

Health Disparities in the Medi-Cal Population

Postpartum Care Visits



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 nationally⁴ and in California⁵ (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



Source: Medi-Cal Management Information System/Decision Support System (MIS/DSS), 2012

Note: Members eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid were excluded

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

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2. Ronsmans C, Scott S, Qomariyah SN, et al. Professional assistance during birth and maternal mortality in two Indonesian districts. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*. 2009;87:416-423.
3. California Department of Public Health. MIHA Snapshot, California by Race/Ethnicity, 2011. Accessed October 2014.
4. National Committee for Quality Assurance. Improving quality and patient experience. The state of health care quality, 2013 http://www.ncqa.org/Portals/0/Newsroom/SOHC/2013/SOHC-web_version_report.pdf. Accessed September 2014.
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Link to Data Sources and Methods