

Public Health Emergency Unwinding Plan

Alameda County Board of Supervisors | Health Committee
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Overview

- Overview of the Public Health Emergency
 - Programmatic Changes to the Medi-Cal Program
 - Redeterminations
- Medi-Cal Enrollment 2020-2022
 - Actual Medi-Cal enrollment & caseload in Alameda County
- Potential Impacts to Medi-Cal Beneficiaries
- Outreach Activities
- Next Steps

Overview of the Public Health Emergency (PHE)

- In January 2020, the United States Department of Health & Human Services declared a public health emergency (PHE) in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Medi-Cal program follows the federal PHE timeline, currently scheduled to end on January 11, 2023.
 - The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has committed to providing States with a 60-Day notice that the PHE will no longer be extended.
 - A 60-Day notice was not received in November and as such, it can be expected that the PHE will extend past the current end date.
- In preparation for the end of the PHE, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has developed a PHE unwinding plan to prepare counties for the resumption of normal processing activities for Medi-Cal
 - As part of this plan, counties will have 12 months from the end of the PHE to initiate Medi-Cal annual redeterminations and an additional 2 months to complete processing these redeterminations.
- The California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has issued the Ambassador Program to connect Medi-Cal beneficiaries at a local level with targeted communications.

Medi-Cal Programmatic Changes

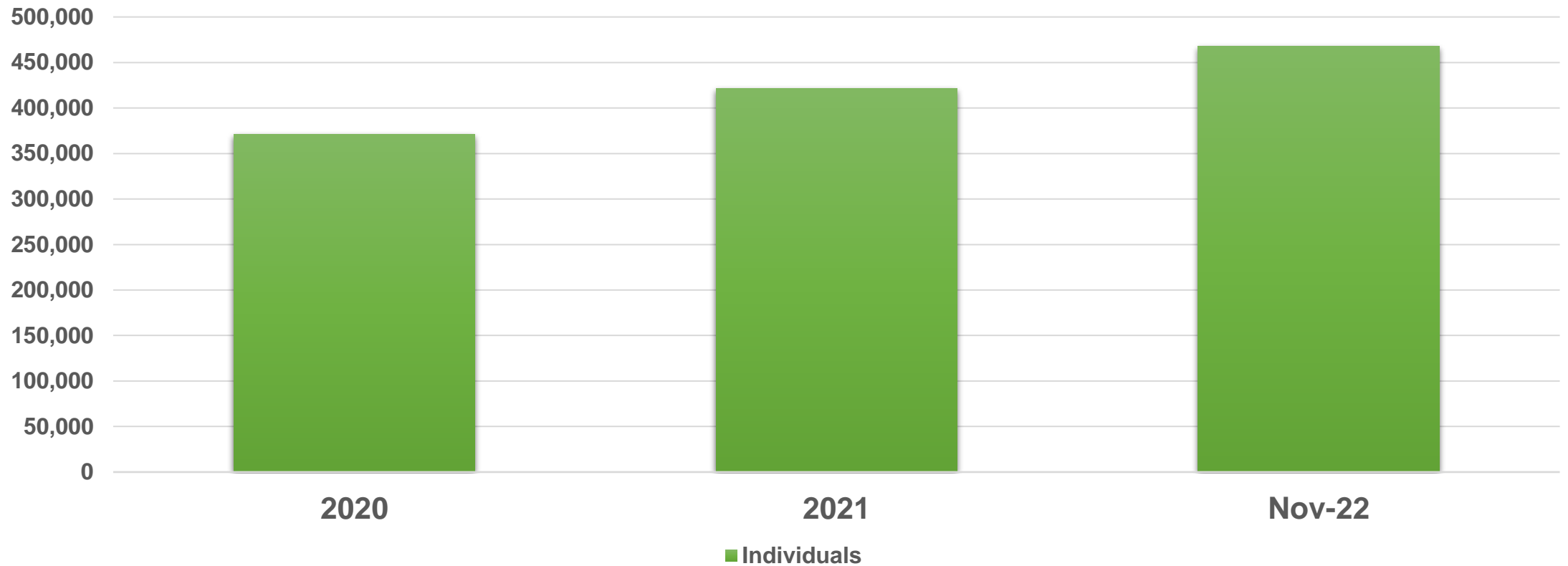
- The DHCS implemented 100+ programmatic changes in the Medi-Cal program to minimize the strain on beneficiaries and providers.
- Majority of programmatic changes will terminate on or around the end of the public health emergency.
- Medi-Cal program changes that will remain in place include:
 - Telehealth – access to primary care and specialty services.
 - Hospital presumptive eligibility that provides temporary access to health services while applying for Medi-Cal coverage.
 - Supplemental rate adjustments for long-term care facilities, durable medical equipment, and other service providers.
 - Simplified access to antipsychotic medications.

