

# Biosimilar Adoption, Benefit-use Claims and Dollars

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## Background

- Biosimilars may control costs and increase access to biologic specialty-drugs.
- Marketed US biosimilars are available for the following innovator (reference) products:
  - infliximab, filgrastim, pegfilgrastim, bevacizumab, trastuzumab, rituximab, epoetin alfa.

## Objective

- Use objective data to examine the growth of specialty-drugs, biosimilar use, and coverage benefits.

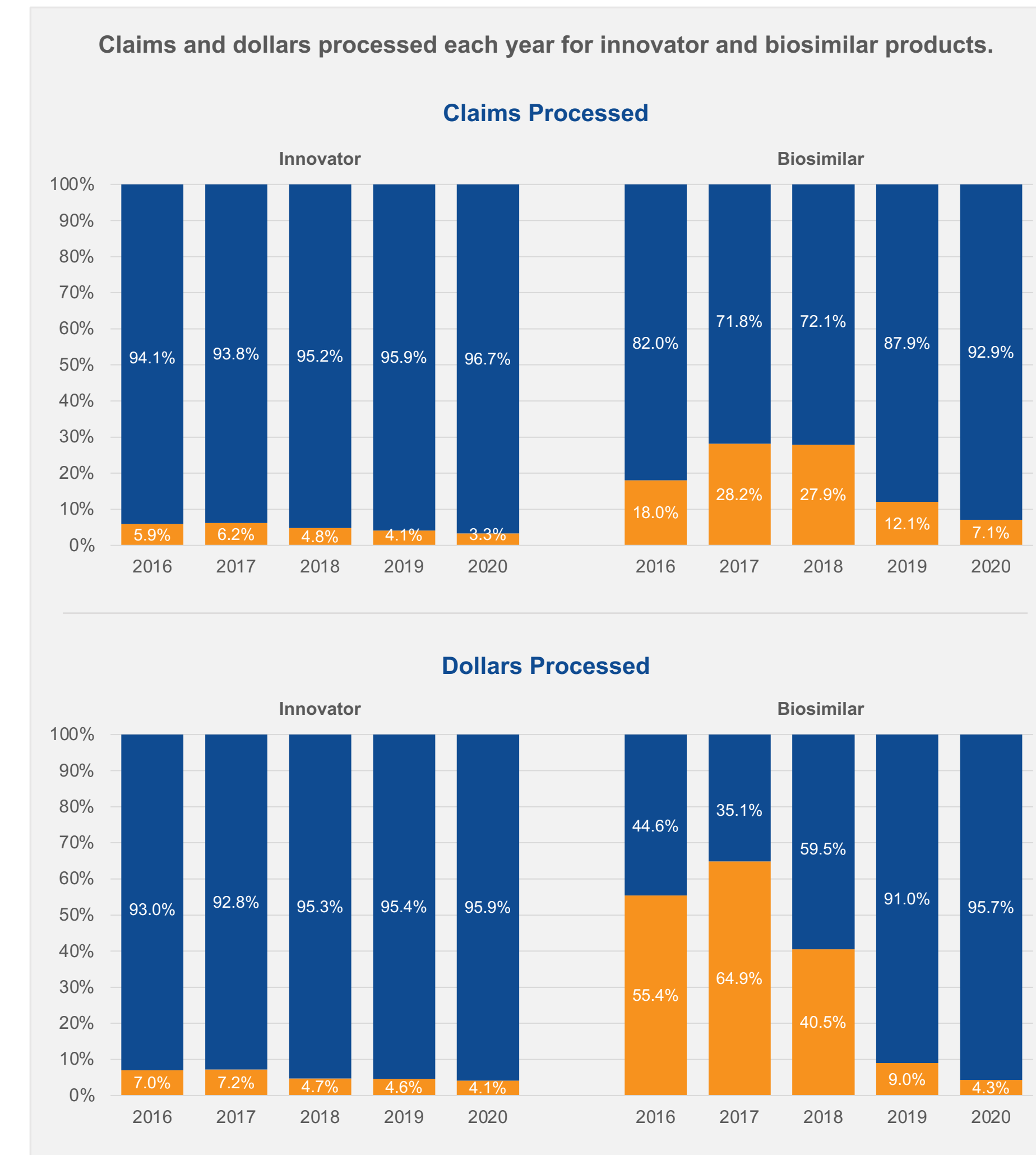
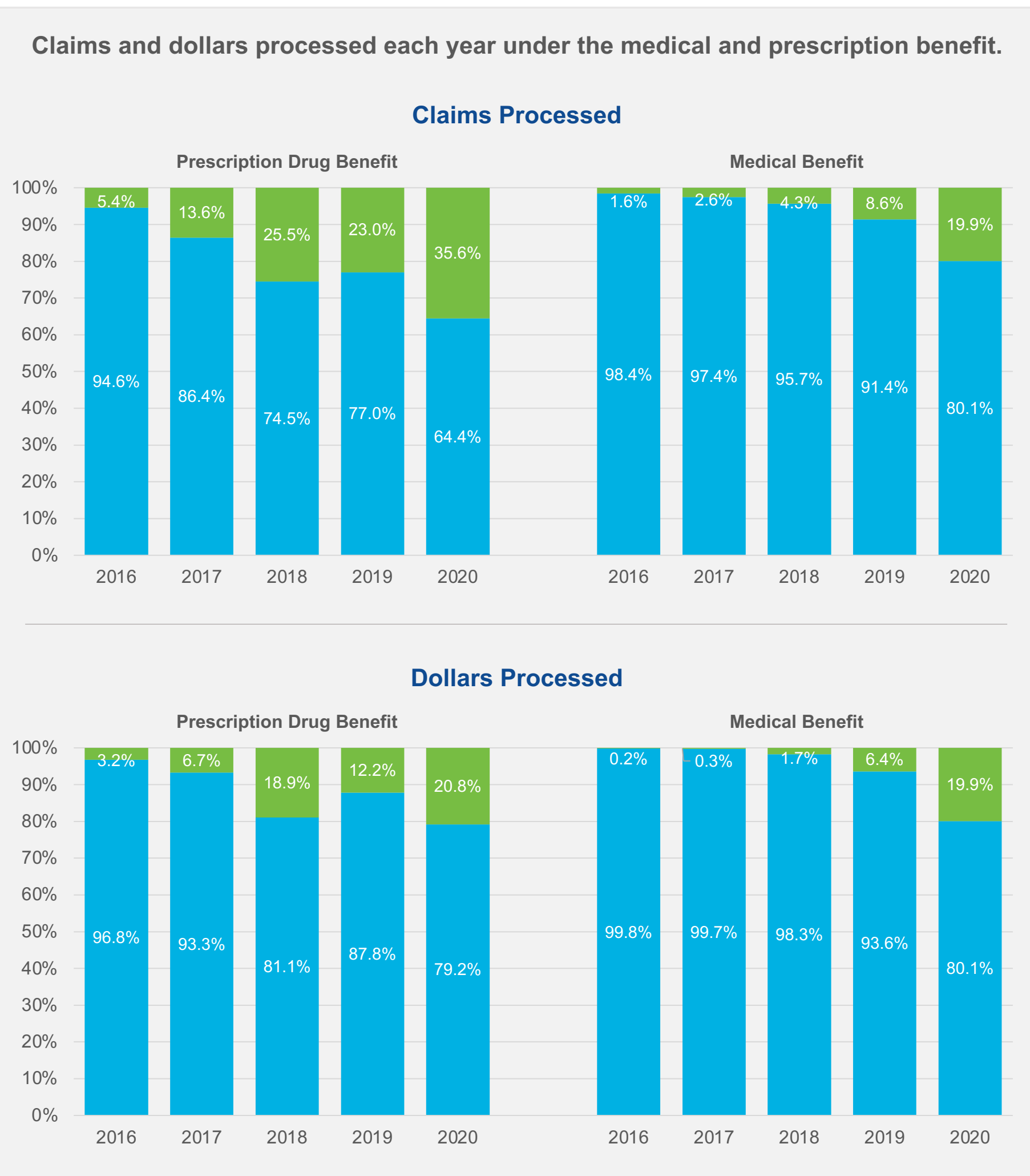
## Methods

