



MEDI-CAL STATISTICAL BRIEF

MEDI-CAL MONTHLY ELIGIBLES TREND REPORT FOR JUNE 2013

Abstract

For the month of June 2013 the estimated number of Medi-Cal certified eligibles was 8,507,300, representing an 11.8% increase over the December 2012 estimated total of 7,606,700. This growth in enrollment is primarily associated with the transition of children previously enrolled in California's Healthy Families Program (HFP) into Medi-Cal's Targeted Low Income Children's Program (TLICP), as well as the enrollment of new children into TLICP during January and February.

Medi-Cal Enrollment Trends

Each month the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), Research and Analytic Studies Branch (RASB) compiles and presents an estimate of the trend in Medi-Cal eligibles over the most recent 24 months. This report is designed to provide stakeholders with timely explanations of material changes in enrollment trends.

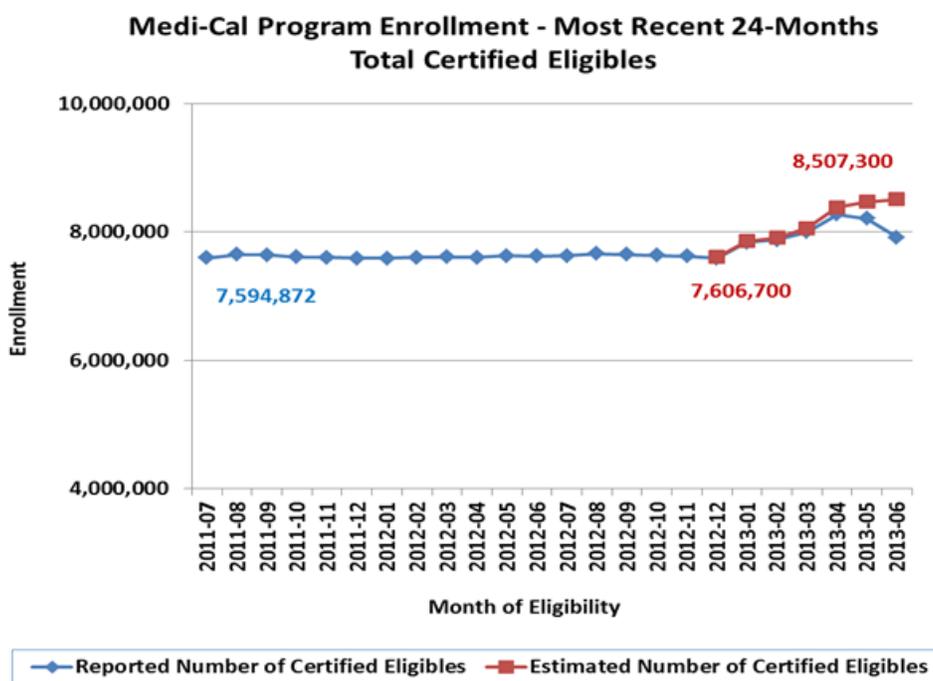
From December 2012 to June 2013, the number of Medi-Cal certified eligibles increased by 11.8%, from an estimated 7,606,700 to 8,507,300 (see Figure 1).¹ This increase in enrollment is primarily due to the transition of children previously enrolled in the Healthy Families Program (HFP) into Medi-Cal. For additional information concerning the HFP transition, please visit the DHCS website at:

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

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 those beneficiaries deemed qualified for Medi-Cal by a valid eligibility determination and who 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 beneficiaries who have a monthly share-of-cost (SOC) obligation that has not been met. 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 eligibility² as well as other changes to the enrollment record as information is revised. 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 specific month’s count is considered nearly complete six 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.