Medi-Cal Redeterminations & Public Health Emergency Unwinding

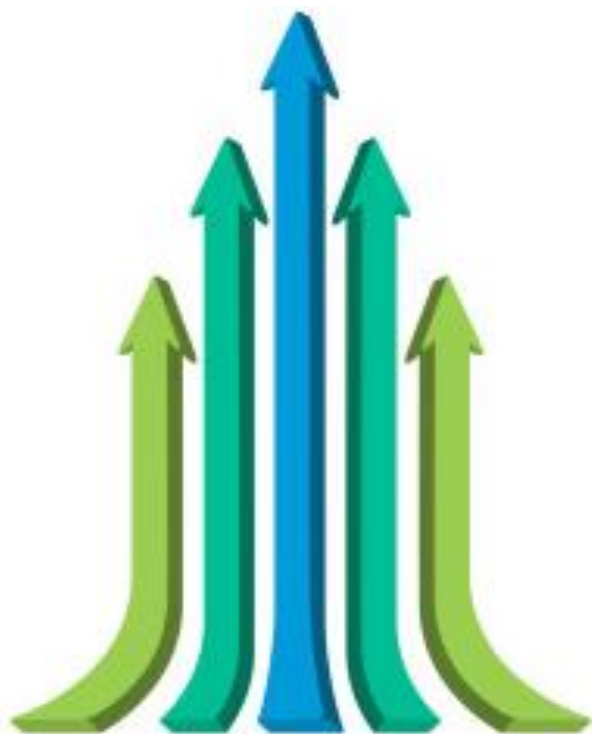
- Each year individuals enrolled in Medi-Cal are re-determined for eligibility.
- The Public Health Emergency suspended the re-determination process, and individuals were not disenrolled (March 2020 to current).
- Medi-Cal enrollment in Alameda County has grown by over 170,000 between January 2020 and November 2022 (fee for service & managed care).
- Medi-Cal redeterminations resume 90 days after the federal emergency status ends, and is based on the individual's renewal month.

Medi-Cal: Active Individuals

Medi-Cal Individuals



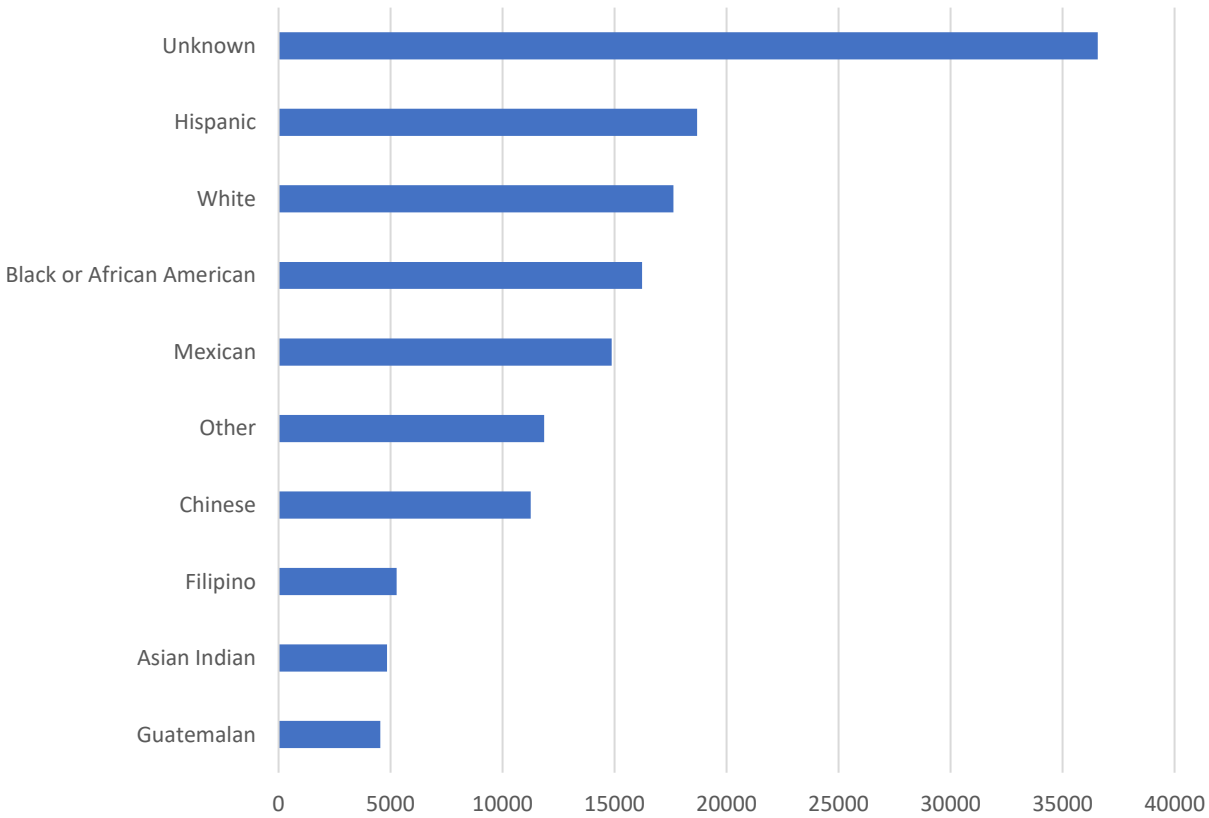
Medi-Cal Enrollments During the Pandemic



