



MEDI-CAL STATISTICAL BRIEF

MEDI-CAL MONTHLY ELIGIBLES TREND REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2013

Abstract

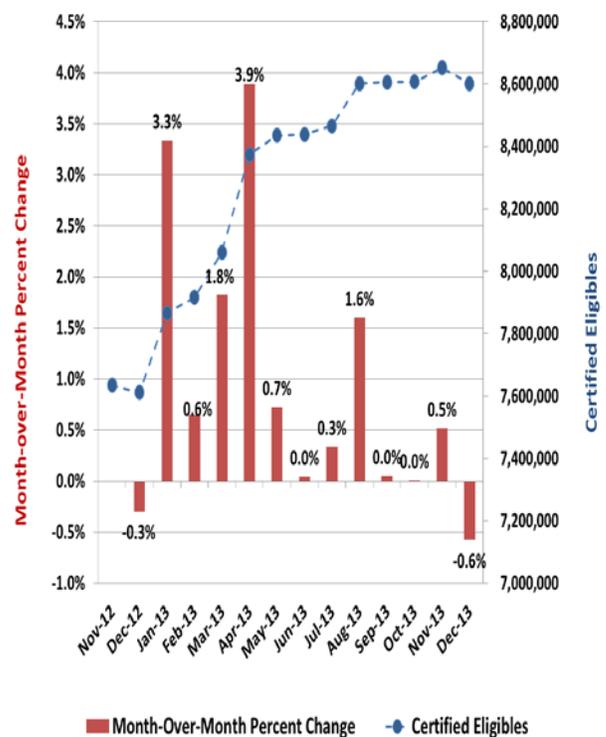
For the month of December 2013, RASB estimates the number of Medi-Cal certified eligibles to be 8,601,500. The December 2013 estimate represents a 13.0% increase over December 2012.

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.

Estimated Medi-Cal enrollment dipped slightly in December, likely reflecting continued improvement in employment conditions (see Figure 1). California's jobless rate was 8.5% in November, down from 8.7% in October and below the 9.9% rate in November 2012, according to the Employment Development Department.¹ Earlier increases in enrollment during 2013 were primarily the result of 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](http://www.dhcs.ca.gov).

Figure 1 - Number of Certified Eligibles and Month-over-Month Percent Change; November 2012-December 2013



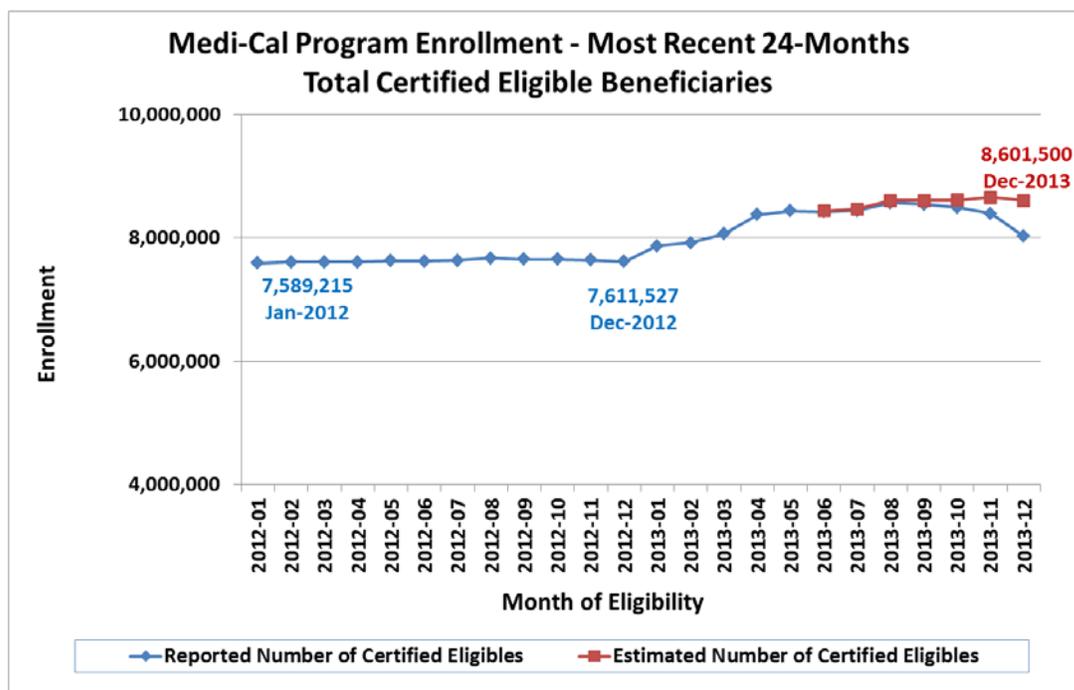
For the month of December 2013, the estimated number of Medi-Cal certified eligibles was 8,601,500. December's estimate represents a 13.0% year-over-year increase above the 7,611,527 certified eligibles enrolled in December 2012 (see Figures 1 and 2).² Additionally, this estimate represents a 0.6% decrease in enrollment from the November 2013 current estimate of 8,651,400 certified eligibles.

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 2 – Medi-Cal Program Enrollment – Most Recent 24 Months, Total Certified Eligible Beneficiaries; as of December 2013



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 Department's RASB, which 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/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 Monthly Eligibles Trend Report for December 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 "California's unemployment rate decreases to 8.5 percent; Nonfarm payroll jobs increase by 45,300." December 20, 2013. Employment Development Department. http://www.edd.ca.gov/about_edd/News_Releases.htm

² 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