Postpartum care is an important determinant of successful health and quality health care outcomes for women giving birth.\(^1\) Postpartum visits can address any adverse effects associated with child birth, such as persistent bleeding, pain, and infections.\(^2\) In California, 89\% of women reported having a postpartum medical visit in 2011.\(^3\) Asians/Pacific Islanders (93\%) reported the highest rate of having a postpartum visit, while Whites (86\%) and African Americans/Blacks (84\%) had the lowest.\(^3\)

The postpartum visit is also a good time to assess and treat any emotional problems, particularly postpartum depression. In California, over 13\% of women reported experiencing postpartum depression, with African Americans/Blacks reporting the highest rate (22\%) and Whites (11\%) reporting the lowest.\(^3\)

In 2012, rates of timely postpartum care for members enrolled in commercial health plans both nationally\(^4\) and in California\(^5\) (80\% and 87\%, respectively) were higher than those enrolled in Medicaid (63\%).\(^4\)

In the California Medi-Cal population, slightly under 50\% of women had a postpartum visit in 2012 (see Figure). Latino women were most likely to have a postpartum visit (53\%), followed by Other (48\%), Asian/Pacific Islander (47\%), White (45\%), American Indian/Alaskan Native (36\%), and African American/Black women (33\%).

**Figure**

![Postpartum Visit (21-56 Days After Delivery) Rate for the Adult Medi-Cal Population, by Race/Ethnicity, 2012](image)

Note: Members eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid were excluded

[Click to link to more detailed graph by race/ethnicity](#)


**Link to Data Sources and Methods**