

# Health Coverage and Care for Undocumented Immigrants

November 10, 2015

Iwunze Ugo, Shannon McConville,  
Joseph Hayes, and Laura Hill

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**PPIC**

PUBLIC POLICY  
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# Overview

- California policy and undocumented immigrants
- Population estimates
- Potential coverage expansions
- Looking forward

# California leads most states in integration of undocumented immigrants

- Higher education
  - In-state tuition, state financial aid
- Driver's licenses
- Professional licensing
  - Nurse, doctor, attorney
- Full scope Medi-Cal for DACA registrants
- Undocumented low-income children to be covered by full scope Medi-Cal

# Policymaking and implementation require estimates

- Almost no surveys ask documentation status
- Variety of methods to estimate for states
  - “Residual” method
  - Survey data
- 2.67 million Californians are undocumented, Center for Migration Studies

# Recent innovations to estimate for counties, zip codes

- Use of larger surveys
- Administrative data (ITINs)
  - PPIC method to estimate size of local populations
    - Counties
    - Zip codes
  - Expanded method for regional estimates of
    - Family size
    - Family income
    - Poverty thresholds
      - Medi-Cal eligibility = 138% Federal Poverty Line

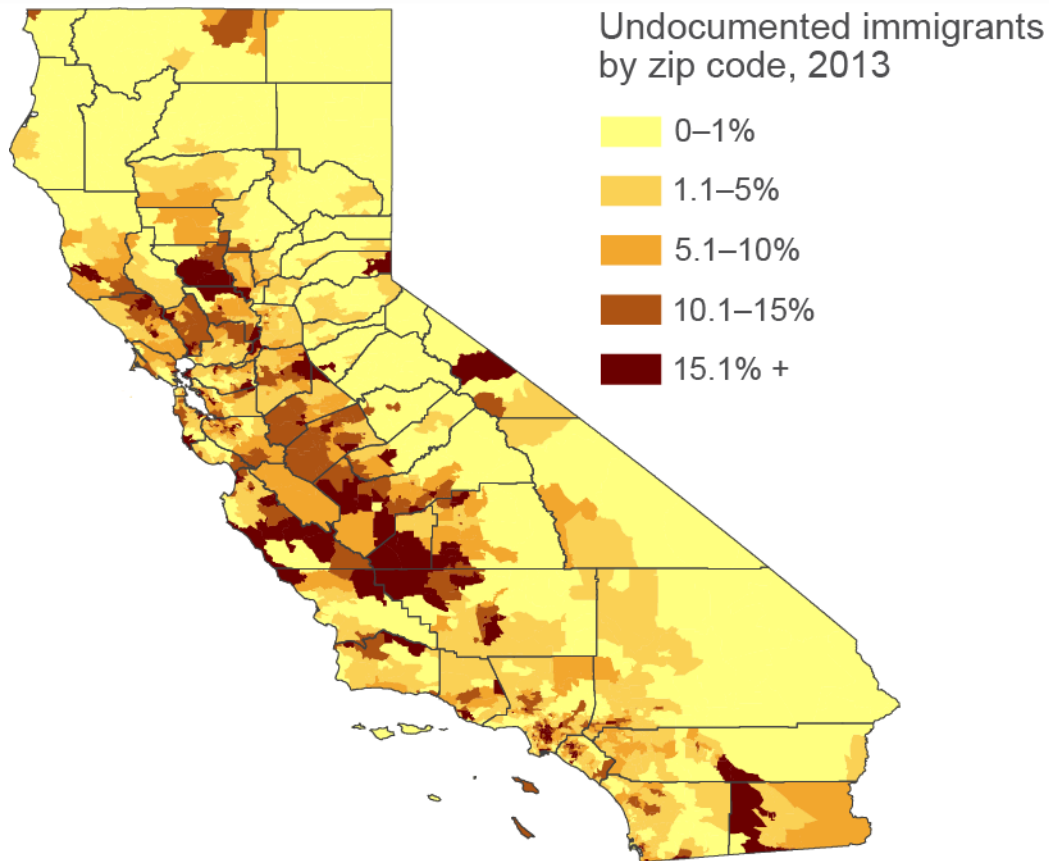
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# Some counties are home to substantial undocumented populations

County	Undocumented immigrant population
Los Angeles	814,000
Orange	247,500
Santa Clara	183,500
San Diego	170,500
Alameda	129,500
Riverside	124,000
San Bernardino	118,000
Contra Costa	77,500
Ventura	69,000
Monterey/San Benito	62,000
California	2,667,000

