Health Disparities in the Medi-Cal Population

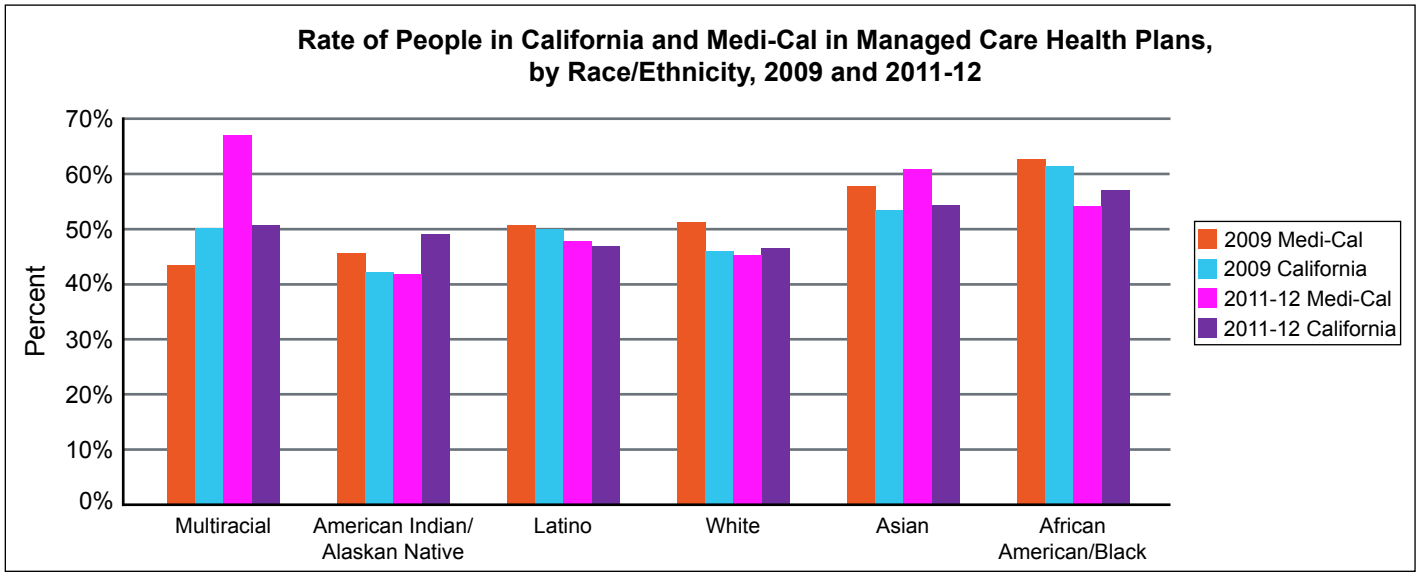
Health Maintenance Organization

Many people in the United States are enrolled in some type of managed care plan (e.g., Health Maintenance Organization (HMO), preferred provider organization).[1] Participation in these plans enables people to have coordinated care, ongoing referrals to specialists, and access to an organized system of health care to obtain quality care.[2-3] Research noted that health plans' ability to implement system-wide changes in care led to the prevention of neonatal group B streptococcal infections, improved public health tuberculosis surveillance, and a decrease in postoperative infections.[3-4]

Among Californians, American Indians/Alaskan Natives and Whites were the least likely to report being in a HMO, while African Americans were the most likely in both 2009 and 2011-12 (see Figure).

In the California Medi-Cal population, the Multiracial group (43%) and American Indians/Alaskan Natives (45%) were the least likely to report being in a HMO as compared to African Americans (62%) in 2009. However, in 2011-12, the Multiracial group (67%) was more likely to report being in a HMO as compared to American Indian/Alaskan Native (42%). Due to small sample sizes, the percentages for Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders were unreportable for Medi-Cal and California in general.

Figure



Source: AskCHIS, California Health Interview Survey, 2009 and 2011-12

1. MCOL. Current national managed care enrollment fact sheet, 2012. http://www.mcol.com/current_enrollment. Accessed March 12, 2014.
2. California Department of Health Care Services. Medi-Cal managed care program fact sheet- managed care models. www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/documents/MMCDModelFactSheet.pdf. Accessed March 10, 2014.
3. Platt R, Caldwell B. Can managed health care help manage health care-associated infections? Emerg Infect Dis. 2001;7(2);358-362.
4. Yokoe DS, Subramanyan GS, Nardell E, Sharnprapapi S, McCray E, Platt R. Supplementing Tuberculosis surveillance in a health maintenance organization using automated data. Emerg Infect Dis. 1999;5;779-87.

Link to Data Sources and Methods