COVID PHE Unwinding: Preventing Coverage Disruptions

Alicia Emanuel October 25, 2022







NATIONAL HEALTH LAW PROGRAM

National public interest law firm working to advance access to quality health care and protect the legal rights of low-income and underserved people.

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Projected Enrollment Impact of PHE Unwinding

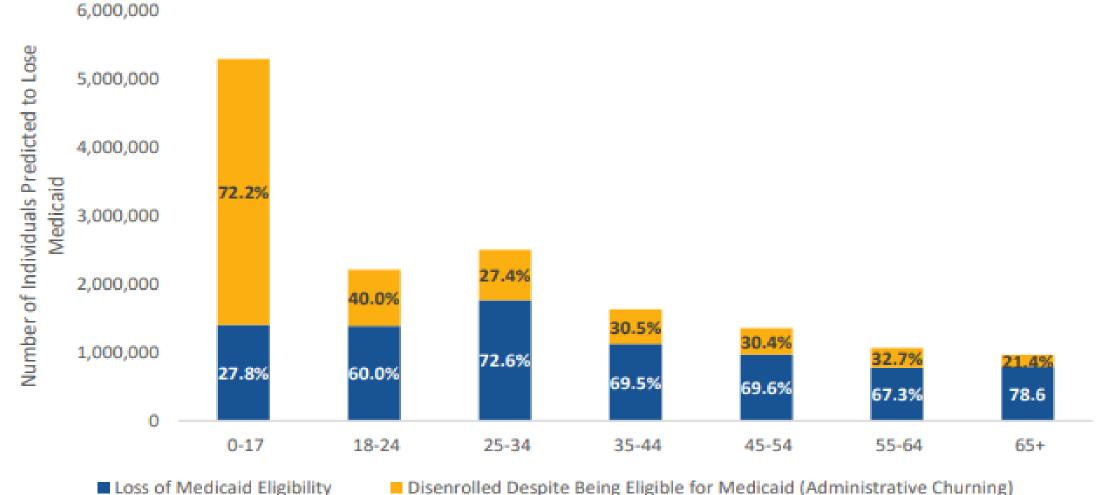


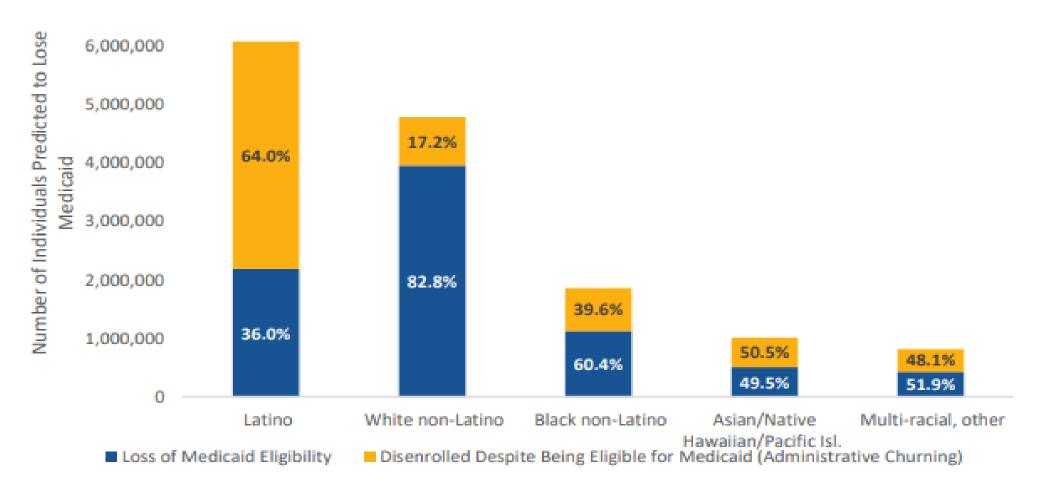
Figure 3. Predicted Medicaid Coverage Loss Due to Eligibility Loss versus Administrative Churning, by Age

Disenrolled Despite Being Eligible for Medicaid (Administrative Churning)

Source: The HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and **Evaluation (ASPE)**

Figure 4. Predicted Medicaid Coverage Loss Due to Eligibility Loss versus Administrative Churning, by Race and Ethnicity

7,000,000



Source: The HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE)

Action You Can Take Now

What Can You Do Now?

- Sign-up to be a DHCS <u>Coverage Ambassador</u>!
- Remind beneficiaries they have Medi-Cal now
- Advise beneficiaries to update their contact information
 - Mailing address, phone number, email, etc.
- Help beneficiaries report changes
 - Even if beneficiaries can't turn in paperwork, call the county!
 - Create an online account
- Contact your county to collaborate on their County COVID-19 PHE Unwinding Readiness Plan

What Can You Do When the COVID-19 PHE Ends?

- Advise beneficiaries to watch their mail
 - Yellow renewal envelopes!
- Connect beneficiaries with individuals who can help them:
 - Get back on Medi-Cal
 - Transition to other coverage (*i.e.* Covered California)
 - Understand their rights
- Continue to educate your communities & lift up issues/concerns



Available Assistance

- Health Consumer Alliance 888-804-3536
 - <u>https://healthconsumer.org/</u>
 - Free legal assistance to help people who are struggling to get or maintain health coverage & resolve problems with their health plans
- Navigators/Enrollment Assisters
 - <u>https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-</u> cal/eligibility/Pages/NavigatorsProject.aspx

Keep Building a Network of Helpers

- Who can help inform Medi-Cal beneficiaries about the PHE unwinding & steps to take once it ends?
 - Advocates
 - Community-based organizations
 - Family-led organizations
 - Promotoras/community health workers
 - Physicians & clinics
 - Pharmacists
 - Schools
 - Faith-based organizations
 - Managed Care Plans

Resources

- NHeLP COVID-19 PHE Unwinding Medicaid Eligibility Page
 - <u>https://healthlaw.org/covid-19-public-health-emergency-unwinding-medicaid-eligibility/</u>
- NHeLP Unwinding the COVID-19 PHE: Checklist for Redeterminations
 - <u>https://healthlaw.org/resource/unwinding-the-covid-19-public-health-emergency-checklist-for-redeterminations/</u>
- Health Consumer Alliance 1-888-804-3536 (free legal assistance)
- Georgetown CCF 50-State Unwinding Tracker
 - <u>https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2022/09/06/state-unwinding-tracker/</u>
- DHCS COVID-19 PHE Unwinding Resources
 - <u>https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/toolkits/Pages/PHE-Outreach-Toolkit.aspx</u>
- DHCS Medi-Cal COVID-19 PHE Operational Unwinding Plan
 - https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Documents/PHE-UOP/Medi-Cal-COVID-19-PHE-Unwinding-Plan.pdf

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