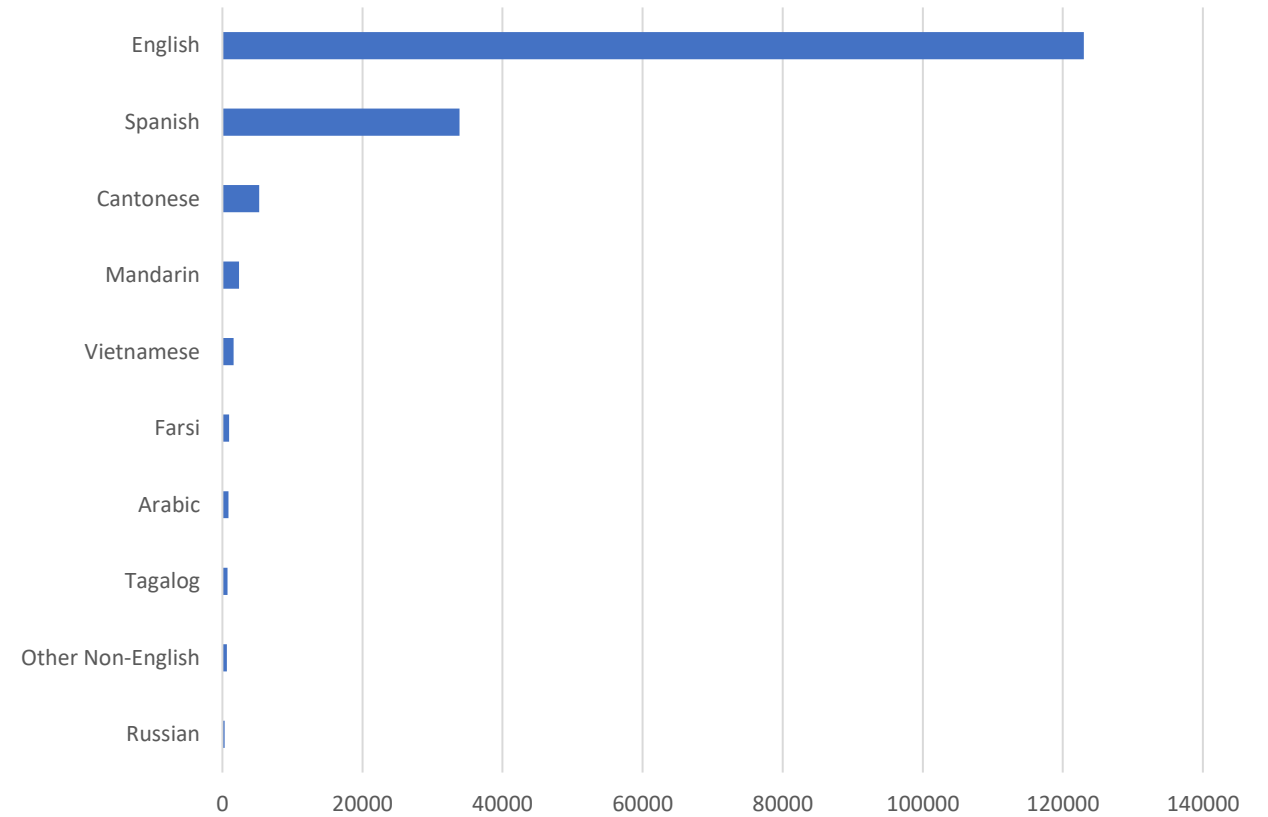
Individuals receiving Medi-Cal increased by over 170,000 between January 2020 and November 2022.

