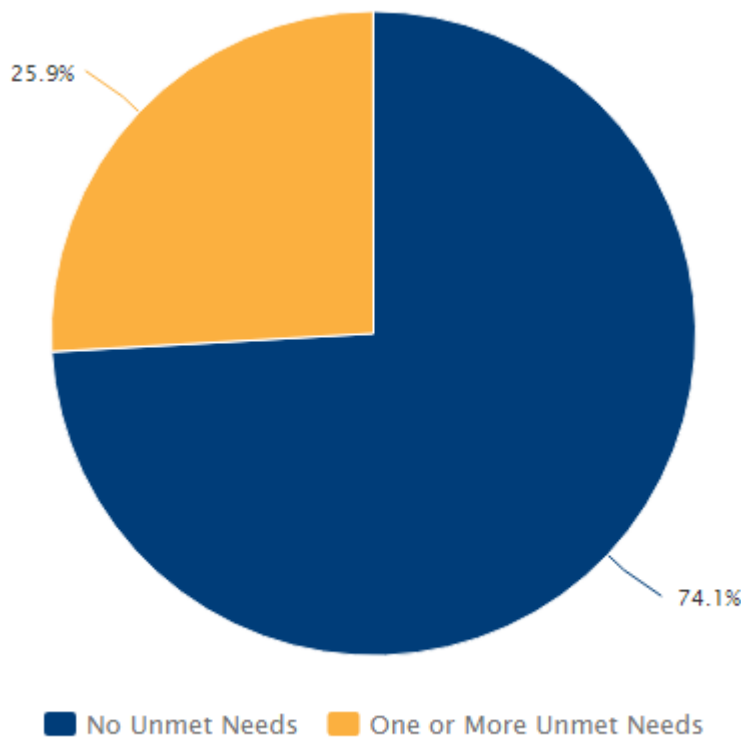


California CSHCN: Access to Services

Unmet Medical Care Needs Among Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN): 2009-2010 California



Definition: Percentage of children with special health care needs (CSHCN) ages 0-17 with and without any unmet needs for 14 specific health care services or equipment (see footnote) in the past 12 months (e.g., in 2009-2010, 25.9% of California CSHCN had one or more unmet needs for health care services or equipment in the previous 12 months).

Data Source: Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health, *National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs* (Dec. 2012).

Difficulty Accessing Community-Based Services for Children with Special Health Care Needs, by Complexity of Need: 2009-2010

California	Percent	
	Had Difficulty	Did Not Have Difficulty
Complexity of Child's Condition		
More Complex Needs	44.0%	56.0%
Less Complex Needs	19.4%	80.6%

Definition: Percentage of children ages 0-17 with special health care needs whose families had, and did not have, difficulties or frustration accessing community-based services needed for their child in the past year, by complexity of need. "More

What It Is

Children with special health care needs (CSHCN) are defined as those who have or are at increased risk for a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional condition and who also require health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally. On kidsdata.org, indicators related to access to services for CSHCN include:

- Access to a usual source of health care
- Access to a variety of services, including medical, mental, and dental care, as well as community- and school-based services, early intervention, special education, and transition services to adulthood

Most of these measures come from the [National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs](#) or the [National Survey of Children's Health](#), which are conducted through telephone interviews with parents. Depending on the indicator, data are available for California, the U.S., and/or all states other than California (including the District of Columbia). School staff reports on the extent to which their [school provides services for students with disabilities or other special needs](#) come from the [California School Staff Survey](#) and are available for school districts, counties, and California overall.

Why This Topic Is Important

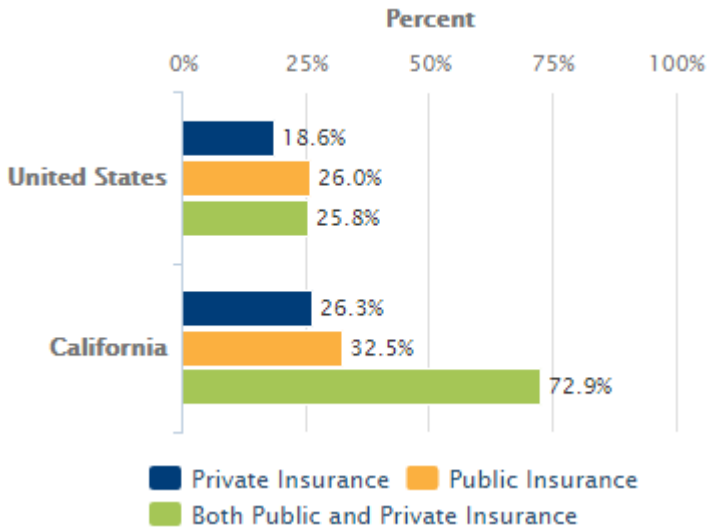
More than 1 million California children and youth have a need for health care services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally. Their ongoing health problems—physical, behavioral, or developmental—can affect their ability to function and participate in important educational and social activities. In some cases their health problems can shorten their lives (1). Medical care for children with special health care needs (CSHCN) is often complicated by the co-occurrence of social, emotional, and academic problems (1, 2). Because of the higher caregiving burdens, families of CSHCN tend to experience more stress and difficulties with employment and finances than other families (1, 2).

CSHCN account for more than 40% of all health care costs among children nationwide, despite making up only about 16% of the U.S. child

complex needs” refer to those requiring more than just prescription medication to manage the conditions, while “less complex needs” refer to those primarily managed by prescription medications.

Data Source: Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health, *National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs* (Dec. 2012).

Children with Special Health Care Needs Who Had Problems Getting Referrals to Specialty Care, by Type of Insurance: 2009-2010



Definition: Percentage of children ages 0-17 with special health care needs who had problems getting needed referrals in the past year, by type of health insurance coverage (e.g., in 2009-10, 32.5% of publicly insured children with special health care needs in California had difficulty getting needed referrals).

Data Source: Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health, *National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs* (Dec. 2012).

population (1). Though advances in medical care have extended and improved the lives of millions of children, obtaining timely, appropriate, and affordable care remains a problem for many families. More than four in five CSHCN do not receive one or more basic aspects of quality health care, in California and nationally (1).

How Children Are Faring

In 2009-10, 26% of children with special health care needs (CSHCN) in California had unmet medical care needs and 35% had difficulty accessing community-based services. In addition, 34% of these children in California had difficulty getting needed referrals to specialty care, which was significantly higher than the average for other states (22%).* However, the vast majority of California’s CSHCN had a preventive medical visit in the past year (88%) and a usual source of health care (89%) in 2009-10. Regarding mental health care, almost 40% of CSHCN in California did not receive needed mental health services, according to 2011-12 data.

CSHCN with more complex health needs or who are low income, of color, or publicly insured are more likely than other children to have challenges accessing quality health care. For example, just 30% of youth with more complex special health care needs in California received the services needed to support their transition to the adult health care system, compared to 49% of youth with less complex health needs in 2009-10.

View references for this text and additional research on this topic:

<https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/13/access-to-services-for-children-with-special-needs/summary>



More Data: www.kidsdata.org

Sign Up for Data Updates: www.kidsdata.org/signup

This PDF Was Generated On: 2/18/2019