



A First Look at Medi-Cal Enhanced Care Management (ECM) for Children and Youth

April 2024

Almost 10 months ago, a new Medi-Cal benefit launched for children and youth populations, a voluntary benefit to better support Medi-Cal children and youth with complex clinical and non-clinical needs who access care in multiple delivery systems. Enhanced Care Management (ECM) is a Medi-Cal managed care plan (MCP) benefit available in all California counties to support comprehensive care management for MCP Members with complex needs. The ECM benefit originally launched in 2022, and is delivered in the community by community-based providers.

From July 1, 2023, forward, ECM is available to children and youth populations with the highest social and clinical risk enrolled in Medi-Cal managed care plans. For these young members, ECM is intended to identify and close gaps in needed services, as well as ensure closed loop care coordination occurs between a child’s or youth’s medical care, behavioral health care, and social services delivery systems. ECM will provide children with a single Lead Care Manager who will coordinate care and services among the physical, behavioral, dental, developmental, and social services delivery systems, making it easier for kids to get the right care at the right time.

To provide ECM services, plans contract with a network of ECM providers that may include, but are not limited to: California Children’s Services (CCS) providers, school-based health centers, primary care physicians, community health centers, local health departments, Indian Health Service Programs, First 5 County Commissions, community based organizations, and behavioral health entities.

In early April 2024, the Department of Health Care Services released its [Quarterly Enhanced Care Management report](#), which reflects data through September 30, 2023. This current update includes data about the Children & Youth Populations of Focus (POFs) for the first time since those POFs launched on July 1, 2023.

This summary document provides an overview of ECM enrollment data specifically for children and youth, reflecting the period between July 1, 2023 and September 30, 2023 (Q3 2023). This includes ECM enrollment data for children and youth generally, by county, by POF, and proportionally (i.e., penetration rates). Data is also presented on ECM providers, as well as “spotlights” on three focus populations (see pages 5-7). The

Who is Eligible for ECM?		
ECM is available to MCP members who meet ECM POF definitions.		
ECM Population of Focus	Children & Youth	Adults
1 Individuals Experiencing Homelessness	✓	✓
2 Individuals At Risk for Avoidable Hospital or Emergency Department Utilization	✓	✓
3 Individuals with Serious Mental Health and/or Substance Use Disorder Needs	✓	✓
4 Individuals Transitioning from Incarceration	✓	✓
5 Adults Living in the Community and At Risk for Long Term Care Institutionalization		✓
6 Adult Nursing Facility Residents Transitioning to the Community		✓
7 Children and Youth Enrolled in California Children’s Services (CCS) or CCS Whole Child Model (WCM) with Additional Needs Beyond the CCS Condition	✓	
8 Children and Youth Involved in Child Welfare	✓	
9 Birth Equity Population of Focus	✓	✓



term “provider” in this document refers to any physician, community based organization (CB), entity, or vendor who is contracted to provide ECM services. According to DHCS, “each unique combination of NPI, provider type, MCP, and county represents an ECM provider contract.”

