



SPECIALTY CARE ANALYSIS

Specialty Care: Introduction

This year's specialty care analysis reviews detailed operating statistics of reporting specialty care safety net institutions in St. Louis City and County (see Appendix C for a list of 2019 reporting specialty care organizations). These institutions include hospital-based clinics and university-sponsored physician groups, which provide the majority of specialty care services to safety net patients in St. Louis City and County.

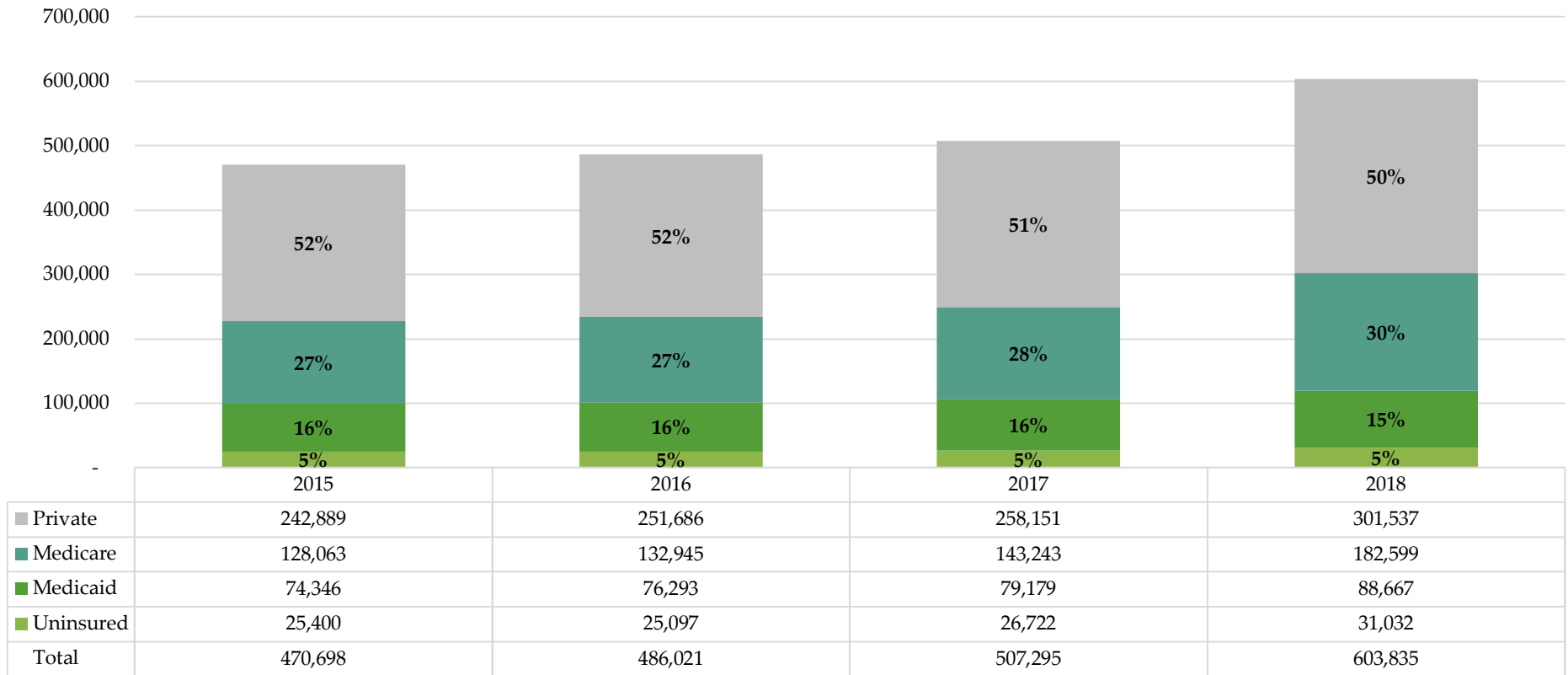
Specialty care encounters and individual user volumes occurring among Gateway to Better Health enrollees in calendar year 2018 are captured in the "uninsured" payor category of the figures presented.

Specialty Care: Key Findings

- Total specialty care users and encounters at St. Louis area specialty care organizations increased by 28% and 6%, respectively, since 2015. This increase represents more than 133,100 additional users and more than 75,300 additional encounters (pages 74 and 76).
- Of the more than 600,600 specialty care users in 2018, approximately 74% were White, 19% were African American/Black and 7% were from the “Other” racial category.
- Over the past year, uninsured specialty care users increased by 19%, while uninsured specialty care encounters remained stable (pages 74 and 78).
- Medicaid specialty care encounters remained stable over the past year and since 2015 (page 80).
- While wait times for some specialty care appointments have either decreased or remained the same, rheumatology and endocrinology continue to trend with the longest average wait times for both new and returning patients (pages 82 and 83).

