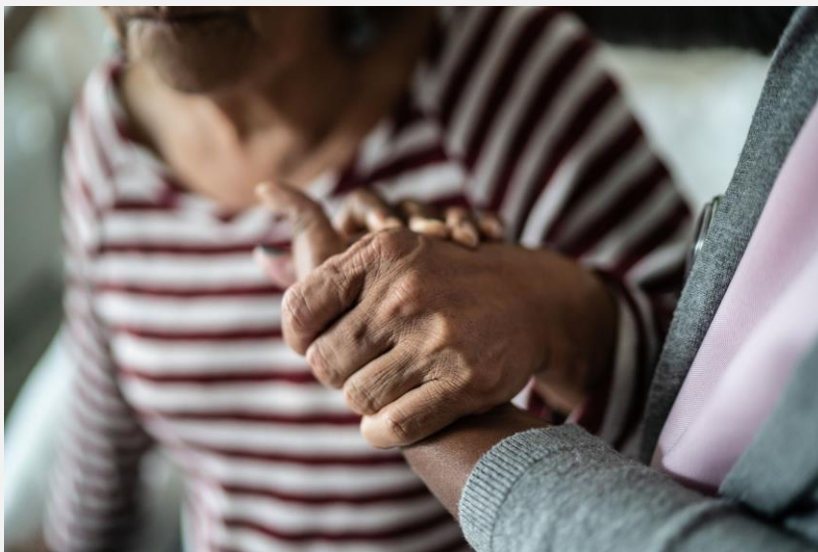


Health Conditions and Health Care among California's Undocumented Immigrants

Paulette Cha, John Heintzman, and Patricia Malagon *with research support from **Shalini Mustala** and Suparna Navale*



Supported with funding from the California Community Foundation



PPIC

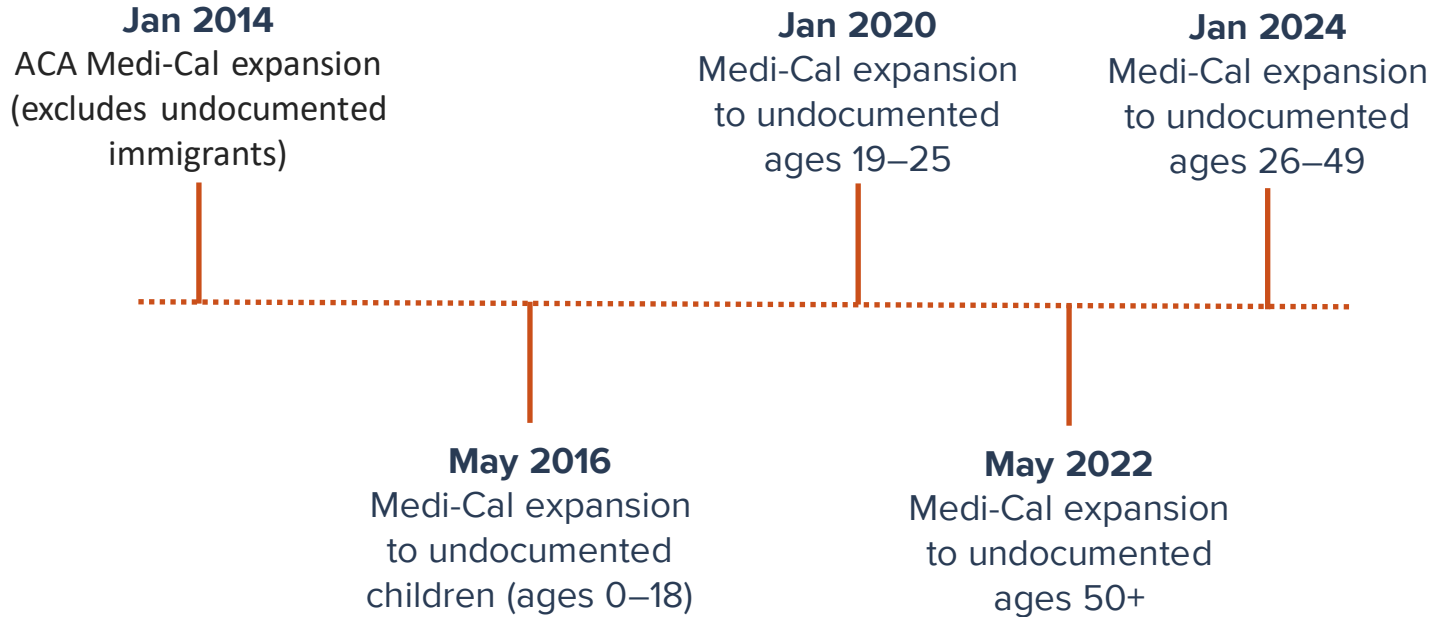
PUBLIC POLICY
INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA



