

California and the United States: Structural Comparisons in Health Reform

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As lawmakers continue to forge a unified comprehensive health reform bill, it is important to consider the unique aspects of California when assessing the impact of reform legislation. Below is a matrix comparing California to the nation as a whole in terms of demographics, the economy, and trends in public programs.

Summary of major differences:

- California has an advantage in terms of health expenditure growth (5.7% to 6.7%) that may be beneficial in terms of affordability in reform
- Higher enrollment in Medicaid (29% to 20%) and comparatively lower spending per beneficiary (\$2,740 to \$4,575) may be beneficial for program affordability in Medicaid expansion
- Comparatively lower percentage of Medicaid Managed Care enrollment (50.8% to 64.1%) may show better-than-expected results in reform if managed care components of program can be expanded
- Larger percentage of temporary workers (6.0% to 4.0%) will require new model for coverage and financing
- Low rate in Medicaid physician reimbursements (83% of average) will have impacts on state match if reimbursement rate is increased in reform, though may improve access for beneficiaries
- Higher Medicare Advantage Plan penetration (34% to 22.5%) may result in higher savings through proposed reimbursement decreases under reform
- Higher hospital expenditure per inpatient day (\$2,250 to \$1,696) may result in greater savings through reform measures to reduce hospital readmissions in Medicare



	California	The United States
Unemployment Rate, 7/09	11.9%	9.4%
% Uninsured	18.5%	15.3%
% Uninsured 19-64	24.1%	19.7%
Median Annual Income	\$55,864	\$49,901
% Under 100% FPL	18.5%	17.2%
% Under 200% FPL	39.1%	35.8%
% of Childless Adults in Poverty	17%	15%
Metropolitan Poverty Rate	19%	17%

	California	United States
Non-metro Poverty Rate	15%	19%
% Non-Citizens	16%	7%
Unionized Employees	17.8%	13.3%
Temporary Workers	6.0%	4.1%
% Firms offering coverage	56.9%	55.8%
Average Annual Growth in Health Expenditure	5.7%	6.7%
Health Spending per Capita (2004)	\$4,638	\$5,283
Medicaid Enrollment as % of Population	29%	20%

	California	The United States
Medicaid threshold for Jobless Parents	100%	41%
Medicaid threshold for working parents	106%	68%
Medicaid Managed Care Enrollment, % of Medicaid	50.8%	64.1%
Medicaid Physician Fee Index	.83	1.00
Medicaid Payment per Enrollee	\$2,740	\$4,575
Hospital Cost per Inpatient Day	\$2,250	\$1,696
Medicare Advantage Plan Penetration	34.0%	22.5%

Source: Kaiser State Health Facts at www.statehealthfacts.org, 2006-2009