Specialty care users at safety net organizations have increased by 28% since 2015.

Specialty Care Users by Payor, 2015 - 2018



- Total specialty care users increased by 19% in 2018, as compared to the prior year.
- Of the more than 603,800 specialty care users reported in 2018, approximately 50% were privately insured, 30% were Medicare, 15% were Medicaid and 5% were uninsured.

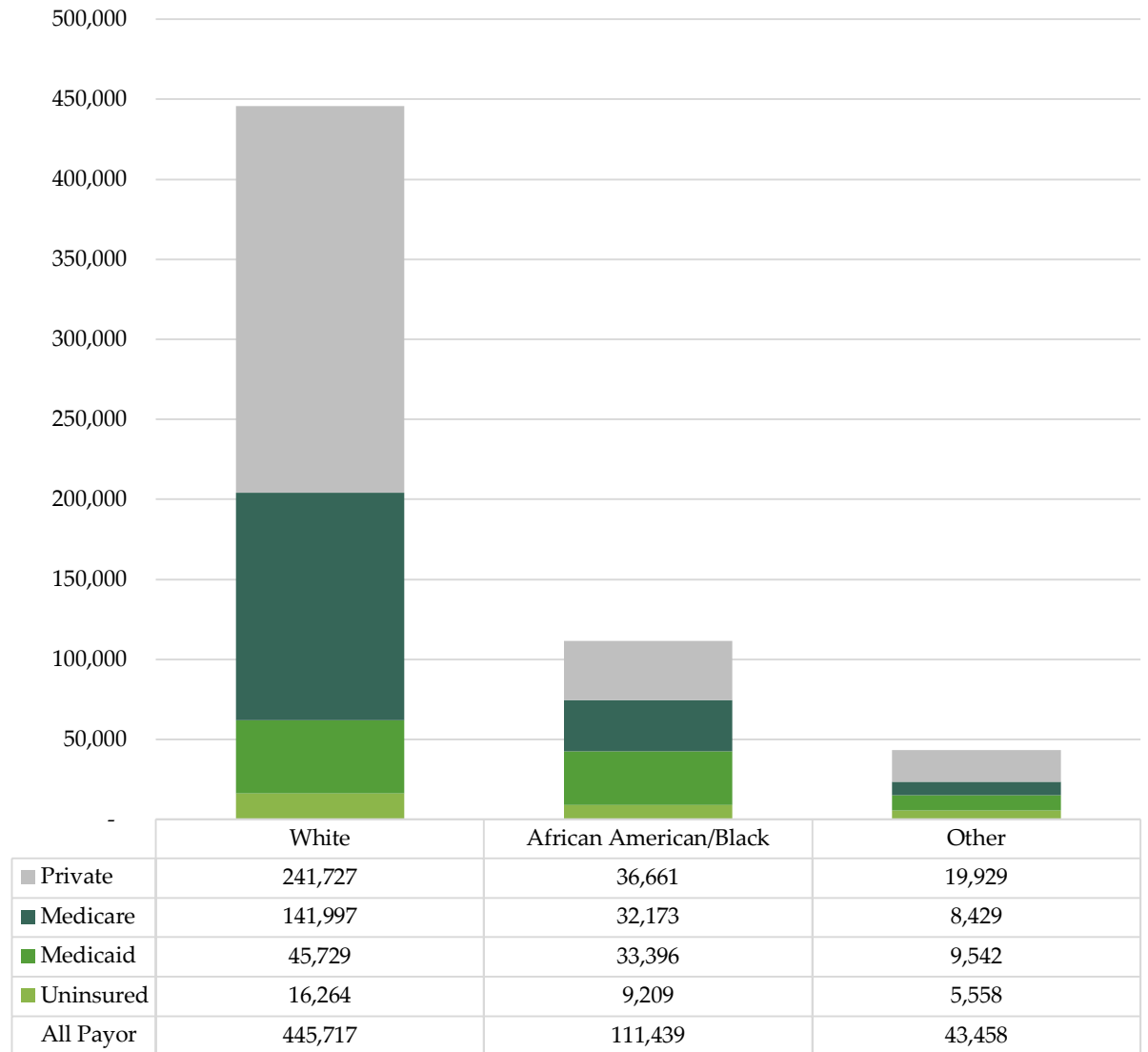
Note: For the purpose of this report, all Gateway to Better Health encounters and users are reported as uninsured. While users are unduplicated within each organization, there may be some duplication in total user counts across reporting organizations if a patient was seen at more than one organization in 2018.

Of the more than 600,600 specialty care users in 2018, approximately 74% were white, 19% were African American/Black and 7% were from the “Other” racial category.

- About 4% of all White specialty care users, 8% of all African American/Black specialty care users and 13% of all specialty care users included in the “Other” racial group are uninsured.
- Based on census data for the general population of St. Louis City and County, about 5% of all Whites, 11% of all African Americans/Blacks and 8% of those included in the “Other” racial group are uninsured.