ADVANCE
Collaborative

OCHIN

California has been expanding Medi-Cal to undocumented immigrants by age group

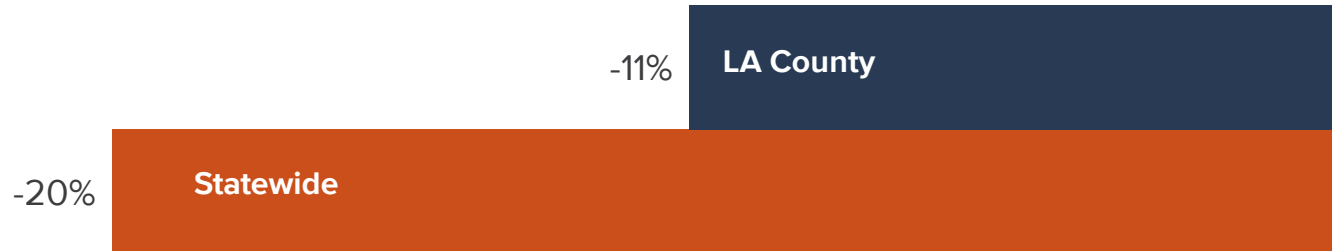


Community health centers are key access points for low-income, immigrant Californians

- Community clinic visits data offers insights into undocumented immigrant health
- Study population includes Medi-Cal and undocumented adults
- Los Angeles County has the largest number of undocumented immigrants of any California county

Undocumented immigrants are less likely to have preventive-care-coded visits . . .

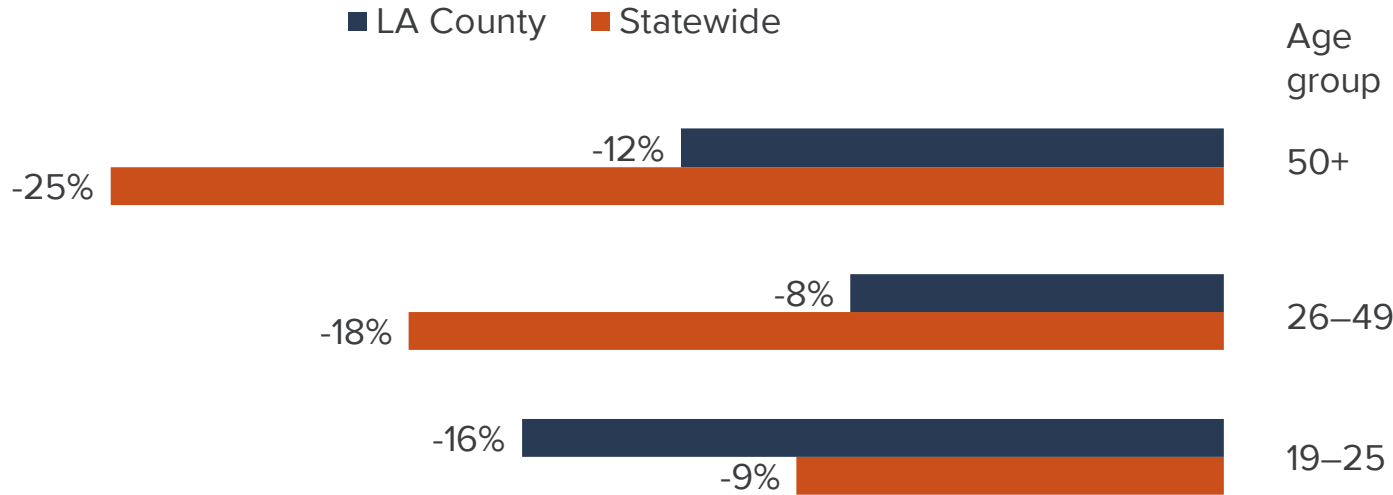
Undocumented status and likelihood of a visit being coded for preventive care



Source: ADVANCE network electronic health records from OCHIN's community health centers.

... and this difference is consistent among age groups

Undocumented status and likelihood of a visit being coded for preventive care



Source: ADVANCE network electronic health records from OCHIN's community health centers.

