



MEDI-CAL STATISTICAL BRIEF

MEDI-CAL MONTHLY ELIGIBLES TREND REPORT FOR APRIL 2013

Abstract

In the first four months of 2013, enrollment in the Medi-Cal program rose by ten percent, an increase associated with the transition of children previously enrolled in California's Healthy Families Program (HFP) into Medi-Cal. In March 2013, the number of certified eligibles enrolled in Medi-Cal exceeded 8 million for the first time in the program's history. In April 2013, the number of certified eligibles enrolled in Medi-Cal reached an estimated 8,371,400.

Medi-Cal Enrollment Trends

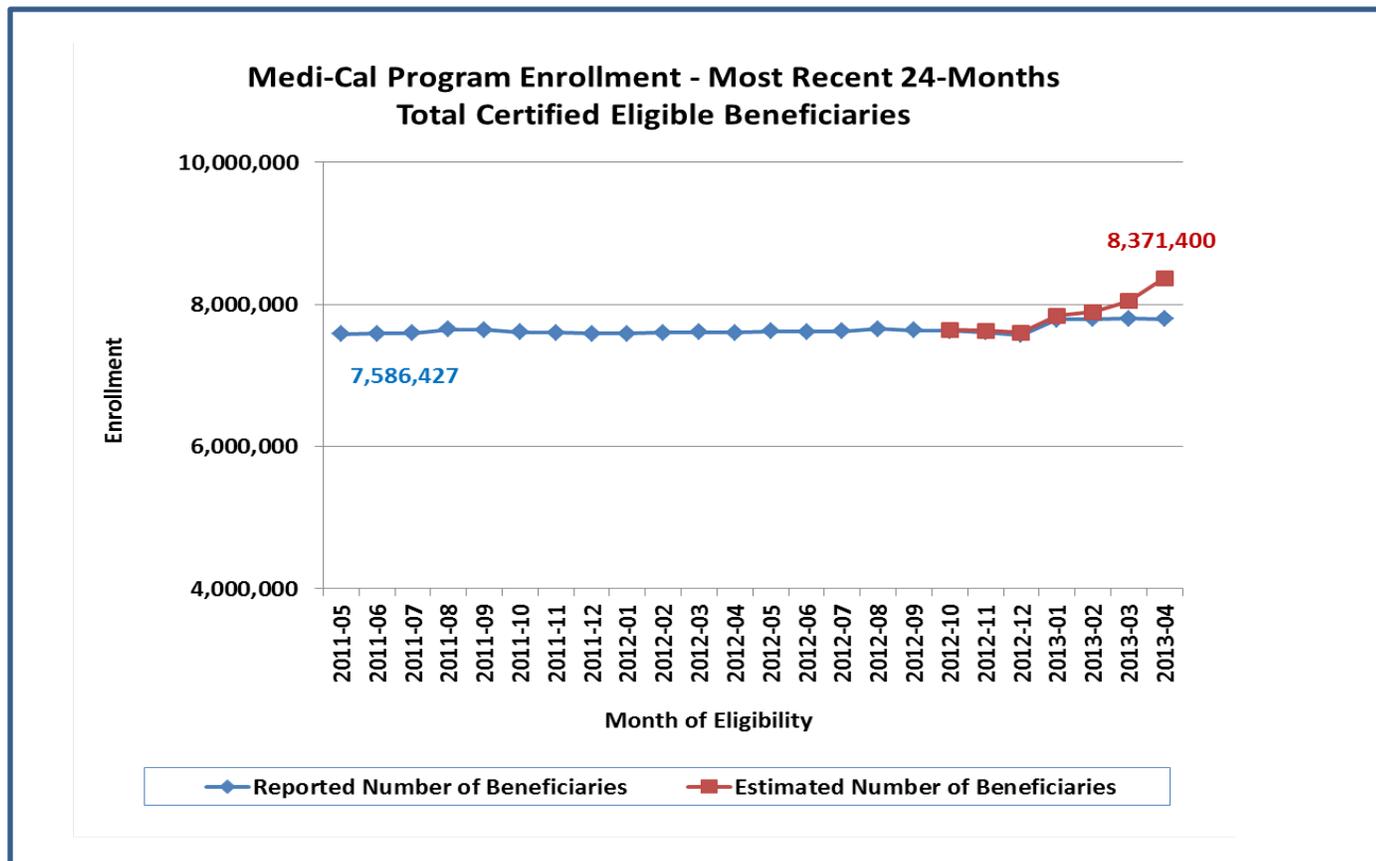
The Research and Analytic Studies Branch (RASB) compiles and presents an estimate of Medi-Cal enrollment trends over the most recent 24 months on their [website](#). Because Medi-Cal enrollment is readily influenced by external economic developments and policy changes, it is essential that RASB provide stakeholders timely explanations of material changes in enrollment trends.

