

Foster Youth Access to Medi-Cal Enhanced Care Management: Findings from New Data

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National Health Law Program



National Health Law Program

- The National Health Law Program (NHeLP) is a nonprofit law firm that protects and advances the rights of low income and underserved individuals and families to access high quality and affordable health care. We advocate, educate, and litigate at the federal and state levels.
- National, state, and local partnerships with legal aid, disability rights, and health advocates
- Offices: CA, DC, NC
- Website: www.healthlaw.org



NHeLP's California Office

- **Policy advocacy** to ensure that low-income and underserved Californians have access to high quality and comprehensive health coverage and services
- Expertise in **Medi-Cal** (California's Medicaid program), Covered California, and other health care programs that serve low-income Californians
- Areas of Focus: Eligibility and Enrollment, Delivery Systems, Services, Sexual and Reproductive Health, and Disability
- Part of the statewide **Health Consumer Alliance**
- Learn more: www.healthlaw.org/california

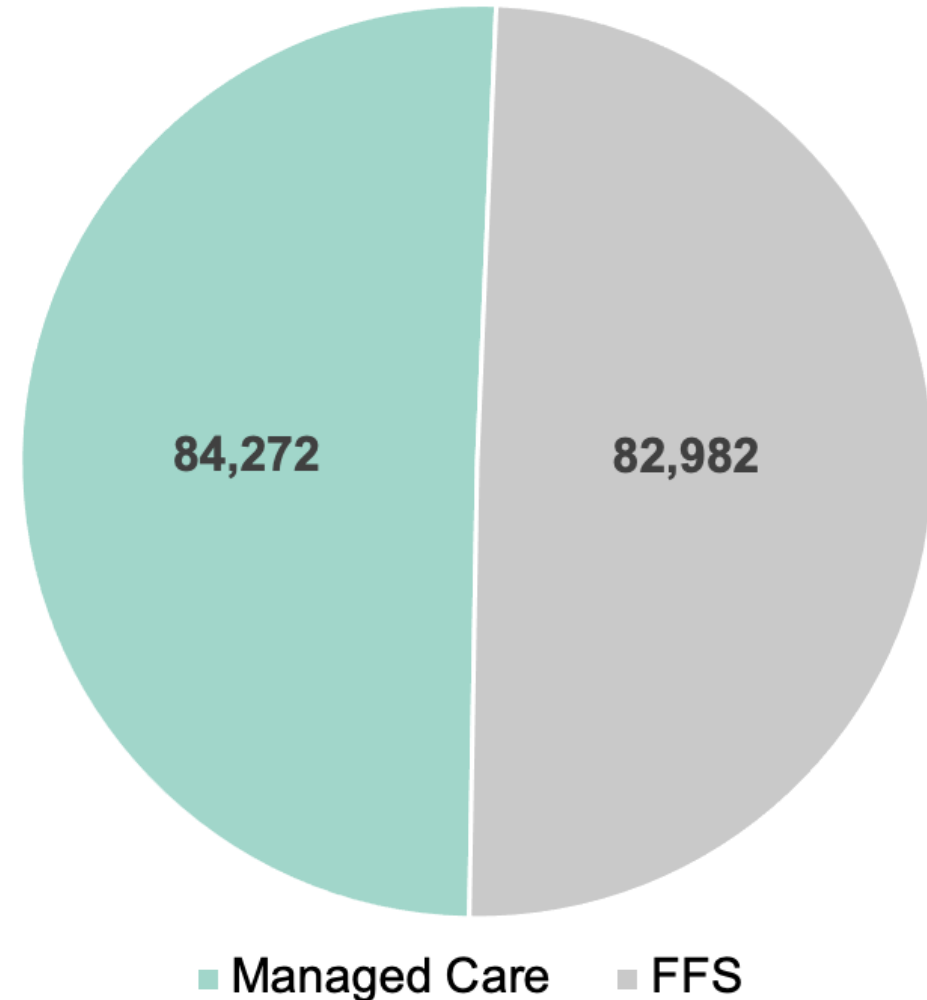
ECM Implementation

Enhanced Care Management

- **Enhanced Care Management (ECM)** is a Medi-Cal managed care benefit that provides comprehensive care planning and management across health care and social service delivery systems.
- Each ECM enrollee is assigned a **Lead Care Manager**, who will talk with the enrollee, assess their health and social needs, connect them appropriate services and supports, and coordinate with their various providers.
- ECM is available statewide to Medi-Cal managed care enrollees who meet the criteria of an **ECM Population of Focus (POF)**

Managed Care Enrollment

- As a threshold matter, only foster children and youth enrolled in **managed care** can receive ECM.
- Currently, about half of foster children and youth statewide are enrolled in managed care.



Child Welfare POF

Children and youth who are . . .

