



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

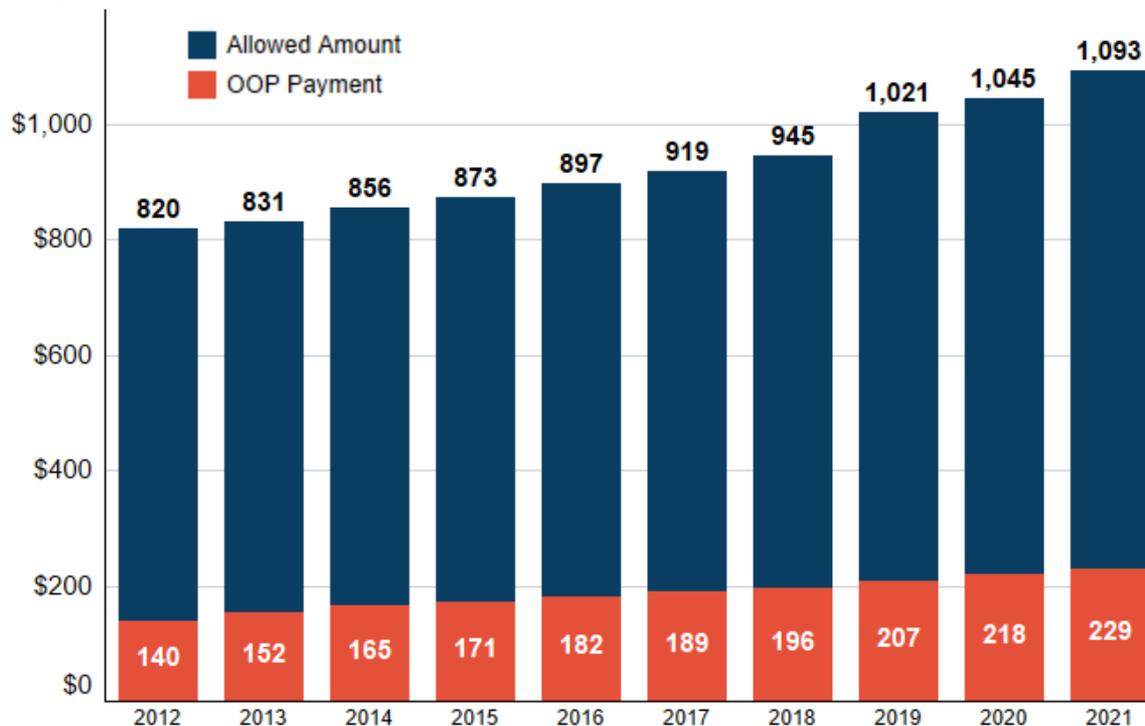
Guroo.org is HCCI's consumer-facing price transparency tool. HCCI also operates Florida's All Payer Claims Database.



