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Three-Fourths of Children and Parents in California's *Building Healthy Communities* Sites Eligible for Health Insurance Expansions

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Beginning in 2014, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) will both expand income eligibility requirements in the Medi-Cal program and establish a new health insurance Exchange, providing additional coverage opportunities to California residents.¹ Over three-fourths of uninsured children and parents in The California Endowment's *Building Healthy Communities* (BHC) sites will be eligible for coverage under these expansions (77.7%; Exhibit 1).

These findings are based on the 2009 California Health Interview Survey (CHIS 2009) oversample of 14 communities that were hard hit by the recent economic downturn. Given *Building Healthy Communities* focus on young adults and families, the findings are limited to children and teens, and adults either under age 40 or over age 40 if they have a child under age 18 at home.

Uninsured undocumented immigrants will not be eligible to enroll in the expanded Medi-Cal program or to purchase insurance in the Exchange. This population will continue to depend on safety net providers for their health care needs. Ineligibility rates for health insurance coverage through the ACA due to citizenship range from a high of 38.9% in Central Santa Ana to a low of 8.2%

in Fresno (Exhibit 1). All told, nearly one million young adults and their children statewide and 64,000 in the 14 BHC sites will be ineligible for coverage through the ACA.

In the Northern region, three BHC sites, Del Norte County (19%), Richmond in Contra Costa County (20.8%), and East Salinas in Monterey County (28.8%) had proportions of uninsured young adults, teens and children ineligible due to citizenship that were higher than the state as a whole (15.9%). The rate of ineligibility due to citizenship in South Kern (25.7%), one of three BHC areas in the Central region, was higher than the state.

The Southern California region will have the greatest percentage of uninsured parents, young adults and children ineligible for ACA insurance expansions due to their citizenship status. Santa Ana, located in Orange County, has the highest proportion with nearly two in five uninsured individuals (38.9%) not eligible for either the Medi-Cal expansion or the Exchange. Boyle Heights (33.8%) and Long Beach (33.7%) have proportions of their residents not eligible for ACA

Exhibit 1

Eligibility for 2014 Affordable Care Act Health Insurance Expansions Among the *Building Healthy Communities* Sites, Young Adults Age 40 and Younger, Parents of Children Age 17 and Younger, Teens and Children, 2009