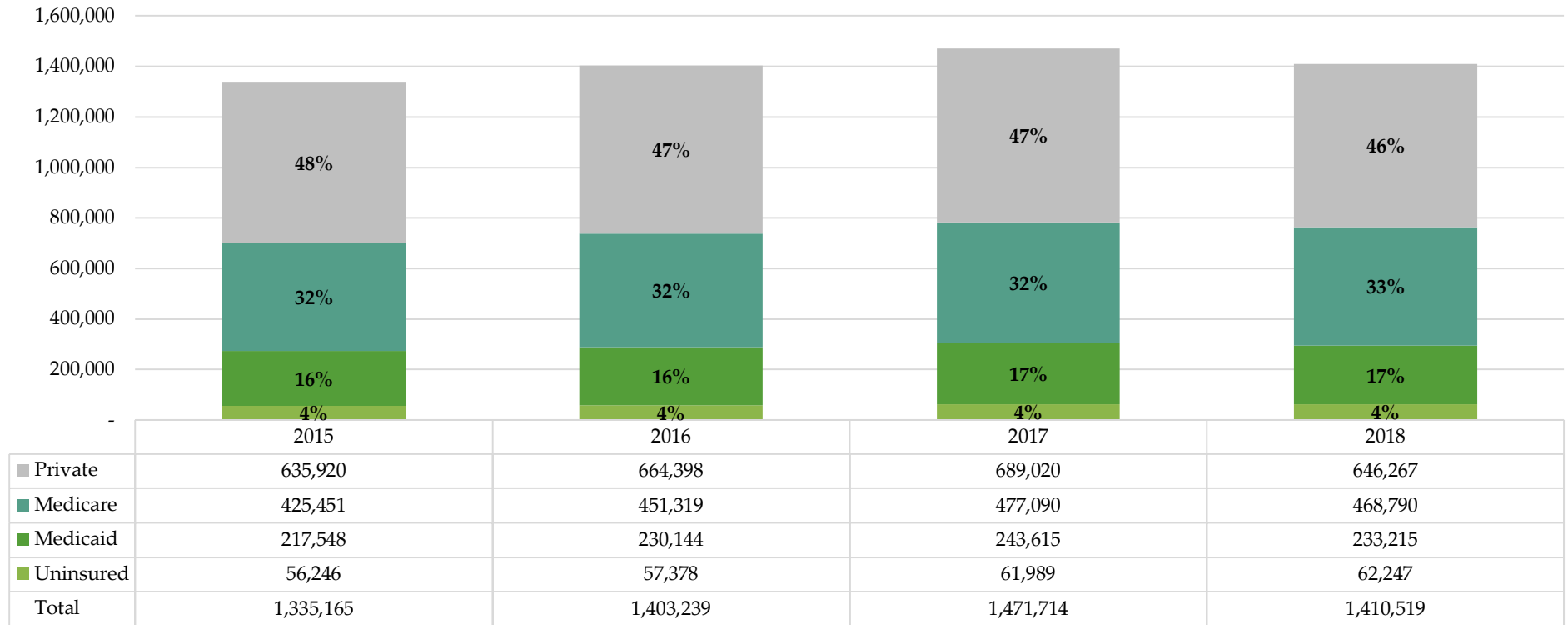
Note: There may be some duplication in the count of users across safety net organizations in the region. The “Other” racial/ethnic group includes: those of Asian, American Indian/Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander descent, as well as those identifying with more than one racial/ethnic group, those identifying as Hispanic/Latino and those whose race/ethnicity is unknown. However, the American Community Survey includes Hispanics/Latinos throughout all racial groups, whereas all Hispanic/Latinos safety net users, regardless of race, are captured separately in the “Other” category only.

Specialty Care Encounters by Race and Payor, 2018



Specialty care encounters at safety net organizations remained relatively stable over the past year and increased by 6% (over 75,300 encounters) since 2015.

