



# Health Coverage and Care for Undocumented Immigrants in California

An Update

June 24, 2021

Paulette Cha and Shannon McConville

---



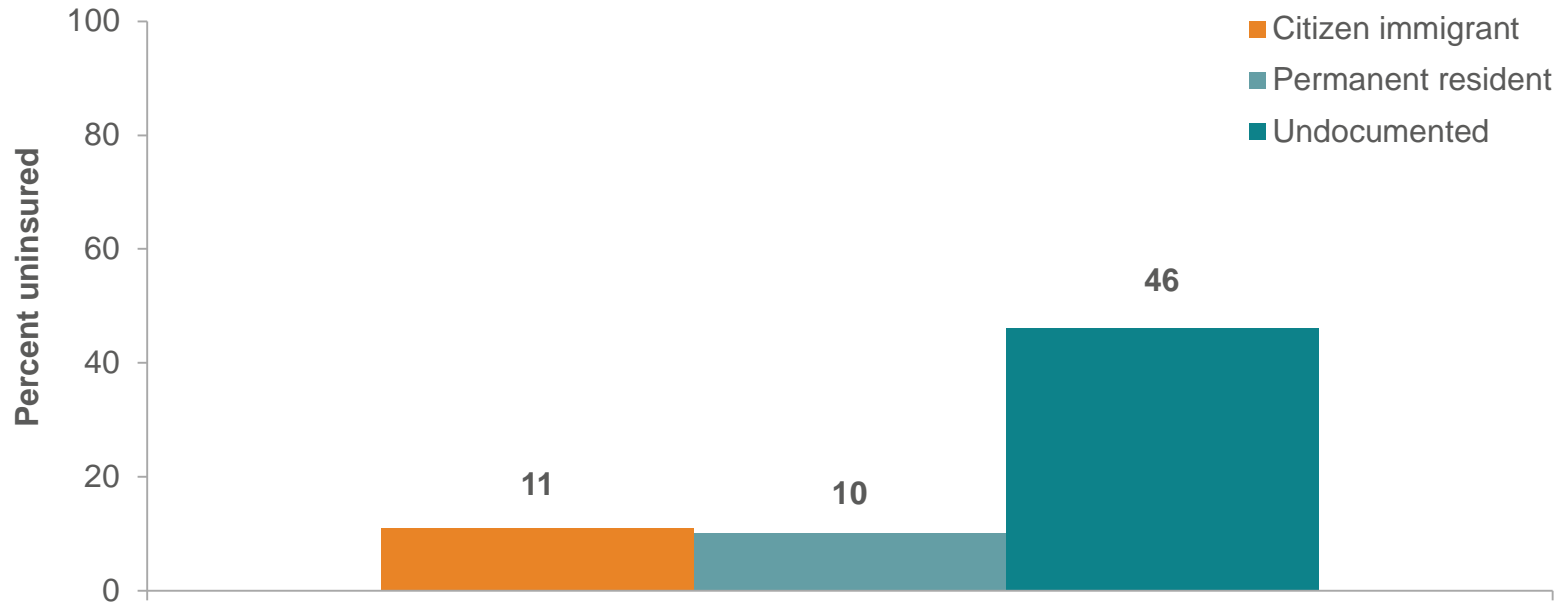
**PPIC**

PUBLIC POLICY  
INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

# 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



# Undocumented immigrants face barriers to health insurance coverage

- Ineligibility
- Cost
- Immigration-related concerns

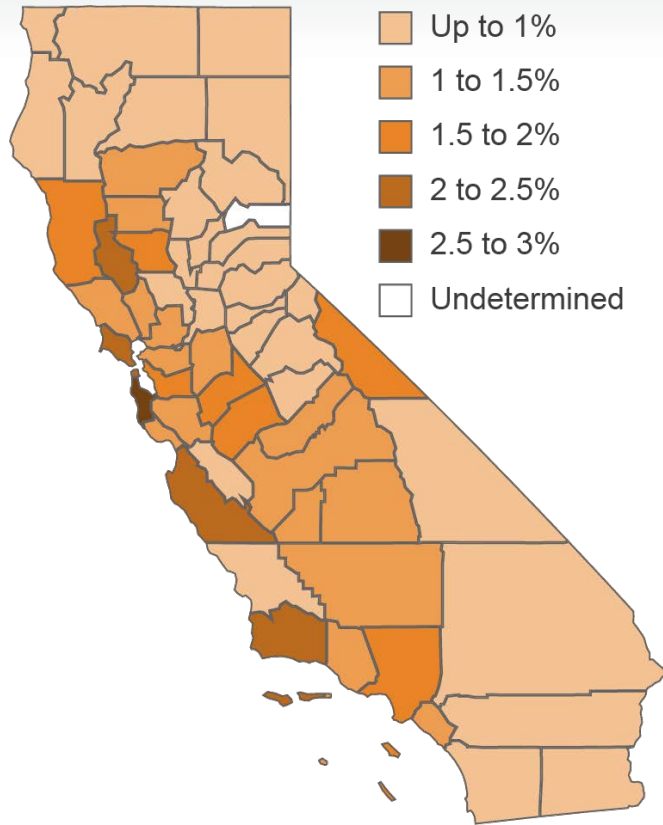
Children in mixed-status families may face negative consequences.

