



Latino Health in California

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 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.

Farmworkers

- 96% of farmworkers are Latino of which 34 to 42% are undocumented.
- 95% of California's migrant agricultural workers use Spanish as their primary language.
- 61% of migrant families are impoverished; often they are not paid the minimum wage and the State lacks enough inspectors to enforce existing regulations.
- Approximately 70% of migrant agricultural workers lack public or private health insurance.
- Over 16% of farmworkers say their employer offers health insurance but 1/3 of these workers did not participate due to high premiums or inability to afford the co-payments.
- 11% of farmworkers receive insurance through their employer, 7% participate in public insurance, and less than 5% purchase personal private insurance.

- 56% of migrant Latino children 6 and under experienced cavities.
- Approximately 40% of women farmworkers surveyed had had a medical visit in the prior 5 months, but 44% had never been to a dentist.
- In 1999, the California Agricultural Worker Health Survey found that nearly 1/3 of male agricultural workers had never been to a doctor or clinic in their lives; half had never been to a dentist, and 2/3 had never had an eye care visit.

Cultural/Linguistic Access and Competence

- 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.
- 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.
- Outreach money spent on media is associated with decreased enrollment in Healthy Families. For every \$1 increase in media per 1,000 eligible children the odds of enrollment decreased by 11%.

Diabetes

- Nearly one out of five Latino adults over the age of 50 (19.7%) report they have diabetes, which is twice the rate for Whites (10.1%) and among the highest for all racial/ethnic groups.
- In California, only 67.5% of Latinos with diabetes report that they are taking medications for their condition, compared to 78.2% of Whites.
- Only one out of three Latinos with diabetes (35.6%) report being uninsured all year compared to less than one out of ten Whites (6.4%).
- Among adults with diabetes, Latinos are nearly four times more likely to have no usual source of care than Whites (12.3% vs. 3.4%).
- Insured Latinos with diabetes are significantly more likely to report medication use (72.5% vs. 48.9%) and daily glucose monitoring (39.4% vs. 21.7%) compared to uninsured Latinos.
- Among Latinos with diabetes, nearly one out of three is primarily a Spanish speaker (31.3%), more than one out of three are non-citizens (39.7%), and nearly three out of four (68.6%) have incomes below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Cancer

- Latina women suffer the highest rate of invasive cervical cancer in California.
- Latina women are twice as likely as white women to develop cervical cancer and along with African American and Asian Pacific Islander women, are far more likely to die from cervical cancer than Whites.
- The proportion of Latinas who have never had a Pap test, 10%, is more than double that of Whites.
- Only one in three (33%) Latina women report having a recent colorectal cancer screening test.
- More than 60% Latino men aged 50 and older have never been screened for prostate cancer.
- Within family incomes below 200% FPL, only 67% Latina women older than the age of 40 have had a mammogram compared to Whites (72%).
- 92% among Latinas with Medi-Cal vs. 80% of uninsured Latinas received a PAP test within the last three years.

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