

# MEDI-CAL SUPPORTS CALIFORNIA CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS

**FIGHT  
FOR OUR  
HEALTH**

**55.5%**

of California's children are enrolled in Medical

**5.3  
MILLION**

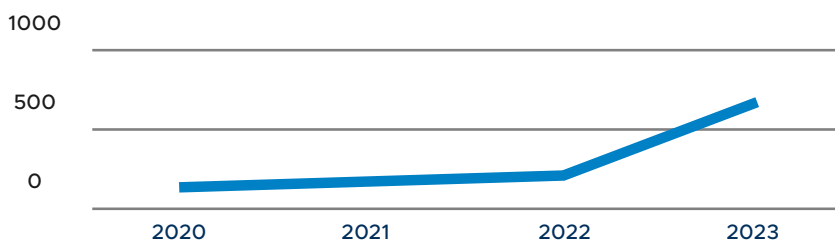
kids are enrolled in services through Medi-Cal

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.



## Medicaid Funding for CA Schools

(IN MILLIONS)



SOURCE: 2020 - 2023 reports: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/financial-management/state-expenditure-reporting-for-medicaid-chip/expenditure-reports-mbescbes/index.html>.

Children are also receiving Medi-Cal funded health and mental health services at school. This supports their access to care and improves school outcomes. In 2023, **Medi-Cal provided over \$620 million in funding to California schools**. This is significant growth from 2020 and is expected to continue to grow because of new policy initiatives responding to the increased recognition of the need for school-based health and mental health services.



**Medi-Cal pays for schools to provide a comprehensive set of services to students, including:** audiology, counseling, health and mental health evaluation, medical transportation, nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, psychology, speech therapy, and targeted case management.

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

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.**

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/dataandstats/statistics/Documents/Preliminary-Medi-Cal-Legislative-Districts-Ages0-19-July2024.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://behavioralhealth-data.dhcs.ca.gov/pages/children-and-youth-mhs-ab470>

<sup>5</sup> <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32863441/>