# The health care safety net for undocumented immigrants is uneven

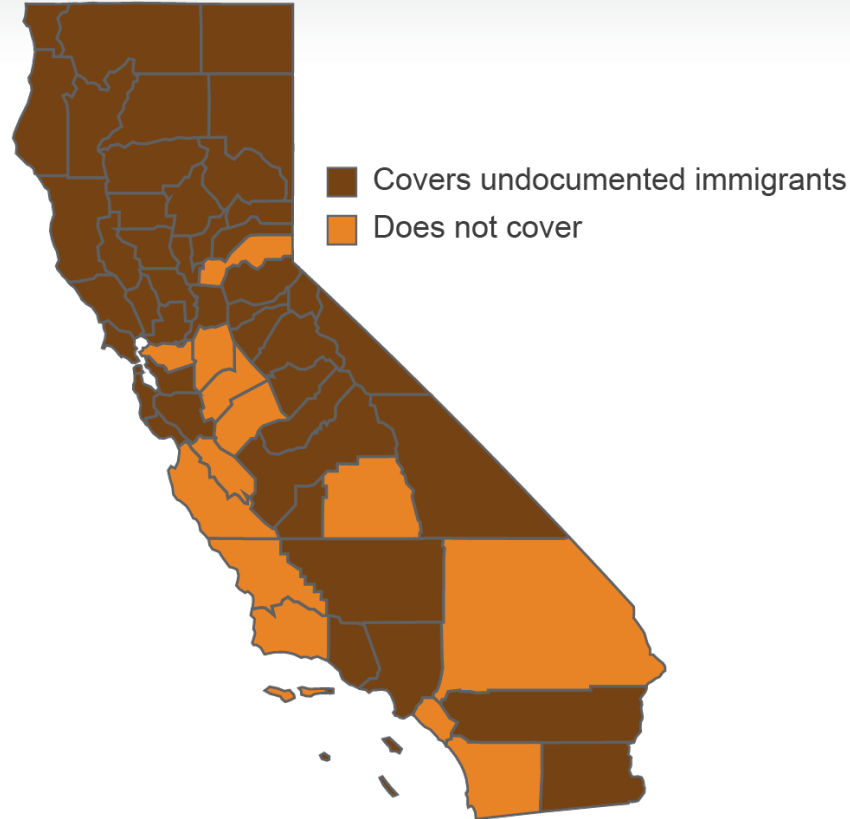
- Age: Access differs by age group
- Geography: county policies matter
- Needs: Some health care needs are covered for all

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

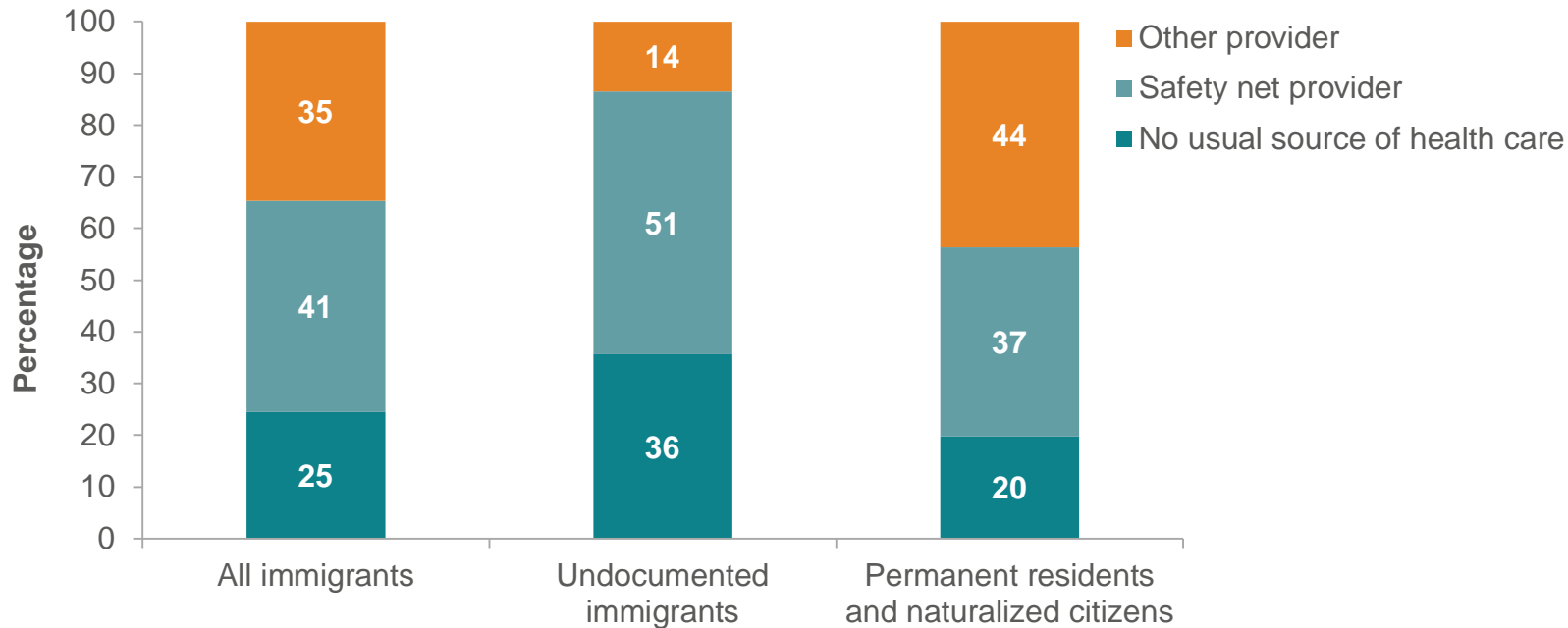
- Medical emergencies
- Compassionate dialysis
- Prenatal and postpartum care