General Data on ECM Enrollment for Children and Youth

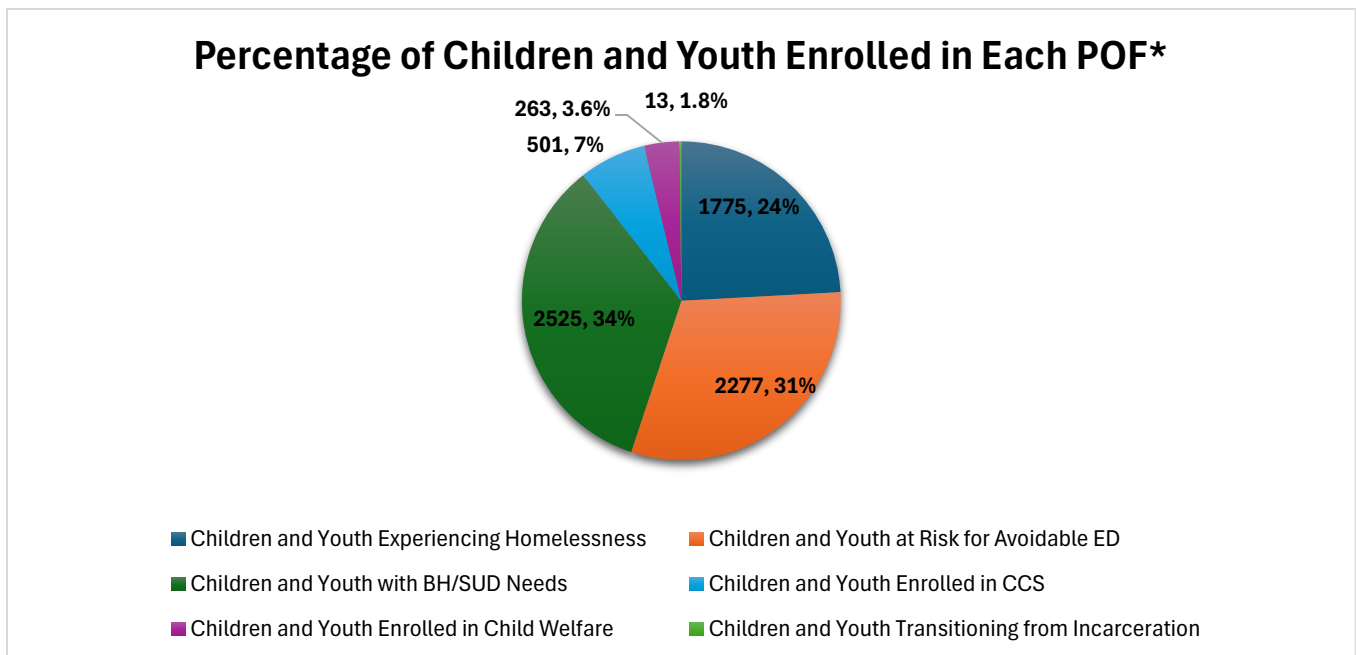
- There were 6,339 unique members under the age of 21 enrolled in ECM in Q3 2023; meaning that children and youth under 21 represented 7.39% of ECM members (of the 85,729 total individuals enrolled in ECM in Q3).
- Five percent of ECM enrollees were under the age of 18, but they make up 33% of all Managed Care Plan (MCP) members. Conversely, adults are overrepresented in ECM enrollment—82% of ECM members were ages 18-64, while they comprise 56% of the general MCP population. Because this is the first quarter of ECM going live for children and youth, there are expected growth pains and slower uptake.
- Data on ECM enrollment race and ethnicity is not disaggregated for children and youth, but among all ECM enrollees, there was overrepresentation of White and Black or African American ECM members as compared to the overall MCP population demographics.
- Nearly three out of every five ECM enrollees under 21 (58%) reside in either San Diego or Los Angeles County.

Data on ECM Enrollment for Children and Youth by County

1. San Diego County had the highest total enrollment of all ECM enrollees under 21, with 37.6% of all children and youth ECM enrollees across the State (2,383 out of 6,339). The majority (63%) of San Diego County Community Health Plan youth ECM enrollees were receiving ECM for behavioral health and/or substance use disorder treatment needs (1,500 out of 2,383).
2. Los Angeles County had the second highest total enrollment of all ECM enrollees under 21, with 21% of all children and youth ECM enrollees across the State (1,312 out of 6,339).
3. Kern County had the third highest total enrollment of all ECM enrollees under 21, with 13% of all children and youth ECM enrollees across the State (844 out of 6,339),
4. San Bernardino County had the fourth highest total enrollment of all ECM enrollees under 21, with 11% of all children and youth ECM enrollees across the State (717 out of 6,339)
5. Santa Clara County had the fifth highest total enrollment of all ECM enrollees under 21, with 6% of all children and youth ECM enrollees across the State (410 out of 6,339).

Data on ECM Enrollment for Children and Youth by POF

- As shown in the figure below, roughly one-third of children enrolled in ECM were eligible because of their serious mental health and/or substance use disorder (SUD) needs, followed by roughly another third eligible who were at risk for avoidable hospital or ED utilization. The children and youth POFs with the lowest enrollment were for children and youth enrolled in CCS with additional needs, children in child welfare, and children and youth who were transitioning from incarceration. *Note: Children and youth can qualify for multiple POFs, which is reflected in the report—a unique member may be counted for multiple POFs in this figure below (N=7,354).



Penetration Rate Data on ECM Enrollment for Children and Youth POFs by County and MCP

- Counties with the highest penetration of ECM enrollment for members under 21 are (i.e., what percentage of MCP members under 21 were enrolled in ECM): San Diego, with 0.66% penetration rate; Contra Costa, with 0.62%; Kern, with 0.4%; Santa Clara, with 0.27; Imperial, with 0.26%. (Overall ECM enrollment penetration rates for all populations were as high as 2.61%). Los Angeles County has the highest number of MCP enrollees under 21 (over 1.3 million), but for 1,312 ECM enrollees under 21 for a penetration rate of 0.10%.
- MCPs with the highest penetration of ECM enrollment for members under 21 are: Community Health Group in San Diego County (1.43%), Contra Costa Health Plan in Contra Costa County



(0.73%), Kern Health Systems in Kern County (0.48%), Partnership Health Plan of California in Marin County (0.43%), and Aetna Better Health in San Diego County (0.39%).