Ground Ambulance Basics

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

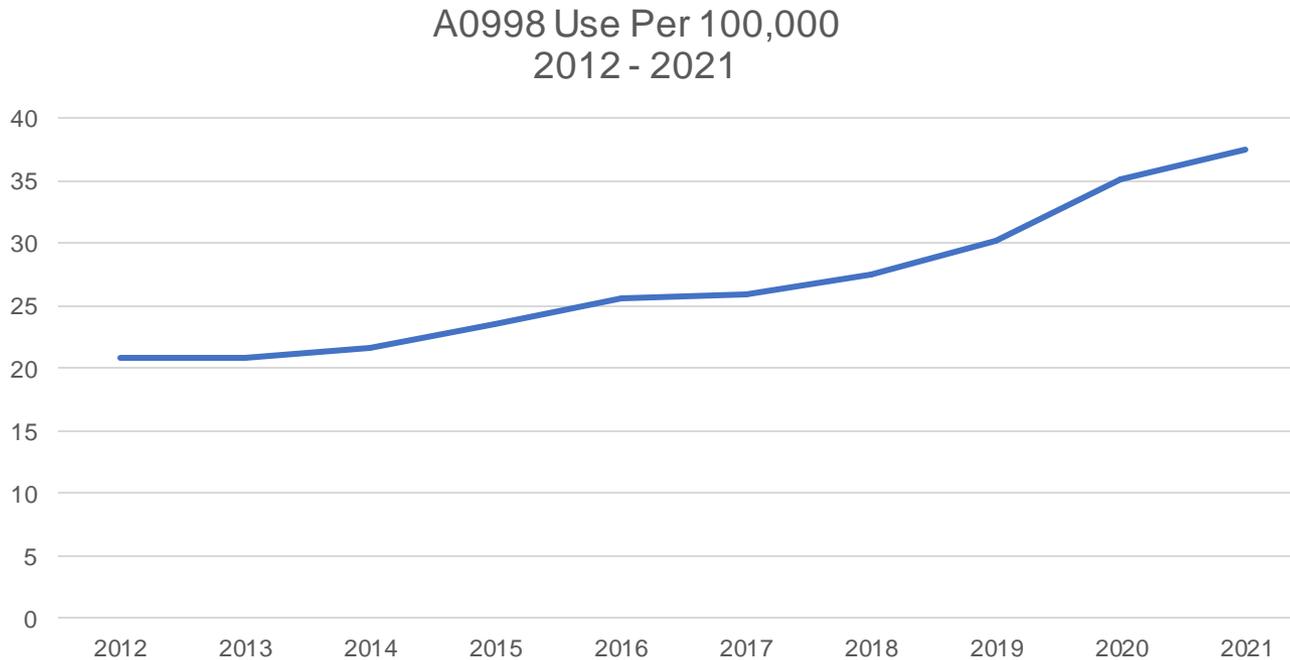
- Overall, the average price of a ground ambulance trip in 2021 was \$1,093
 - 33% higher than in 2012
- People paid an average of \$229 out-of-pocket on ground ambulance trips in 2021
 - 64% higher than in 2012





Ground Ambulance Basics

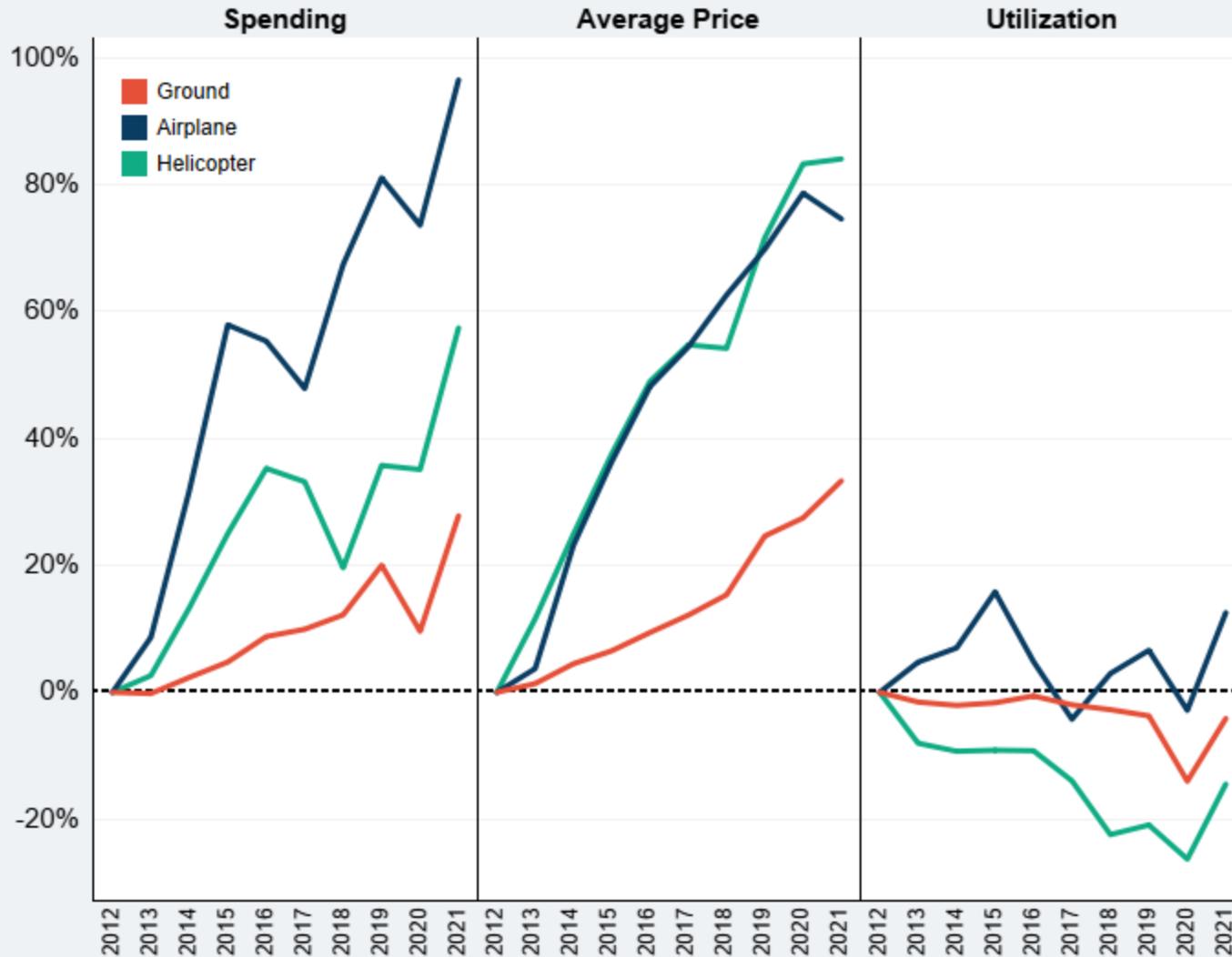
- Most frequently billed codes, by far were Base (A0429) and Mileage (A0425)
- All of the other codes were much less common
- For example, non-transport ground ambulance code A0998 was rarely used
 - Though, its use is increasing over time
 - Also did not dip in 2020