# Undocumented immigrants live in every region of the state





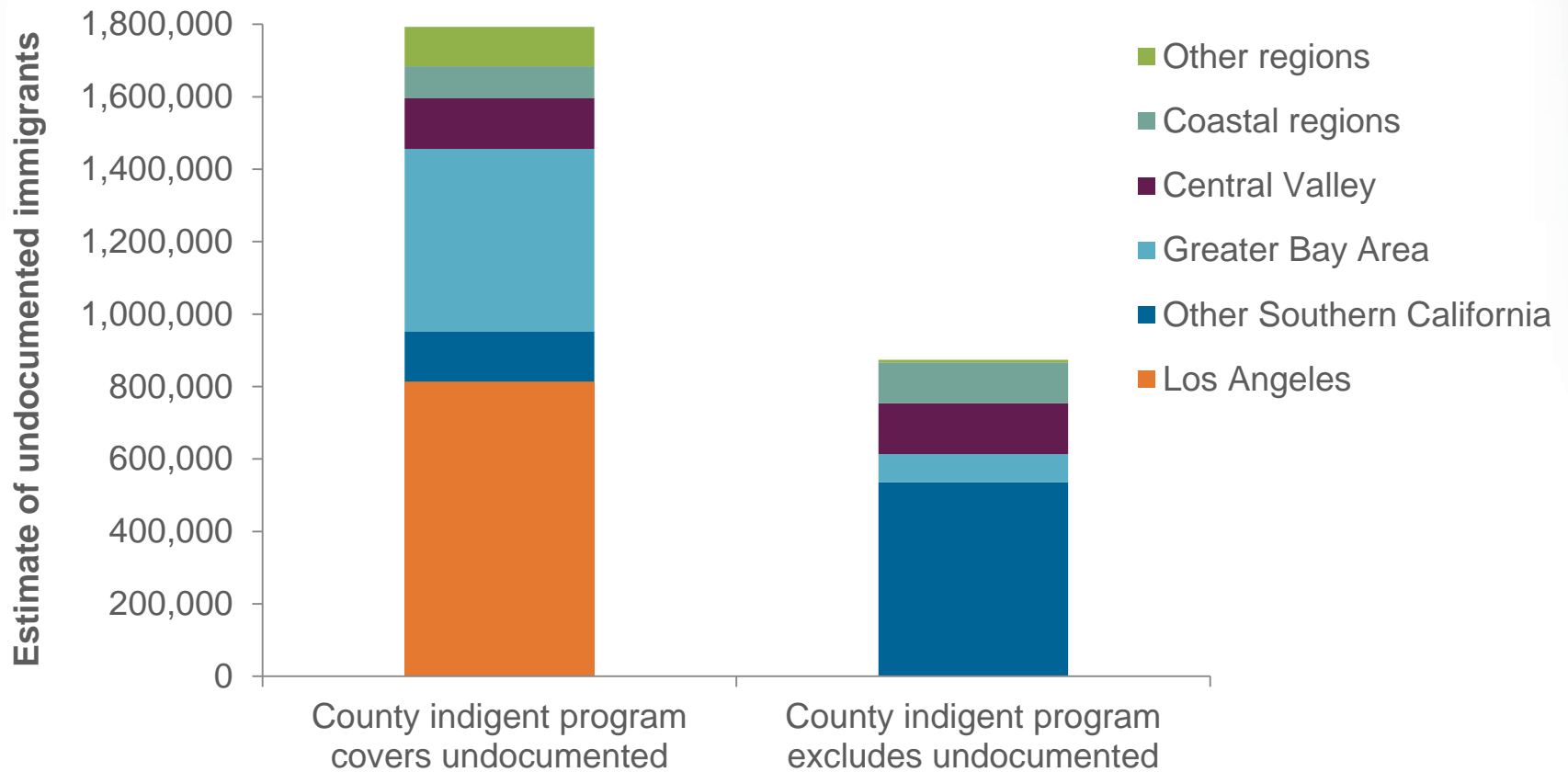
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# Health coverage and care currently available to the undocumented

- Private insurance
- Full-scope Medi-Cal coverage
  - DACA registrants
  - Next year, children under 19
- Limited-benefit (state-only) programs
- Emergency-only Medi-Cal
- County indigent care programs

