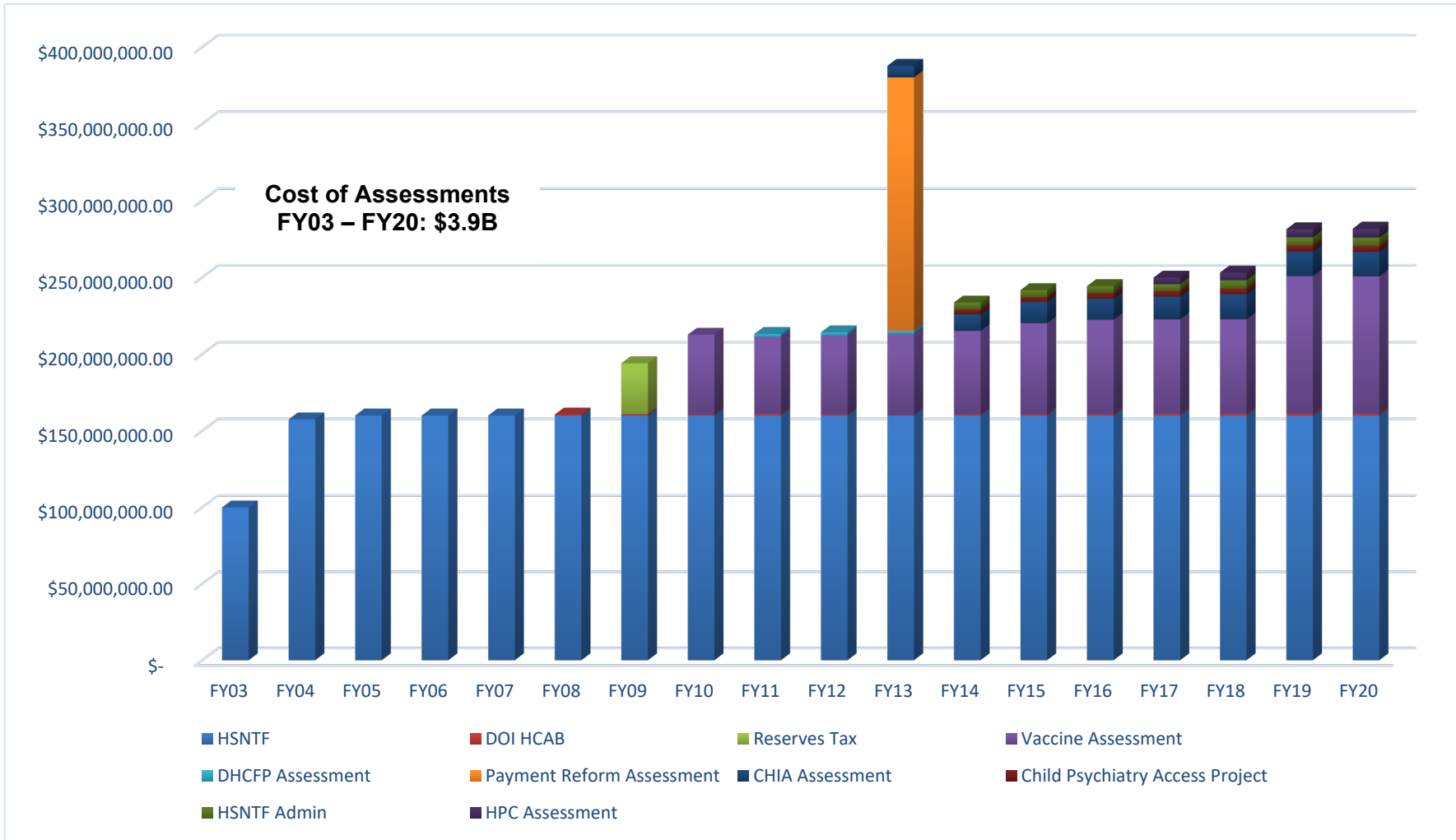


# Assessments on Health Plans & Employers to Fund State Programs: FY03 – FY20



**Health Safety Net Trust Fund (HSNTF):** The HSNTF (previously the Uncompensated Care Pool) is a program for Massachusetts residents who are not eligible for health insurance, do not have coverage for all medically necessary services, or cannot afford to buy insurance. Sometimes referred to as the Free Care Pool, the HSNTF is funded in part by hospitals, health plans and employers, and the state. The FY04 state budget increased health plans and employers' contributions by \$57.5 million from \$100 million to \$157.5 million and lowered the amount hospitals fund from \$170 million to \$157.5 million. In FY'05, the amount was increased to \$160 million for health plans and employers and hospitals.