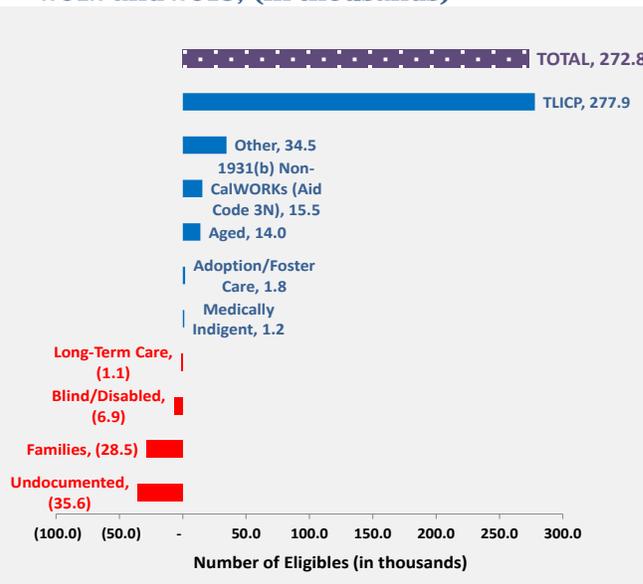
Fortunately, there is a method for estimating the final enrollment counts that does not require waiting six months. To estimate a recent month’s expected final Medi-Cal eligible count, factors derived from past experience are applied to the recent incomplete counts (displayed in Figure 1 as the “Reported Number of Certified Eligibles”) to inflate current counts to an expected final value (displayed in Figure 1 as “Estimated Number of Certified Eligibles”).

A comparison of enrollment figures for February 2013 to those of February 2012 provides an early suggestion of changes in the demographic composition of the Medi-Cal population resulting from the transfer of children from the HFP into the Medi-Cal program. By June, the number of actual beneficiaries reported for February by the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS), reflects 4 months of updates and is nearly complete. The number of beneficiaries enrolled in February reported by MEDS in June represents roughly 99.87% of the February enrollment estimated in February.

As displayed in Figure 2, the number of certified eligibles in February 2013 was approximately 273,000 greater compared to 12-months previous¹. This number represents, primarily, children who had transitioned from HFP into Medi-Cal during the first two months of 2013. The children previously enrolled in HFP are most frequently identified in Medi-Cal as eligibles enrolled in the Targeted Low Income Children’s Program (TLICP) aid category.³ The TLICP aid category, however, also includes children not previously enrolled in HFP who enrolled in Medi-Cal after the

January 1, 2013 HFP transition date, and qualified under the TLICP eligibility pathway.

Figure 2- Year-over-Year Change in Enrollment by Aid Category; February 2012 and 2013, (in thousands)

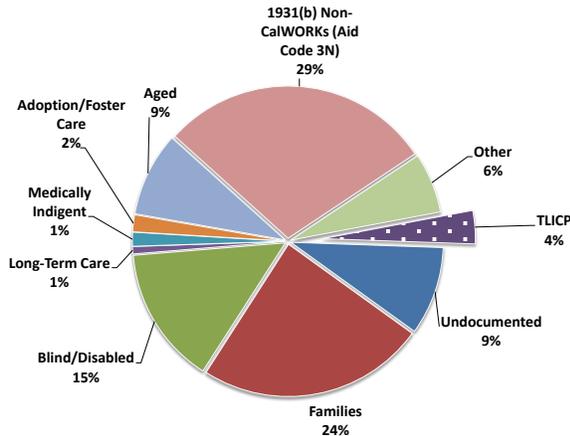


Changes in the Demographic Composition of the Medi-Cal Population

As indicated in Figure 3, children transferring from HFP to Medi-Cal’s new TLICP program, or newly enrolled in TLICP, comprised 4% of the overall population of Medi-Cal certified eligibles by February 2013. The impact of the HFP-to-TLICP transition is most apparent in the changing distribution of certified eligibles by age group.

¹ The TLICP enrollment reported in Figures 2 and 3 reflects a “snapshot” of Medi-Cal enrollment—a representation of TLCIP enrollment at a specific point in time. Other reports produced by the DHCS may provide counts of former HFP or new TLICP children that differ; however, these may reflect enrollment at different points in time or identification using slightly different criteria.

Figure 3 - Certified Eligibles by Aid Category, February 2013



As displayed in Figure 4, most of the increase in enrollment between February 2012 and February 2013 occurred among children between the ages of 0 and 18. In February of 2012, those younger than 18 accounted for 3.618 million certified eligibles. By 2013, however, children made up 3.884 million certified eligibles, while other age groups showed much more modest changes in enrollment during that year.