Medi-Cal: Pandemic Enrollment Demographics

Top Ten Ethnicities

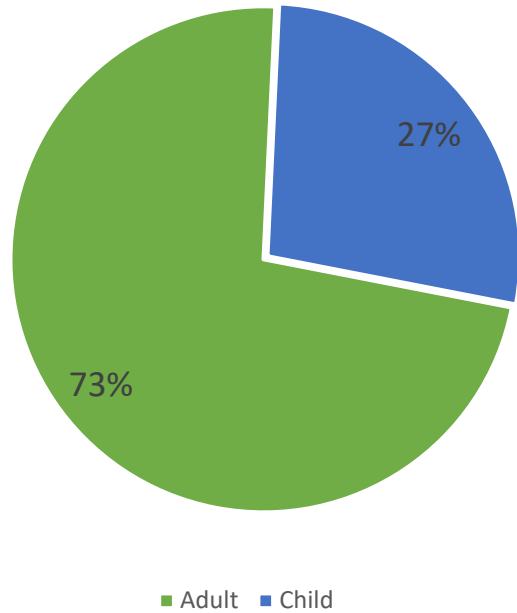


Top Ten Languages

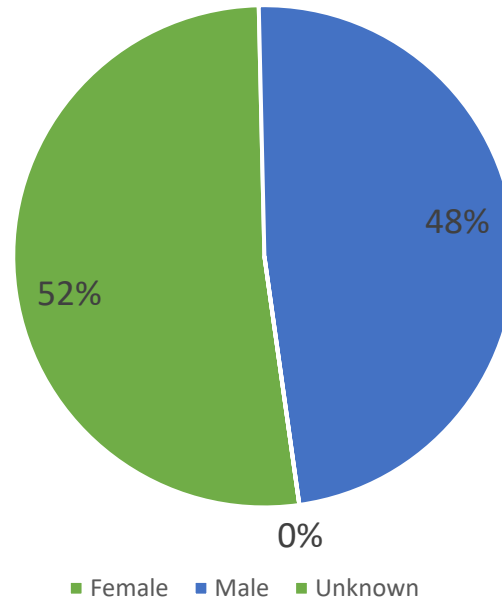


Medi-Cal: Pandemic Enrollment Demographics

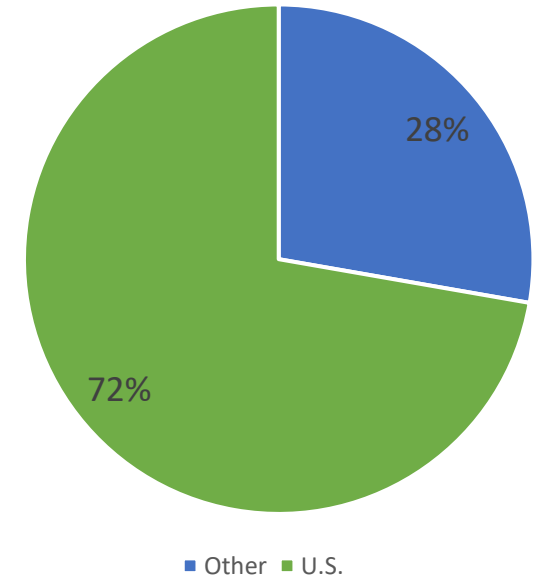
Person Type



Sex



Citizenship

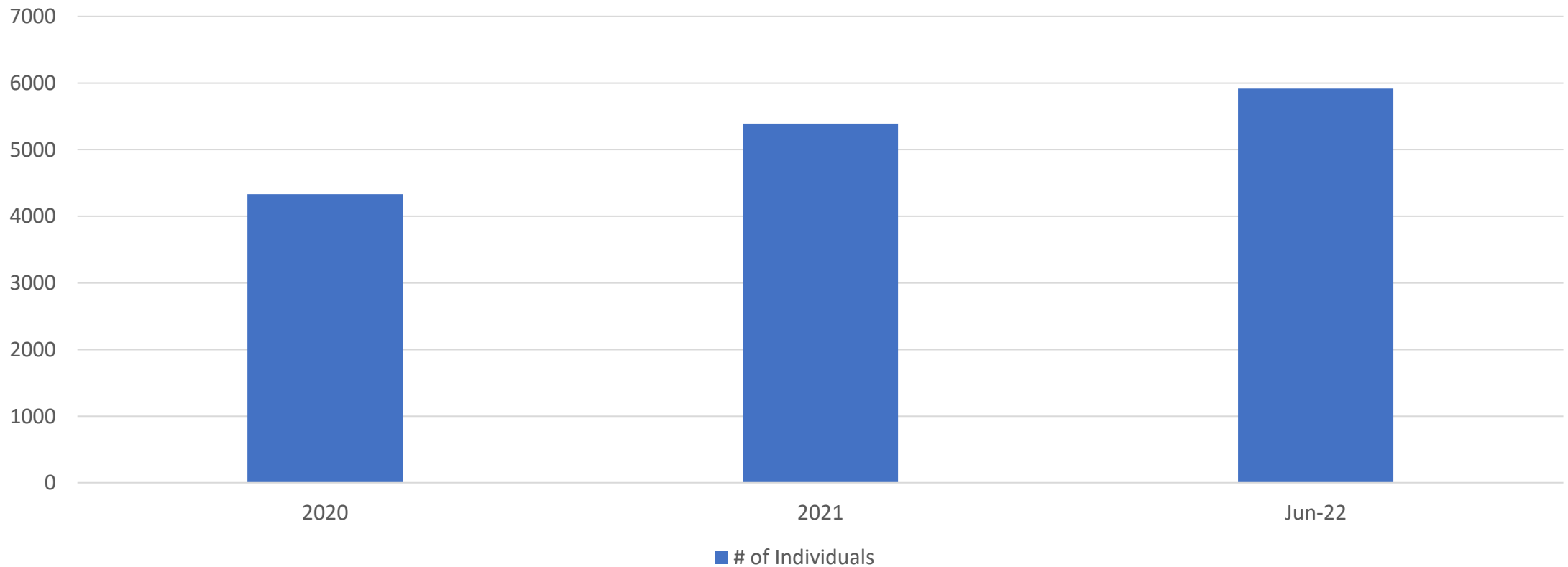


Medi-Cal Expansions

- Effective January 2020 with the passing of California Senate Bill (SB) 104, all young adults between the ages of 19-26 years old are potentially eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal coverage, regardless of their immigration status or verification of citizenship.
 - As of June 2022, approximately 5,900 individuals are receiving full-scope Medi-Cal as a result of the Young Adult Expansion.
- Effective May 2022 with the passing of California Assembly Bill (AB) 133, all adults 50 years of age or older are potentially eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal coverage, regardless of their immigration status or verification of citizenship.
 - As of July 2022, approximately 8,200 individuals are receiving full scope Medi-Cal as a result of the Older Adult Expansion