Prices drive spending growth for ambulance services

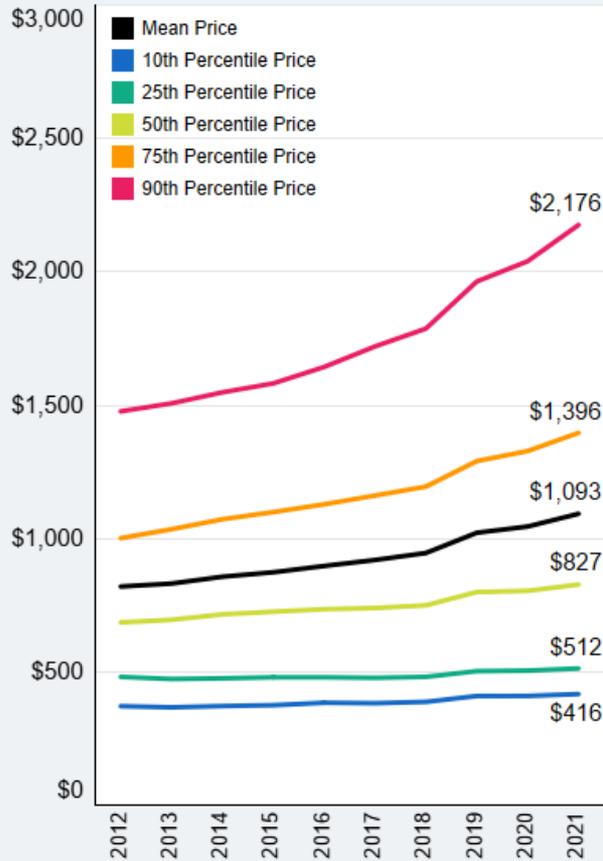
Cumulative Change in Spending, Price, and Utilization of Ambulance Services



