# Research Review



# Studies Find Uninsured Gap has Narrowed in California; 94% of Californians Now Have Coverage

# wo recent studies have delivered good news for the Golden State:

California is closer than ever to reaching universal health care coverage, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

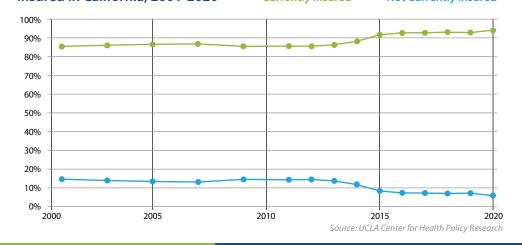
The University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Center for Health Policy Research

found that 94% of Californians were insured in 2020, which is a record high for the state since the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) began surveying the topic in 2001. The report, citing the latest CHIS data, shows that California's health care system and health plans have

played a key role in the effort to close the uninsured gap in the state.

The report notes that state actions taken to provide flexibility in the Medi-Cal program, for example, helped retain enrollees and allow greater ease of access to health care.

# Percentage of Total California Population Currently Insured vs. Not Currently Insured in California, 2001-2020 • Currently Insured • Not Currently Insured



## "

With record-high rates of health insurance,
California has a window of opportunity to achieve universal health care coverage.

~UCLA Center for Health Policy Research

A recent California Health Care Foundation (CHCF) analysis also found that health insurance enrollment in California grew by over 1 million in 2020 in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic and recession.

California's health plans are part of the solution in continuing to close the uninsured gap in the state.

#### Here are some key excerpts from the CHCF analysis:

The year 2020 finished with

### 1.1 MILLION MORE

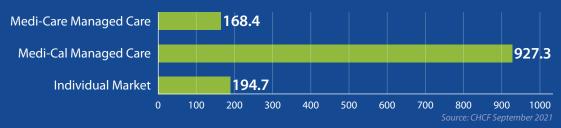
California health insurance enrollees than 2019...

...The impressive 2020

### **ENROLLMENT GAINS**

were driven mainly by growth in Medi-Cal managed care...

#### Health Coverage Enrollment Gains 2020 (in thousands)



Source: CHCF analysis

Source: UCLA Center for Health Policy Research

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