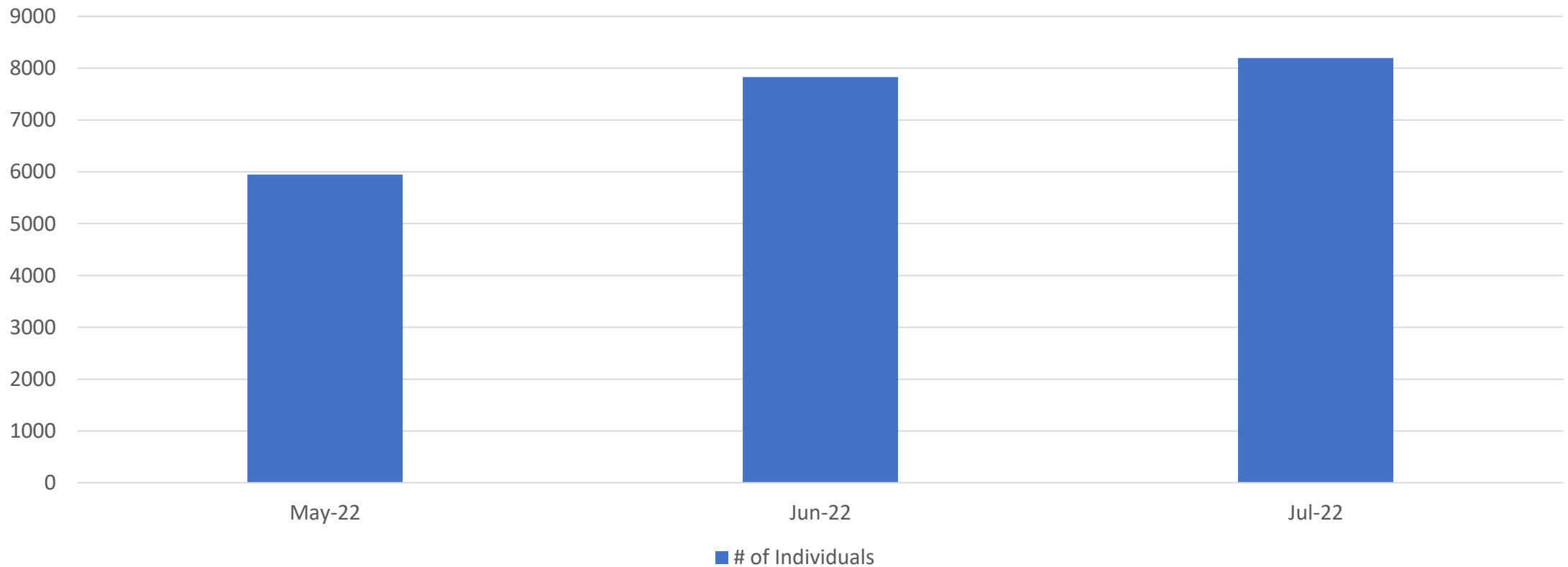
Medi-Cal: Young Adult Expansion

of Individuals Affected by the Young Adult Expansion



Medi-Cal Older Adult Expansion

of Individuals Affected by the Older Adult Expansion



Medi-Cal Delivery Systems

Managed Care Plans



313,849*

Medi-Cal beneficiaries enrolled



77,587*

Medi-Cal beneficiaries enrolled

Fee-for-Service

75,785*

Medi-Cal beneficiaries enrolled

**As of September 2022*

CaAIM Update: Enhanced County Eligibility and Oversight Monitoring

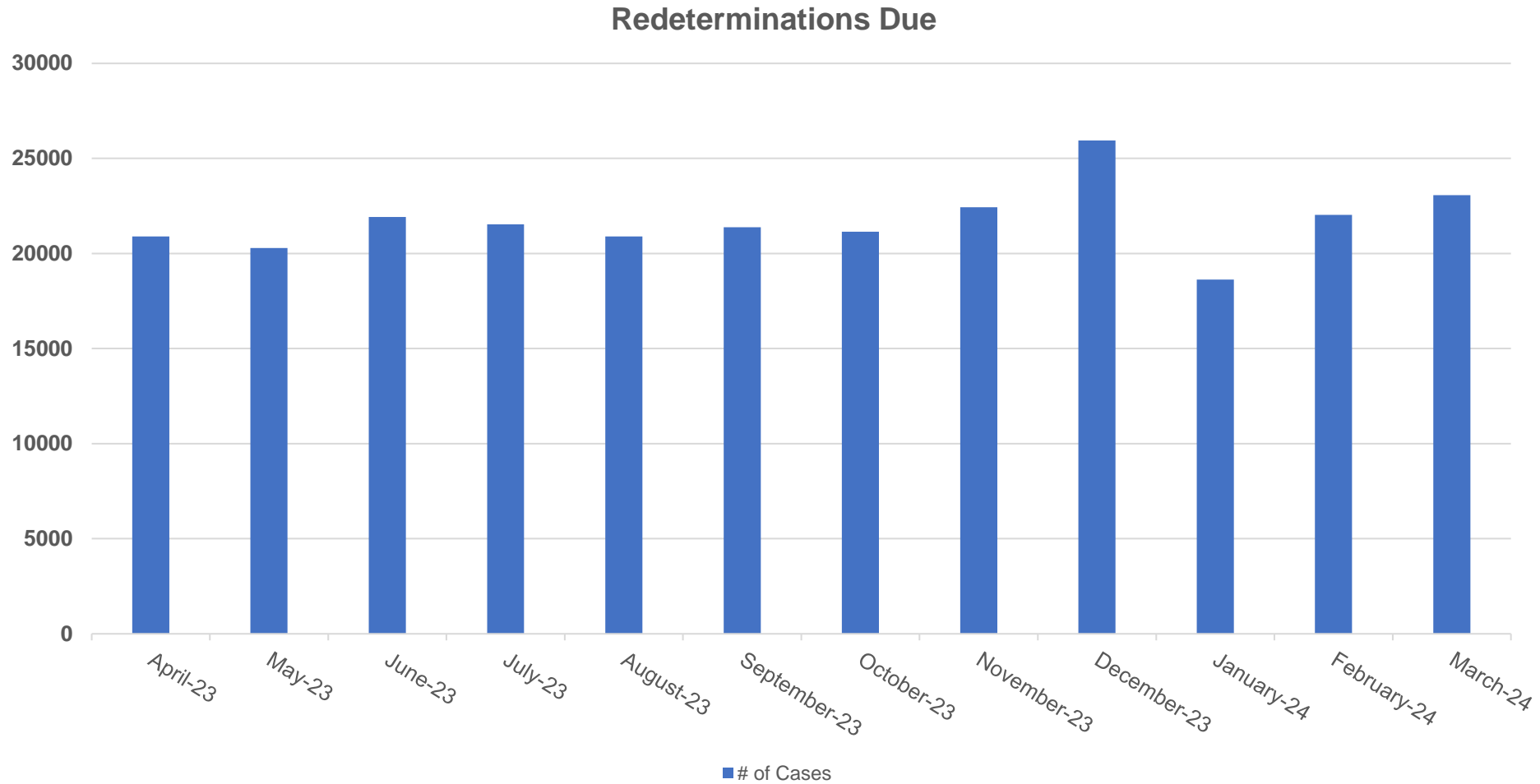
- DHCS will reinstating standards for the following:



**90% of cases should be processed within mandate*

- A tiered corrective action approach will be established for counties that do not meet the performance standards.
 - Sanctions and fiscal penalties will be levied for counties that are unresponsive or do not show significant improvement.
- Public-facing county performance reports will be posted on the California Health and Human Services (CHHS) Open Data Portal.

