Health Coverage and Care for Undocumented Immigrants in California
An Update
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What does coverage and access to care look like for undocumented immigrants?

- Limited health insurance options
- Health care at safety net providers
- Potentially unmet health needs
- Differences within California
Uninsured rates are high for low-income undocumented immigrants

![Bar chart showing uninsured rates for different categories of immigrants.](chart.png)

- **Citizen immigrant**
  - Percent uninsured: 11

- **Permanent resident**
  - Percent uninsured: 10

- **Undocumented**
  - Percent uninsured: 46
Undocumented immigrants face barriers to health insurance coverage

- Ineligibility
- Cost
- Immigration-related concerns

Children in mixed-status families may face negative consequences.
The health care safety net for undocumented immigrants is uneven

- Age: Access differs by age group
- Geography: county policies matter
- Needs: Some health care needs are covered for all

The eligibility and access landscape is a complex patchwork to navigate.
More children enroll in SB 75 Medi-Cal in certain counties.
Many county programs for medically indigent patients cover undocumented immigrants
Medi-Cal can cover undocumented patients with specific medical needs

- Medical emergencies
- Compassionate dialysis
- Prenatal and postpartum care
Undocumented immigrants use less health care

- Studies find low health care use among undocumented immigrants
- Undocumented immigrants are more likely to miss care due to cost
- About 70% of visits to My Health LA are for primary care
- Known diagnoses reflect lack of access to care
Undocumented immigrants are less likely to have a usual source of care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All immigrants</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undocumented immigrants</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent residents</td>
<td>44%</td>
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- **Other provider**: 41% (All immigrants), 51% (Undocumented immigrants), 37% (Permanent residents)
- **Safety net provider**: 25% (All immigrants), 36% (Undocumented immigrants), 20% (Permanent residents)
- **No usual source of health care**: 20% (All immigrants), 14% (Undocumented immigrants), 44% (Permanent residents)
Children in mixed-status families are also less likely to have a usual source of care

- 85% of children in low-income immigrant families have a usual source of care
- Children in mixed-status families are 11% less likely to have a usual source

Health care access for children in mixed-status families could be affected by family members’ undocumented status.
Policymakers are strategizing to make health care accessible to all

- Medi-Cal expansions regardless of immigration status
- Bill to expand private coverage to undocumented parents
- Healthy California for All Commission
CA adults favor providing health care coverage for undocumented immigrants

- In 2015, 54% favored, 42% opposed, and 3% were unsure.
- In 2021, 66% favored, 31% opposed, and 3% were unsure.
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.