Specialty Care Encounters by Payor Category, 2015 - 2018



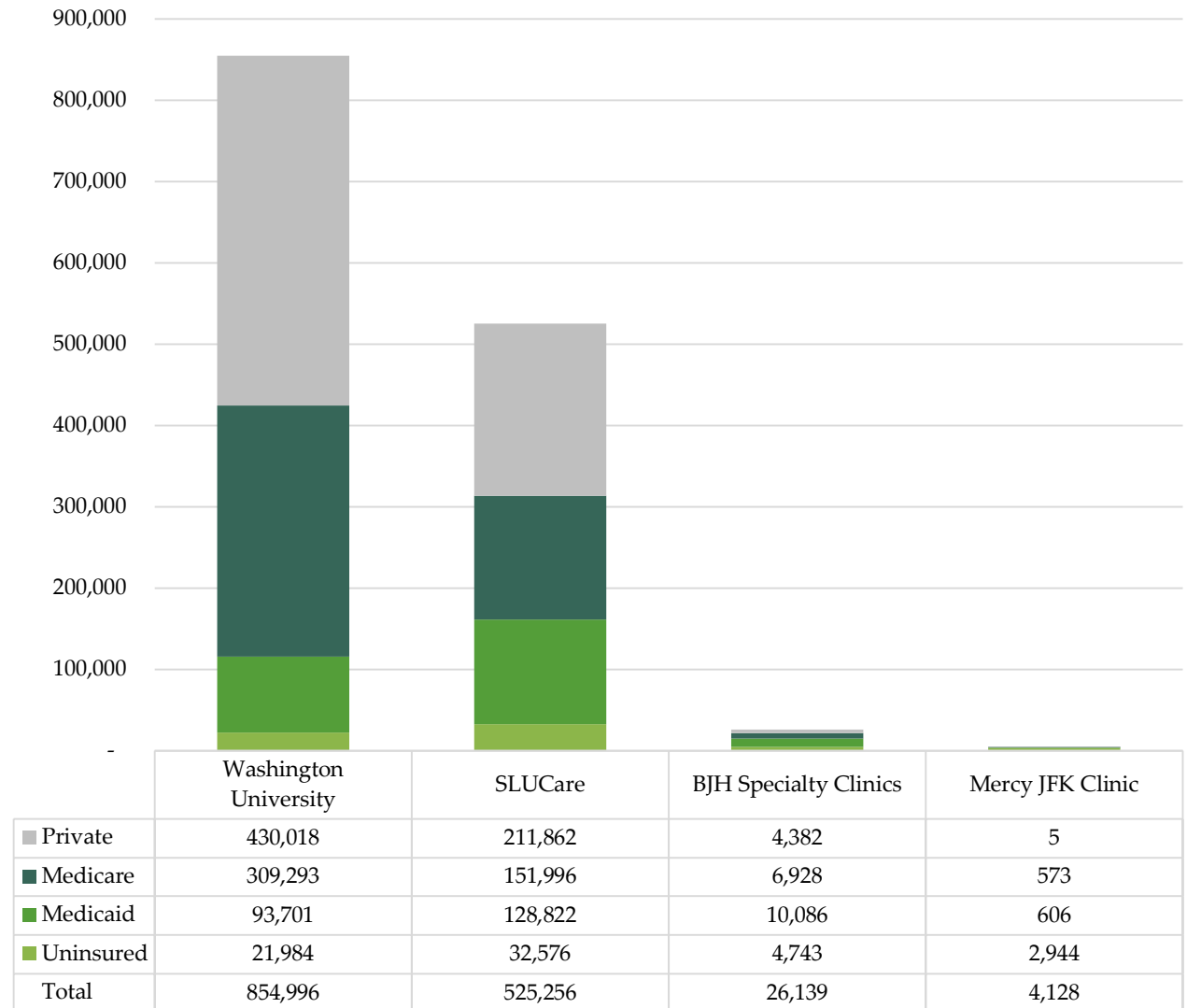
- Of the more than 1,400,000 total specialty care encounters reported in 2018, 46% occurred among those privately insured, 33% among the Medicare population, 17% among the Medicaid population and 4% among the uninsured.
- Over the past year, specialty care encounters among uninsured, Medicare, and Medicaid patients has remained relatively stable.
- Over the past year, specialty care encounters among Private patients has decreased by 6%.

Note: Diagnostic services are not included in the specialty care analysis. For the purpose of this report, all Gateway to Better Health encounters and users are reported as uninsured.

Specialty care encounters among the uninsured and Medicaid populations varied by safety net specialty care organization.