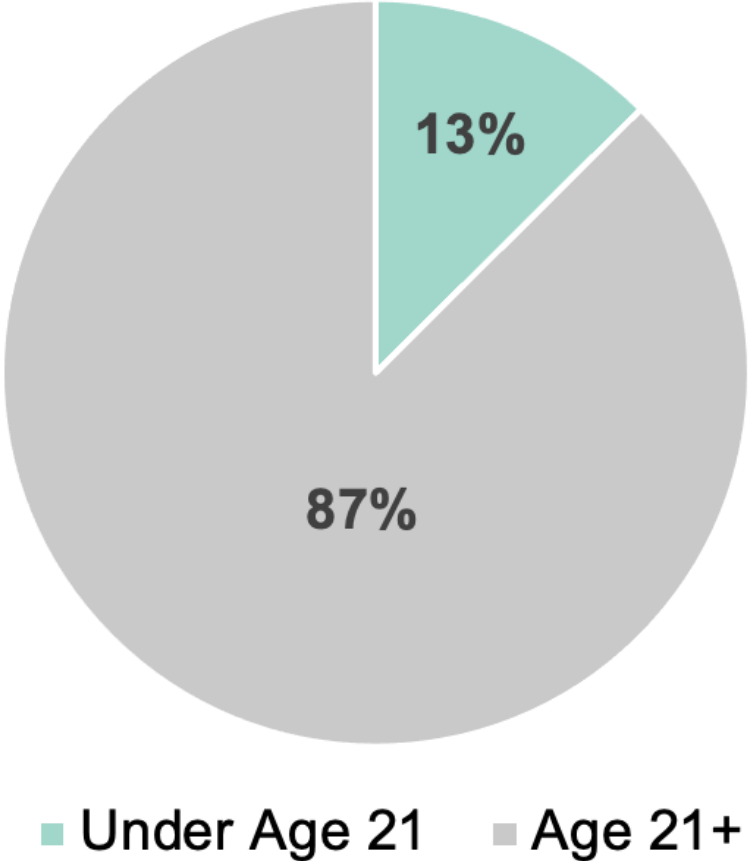
- Under age 21 and **currently receiving foster care in California,**
- Under age 21 and have **received foster care in any state** in the last 12 months,
- Under age 26 and have **aged out of foster care** in any state (i.e., in foster care on 18th birthday or later),
- Under age 18 and eligible for CA's **Adoption Assistance Program, OR**
- Under age 18 and have received services from CA's **Family Maintenance Program** in the last 12 months.

ECM Rollout and New Data

- ECM launched for most Children and Youth POFs, including the Child Welfare POF, on **July 1, 2023**
- The most recent datasets inclusive of the Children and Youth POFs were released last month. They reflect enrollment data through the end of **Q4 2023** (December 31, 2023)
- See [DHCS' ECM & Community Supports Quarterly Report](#) (Aug. 2024)

ECM Enrollees by Age Statewide

Age	Q3 2023	Q4 2023 *
Under Age 21	6,437	12,077
Age 21+	81,918	84,192



* This data represents the number of unique enrollees in ECM statewide during the reporting period.

ECM Enrollees by POF Statewide

Population of Focus	Q3 2023	Q4 2023 *
1. Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (Unaccompanied)	1,805	3,054
2. Children and Youth At Risk for Avoidable Hospital or ED Utilization	2,332	4,566
3. Children and Youth with Serious Mental Health and/or SUD Needs	2,537	4,604
4. Children and Youth Enrolled in CCS with Additional Needs	501	1,250
5. Children and Youth Involved in Child Welfare (including FFY up to 26)	264	1,212
6. Children and Youth Transitioning from Incarceration *	13	35
7. Birth Equity Population of Focus *	0	0

* This data represents the number of ECM enrollees who met the POF eligibility criteria during the reporting period. Note that members may be included in multiple POFs (numbers are not unique members).

* These POFs launched statewide on January 1, 2024. We do not have significant data on these populations yet.

Penetration Rate for Child Welfare POF – Statewide

- Penetration Rate** = The percentage of managed care enrollees in a Foster Care Aid Category who received ECM during the reporting period.

Reporting Period	Number of MCP Enrollees in Foster Care Aid Category	Number of ECM Enrollees in Child Welfare POF	Penetration Rate
Q3 2023	81,130	263	0.32%
Q4 2023	84,272	1,212	1.44%

Provider Contracts for Child Welfare POF – Statewide

Reporting Period	Number of Provider Contracts for Child Welfare POF	Number of ECM Enrollees in Child Welfare POF
Q3 2023	228	263
Q4 2023	297	1,212

ECM Enrollees in Child Welfare POF by County

- **18 counties** reported enrollment in ECM for the Child Welfare POF.
- **40 counties** reported either 0 enrollees or under 11 enrollees in this POF*

County	ECM Enrollees in Child Welfare POF
Santa Cruz	220
Sacramento	176
Monterey	106
Kern	97
Alameda	82
Merced	82
San Diego	68
Contra Costa	65
San Joaquin	45

* DHCS suppresses data values under 11.

ECM Enrollees in Child Welfare POF by County

County *	ECM Enrollees in Child Welfare POF
Los Angeles	15
Riverside	16
San Bernardino	24
San Diego	68
Orange	<11

* This chart includes the five counties with the largest populations of children and youth.

ECM Implementation Issues

- Enrollment barriers and delays
- ECM provider experience and competency, particularly with respect to populations with unique and complex needs
- Quality of service and coordination issues

Resources

Health Consumer Alliance

- **The Health Consumer Alliance (HCA)** is a network of legal service organizations that provide free legal assistance to health consumers across California, in all languages and regardless of income level.
- The HCA helps individuals and families get the health care services they need, while working to identify and address systemic health care issues impacting Californians.
- Learn more: <https://healthconsumer.org/>



Consumer Hotline: 888-804-3536

TTY: 877-735-2929

NHeLP Resources

- [An Advocate's Guide to Medi-Cal Services](#) (Dec. 2022)
- **FAQ:** [Medi-Cal Managed Care Enrollment for Foster Youth](#) (Jan. 2024)
- **Factsheet:** [Medi-Cal Enhanced Care Management for Children and Youth](#) (Jan. 2024)
- **Webinar Recording:** [Medi-Cal Enhanced Care Management for Children and Youth](#) (Feb. 2024)
- **New Listserv:** [Foster Youth Health Access California \(FYHA CA\)](#)



Thank you!

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