However, undocumented patients get certain preventive services at rates at least as high as Medi-Cal patients

	Statewide	LA
Mammogram (women over 50)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Colonoscopy (adults over 45)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stool colon cancer test (adults over 45)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Shingles vaccine (adults over 50)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

More likely if undocumented

No significant difference

Undocumented immigrants need—and use—more behavioral health

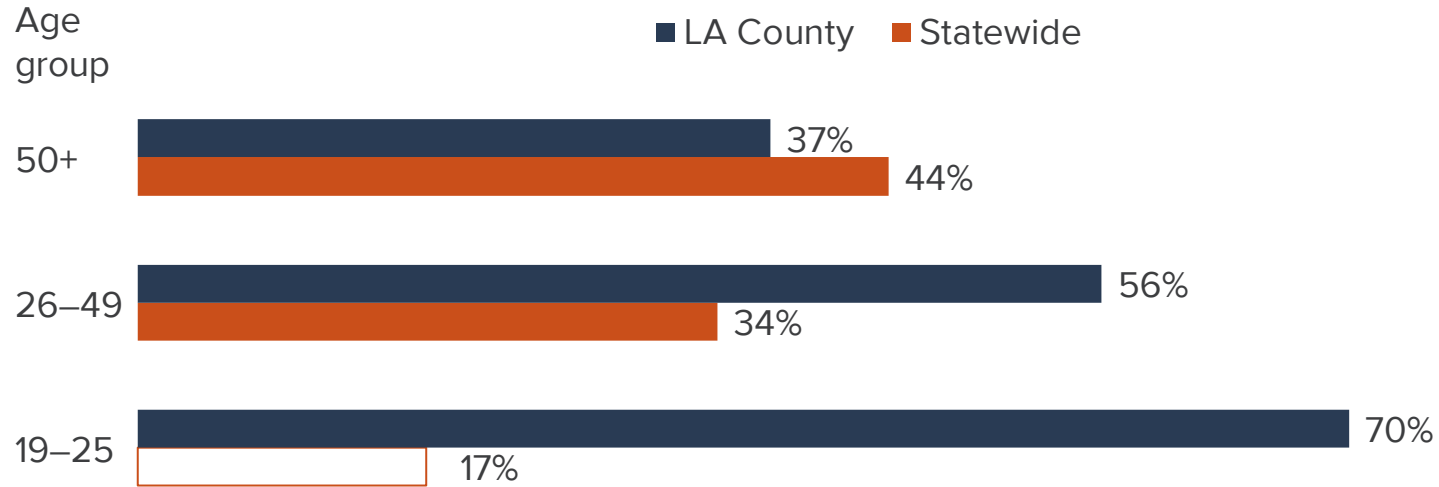
Undocumented status and likelihood of a visit being for behavioral health



Source: ADVANCE network electronic health records from OCHIN's community health centers.

Likelihood of using behavioral health is strong across all ages, particularly young adults in LA

Undocumented status and likelihood of a visit being for behavioral health (%)



Source: ADVANCE network electronic health records from OCHIN's community health centers.

Experts in LA highlight the high demand for counseling services

- Trauma related to migration, domestic violence, or experiencing war in their home countries
- Clinics struggle to find fully bilingual providers who can offer counseling in Spanish or other languages

“A good example would be the Fourth of July. If [a patient] went through a war-torn country, and they’re hearing [fireworks]. They might not understand why they have a headache. It might be the smell, too, because fireworks emit a smell, and it might remind them of past experiences with war and how gunshots smelled in their home country.”

—LA interviewee

LA experts highlighted barriers to health care access for undocumented residents

- Fear and confusion about federal immigration policy
- Limited information and misinformation, transportation and language needs, high cost of living in LA

The final Medi-Cal expansion will affect enrollment and demand for services

- Older adults may show more interest in applying than younger adults
- Expect higher demand for behavioral health services

Easing barriers can help prepare for the upcoming expansion

- Accurate information, enrollment assistance, and language services will be essential
- Clinics would benefit from resources to hire more staff, especially bi- or multilingual staff
- Expand language and technological support for telehealth

Acknowledgement

This work was conducted with the Accelerating Data Value Across a National Community Health Center Network (ADVANCE) Clinical Research Network (CRN). ADVANCE is led by OCHIN in partnership with Health Choice Network, Fenway Health, and Oregon Health & Science University. ADVANCE is funded through the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), contract number RI-OCHIN-01-MC.