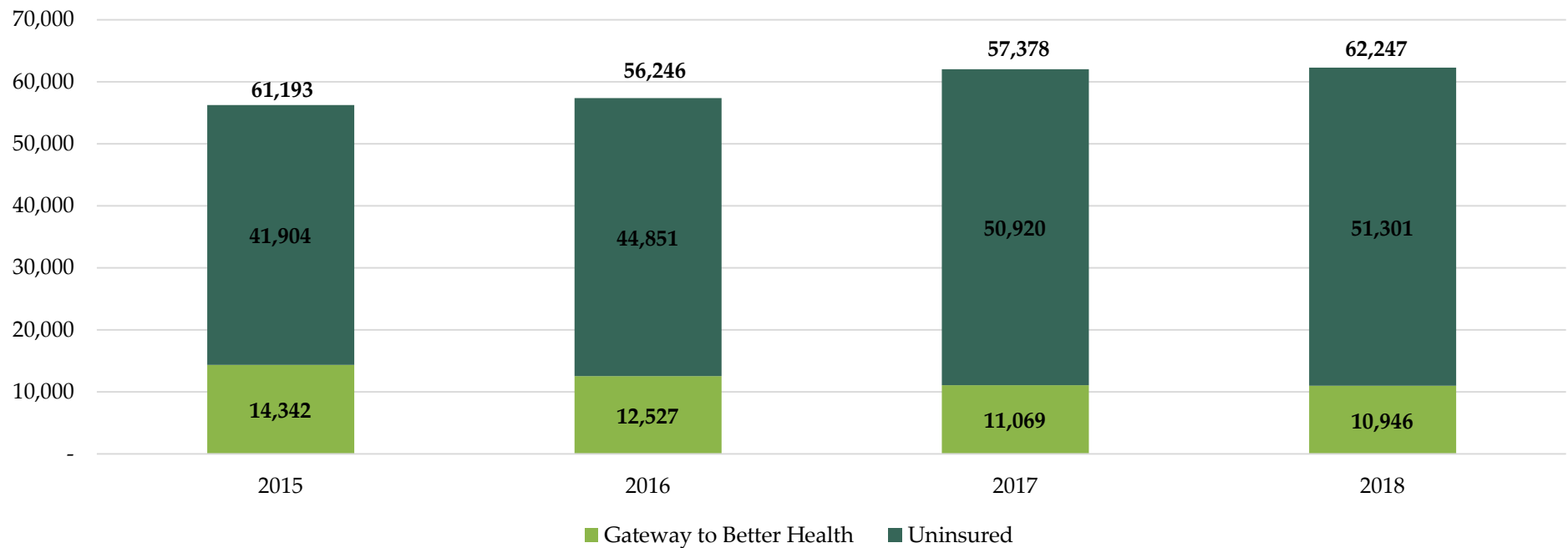
Note: SLUCare's reported data includes all sites in which their doctors practice, including the following hospital based clinics: SSM St. Mary's, SSM St. Clare, SSM St. Joseph, SSM DePaul, SSM Cardinal Glennon and SSM St. Louis University (SLUH). SLUCare's data also includes some smaller practices located outside of St. Louis City and County limits, which accounts for less than 2% of their total reported encounters. SLUCare's and Washington University's data includes information for both pediatric and adult patients. Washington University and SLUCare experienced a 30% decrease in access due to transitions within Epic during 2018.

Specialty Care Encounters by Payor Category and Organization, 2018



Uninsured specialty care encounters remained relatively stable over the past year.

Uninsured Specialty Care Encounters, 2015 - 2018

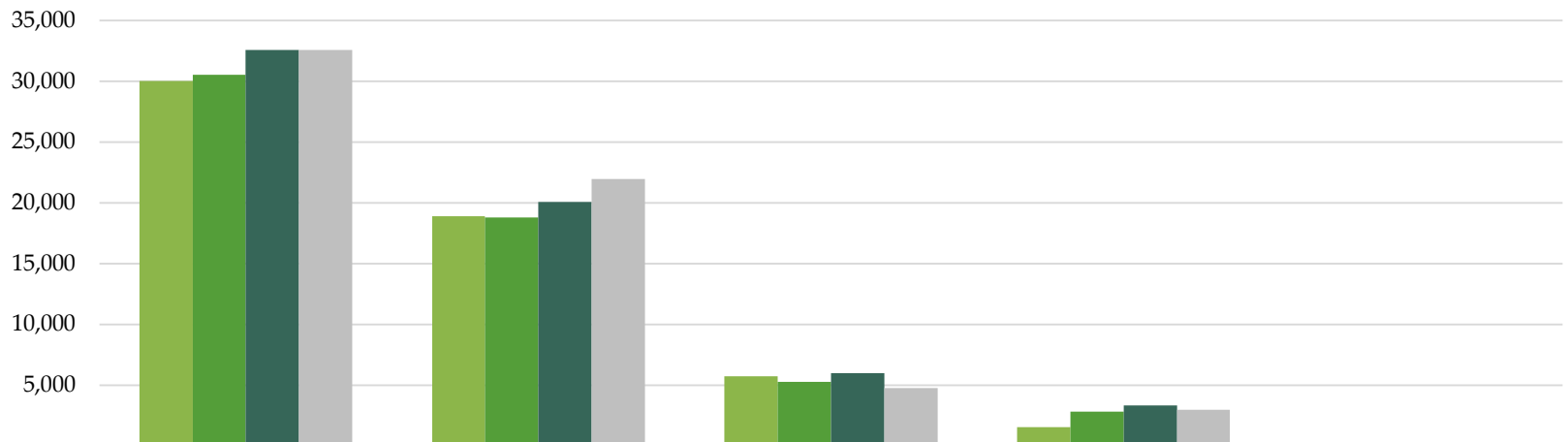


- Uninsured specialty care encounters have remained relatively stable since 2015.
- Gateway to Better Health specialty care encounters remained relatively stable in 2018 as compared to 2017.
- Approximately 11,000 specialty care encounters were provided to Gateway to Better Health patients in 2018, comprising 18% of all uninsured specialty care safety net encounters.