Medi-Cal Annual Redetermination Caseload

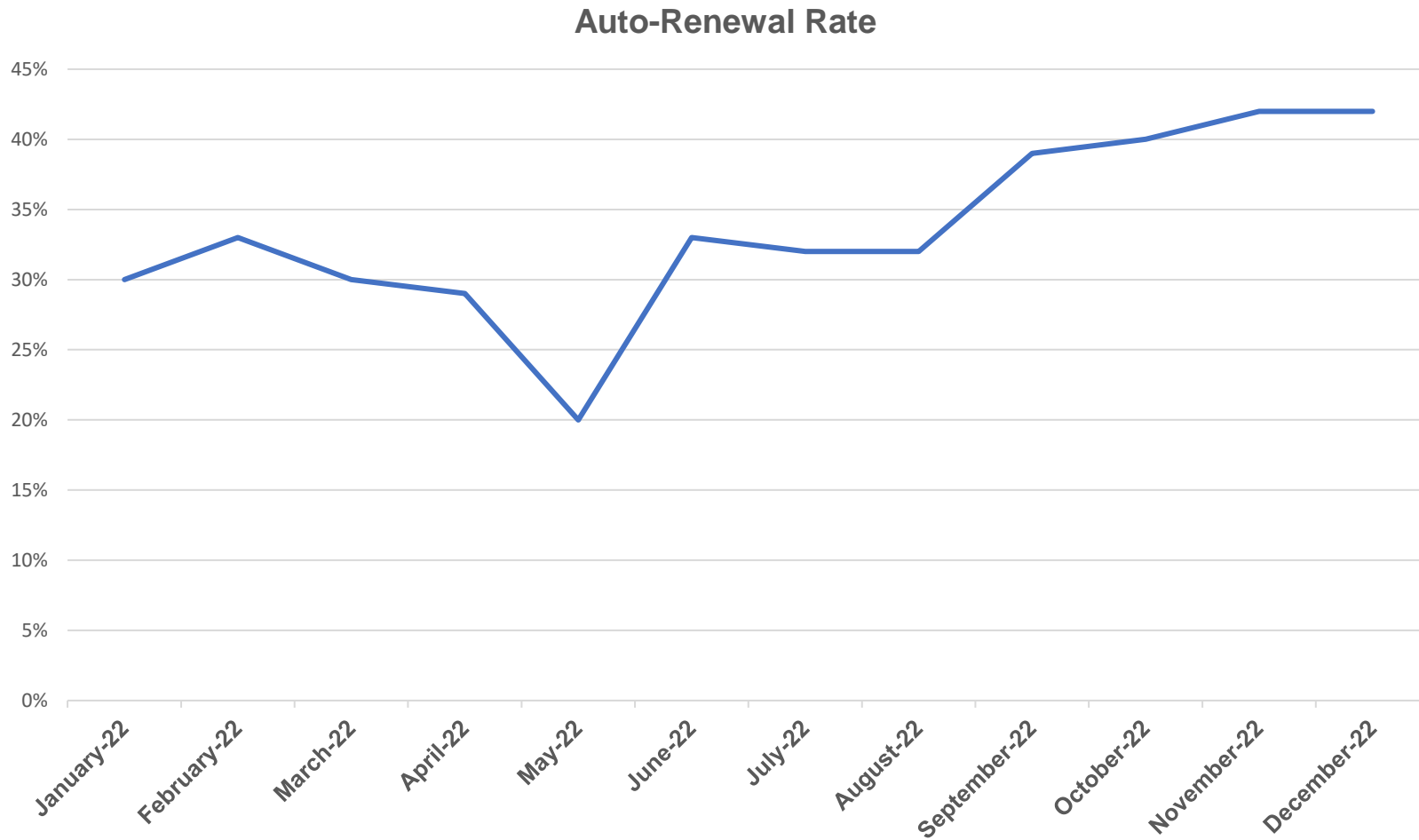


Medi-Cal Annual Redetermination Caseload



The Department of Workforce and Benefits Administration (WBA) has a Medi-Cal caseload of approximately 260,200 unique