Children's Health Care in California

Percentage of Children Ages 0-18 Without Health Insurance Coverage

Definition: Estimated percentage of children ages 0-18 with and without health insurance coverage at the time of survey, by type of insurance and age group (e.g., in 2018, 42.5% of California children ages 6-18 were covered by public health insurance).


What It Is

Kidsdata.org's health care measures include:

- Children ages 0-18 with and without health insurance, by type of coverage (public or private), age group, and race/ethnicity (see list)
- Children and youth ages 0-21 with Medicaid (Medi-Cal), Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), or other means-tested public health insurance (see list); also, for California and the U.S. only, coverage by age group and race/ethnicity
- Total yearly enrollment in Medicaid (Medi-Cal) and CHIP among children ages 0-18 (California and U.S. only)
- Average monthly enrollment in Medi-Cal among children and youth ages 0-20, by age group, and, for California only, by race/ethnicity and most common written languages
- Children ages 0-17 uninsured at any point in the previous 12 months
- Children ages 0-17 for whom needed health care was delayed or not received in the previous 12 months, and, for California only, by main reason for delaying or forgoing care
- Youth ages 12-17 by the length of time since their last routine health check-up
- The usual source of health care for children ages 0-17, by income level and race/ethnicity
- Children ages 0-17 who receive care within a medical home
- The number of school-based or -linked health centers serving public schools
- The extent to which students are provided adequate health services at school, as reported by staff

Why This Topic Is Important

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, every child should receive high quality health care that is accessible, family centered, culturally competent, coordinated, continuous, compassionate, and comprehensive. This care is best offered through a medical home, an ongoing family-centered partnership with a child health professional or team in which all of the patient's

Percentage of Children Ages 0-17 Who Receive Care Within a Medical Home: 2016-2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locations</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>48.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>43.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alameda County</td>
<td>44.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contra Costa County</td>
<td>46.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresno County</td>
<td>37.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kern County</td>
<td>39.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles County</td>
<td>38.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange County</td>
<td>42.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverside County</td>
<td>41.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacramento County</td>
<td>42.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Bernardino County</td>
<td>39.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Diego County</td>
<td>44.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Clara County</td>
<td>44.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Definition: Estimated percentage of children ages 0-17 who receive coordinated, ongoing, comprehensive care within a medical home (e.g., in 2016-2019, 43.1% of California children received care within a medical home).


Yearly Medicaid and CHIP Enrollment Among Children Ages 0-18

What It Is

Kidsdata.org's health care measures include:

- Children ages 0-18 with and without health insurance, by type of coverage (public or private), age group, and race/ethnicity (see list)
- Children and youth ages 0-21 with Medicaid (Medi-Cal), Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), or other means-tested public health insurance (see list); also, for California and the U.S. only, coverage by age group and race/ethnicity
- Total yearly enrollment in Medicaid (Medi-Cal) and CHIP among children ages 0-18 (California and U.S. only)
- Average monthly enrollment in Medi-Cal among children and youth ages 0-20, by age group, and, for California only, by race/ethnicity and most common written languages
- Children ages 0-17 uninsured at any point in the previous 12 months
- Children ages 0-17 for whom needed health care was delayed or not received in the previous 12 months, and, for California only, by main reason for delaying or forgoing care
- Youth ages 12-17 by the length of time since their last routine health check-up
- The usual source of health care for children ages 0-17, by income level and race/ethnicity
- Children ages 0-17 who receive care within a medical home
- The number of school-based or -linked health centers serving public schools
- The extent to which students are provided adequate health services at school, as reported by staff
needs are met. Children who receive care in the context of a medical home are more likely to have regular preventive check-ups (which can lead to the early identification and treatment of problems) and are less likely to have emergency room visits. However, the latest estimates indicate that less than half of children receive care within a medical home, statewide and nationally.

Not surprisingly, children without health insurance are less likely to access needed care than those with coverage. While the percentage of uninsured children has decreased in recent years, many remain without coverage, and many insured children are at risk of losing coverage if investments in public insurance programs are not maintained.

How Children Are Faring
An estimated 97% of California children ages 0-18, and 95% of children nationwide, had some form of health insurance coverage in 2018—up from less than 90% in 2008. Despite these gains, gaps persist. For example, 8% of American Indian/Alaska Native children in California were uninsured in 2018, more than twice the estimate for children in other racial/ethnic groups.

Two in every three California children ages 0-18 (67%) were enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP at some point in the 2019 federal fiscal year, a larger share than the percentage enrolled nationally (58%). On average, nearly half (49%) of the state’s young people ages 0-20 were enrolled in Medi-Cal per month in calendar year 2020, with figures ranging from 28% (Placer) to 77% (Lake) across counties with data. Statewide, average monthly Medi-Cal enrollments among African American/black (61%) and Hispanic/Latino (59%) children and youth were more than double the enrollment rates for their Asian/Pacific Islander (28%) and white (22%) peers.

Parent reports from 2016-2019 show that 43% of the state’s children ages 0-17 received care within a medical home, compared with 48% nationwide. Across California regions, estimates of children receiving care within a medical home ranged from 35% (Merced County) to 54% (Marin County).

View references for this text and additional research on this topic: https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/51/health-care/summary