



Latino Health

Fact Sheet

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Uninsured Rate

54% of the uninsured are Latino

Uninsured Children

Two thirds of the uninsured Latino children were eligible for one of the state's two public health insurance programs

Uninsured Rate

- California has approximately 6.3 million uninsured individuals or 20% of the statewide population.
- 54% of the uninsured are Latino.
- More than one in four Latinos ages 0-64 in California are uninsured (28% of Latinos compared to 9% of whites).
- Latinos high uninsured rate is largely due to the very low rate of health insurance provided by their employers, 43% compared with 76% for whites.
- Uninsured individuals rely on the safety net-community clinics, hospitals, and private physicians who deliver care without respect for ability to pay.
- 85% of the uninsured population, 41% of the Medi-Cal population, and 27% of the Healthy Families population often or almost always experience problems obtaining specialty care compared to 2% of those with private insurance.

Uninsured Children

- The uninsured rate for Latino children between the ages of 0 to 17 is 38%.
- Latino adolescents (ages 12-17) have the highest uninsured prevalence of all groups, 22.5% compared with 4.4% for Whites.
- Latino children (ages 0-11) have the highest uninsured prevalence of all groups, 15.5% compared with 4.3% for Whites.
- Almost two-thirds of the uninsured Latino children (ages 0-17) were eligible for one of the state's two public health insurance programs - Medi-Cal or Healthy Families.
- Legislative districts with the highest rates of children uninsured-and-eligible for public health insurance were primarily located in Los Angeles County and in the greater Southern California region.
- Among children, with a non-citizen father, 21% had no health

Cultural and Linguistic Access to Care

Less than 4% of physicians in California are Latino

Medi-Cal

47% of the Medi-Cal beneficiaries are Latino

insurance, 12% did not visit a doctor in the last year, 12% had no usual place of care, and 45% of those with a usual place of care went to a clinic or a community hospital for care.

- Community and hospital clinics are the usual source of care for 50.1% of Latino children in households below 100% FPL and only 9.4% in households at 300% FPL and above.

Cultural and Linguistic Access to Care

- In California, 40% of its population speaks a language other than English at home.
- Less than 4% of physicians in California are Latino and only 5% of the state's medical residents were Latino in 2000.
- While the population-to-physician ratio is 335:1, the Latino population-to-physician is almost 3000:1.
- Latino physicians are two to three times more likely to practice in underserved areas, such as migrant health centers and free county safety net clinics, than their non-Latino white counterparts.
- A study in the journal Pediatrics found an average of 31 errors per visit for Spanish-speaking patients using interpreters at pediatric clinics.
- Almost 2/3 of the errors had clinical consequences which included wrong instructions on dose and duration of prescribed drugs and omission of important information about patient drug allergies or medical history.
- A poll by New California Media found that a majority of all California immigrants are unaware that they have a right to ask for an interpreter when seeking medical care; more than one out of three Hispanics say they have problems understanding a medical situation when it's not explained to them in their language; over half of Hispanics are confused by instructions when discharged from hospitals; and over half of Hispanics report problems over how to use their prescription medicine.

Medi-Cal

- Medi-Cal serves one in six Californians or about six million residents.
- 47% or 2.9 million of the Medi-Cal beneficiaries are Latino.
- Medi-Cal or Healthy Families outreach could extend coverage to uninsured Latino children, more than 460,000 in all.

Healthy Families

57.8% of the Healthy Families beneficiaries are Latino children

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- California has 90,000 licensed physicians, but only about 26,000 physicians and physician groups are certified to care for Medi-Cal patients.
- At least 10,500 medical doctors statewide who want to treat the poor find their applications still being processed, sometimes a year or more after being submitted. If this backlog were alleviated, the state's poor would have about 40% more physicians from whom to choose.
- Outstationing eligibility workers in the community is associated with lower odds of Medi-Cal enrollment. For every additional outstation per 1,000 eligible children in the community, the odds of enrollment decreased by 2/3.
- Children who lived in counties with county-sponsored expansion program had three times the odds of being enrolled in Medi-Cal compared with children from a county without an expansion program.

Healthy Families

- Of the 650,000 children enrolled in Healthy Families, 57.8% are Latino children.
- 61.2% of the total Healthy Families program enrollment are in Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, San Bernardino, and Riverside Counties which have a high Latino population.
- Almost 40% of the Healthy Families applications received were from Spanish-speaking applicants.
- Outreach money is associated with increased enrollment in both Healthy Families and Medi-Cal. Every additional dollar spent on outreach per eligible child in the county increases the odds of enrollment by 6% in Medi-Cal and 7% in Healthy Families.

Latino Coalition for a Healthy California

The Latino Coalition for a Healthy California - the only statewide organization with a specific emphasis on Latino health - was founded in 1992 by health care providers, consumers and advocates to impact Latino health through enhanced information, policy development and community involvement. Three major functions provide essential focus to the organization's work: public policy and advocacy; community education and research. These functions complement LCHC's work in three key strategic areas: access to health care, health disparities, and community health. Through its Rapid Response Network of 1,700 community-based organizations and its Regional Networks in San Diego, Los Angeles and the Bay Area, LCHC affiliates stand ready to be mobilized to impact public policies, services and conditions that affect Latino health.