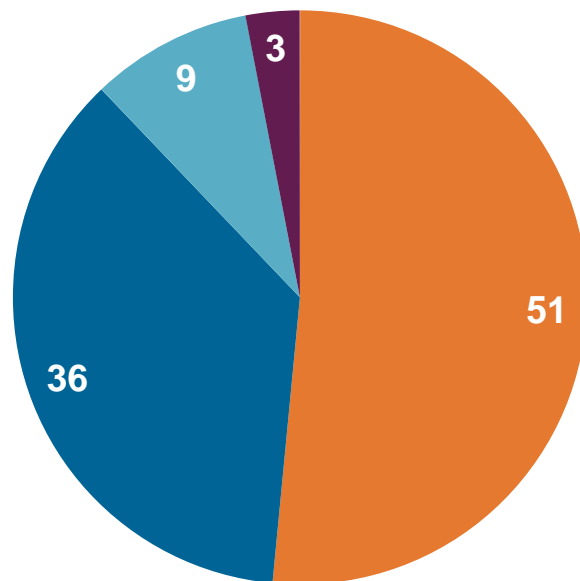
# Indigent care not provided to undocumented in all counties



# Potential health coverage expansions

- Medi-Cal coverage for low-income adults
  - New DACA/DAPA if implemented
  - Legislative proposals
- Federal waiver to allow undocumented to purchase plans through Covered California
  - No financial assistance
- Comprehensive immigration reform

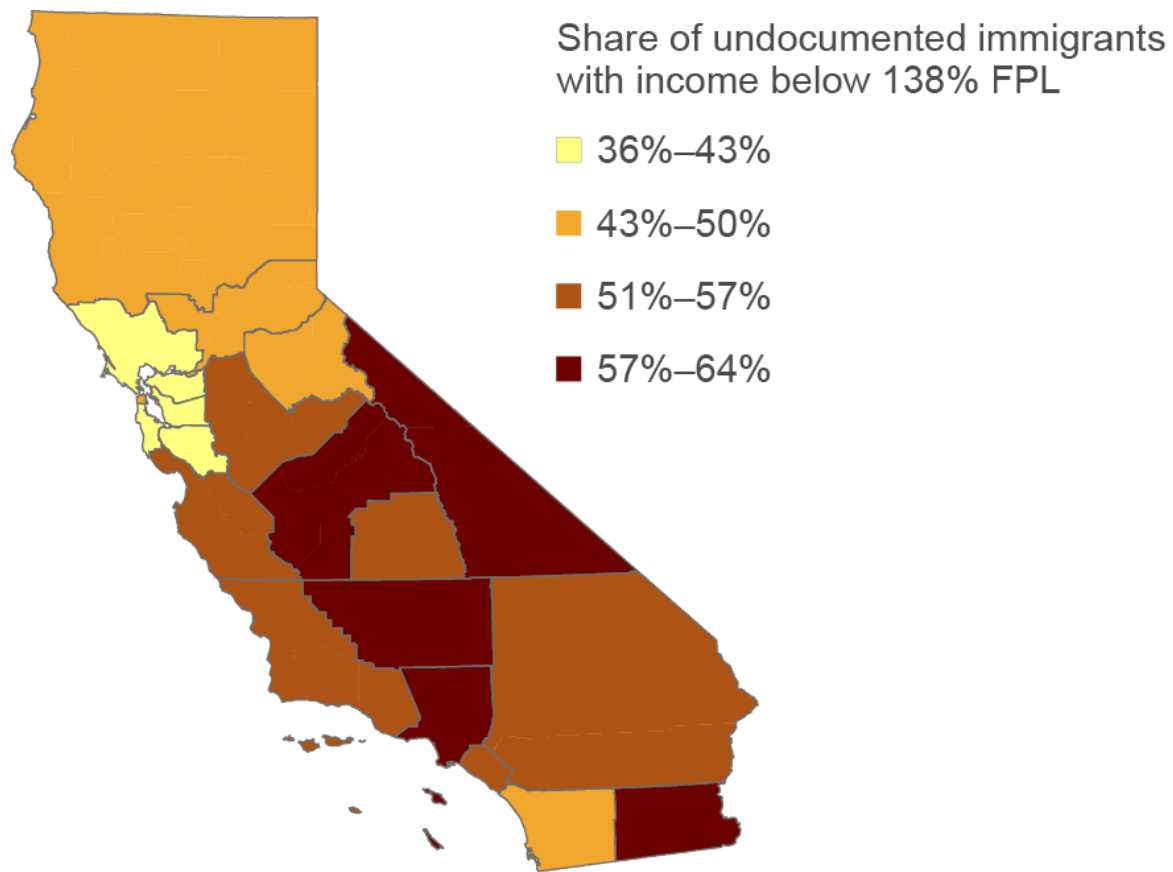
# Slight majority of undocumented would be income-eligible for Medi-Cal