Data on ECM Providers Serving Enrolled Children and Youth POFs

- Overall ECM provider contracts have been increasing over time to 1,301 unique provider contracts in Q3, inclusive of children and adult POFs;
- The majority of providers are federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), providers classified as “other”, Behavioral Health Entities, and Hospitals or Hospital Groups/Clinics.
- The table below summarizes the total statewide number of ECM provider contracts specifically by children and youth POF, the number of children enrolled in ECM by POF, and the approximate provider-to-enrollee ratios, with the caveat that both providers and enrollees may be counted under multiple POFs. It cannot be concluded from this data that the ECM provider network is adequate to meet the need of child and youth ECM enrollees.
- Note: a provider contract may include multiple POFs and would be counted in these charts for each POF they serve, hence the discrepancy in statewide unique provider contracts (1,301) and ECM provider contracts for all children and youth POFs (1,619).

ECM Provider-to-Enrollee Ratios, Statewide Aggregate for Children and Youth POFs

Children and Youth POF	ECM Provider Contracts	Children Enrolled	Approximate Provider-to-Enrollee Ratio
Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness	370	1,775	1:5
Children and Youth at Risk for Avoidable ED	354	2,277	1:7
Children and Youth with BH/SUD Needs	327	2,525	1:8
Children and Youth Enrolled in CCS	224	501	1:3
Children and Youth Enrolled in Child Welfare	228	263	1:1
Children and Youth Transitioning from Incarceration	116	13	9:1
Statewide Total	1,619	7,354	1:5

- Provider-to-enrollee ratios vary widely by county, by MCP, and by POF. As examples:
 - LA Care is the MCP that appears to have the lowest provider-to-enrollee ratios for children and youth, with ratios of less than 1:10 in every category of children and youth POF.
 - The Community Health Group network (San Diego County), which has the largest number of ECM enrolled children and youth, has one ECM provider for every 60 children enrolled in ECM with behavioral health/SUD needs.
 - By contrast, in Contra Costa Health Plan network, there is one ECM provider for every 36 children enrolled in ECM who have CCS with additional needs.
 - In San Bernardino County, the Inland Empire Health Plan network has one ECM provider for every 65 children enrolled in ECM because they are experiencing homelessness.

Spotlight #1: ECM Enrollment for Children and Youth with Behavioral Health/Substance Use Disorder (SUD) needs POF

- The largest group of children and youth enrolled in ECM are enrolled because of behavioral health and/or substance use disorder (SUD) needs. (34%, or 2,525 children out of 7,354)
- Nearly 80% of ECM enrollees with BH/SUD needs are members of one of 5 MCPs: Community Health Group (San Diego County); Santa Clara Family Health Plan; L.A. Care Health Plan; Contra Costa Health Plan; and Kern Health Systems.

Top 10 MCPs by Number of ECM enrollees for Children and Youth with BH or SUD Needs POF

County	MCP	Children and Youth with BH or SUD Needs	Percent of total enrollment by POF	Cumulative Percent of total enrollment in POF
San Diego	Community Health Group	1,500	59.41	59.41
Santa Clara	Santa Clara Family Health Plan	137	5.43	64.83
Los Angeles	L.A. Care Health Plan	118	4.67	69.50
Contra Costa	Contra Costa Health Plan	115	4.55	74.06
Kern	Kern Health Systems	108	4.28	78.34
Los Angeles	Health Net Community Solutions	78	3.09	81.43
Riverside	Inland Empire Health Plan	40	1.58	83.01
Sacramento	Kaiser Permanente	38	1.50	84.51
Alameda	Alameda Alliance for Health	37	1.47	85.98
San Bernardino	Inland Empire Health Plan	36	1.43	87.41
Statewide total enrollment		2,525		100%

Top 10 MCPs by Number of ECM Provider Contracts for Children and Youth with BH or SUD Needs POF

County	MCP	ECM Provider Contracts for Children and Youth with BH or SUD Needs
Los Angeles	L.A. Care Health Plan	38
San Diego	Community Health Group	25
Santa Clara	Santa Clara Family Health Plan	19
Los Angeles	Health Net Community Solutions	18
Kern	Kern Health Systems	14
Riverside	Inland Empire Health Plan	14
San Bernardino	Inland Empire Health Plan	11
San Diego	Molina Healthcare of California	11
Sonoma	Partnership Health Plan of California	11
Solano	Partnership Health Plan of California	9
Total statewide providers		327