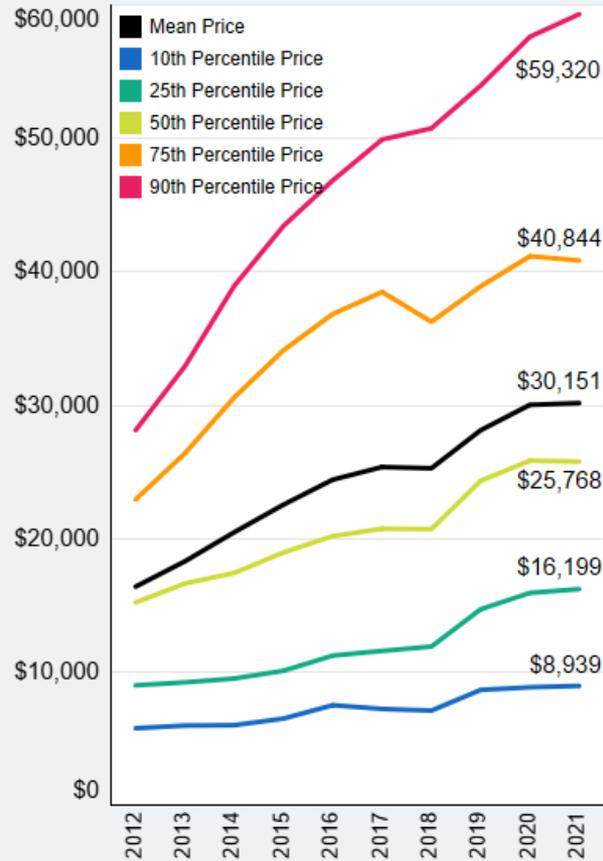


Price variation is growing for all types of ambulance trips

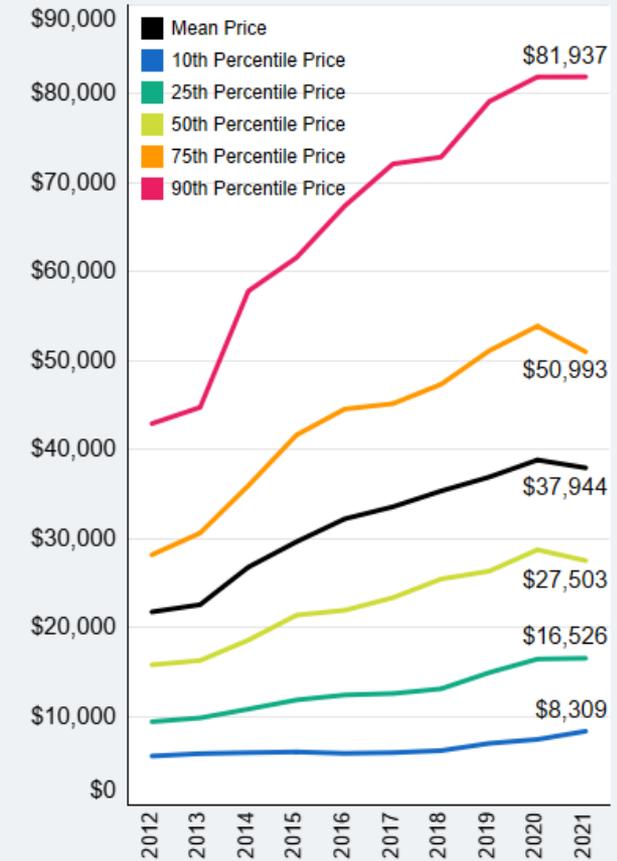
Variation in Price for Ground Ambulance



Variation in Price for Helicopter Ambulance



Variation in Price for Airplane Ambulance

