

# MEDI-CAL SUPPORTS CALIFORNIA CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

**FIGHT  
FOR OUR  
HEALTH**

**55.5%**

of California's children are enrolled in Medical

**5.3  
MILLION**

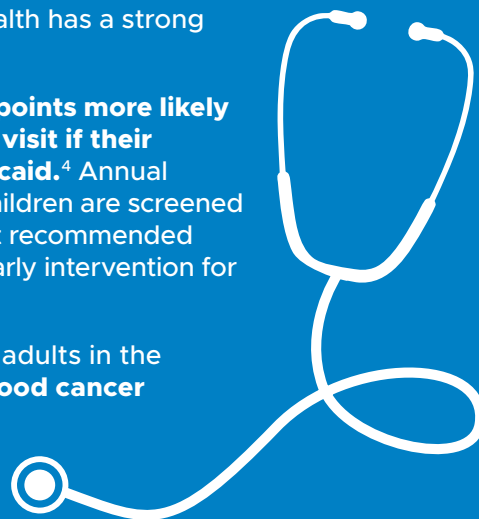
kids are enrolled in services through Medi-Cal

More than half (55.5%) of California's children are enrolled in Medi-Cal, the state's Medicaid program. Medi-Cal provides these 5.3 million kids with comprehensive health, mental health, and dental services. Some parts of the state have much higher rates of Medi-Cal coverage for kids. The highest rate of Medi-Cal coverage is in Congressional District 22, which includes parts of Kings, Tulare, and Kern counties and is represented by Congressman David Valadao, where nearly 9 in 10 children are enrolled in the program.<sup>1</sup>



**Children are more likely to be insured and to receive adequate health care when their parents and caretakers are also insured.**

- Children in states that participated in the ACA expansion were insured at a rate **20 percentage points higher** than those who live in states that did not expand Medicaid, most of whom were already eligible for coverage but not enrolled.<sup>2</sup>
- **Medicaid improves the mental health status of parents.**<sup>3</sup> Parental mental health has a strong impact on child wellbeing.
- **Children are 29 percentage points more likely to have an annual well-child visit if their parents are enrolled in Medicaid.**<sup>4</sup> Annual well-child visits ensure that children are screened for developmental delays, get recommended immunizations, and receive early intervention for any health concerns.
- Medicaid coverage for more adults in the community **improves childhood cancer survival rates.**<sup>5</sup>



**Children in families where parents and caregivers have Medicaid coverage are more likely to be financially secure.**

Without Medicaid coverage, families are more likely to experience unanticipated medical bills, medical debt, and personal bankruptcy. Poverty and financial stress harm children's health and wellbeing.

**California's children's hospitals are sustained by Medi-Cal.**

Over 60% of patients at California's 8 children's hospitals get their health care through Medi-Cal.<sup>6</sup> Any cuts to Medi-Cal would threaten these hospitals, which provide lifesaving treatment for ALL children.

## DISTRICT 22

**225,525  
Children**

OR



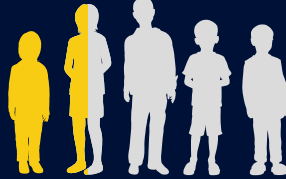
**4.5 of 5**

children ages 0-19  
are enrolled in Medi-Cal

## DISTRICT 40

**52,123  
Children**

OR



**1.5 of 5**

children ages 0-19  
are enrolled in Medi-Cal

## DISTRICT 41

**98,000  
Children**

OR



**2.5 of 5**

children ages 0-19  
are enrolled in Medi-Cal

For impacts on all California Congressional districts [click here.](#)

Source: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/dataandstats/statistics/Documents/Preliminary-Medi-Cal-Legislative-Districts-Ages0-19-July2024.pdf> | Percentages calculated by with combined age groups Under 5, 5-9, 10-14, and 15-19 from 2023 American Community Survey estimates.



**1 in 3**

teenagers is now  
experiencing serious  
psychological distress

**1M  
children**

were provided  
mental health  
services by  
Medi-Cal in 2022

California's children face a mental health crisis, and for many of them, Medi-Cal is their only lifeline. One in three teenagers is now experiencing serious psychological distress and opioid-related overdoses among teens have tripled. In 2022, **Medi-Cal provided mental health services to over 1 million children, or 1 in 5 kids enrolled in the program.**

***Medicaid has profound and lifelong impacts on children, as well as their families and communities. Children covered by Medicaid do better in school and miss fewer school days, are more likely to graduate from high school and go to college, have fewer emergency room visits and hospitalizations as adults, and earn more money as adults.***

1. <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/dataandstats/statistics/Documents/Preliminary-Medi-Cal-Legislative-Districts-Ages0-19-July2024.pdf>
2. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/1475-6773.00177>
3. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/1475-6773.12432>
4. <https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article-abstract/140/6/e20170953/38165/Spillover-Effects-of-Adult-Medicaid-Expansions-on?redirectedFrom=fulltext>
5. <https://academic.oup.com/jnci/article/115/6/749/7035943>
6. <https://www.ccha.org/learn-about-childrens-hospitals/childrens-hospital-financing>