BHC Site	Medi-Cal Eligible			Exchange Eligible With or Without Subsidies			Ineligible Due to Citizenship			Total	
	Number	%	(95% CI)	Number	%	(95% CI)	Number	%	(95% CI)	Number	%
All Californiaⁱ	2,375,000	43.1	(39.6-46.5)	2,161,000	39.2	(35.9-42.5)	976,000	17.7	(15.0-20.4)	5,512,000	100
All BHC Sites	125,000	43.6	(36.4-50.6)	98,000	34.1	(25.9-42.3)	64,000	22.3	(16.9-27.6)	287,000	100
Northern California											
North Group of 7 Counties ⁱⁱ	6,000	47.7*	(15.8-79.4)	3,000	25.3*	(4.2-46.3)	3,000	27.0*	(0.0-64.0)	12,000	100
Del Norte BHC	2,000	37.0	(22.6-51.3)	2,000	44.1	(24.7-63.3)	1,000	19.0*	(0.0-38.8)	5,000	100
Sacramento County	82,000	48.3	(34.3-62.1)	79,000	46.4	(32.1-60.7)	9,000	5.3*	(0.5-10.0)	170,000	100
So. Sacramento BHC	9,000	50.4	(28.7-72.0)	6,000	36.6*	(14.0-59.1)	2,000	13.0*	(1.9-24.1)	17,000	100
Contra Costa County	29,000	31.7*	(9.3-54.0)	46,000	50.8	(27.5-74.0)	16,000	17.5*	(0.0-35.7)	91,000	100
Richmond BHC	5,000	38.0	(26.7-49.2)	5,000	41.2	(31.5-50.8)	3,000	20.8	(11.6-29.9)	13,000	100
Alameda County	139,000	63.0	(43.1-82.9)	61,000	27.6*	(8.6-46.5)	21,000	9.3*	(2.6-16.0)	221,000	100
East Oakland BHC	9,000	31.7*	(5.6-57.6)	17,000	56.4*	(22.0-90.8)	4,000	12.0*	(0.8-23.0)	30,000	100
Monterey County	31,000	43.3	(28.4-58.1)	32,000	45.0	(30.0-59.1)	8,000	11.6*	(2.8-20.4)	71,000	100
East Salinas BHC	9,000	53.4	(37.3-69.4)	3,000	17.8*	(5.4-30.1)	5,000	28.8	(15.2-42.2)	17,000	100
Central California											
Fresno County	85,000	50.8	(39.0-62.6)	41,000	24.6	(14.1-35.0)	41,000	24.5	(11.0-37.9)	167,000	100
Central/Southeast/Southeast Fresno BHC	14,000	43.2*	(16.0-70.3)	16,000	48.6*	(17.7-79.4)	3,000	8.2*	(2.1-14.3)	33,000	100
Merced County	30,000	64.9	(45.7-84.1)	11,000	23.7*	(7.7-39.6)	5,000	11.4*	(1.8-20.9)	46,000	100
Southwest/East Merced County BHC	8,000	51.2	(32.9-69.4)	6,000	35.4	(16.7-54.0)	2,000	13.4	(6.5-0.3)	16,000	100
Kern County	45,000	38.1	(22.4-53.6)	55,000	46.1	(29.0-63.2)	19,000	15.8*	(0.0-34.6)	119,000	100
South Kern (Arvin-Lamont) BHC	10,000	57.7	(43.9-71.3)	3,000	16.7	(8.9-24.3)	5,000	25.7	(15.0-36.3)	18,000	100
Southern California											
Los Angeles County	716,000	43.5	(36.6-50.3)	532,000	32.3	(25.3-39.2)	399,000	24.2	(18.5-29.8)	1,647,000	100
So. Los Angeles BHC	15,000	52.1	(24.9-79.1)	8,000	27.9*	(7.0-48.7)	6,000	20.0*	(4.1-35.8)	29,000	100
Boyle Heights BHC	8,000	36.5	20.0-52.6)	6,000	29.7*	(11.8-47.4)	7,000	33.8	(19.4-48.2)	21,000	100
Central/West Long Beach BHC	6,000	24.1*	(1.6-46.4)	10,000	42.2*	(9.1-75.2)	8,000	33.7*	(0.0-71.1)	24,000	100
Orange County	199,000	39.3	(22.8-55.8)	239,000	47.4	(32.5-62.2)	67,000	13.3	(6.2-20.4)	505,000	100
Central Santa Ana BHC	12,000	43.8	(31.0-56.4)	5,000	17.4	(9.4-25.3)	10,000	38.9	(24.0-53.6)	27,000	100
Riverside County	137,000	39.8	(26.7-52.8)	127,000	36.9	(21.7-51.9)	80,000	23.3*	(7.7-38.9)	344,000	100
Eastern Coachella Valley BHC	9,000	58.8	(48.1-69.4)	3,000	18.4	(10.2-26.6)	3,000	22.8	(14.0-31.5)	15,000	100
San Diego County	146,000	37.4	(29.0-45.7)	179,000	46.0	(37.8-54.1)	65,000	16.6	(10.0-22.7)	390,000	100
City Heights BHC	9,000	41.7	(25.0-58.3)	7,000	34.7	(15.3-53.9)	5,000	23.6	(10.3-36.9)	21,000	100

Notes: Numbers may not add up to 100% because of rounding. For more information about the CHIS 2009 BHC oversample see <http://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/chis/bhc/Pages/BHC-Data-Collection.aspx>

i "All California" includes BHC sites. The population matches the BHC oversample in age and family status restrictions.

ii "North Group of 7 Counties" includes Del Norte, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Sierra, Siskiyou and Trinity.

* Data is unstable due to coefficient of variation above 30%.

Source: 2009 California Health Interview Survey full sample (for All California estimates) and BHC oversample

expansions that are nearly double that of the state overall (Exhibit 1). These communities are in Los Angeles County, which has the highest number of uninsured nonelderly of any county in the state (2.1 million; data not shown). Among BHC sites, Long Beach has the lowest proportion of uninsured parents, young adults and children (24.1%) who will be eligible for Medi-Cal under the new expansion rules in 2014 (Exhibit 1).

These findings point to the need for continued financial support of the public health care system. Along with expanding health insurance opportunities, the ACA also drastically reduces Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) funding, presuming that coverage will expand for the entire population. DSH funding is critical to the safety net, providing federal compensation to care for the uninsured. While outreach efforts targeting enrollment in BHC sites are crucial, so is a strong health care safety net remaining intact to care for the children and adults who will remain uninsured.

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Endnote

- 1 An "Exchange" is a new web-based health insurance market established by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA). Under the ACA, each state can establish its own Exchange, or it can defer that process to the federal government. For more information about California's new Exchange, please visit: <http://www.healthexchange.ca.gov/Pages/Default.aspx>



This publication contains data from the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), the nation's largest state health survey. Conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, CHIS data give a detailed picture of the health and health care needs of California's large and diverse population. Learn more at: www.chis.ucla.edu



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