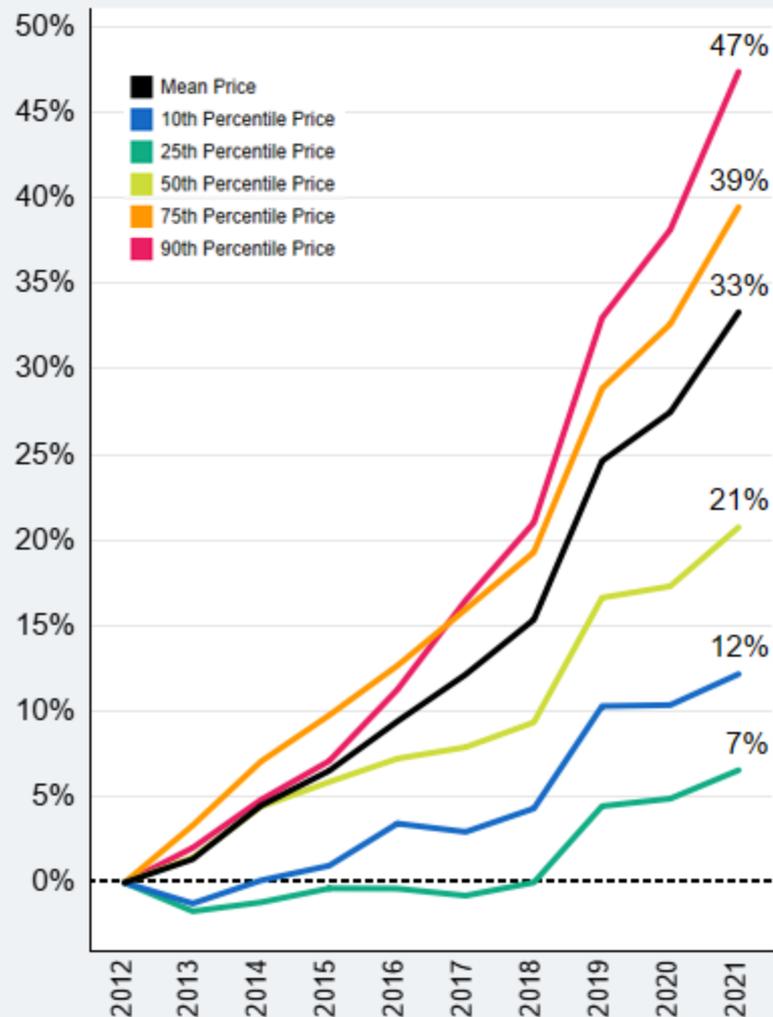




Price growth driven by high priced trips

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

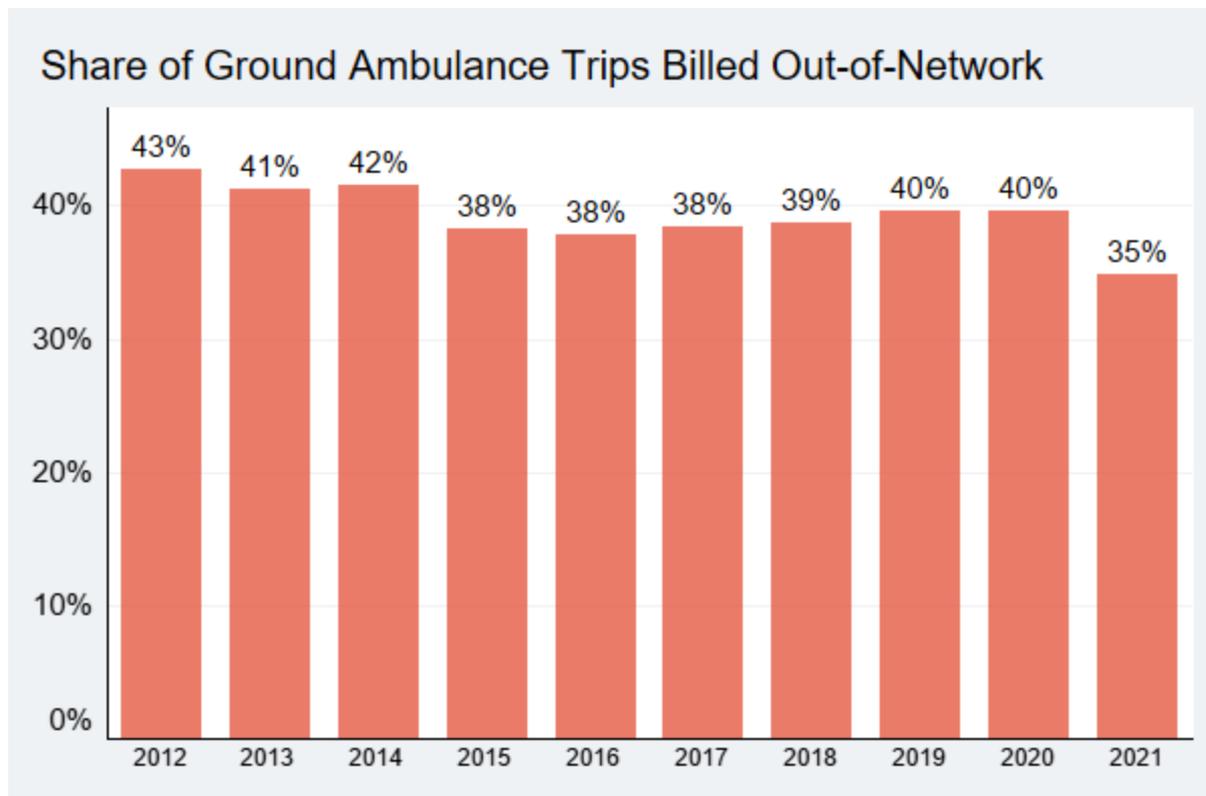
Ground Ambulance: Cumulative Percent Change in Prices





