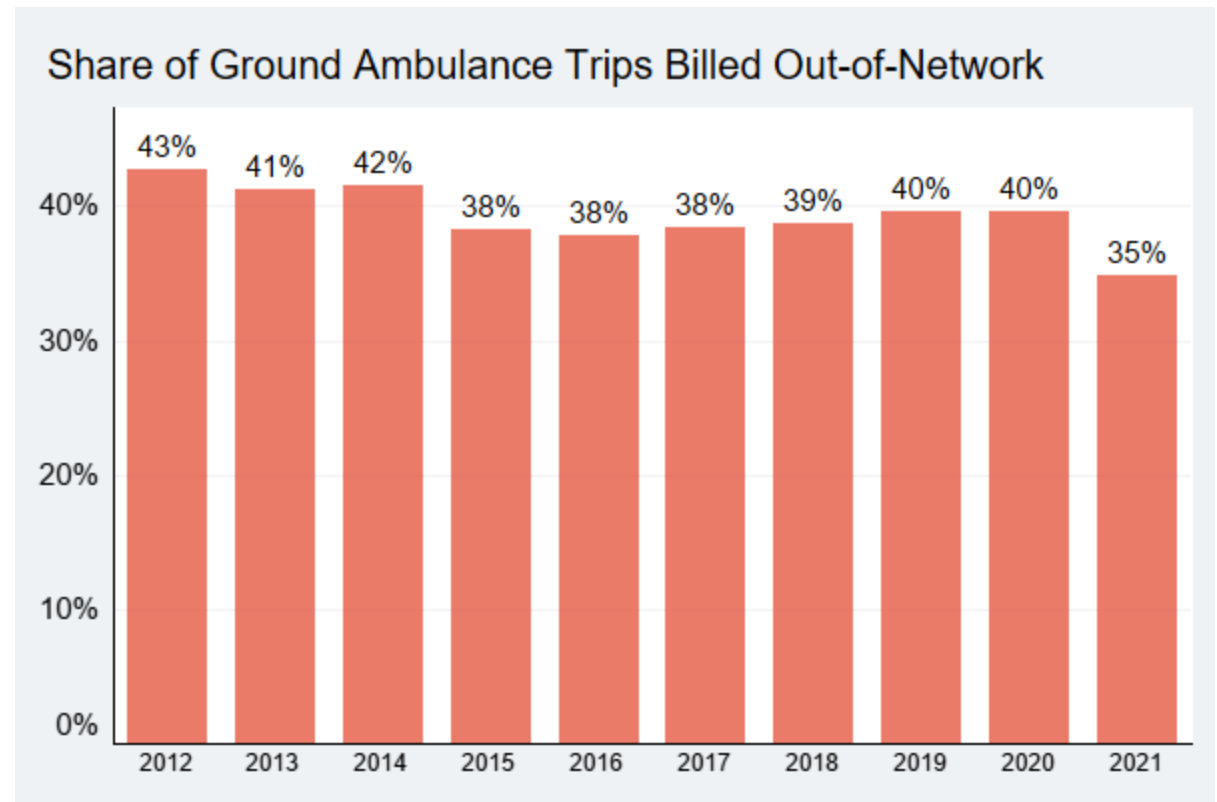






# Share of ground ambulance trips billed OON declined

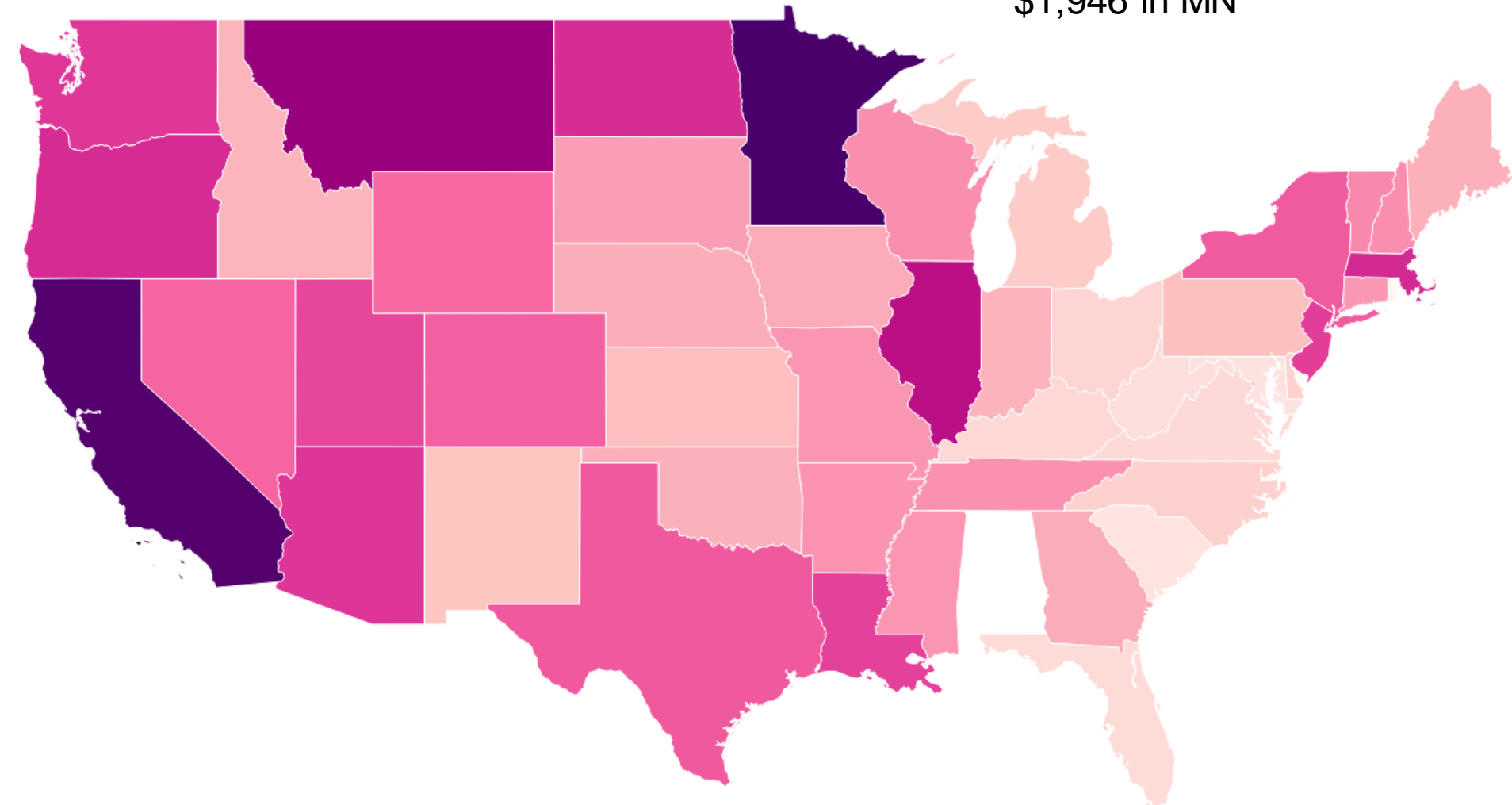
- Out-of-network (OON) billing for ambulance service declined from 43% of trips having at least one service billed OON in 2012 to 35% in 2021
- Most of the decline observed in 2021
- Overall share of ambulance services billed OON remains high





# Ground Ambulance Mean Price Variation by State in 2021

\$424 in RI  
\$1,946 in MN







Questions?

What other analysis would be helpful?

Additional data are available on HCCI's website: [www.healthcostinstitute.org](http://www.healthcostinstitute.org)