Note: For the purpose of this report, all Gateway to Better Health encounters and users are reported as uninsured. The Gateway to Better Health program began in July 2012. Beginning January 1, 2014, income eligibility for the Gateway to Better Health program was reduced to 100% of the federal poverty line (FPL). Consistent with the trend in reported encounters among Gateway patients, overall enrollment for the Gateway program has declined over time from an average of 14,569 in 2017 to an average of 13,305 in 2018. An additional 32,000+ diagnostic and other outpatient services were provided to Gateway to Better Health patients in 2018, which are not included in the chart above.

Washington University and SLUCare account for more than 88% of all uninsured specialty care encounters at major safety net organizations.

Uninsured Specialty Care Encounters by Organization, 2015 - 2018



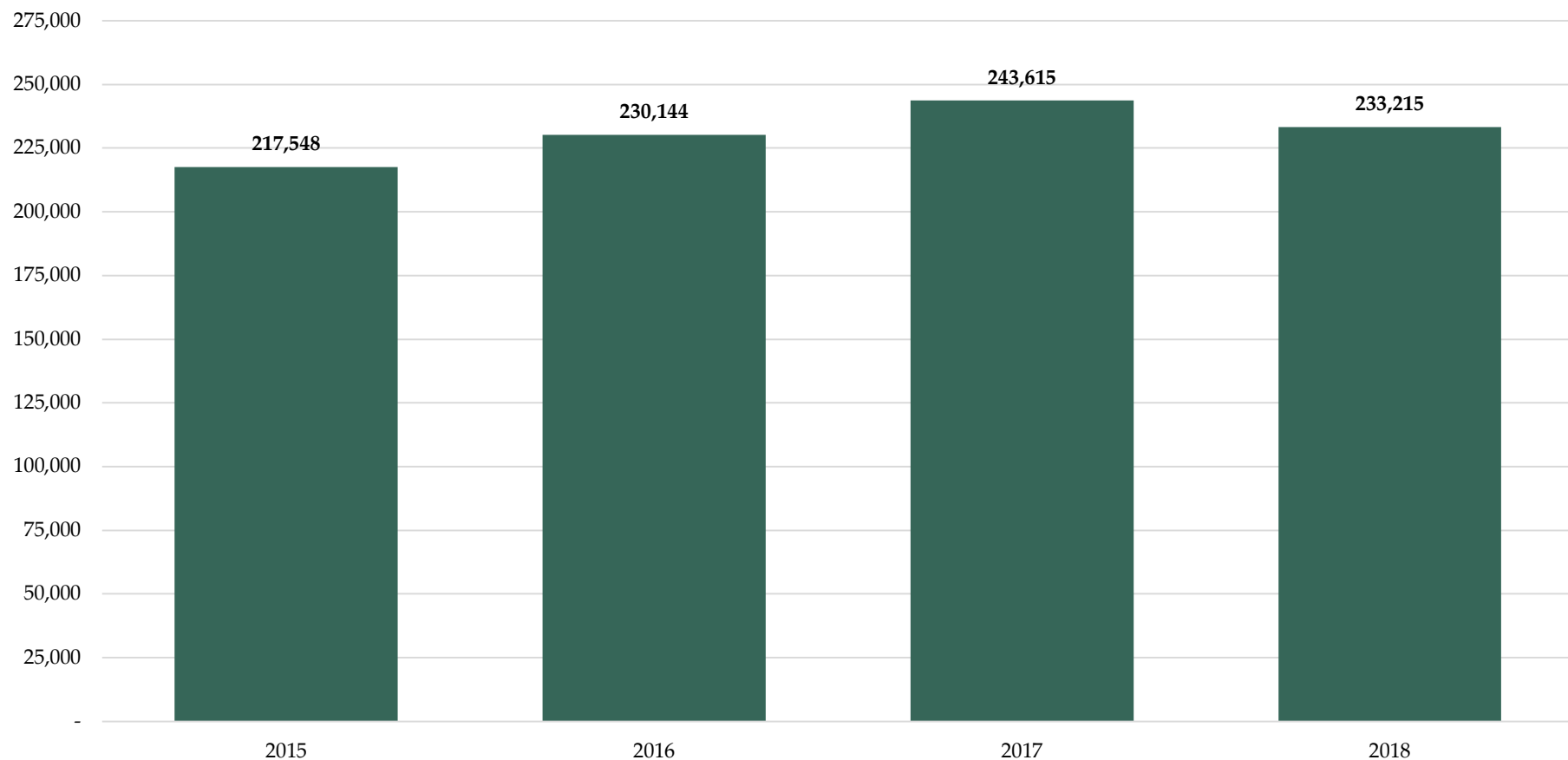
	SLUCare	Washington University	BJH Specialty Clinics	Mercy JFK Clinic	Total
■ 2015	30,051	18,912	5,748	1,535	56,246
■ 2016	30,556	18,781	5,245	2,796	57,378
■ 2017	32,597	20,095	5,976	3,321	61,989
■ 2018	32,576	21,984	4,743	2,944	62,247
% Change, 2015-2018	8%	16%	-17%	92%	11%