# 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



# Children in mixed-status families are also less likely to have a usual source of care

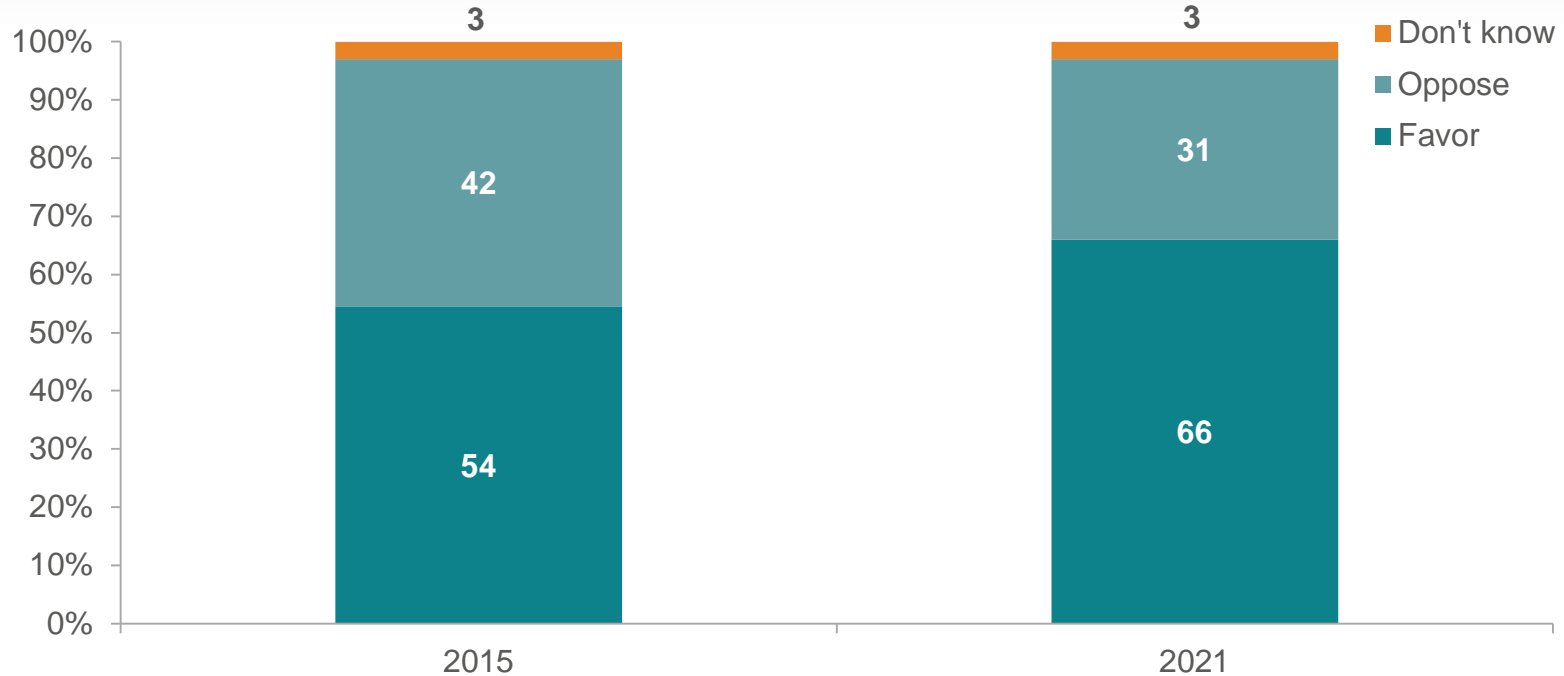
- 85% of children in low-income immigrant families have a usual source of care
- Children in mixed-status families are 11% less likely to have a usual source

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



# 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:

Paulette Cha ([cha@ppic.org](mailto:cha@ppic.org); 415-291-4479)

Thank you for your interest in this work.