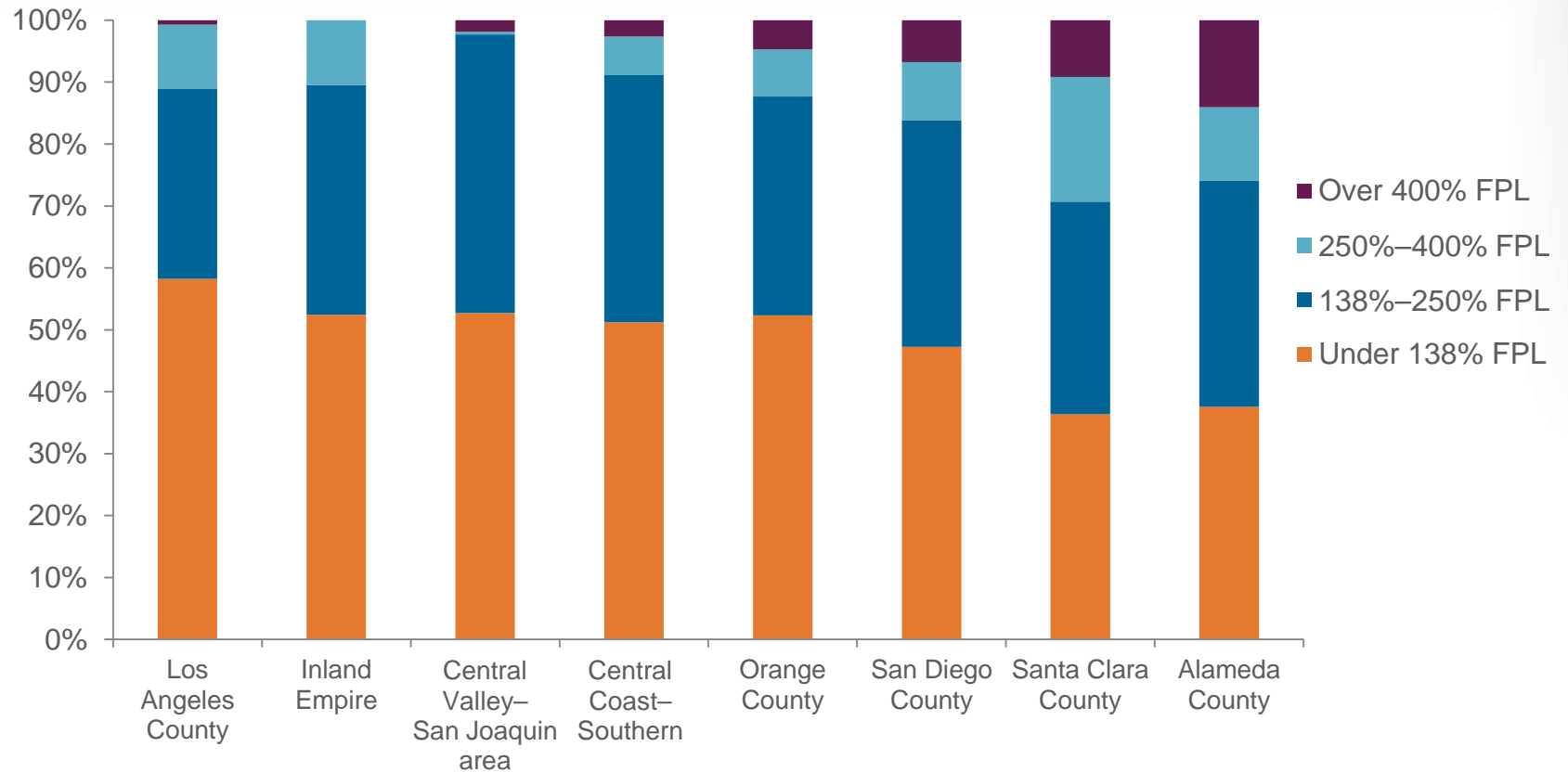
Share of undocumented immigrants by family income levels