- Uninsured specialty care encounters increased by 9% at Washington University since 2017.
- Over the past year, uninsured specialty care encounters decreased at Mercy JFK Clinic and BJH Specialty Clinics by 21% and 11%, respectively.

Note: For the purpose of this report, all Gateway to Better Health encounters and users are reported as uninsured. SLUCare’s reported data includes all sites in which their doctors practice, including the following hospital based clinics: SSM St. Mary’s, SSM St. Clare, SSM St. Joseph, SSM DePaul, SSM Cardinal Glennon and SSM St. Louis University Hospital (SLUH). SLUCare’s data also includes some smaller practices located outside of St. Louis City and County limits, which accounts for less than 2% of their total reported encounters. SLUCare’s and Washington University’s data includes information for both pediatric and adult patients. BJH volume decline in 2018 was driven by planned volume decrease due to Epic go-live. BJH volume prior to 2017 is understated due to different reporting methodology.

Medicaid specialty care encounters remained relatively stable over the past year.

Medicaid Specialty Care Encounters, 2015 - 2018



Over the past four years, Medicaid specialty care encounters have increased by 7%.

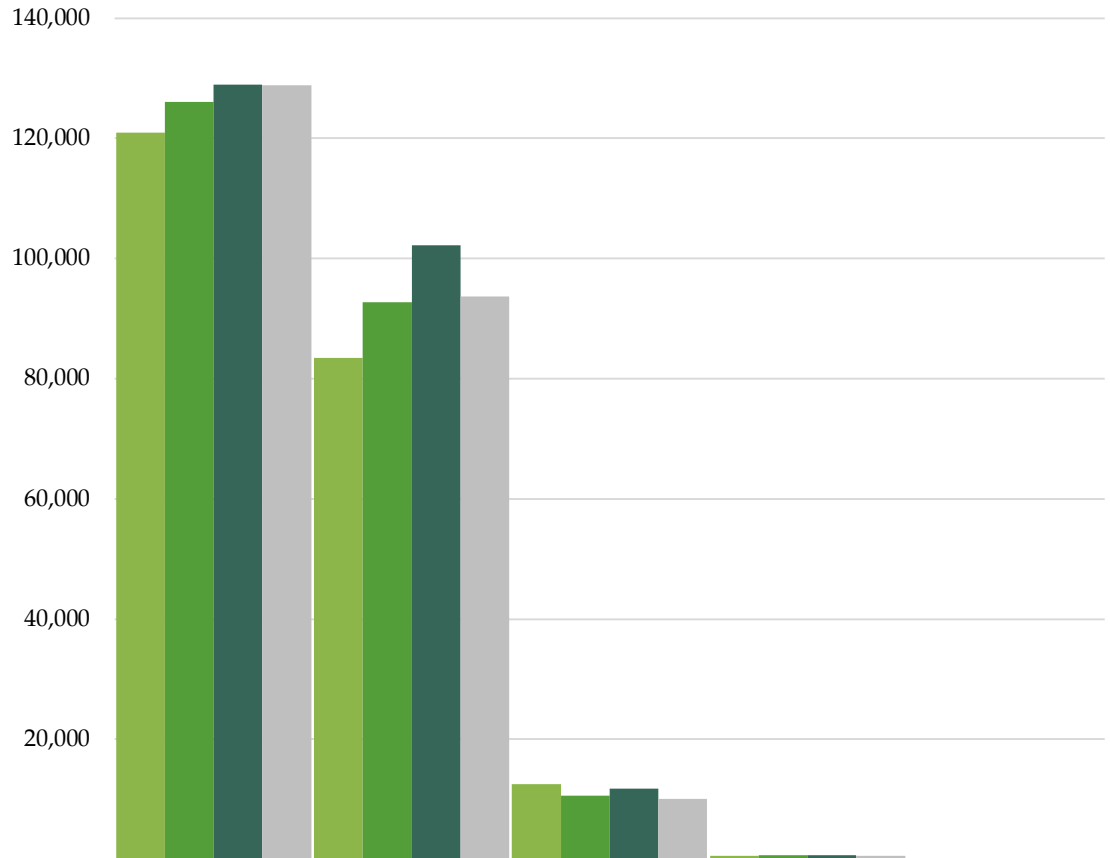
Note: The number of individuals enrolled in MO HealthNet (Medicaid) from St. Louis City and County decreased from 166,400 in 2017 to 151,100 in 2018; a 9% decline from the previous year.

