



BY SCOTT GRAVES

Medi-Cal Reaches Millions of People Across California, but Faces an Uncertain Future

Medi-Cal, our state’s Medicaid program, is the cornerstone of California’s health care system. Funded with both state and federal dollars, Medi-Cal provides health care services to more than 13 million low-income Californians, including children, working parents, seniors, and others. Enrollment in Medi-Cal increased by several million after state policymakers fully implemented the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) in 2014, in part by expanding coverage to low-income parents and other adults who previously were ineligible. Medi-Cal enrollees live in all 58 California counties and comprise more than one-quarter of the population in 49 counties. Of the 10 counties with the highest shares of residents enrolled in Medi-Cal, six are in the San Joaquin Valley: Tulare (55.0%), Merced (51.5%), Fresno (49.9%), Madera (45.3%), Kern (45.1%), and Stanislaus (44.5%). However, millions of Californians are at risk of losing Medi-Cal coverage if President-elect Trump and the Republican-led Congress enact, as expected, proposals to repeal the ACA and cut annual federal funding for Medicaid.

Medi-Cal Enrollees Comprise More Than One-Quarter of the Population in 49 Out of 58 Counties

County	Medi-Cal Enrollees, January 2016	Population, January 2016	Medi-Cal Enrollees as a Percentage of Population
California	13,561,779	39,255,883	34.5%
Alameda	443,365	1,627,865	27.2%
Alpine	358	1,166	30.7%
Amador	8,318	37,707	22.1%
Butte	84,361	224,601	37.6%
Calaveras	12,218	45,207	27.0%
Colusa	8,966	21,948	40.9%
Contra Costa	277,053	1,123,429	24.7%
Del Norte	11,980	26,811	44.7%
El Dorado	39,119	183,750	21.3%
Fresno	491,111	984,541	49.9%
Glenn	12,212	28,668	42.6%
Humboldt	53,638	135,116	39.7%
Imperial	93,969	185,831	50.6%
Inyo	5,612	18,650	30.1%
Kern	399,679	886,507	45.1%
Kings	57,011	150,373	37.9%

County	Medi-Cal Enrollees, January 2016	Population, January 2016	Medi-Cal Enrollees as a Percentage of Population
Lake	31,355	64,306	48.8%
Lassen	7,824	30,780	25.4%
Los Angeles	4,118,821	10,241,335	40.2%
Madera	70,449	155,349	45.3%
Marin	44,993	262,274	17.2%
Mariposa	4,881	18,159	26.9%
Mendocino	41,494	88,378	47.0%
Merced	139,938	271,579	51.5%
Modoc	3,126	9,638	32.4%
Mono	3,745	13,721	27.3%
Monterey	179,362	437,178	41.0%
Napa	32,712	142,028	23.0%
Nevada	25,661	98,095	26.2%
Orange	911,194	3,183,011	28.6%
Placer	65,502	373,796	17.5%
Plumas	6,142	19,879	30.9%
Riverside	829,291	2,347,828	35.3%
Sacramento	558,440	1,495,297	37.3%
San Benito	18,545	56,648	32.7%
San Bernardino	874,185	2,139,570	40.9%
San Diego	909,205	3,288,612	27.6%
San Francisco	230,176	866,583	26.6%
San Joaquin	299,935	733,383	40.9%
San Luis Obispo	62,668	277,977	22.5%
San Mateo	158,541	766,041	20.7%
Santa Barbara	143,590	446,717	32.1%
Santa Clara	452,550	1,927,888	23.5%
Santa Cruz	81,176	275,902	29.4%
Shasta	66,092	178,592	37.0%
Sierra	821	3,203	25.6%
Siskiyou	17,951	44,739	40.1%
Solano	125,010	431,498	29.0%
Sonoma	128,872	501,959	25.7%
Stanislaus	240,318	540,214	44.5%
Sutter	41,799	97,308	43.0%
Tehama	27,543	63,934	43.1%
Trinity	4,953	13,667	36.2%
Tulare	256,590	466,339	55.0%
Tuolumne	14,802	54,900	27.0%
Ventura	240,520	856,508	28.1%
Yolo	59,814	214,555	27.9%
Yuba	32,223	74,345	43.3%

Note: Figures are estimates.

Source: Department of Finance and Department of Health Care Services