Figure 4 - Year-over-Year Change, Total Enrollment by Age Group; February 2012 and 2013 (in millions)

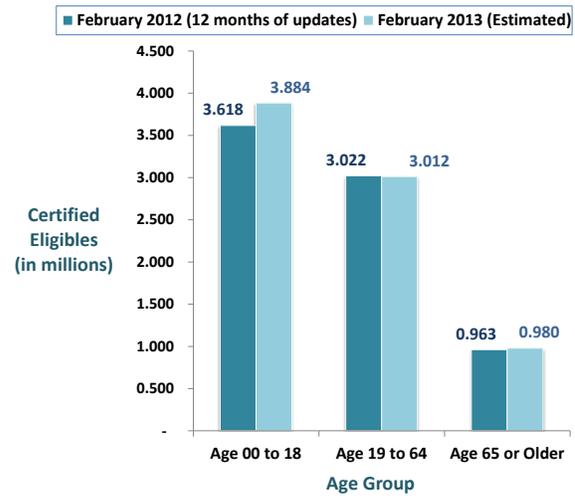
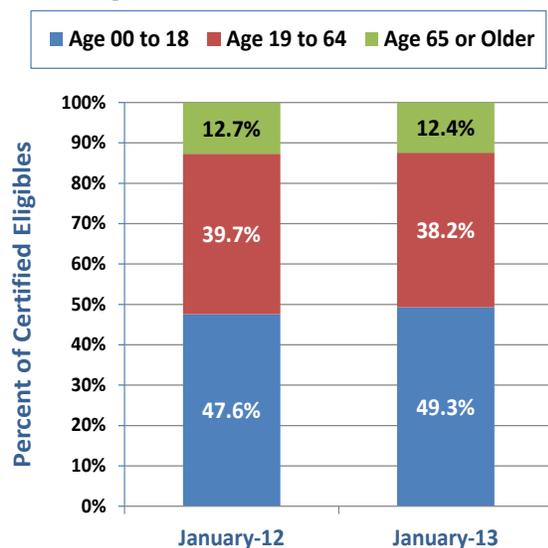


Figure 5 reveals that the influx of children formerly enrolled in HFP and new TLICP eligibles during the first two months of 2013 began to alter the age group distribution of the Medi-Cal population. In February 2012, children between the ages of 0 and 18 comprised 47.6% of all certified eligibles. By February 2013 they comprised 49.3%.

Figure 5 - Distribution of Certified Eligibles; February 2013 Compared to February 2012



Although their younger average age represented the most prominent difference between the new TLICP children and the existing Medi-Cal population, there were other small differences. Tables 1 and 2 indicate that the TLICP cohort contained a higher proportion of children of Hispanic ancestry and a much higher proportion of children from the Southern California counties, excluding Los Angeles. It is too early to determine, however, whether these proportions are representative of all of the former HFP children expected to enroll in Medi-Cal through the TLICP eligibility pathway in 2013, or reflect only the

demographic characteristics of these early enrollees.

Table 1 - Distribution of Certified Eligibles by Ethnicity; New TLICP Eligibles Compared to Eligibles in Other Medi-Cal Aid Categories; February 2013

Ethnicity	TLICP	Other Medi-Cal Aid Categories
Hispanic	61.07%	53.94%
Not Reported	15.06%	19.03%
Asian	11.87%	9.22%
White	9.06%	9.20%
Black	2.82%	8.16%
Native American	0.12%	0.45%
Grand Total	100.00%	100.00%

Table 2- Distribution of Certified Eligibles by Statewide Region; New TLICP Eligibles Compared to Eligibles in Other Medi-Cal Aid Categories; February 2013

Region	TLICP	Other Medi-Cal Aid Categories
Southern California	53.85%	31.17%
Los Angeles	21.08%	24.59%
Bay Area	17.80%	16.04%
Central Valley	3.18%	13.72%
Central Coast	2.14%	6.35%
Sacramento Valley	1.18%	5.13%
Sierra Range/Foothills	0.41%	1.28%
North Coast	0.20%	0.99%
Far North	0.15%	0.73%
Grand Total	100.00%	100.00%

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:

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/dataandstats/reports/mceestimates/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 Monthly Eligibles Trend Report for June 2013*. 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

² Medicaid coverage may start retroactively for up to 3 months prior to the month of application, if the individual would have been eligible during the retroactive period had he or she applied then.

³ For more information, see “[Healthy Families Program \(HFP\) Transition To Medi-Cal](#)” California Department of Health Care Services