Washington University and SLUCare account for 95% of all Medicaid specialty care encounters at major safety net organizations.

Specialty care encounters among the Medicaid population decreased at Mercy JFK Clinic, BJH Specialty Clinics, and Washington University by 18%, 14%, and 8% over the past year.

Note: SLUCare services a large number of Medicaid patients from Illinois. Those patients are reflected in the data above. SLUCare's reported data includes all sites in which their doctors practice, including the following hospital based clinics: SSM St. Mary's, SSM St. Clare, SSM St. Joseph, SSM DePaul, SSM Cardinal Glennon and SSM St. Louis University Hospital (SLUH). SLUCare's data also includes some smaller practices located outside of St. Louis City and County limits, which accounts for less than 2% of their total reported encounters. SLUCare's and Washington University's data includes information for both pediatric and adult patients. Washington University expanded access to pediatric specialty care services through their new site, St. Louis Children's Specialty Care Center. This additional access point contributed to their increase in Medicaid encounters in 2016.

Medicaid Specialty Care Encounters by Organization, 2015 - 2018



	SLUCare	Washington University	BJH Specialty Clinics	Mercy JFK Clinic	Total
■ 2015	120,927	83,469	12,518	634	217,548
■ 2016	126,078	92,707	10,661	698	230,144
■ 2017	128,930	102,199	11,750	736	243,615
■ 2018	128,822	93,701	10,086	606	233,215
% Change, 2015-2018	7%	12%	-19%	-4%	7%

Average wait times (in days until next available appointment) for new patients at specialty care organizations varied by specialty department.

Specialty	2017 New Patient Average	2018 New Patient Average	2018 New Patient Range
Rheumatology	71	72	16-169
Hepatology	62	70	70
Endocrinology	60	52	25-70
Gastroenterology	65	46	26-70
Pain Management	18	44	30-58
Neurology	48	43	15-97
Infectious Disease	39	41	24-74
Gynecology/Obstetrics	30	39	27-51
Ophthalmology	31	39	30-49
Nephrology	30	38	9-67
Pulmonology	49	36	7-54
Podiatry	-	35	35
Neurosurgery	51	35	13-75
Mental Health	29	34	23-66
Urology	28	34	4-105
Cardiology	28	31	21-46
Orthopedics	18	31	10-90
Dermatology	42	29	7-54
Gynecology Only	18	25	2-51
Ear, Nose, Throat (ENT)	10	23	18-30
Hematology	16	18	16-19
Oncology	19	17	16-18
General Surgery	19	16	7-22
Physical Therapy	21	10	10
Obstetrics Only	16	06	1-11

- For new patients, the four specialties with the longest wait times are rheumatology, hepatology, endocrinology and gastroenterology.
- Average wait times for new patients at least doubled for specialties such as ENT and pain management.

Note: Providers were requested to provide wait times as close to June 3rd,2019, as possible. The number of organizations who provided responses are different for each specialty, based on availability. Averages were calculated using only the provided wait times for each specialty, individually. This data was collected from BJH Specialty Clinics, Mercy JFK Clinic, SLUCare and Washington University.

Average wait times (in days until next available appointment) for returning patients at specialty care organizations varied by specialty department.

Specialty	2017 Returning Patient Average	2018 Returning Patient Average	2018 Returning Patient Range
Rheumatology	55	92	73-111
Endocrinology	69	80	80
Gynecology/Obstetrics	27	52	52
Infectious Disease	29	34	34
Neurology	40	33	14-69
Ophthalmology	31	33	30-36
Neurosurgery	23	28	11-45
Gastroenterology	57	27	27
Gynecology Only	17	27	1-52
Hepatology	30	27	27
Mental Health	21	27	26-27
Cardiology	26	25	25
Pulmonology	48	25	7-43
Urology	28	22	4-32
Ear,Nose,Throat (ENT)	12	18	14-21
Orthopedics	18	18	10-30
Dermatology	19	17	7-38
Hematology	21	16	16
Oncology	17	16	16
General Surgery	12	10	7-15
Podiatry	-	07	07
Obstetrics Only	14	01	01
Pain Management	19	-	-
Physical Therapy	11	-	-
Nephrology	33	-	-

For returning patients, the four specialties with the longest wait times are rheumatology, endocrinology, gynecology/obstetrics and infectious disease.

Note: Providers were requested to provide wait times as close to June 3rd,2019, as possible. The number of organizations who provided responses are different for each specialty, based on availability. Averages were calculated using only the provided wait times for each specialty, individually. This data was collected from BJH Specialty Clinics, Mercy JFK Clinic, SLUCare and Washington University.

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