**Division of Insurance Health Care Access Bureau (DOI HCAB):** As part of the state's Health Care Reform Law, Chapter 58 of the Acts of 2006 created the Health Care Access Bureau within the Division of Insurance. As part of the FY'08 budget, the state began assessing health plans for the bureau's expenses.

**Reserves Tax:** Chapter 302 of the Acts of 2008 included a \$33 million assessment on health plan reserves. The Reserves Tax was described as a one-time assessment intended to provide funding for the Commonwealth Care program and other state health programs.

**Vaccine Assessment (Vaccine Purchase Trust Fund):** The FY'10 state budget included a provision assessing health plans and employers to fund the cost of the state's Universal Immunization program. Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2014 codified the assessment into statute, permitting the states Vaccine Purchasing Advisory Council to make recommendations to the Commissioner of Public Health on the types of vaccines to be purchased and for the Department to assess health plans and employers for the cost of those vaccines. The amounts listed for FY15 and FY16 are based on the Pediatric Immunization Program Assessment Revenue Requirement. The FY17 and FY18 amount is an estimate based on FY16 assessment revenue requirement. The amount listed for FY19 is the Pediatric Immunization Program Assessment Revenue Requirement. The FY20 amount is an estimate based on FY19 assessment revenue requirement. The Department has increased the payor surcharge for FY20 above the health care cost growth benchmark to address an increase in certain vaccines and a decrease in the population covered by the federal VFC Program.

**Division of Health Care Finance and Policy (DHCFP) Assessment:** The FY'11 state budget included a surcharge on employers and health plans to fund a portion of the Division of Health Care Finance and Policy's budget equal to not less than 10 percent of the DHCFP line item, shifting approximately \$2 million of the agency's budget onto employers and health plans.

**Payment Reform Assessment:** The state's Payment Reform Law (Chapter 224 of the Acts of 2012) included a one-time assessment on health plans of \$165 million to provide support to the Distressed Hospital Trust Fund, the Prevention and Wellness Trust Fund and the e-Health Institute Fund. The amount may be paid in a single payment no later than June 30, 2013 or in four equal annual installments to be paid on or before June 30 of each year beginning on June 30, 2013. Chapter 224 prohibits health plans from including the cost of this assessment in premiums.

**Center for Health Information & Analysis (CHIA) Assessment:** Line item 4100-0060 funds the Center for Health Information & Analysis (CHIA). Chapter 224 intended that funding for CHIA be apportioned equally among the Commonwealth, surcharge payers (health plans and employers), and hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs), with each contributing one-third. However, under its assessment regulations CHIA split the cost for funding its activities on payers and providers.

**Child Psychiatry Access Project:** Assessment to Fund the Child Psychiatry Access Project: The FY'14 state budget included in line item 5042-5000 a provision that the Department of Mental Health expend not less than \$3.1 million for the Massachusetts Child Psychiatry Access Project and to assess health plans and employers for the cost of the program. The amounts for the FY16-FY20 increased and ranged between \$3.6 million - \$3.8 million respectively and further expended amounts for Project for moms statewide to address mental health concerns in pregnant and postpartum women.

**HSNTF Administration: Funding for the Administration of the Health Safety Net Trust Fund**

The FY'14 state budget required that payers (health plans and employers) and hospitals be assessed for the cost of the administration of the Health Safety Net Trust Fund. Funding for this purpose previously had existed in the administrative budget of the Division of Health Care Finance and Policy, which administered the Health Safety Net Trust Fund in past years and the assessment is estimated at \$4.5 million - \$5.3 million on health plans and employers.

**Health Policy Commission (HPC) Assessment:** From 2013 – 2016, the Health Policy Commission had been funded by a portion of the Payment Reform Assessment and a portion of gaming license fees. Beginning in 2017, the HPC can collect an annual assessment from acute hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, and surcharge payers to fund its operations and programs. Chapter 224 intended that funding for HPC be apportioned equally among the Commonwealth, surcharge payers (health plans and employers), and hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs), with each contributing one-third. However, in its assessment regulations the HPC split the cost for funding its activities on payers and providers.