- Under 138% FPL
- 138%–250% FPL
- 250%–400% FPL
- Over 400% FPL

# Share eligible for Medi-Cal varies by insurance region



# What about those above the Medi-Cal threshold?



# Without subsidies, Covered CA will not be affordable for many

			Contra Costa	Monterey	Orange	San Joaquin
Family of 4, 2 adults (age 35), 2 children, monthly income of \$4000/mo	Bronze	Monthly Premium	\$531	\$562	\$399	\$428
		% income	13.3	14.1	10.0	10.7
	Silver	Monthly Premium	\$690	\$741	\$562	\$613
		% income	17.3	20.2	14.1	15.3



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# Looking forward

- Still more than 1 million undocumented immigrants without insurance
- Health care safety net providers responsible for care need support
- Research and public opinion favor expanding options for coverage
- Without comprehensive immigration reform, California may continue to lead the way
  - Medi-Cal for children is first step

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## Notes on the use of these slides

These slides were created to accompany a presentation. They do not include full documentation of sources, data samples, methods, and interpretations. To avoid misinterpretations, please contact:

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Thank you for your interest in this work.

# Without subsidies, Covered CA will not be affordable for many

			Contra Costa	Monterey	Orange	San Joaquin
<b>Single adult, 25 years old, monthly income of \$2,000/mo</b>	Bronze	Monthly Premium	\$218	\$231	\$164	\$176
		% income	10.9	11.6	8.2	8.8
	Silver	Monthly Premium	\$284	\$331	\$231	\$252
		% income	14.2	16.6	11.6	12.6
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# Other estimates

Region Definition	ITIN Estimates (2013)		*CMS Estimates (2013)		**Marcelli & Pastor Estimates (2008-2012 )		MPI Estimates (2009-2013)	
	Undoc immigrants	% with income below 138% FPL	Undoc immigrants	Share with income below 100% FPL	Undoc immigrants	Share of children with income below 150% FPL***	Undoc immigrants	Share with income below 150% FPL
Region 1: Northern	35,000	48%	27,238	25%				
Region 2: North Bay	95,500	43%	63,312	22%				
Region 3: Sacramento	78,500	49%	79,921	26%	61,275	68%		
Region 4: San Francisco	35,000	47%	36,475	18%			45,000	22%
Region 5: Contra Costa	77,500	44%	65,048	23%	60,682	53%	66,000	29%
Region 6: Alameda	129,500	38%	101,057	21%	97,706	50%	109,000	23%
Region 7: Santa Clara	183,500	36%	151,016	13%			142,000	21%
Region 8: San Mateo	59,500	43%	50,052	18%			57,000	20%
Region 9: Central Coast - Northern	81,500	56%	78,478	25%	54,009	63%	86,000	30%
Region 10: Central Valley – San Joaquin	140,500	53%	134,358	35%	24,290	72%		
Region 11: Central Valley – Fresno	81,000	59%	79,484	34%	76,533	78%	117,000	44%
Region 12: Central Coast - Southern	119,500	51%	107,161	29%				
Region 13: Eastern Region	17,500	64%	13,966	34%				
Region 14: Kern	58,500	59%	61,510	32%	66,499	69%	75,000	42%
Region 15: Los Angeles	814,000	58%	916,986	30%	908,047	65%	1,062,000	32%
Region 17: Inland Empire	242,000	52%	244,925	30%	145,709	59%	296,000	32%
Region 18: Orange	247,500	52%	259,018	30%	243,593	63%	274,000	29%
Region 19: San Diego	170,500	47%	199,201	27%	181,521	58%	205,000	31%
TOTAL	2,667,000	51%	2,667,000	28%	2,709,000	62%	3,034,000	51%



# What about those above the Medi-Cal threshold?

Insurance Region	Undocumented Immigrants	Under 138% FPL	138% - 250% FPL	250% - 400% FPL	Over 400% FPL
Los Angeles County	814,000	58%	31%	10%	1%
Inland Empire	242,000	52%	37%	10%	0%
Orange County	247,500	52%	35%	8%	5%
Santa Clara County	183,500	36%	34%	20%	9%
San Diego County	170,500	47%	37%	9%	7%
Central Valley – San Joaquin area	140,500	53%	45%	0%	2%
Alameda County	129,500	38%	37%	12%	14%
Central Coast - Southern	119,500	51%	40%	6%	3%
Statewide	2,667,000	51%	36%	9%	3%