

WHAT MEDICAID BRINGS TO California



The
Commonwealth
Fund



13.5 million
children and adults¹

are insured by Medicaid (Medi-Cal) or CHIP. Those covered include parents, pregnant women, and people with disabilities.

**CHILDREN
COVERED²**

43%

Children ages 0–18 in California who were covered by Medicaid in 2023

**ADULTS
COVERED²**

23%

Adults ages 19–64 in California who were covered by Medicaid in 2023



California received \$81 billion in federal support for Medicaid in 2023.

This accounted for 66% of total Medicaid spending in the state.³



**Medicaid enrollment
by the numbers**

5,020,022

Children enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP¹

4,956,615

Adults enrolled because of ACA expansion⁴

1,740,430

Dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid⁵



Adults insured with Medicaid are least likely to report having medical debt

Adults ages 19–64 who were continuously insured and **reported having medical debt**, by insurance type, 2024⁷

21%
Medicaid

29%
Medicare

29%
Employer

32%
Individual /
Marketplace



Medicaid and CHIP are a critical source of coverage in rural parts of California

Percent of **children** (ages 0–18) living in rural or metro areas covered by Medicaid or CHIP, 2023⁶

Metro 41%

Rural 49%

Percent of **adults** (ages 19–64) living in rural or metro areas covered by Medicaid, 2023⁶

Metro 23%

Rural 14%



Medicaid helps youth with mental and behavioral health needs access care

Youth ages 12–17 with a **mental health condition** whose insurance covered mental health services, 2022⁸

Public Insurance

60%

27%

13%

Private Insurance

46%

30%

24%

ALWAYS

USUALLY

**SOMETIMES /
NEVER**

Public insurance = Medicaid, medical assistance, or any kind of government assistance plan for those with low incomes or a disability

Sources: 1. CMS, Medicaid and CHIP Enrollment Data Highlights, Sept. 2024. 2. Authors' analysis of 2023 ACS-PUMS. 3. KFF, Federal and State Share of Medicaid Spending, 2023. 4. CMS, Medicaid Enrollment Data Collected Through MBES, June 2024. 5. CMS, Medicare Monthly Enrollment, Sept. 2024. 6. Georgetown CCF, Medicaid's Role in Small Towns and Rural Areas, 2025. 7. Commonwealth Fund, Biennial Health Insurance Survey, 2024. 8. Authors' analysis of 2022 NSCH.