Spotlight #2: ECM Enrollment for Children and Youth Enrolled in CCS POF

- Over 50% of ECM enrollees who are in CCS are members of one of 3 MCPS across 2 counties: Community Health Group (San Diego County) [which alone has 39% of ECM enrollees under CCS POF], Contra Costa Health Plan; and Molina Healthcare of California (San Diego County).
- There were 203,602 children enrolled in CCS (as of September 2023), and only 501 CCS children enrolled in ECM to address their additional needs, meaning less than 0.25% of the total CCS population is receiving ECM services. DHCS has indicated that approximately 50% of all children enrolled in CCS have additional needs that would qualify them for ECM.

Top 10 MCPS by Number of ECM enrollees for Children and Youth Enrolled in CCS POF

County	MCP	Children and Youth in CCS	Percent of total enrollment by POF	Cumulative Percent of total enrollment in POF
San Diego	Community Health Group	161	32.14	32.14
Contra Costa	Contra Costa Health Plan	72	14.37	46.51
San Diego	Molina Healthcare of California	35	6.99	53.49
Monterey	Central California Alliance for Health	25	4.99	58.48
Tulare	Anthem Blue Cross	24	4.79	63.27
Merced	Central California Alliance for Health	22	4.39	67.66
Santa Clara	Santa Clara Family Health Plan	19	3.79	71.46
Los Angeles	Health Net Community Solutions	16	3.19	74.65
Alameda	Alameda Alliance for Health	16	3.19	77.84
Santa Cruz	Central California Alliance for Health	15	2.99	80.84
Statewide total enrollment		501		100%

Top 10 MCPs by Total Number of ECM Provider Contracts for Children and Youth enrolled in CCS POF

County	MCP	ECM Provider Contracts for Children and Youth in CCS
San Diego	Community Health Group	25
Los Angeles	L.A. Care Health Plan	17
Los Angeles	Health Net Community Solutions	13
Santa Clara	Santa Clara Family Health Plan	11
San Diego	Molina Healthcare of California	10
Solano	Partnership Health Plan of California	7
Riverside	Molina Healthcare of California	7
San Bernardino	Molina Healthcare of California	7
Yolo	Partnership Health Plan of California	7
Mendocino	Partnership Health Plan of California	7
Total statewide providers		224

Spotlight #3: ECM Enrollment for Children and Youth involved in Child Welfare POF

- There are approximately 21,000 children involved in child welfare enrolled in a Managed Care Plan (46% of the total child welfare population), and only 263 ECM enrollees under the child welfare POF. Despite *all* of these 21,000 children qualifying for ECM by virtue of being in child welfare, only 1.3% are enrolled.
- Over 50% of ECM enrollees who are involved in child welfare are members of one of 4 MCPs across 5 counties Community Health Group (San Diego County); Central California Alliance for Health (in both Merced and Monterey Counties); Kern Health Systems; and Alameda Alliance for Health.

Top 7* MCPs by Number of ECM enrollees for Children and Youth with Involved in Child Welfare POF

County	MCP	Children and Youth in Child Welfare POF	Percent of total enrollment by POF	Cumulative Percent of total enrollment in POF
San Diego	Community Health Group	41	15.59	15.59
Merced	Central California Alliance for Health	40	15.21	30.80
Kern	Kern Health Systems	39	14.83	45.63
Monterey	Central California Alliance for Health	28	10.65	56.27
Alameda	Alameda Alliance for Health	24	9.13	65.40
Santa Cruz	Central California Alliance for Health	17	6.46	71.86
Sacramento	Kaiser Permanente	15	5.70	77.57
Statewide total enrollment		263		100%

**note: all other counties have 0 (or fewer than 11) children involved in child welfare in ECM*

Top 10 MCPs by ECM Provider Contracts for Children and Youth Involved in Welfare POF

County	MCP	ECM Provider Contracts for Children and Youth in Child Welfare
San Diego	Community Health Group	25
Los Angeles	L.A. Care Health Plan	23
San Diego	Molina Healthcare of California	11
Los Angeles	Health Net Community Solutions	10
Kern	Kern Health Systems	10
Solano	Partnership Health Plan of California	9
Sonoma	Partnership Health Plan of California	9
Riverside	Molina Healthcare of California	8
San Bernardino	Molina Healthcare of California	8
Yolo	Partnership Health Plan of California	8
Total statewide providers		228