From December 2012 to April 2013, the number of Medi-Cal certified eligibles increased by 10% (see Figure 1).¹ This increase in enrollment is primarily attributed to the transition of children previously enrolled in the Healthy Family Program (HFP) into Medi-Cal. For additional information concerning the HFP transition, please visit the [DHCS website](#).

Counting Certified Medi-Cal Eligibles

To determine the number of current enrollees, DHCS uses a special definition of Medi-Cal beneficiaries referred to as ***certified eligibles***. Certified eligibles are defined as those beneficiaries who are deemed qualified for Medi-Cal by a valid eligibility determination and have enrolled into the program. Thus, those beneficiaries who may be eligible for Medi-Cal, but have not enrolled, are not counted as certified. This classification also excludes Share-of-Cost (SOC) beneficiaries who have not met their monthly SOC obligation and are not eligible for Medi-Cal benefits. Finally, some specific populations are excluded from certified eligible counts, including California's Family PACT members and pregnant women granted provisional Medi-Cal enrollment under the Presumptive Eligibility (PE) program.

Figure 1 – Medi-Cal Program Enrollment – Most Recent 24 Months, Total Certified Eligible Beneficiaries



Estimating Final Medi-Cal Enrollment Counts

Figure 1, above displays both a reported and an estimated count for the most recent seven months of the 24-month period. Updates to the enrollment records for a specific month may be made subsequent to that month, reflecting the addition of beneficiaries with retroactive eligibility, as well as other changes to the enrollment record as information is updated. These changes, which result in increases in a particular month’s final Medi-Cal enrollment, can only be captured after an

elapsed time period. A month’s count is considered nearly complete 7 months after the month’s end and finalized 12 months after the month’s end. For example, the counts for January 2013 are not considered nearly final until July 2013 and not final until January 2014. Fortunately, there is a method for estimating the final enrollment counts that does not require waiting 7 months. To estimate a recent month’s expected final Medi-Cal eligible count, factors derived from past experience are applied to the recent incomplete counts (displayed in Figure 1 as the “Reported

Number of Beneficiaries”) to inflate current counts to an expected final value (displayed in Figure 1 as “Estimated Number of Beneficiaries”).

Additional Resources

For more information on the HFP transition, including the legislative background and phases of implementation, see DHCS’ HFP Transition website at:

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/hf/Pages/HFPTransitionStrategicPlan.aspx>.

Where Can I Find More Information on the Medi-Cal Population?

Analysis for this report was done by the RASB of DHCS. RASB compiles official statistics and performs analytical studies to

assist DHCS in achieving its mission and goals. More information regarding Medi-Cal enrollment, program expenditures, and other relevant topics is available at the RASB website.

To find more reports like this one or to learn more about the Medi-Cal population, please use the many resources available at the following websites:

The web address of DHCS’ RASB is:

http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/dataandstats/statistics/Pages/RASS_Default.aspx

The DHCS Medi-Cal Budget Estimates can be found at the following web address:

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/dataandstats/reports/mcestimates/Pages/default.aspx>

IF YOU PLAN TO CITE THIS PAPER IN A SUBSEQUENT WORK, WE SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING CITATION:

California Department of Health Care Services, Research and Analytic Studies Branch. *Medi-Cal Program Enrollment Changes Due to Healthy Families Transition*. Sacramento, CA: California Department of Health Care Services.

PLEASE NOTE:

This document provides a brief summary of complex subjects and should be used only as an overview and general guide to the Medi-Cal program. The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or legal positions of the California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS) or the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). These summaries do not render any legal, accounting, or other professional advice, nor are they intended to explain fully all of the provisions or exclusions of the relevant laws, regulations, and rulings of the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Original sources of authority should be researched and utilized.

Endnotes

¹ Research and Analytic Studies Branch. (2013). Medi-Cal Certified Eligibles. Available at: http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/dataandstats/statistics/Pages/RASB_General_Medi_Cal_Enrollment.aspx