Share of ground ambulance trips billed OON declined

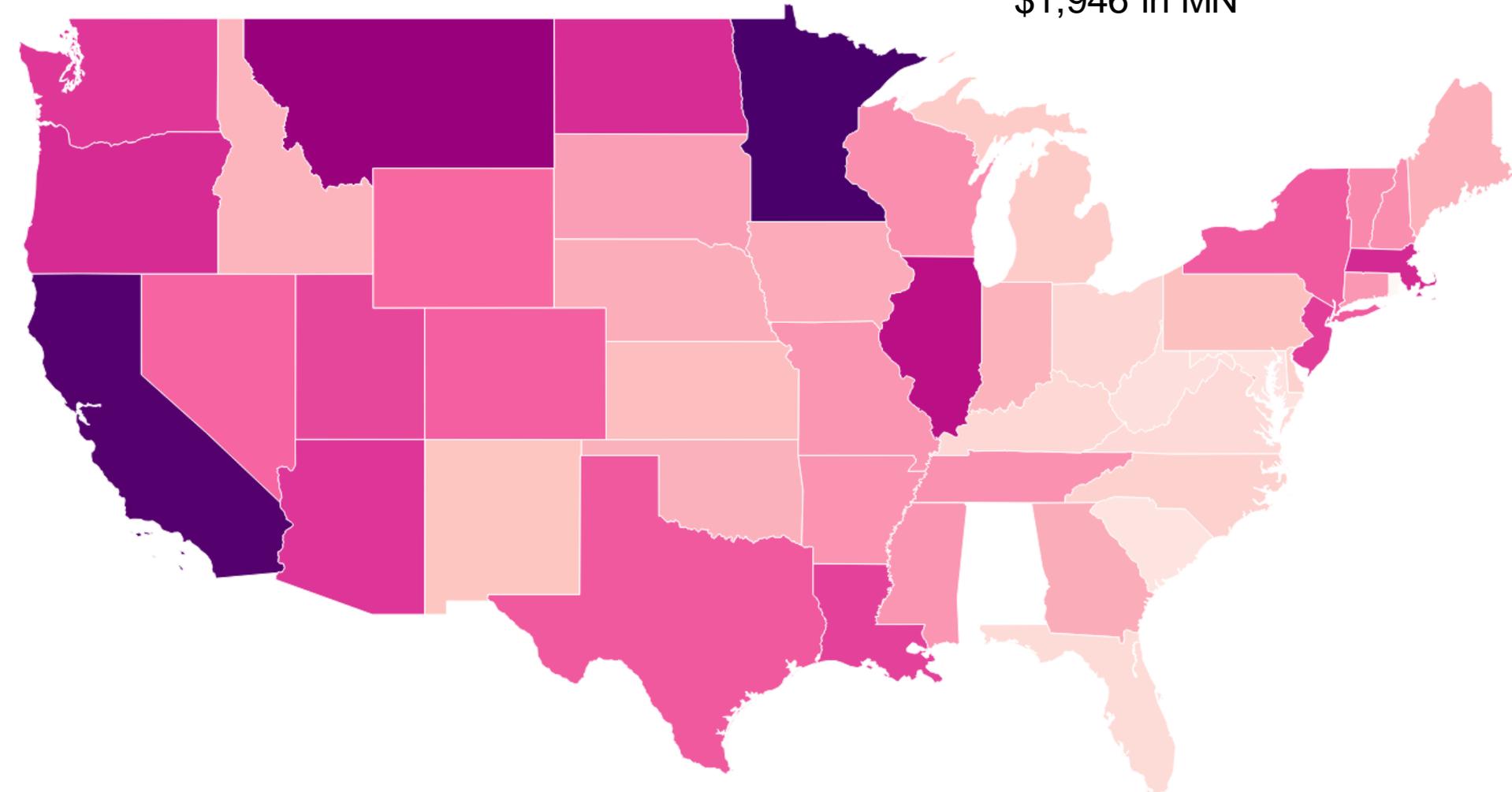
- Out-of-network (OON) billing for ambulance service declined from 43% of trips having at least one service billed OON in 2012 to 35% in 2021
- Most of the decline observed in 2021
- Overall share of ambulance services billed OON remains high





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