- US beneficiaries within the Workpartners (formerly known as HCMS) Research Reference Database (RRDb) from 2016—2020.
- Workpartners RRDb contains:
  - Medical and pharmaceutical claims for over 3 million employees and dependents (about 4.6 million total lives) from multiple US private sector employers in the medical, retail, service, manufacturing, transportation, energy, technology, financial, and utility industries.
  - Enhanced employee demographics (including self-reported race).
  - Job-related employee information (salary, job type, full/part-time status, exempt/non-exempt status).
  - Employees in all states.
  - Claims with absence durations and payments for employee populations eligible for STD=1.2 million, LTD=1.1 million, WC=1.4 million, SL=710,000.
- The Workpartners RRDb has been used for research on:
  - The impact of conditions and therapies on patients,<sup>1</sup> employees,<sup>2-7</sup> and caregivers.<sup>8,9</sup>
  - Specialty pharmacy-managed conditions such as hepatitis-C,<sup>2,3</sup> multiple sclerosis,<sup>4,5</sup> acromegaly,<sup>1,6</sup> and rheumatoid arthritis.<sup>9</sup>
  - The impact of COVID-19 on claims utilization and absence.
  - Optimal Benefit Design.
  - Risk-adjusted benchmarks (Workpartners' HUI - Health Utilization Index).
  - Predictive modeling for mental health and avoidable emergency department claims.
- Annual claims and dollars for specialty agents were classified as:
  - Innovator (reference) agents or biosimilars.
  - Benefit used (prescription or medical).
  - Claims and costs in 2020 were compared with baseline (2016).

## Results

- Over the five-year period, utilization of specialty products cost \$301.5 million for 73,611 claims in aggregate (innovator and biosimilar).
- Compared with 2016, 2020 claims increased by 17% and dollars increased by 30%.

Legend: ■ Innovator ■ Prescription Drug Benefit ■ Biosimilar ■ Medical Benefit



- In total comparison of 2020 with 2016, innovator product use remained relatively constant (decreasing ~5% in claims and increasing ~4% of dollars), while biosimilars' claims increased by 1,198% of claims and 6,120% of costs.

## Conclusions

- Health plans have recognized the value/savings and increased the use of biosimilars.
- The shift from the pharmacy to the medical benefit may be due to many of these biosimilars being infused.
- Future analysis should focus on individual biologics (innovator/biosimilar pairs) and explore whether the findings vary by therapeutic area, agent, insurance plan, and/or region of the country.

## References

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