cases with an estimated 468,300 individuals as of October 2022.

Medi-Cal: Auto-Renewal Rate in 2022

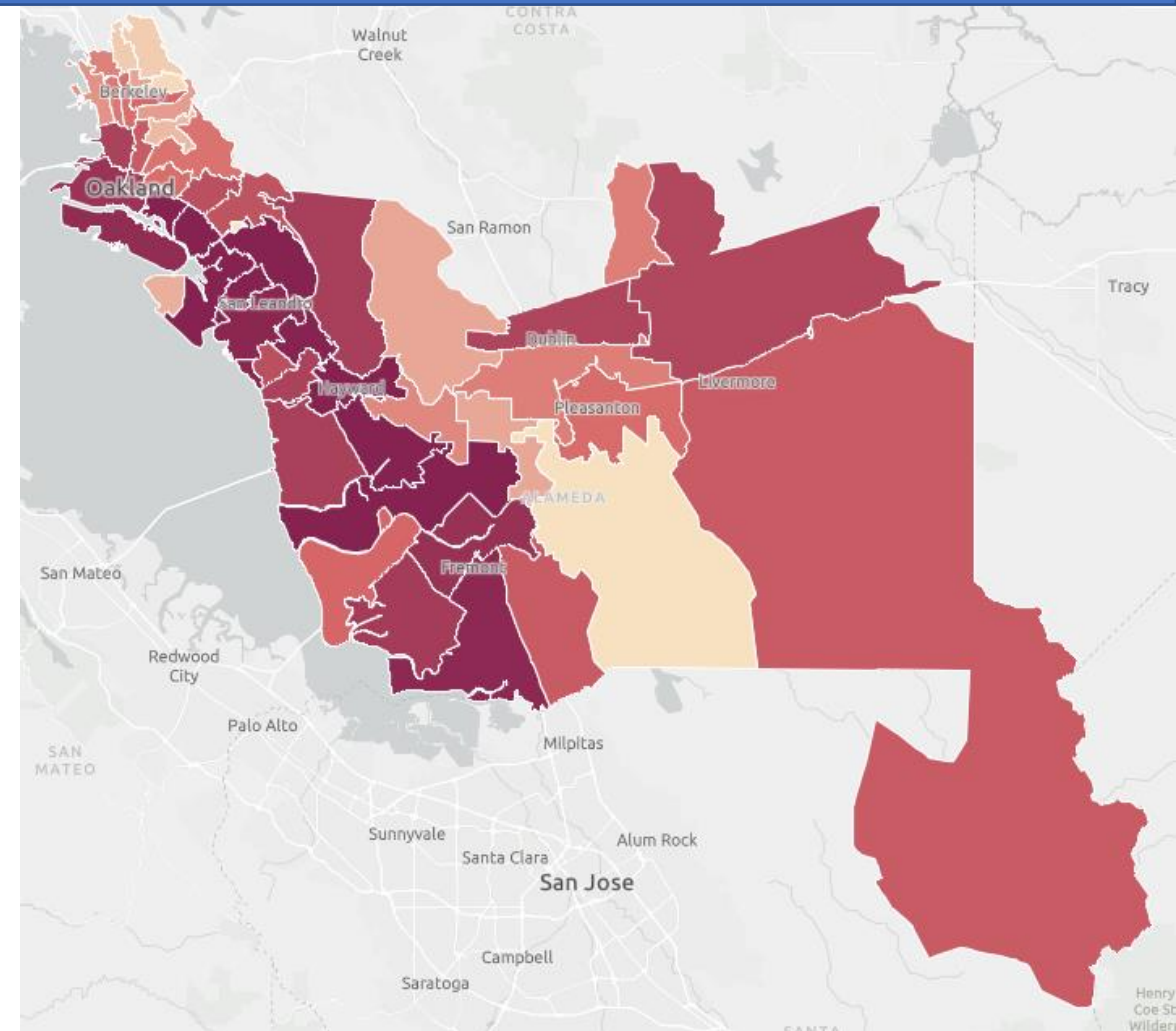


Medi-Cal: Caseload by Location

Top 10 Areas with the Highest Number of Medi-Cal Beneficiaries:

Oakland	182,000
Hayward	63,000
Fremont	43,000
Unincorporated Areas*	42,000
San Leandro	35,000
Berkeley	23,000
Union City	19,000
Alameda	17,000
Livermore	16,000
Newark	11,000

*Includes Ashland, Castro Valley, Cherryland, Fairview, San Lorenzo, and Sunol



Public Health Emergency (PHE) Unwinding

- As part of Senate Bill (SB) 260 requires Covered California to automatically enroll qualified individuals transitioning from Medi-Cal into the lowest cost Silver Covered California plan available, or the individual's same managed care plan, if this information is available to Covered California before their current coverage ends.
- Qualified individuals must be eligible or conditionally eligible for Advanced Premium Tax Credit (APTC) and include MAGI Medi-Cal beneficiaries who:
 - Have household income increases and/or family size changes making their income above the MAGI Medi-Cal limits;
 - Children who have aged out; or
 - Beneficiaries not eligible to Consumer Protection Programs (CPPs).



Public Health Emergency (PHE) Unwinding

- The ACSSA website and social media pages continue to be updated with the most up-to-date information regarding the PHE and the unwinding period.
- ACSSA has also launched its 2022 Medi-Cal Campaign titled “Medi-Cal: Thinking Ahead for the Win”.
 - A series of workshops will be conducted to familiarize ACSSA staff with the many changes to business processes that will be brought about by the lifting of the PHE.
 - ACSSA is also incorporating training materials provided by DHCS as the foundation of workshops provided to staff.



MEDI-CAL

Thinking Ahead for the Win

Potential Impacts to Medi-Cal Beneficiaries

- The California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) forecasts that over 2 million individuals will be ineligible for Medi-Cal.
 - Medi-Cal eligibility in Alameda County is primarily related to a person's income & household status.
 - Outdated addresses may impact redetermination processing for 15% - 20% of beneficiaries.
 - Medi-Cal redetermination in Alameda County impact may result in significant disenrollment, ranging from 70,000 to 100,000 people experiencing a change in their health insurance.
 - Options to obtain health coverage through Covered California, employer-sponsored health insurance, or other non-Medicaid programs.

Community Outreach Activities

Community Outreach - Highest Priority

To minimize the Medi-Cal beneficiary's burden and to promote continuity of coverage for all beneficiaries.

Community Outreach Activities (cont'd)

- DHCS has granted ACSSA additional funding to continue implementation of the Health Enrollment Navigators Project until June 2025 via Senate Bill (SB) 154.
 - This project allows ACSSA to partner with Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to conduct Medi-Cal outreach and enrollment or renewal assistance to the most vulnerable populations in our County.
 - With the extension to 2025, DHCS has encouraged counties to integrate the PHE unwinding into their implementation of the project.
 - As such, ACSSA has integrated PHE unwinding activities into the CBO partners' implementation of the project as well as into the targeted multimedia marketing campaign.

Community Outreach Activities (cont'd)

- ACSSA is currently partnering with 8 Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to conduct outreach and assist community members with completing Medi-Cal applications or redeterminations.



- The CBOs have been integrating DHCS' PHE unwinding messaging into their outreach activities and have been assisting Medi-Cal Beneficiaries with updating their contact information.

Community Outreach Activities (cont'd)



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the HealthyAC.org website. It includes a language selection dropdown, a search button labeled "Find help with your application", and logos for Alameda County Social Services Agency and DHCS. Below the navigation is a main banner with the text "It all starts with healthcare + healthy food" and "You may qualify for Medi-Cal & CalFresh. Apply for both today!". At the bottom of the banner are two photographs: one of a woman and a man smiling, and another of a man and a young girl looking at something together.

In 2022, ACSSA launched a targeted multimedia marketing campaign that included the creation of the HealthyAC.org website, online banners, social media, e-blasts, TV ads, radio ads, streaming ads, print ads, transit shelter posters, and billboards.

ACSSA plans to relaunch the marketing campaign in 2023 and is currently exploring ways to incorporate DHCS' PHE unwinding messaging into several components of the campaign, including adding information on the PHE unwinding period to HealthyAC.org and e-blasts.

Next Steps

- Develop a county-wide outreach campaign, including safety net partners, Alameda County agencies (ACHCSA, ACSSA), community-based organizations, public hospital, health centers, and managed care health plan.
- Coordinate with the statewide outreach campaign, “Medi-Cal Ambassador Program”.
- Outreach Campaign lasts 14 - 16 months and begins in February 2023, approximately 45 days before the Medi-Cal redeterminations resume in April.
 - Outreach activity timed 45 – 60 days in advance of annual renewal dates, and continues from February 2023 to March 2024.

Thank You!



Questions?