

## **An Updated Look at Medi-Cal Enhanced Care Management (ECM) for Children and Youth October 2024**

This summary document provides an overview of ECM enrollment data specifically for children and youth, and this update includes data about the Children & Youth Populations of Focus (POFs) for the second time since those POFs launched on July 1, 2023. This report reflects data from the period of Q4 2024 (October 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023) and changes from the inaugural period of Q3 2023 (July 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023).

### ***General Data on ECM Enrollment for Children and Youth***

- There were 12,077 unique members under the age of 21 enrolled in Enhanced Care Management (ECM) in Q4 2023; meaning that children and youth under 21 represented 12.54% of ECM members (of the 96,269 total individuals enrolled in ECM in Q4).
- Three percent of ECM enrollees were between the ages of 0-5, 3% were between the ages of 6-11, and 5% were between the ages of 12-20, meaning that 11% total were under the age of 20. However, ECM enrollees under the age of 20 make up 39% of all Managed Care Plan (MCP) members. Conversely, adults are overrepresented in ECM enrollment— 90% of ECM members were ages 21+, while they comprise 61% of the general MCP population.
- Data on ECM enrollment race and ethnicity is not disaggregated for children and youth, but among all ECM enrollees, there was overrepresentation of White and Black or African American ECM members as compared to the overall MCP population demographics.
- During the initial implementation of ECM for children and youth (from Q3 2024 to Q4 2024), the number of children and youth roughly doubled (from 6,339 to 12,077). At the same time, the ECM provider network for children and youth grew by only 4% (from 1,304 unique provider contracts to 1,357). As a result, provider-to-enrollee ratios decreased across all children and youth POFs, and statewide decreased from a ratio of 1 provider to 5 enrollees to a ratio of 1 provider to 7 enrollees.
- Not all POFs grew equally; the child welfare POF saw the largest percent growth in enrollment (360%), and children and youth experiencing homelessness POF saw the smallest percent growth in enrollment (72%). In terms of total number of children, the at-risk for avoidable ED visit POF grew the most (by 2,289 children), and the children and youth transitioning from incarceration grew the least (by 22 children).

### ***Data on ECM Enrollment for Children and Youth by County***

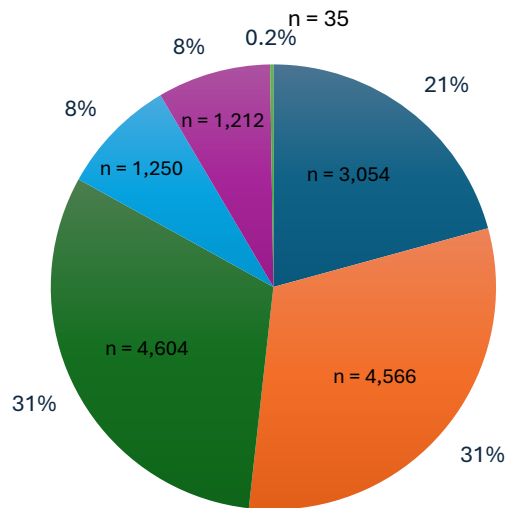
Note: Children and youth can qualify for multiple POFs, which is the discrepancy between the unique member count (N=12,077) and the numbers used in the remainder of this report (N=14,721). Total data by county is slightly lower (N=14,143) because of suppressed data in counties where there are fewer than 11 children enrolled.

- San Diego had the highest total enrollment of all ECM enrollees under 21, with 31% of all children and youth ECM enrollees across the State (4,392 out of 14,143). The majority (63%) of San Diego County Community Health Plan youth ECM enrollees were receiving ECM for behavioral health and/or substance use disorder treatment needs (1,959 out of 3,974).
- Kern County had the second highest total enrollment of all ECM enrollees under 21, with 10% of all children and youth ECM enrollees across the State (1,474 out of 14,143).
- Los Angeles County had the third highest total enrollment of all ECM enrollees under 21, with 10% of all children and youth ECM enrollees across the State (1,444 out of 14,143).
- San Bernardino County had the fourth highest total enrollment of all ECM enrollees under 21, with 7% of all children and youth ECM enrollees across the State (965 out of 14,143)
- Santa Cruz County had the fifth highest total enrollment of all ECM enrollees under 21, with 7% of all children and youth ECM enrollees across the State (935 out of 14,143).

### ***Data on ECM Enrollment for Children and Youth by POF***

- As shown in the figure below, roughly one-third of children enrolled in ECM were eligible because of their serious mental health and/or substance use disorder (SUD) needs, followed by roughly another third who were at risk for avoidable hospital or ED utilization. The children and youth POFs with the lowest enrollment were for children and youth enrolled in CCS with additional needs, children in child welfare, and children and youth who were transitioning from incarceration. \*Note: Children and youth can qualify for multiple POFs, which is reflected in the report—a unique member may be counted for multiple POFs in this figure below (N=14,721).
- There were 23 counties that had zero children enrolled in the CCS POF in Q4 2023 (Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Inyo, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Mariposa, Mendocino, Modoc, Nevada, Plumas, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Sierra, Siskiyou, Trinity, Tuolumne, Ventura Counties).

## Percentage of Children and Youth Enrolled in Each POF



### Change in Enrollment from Q3

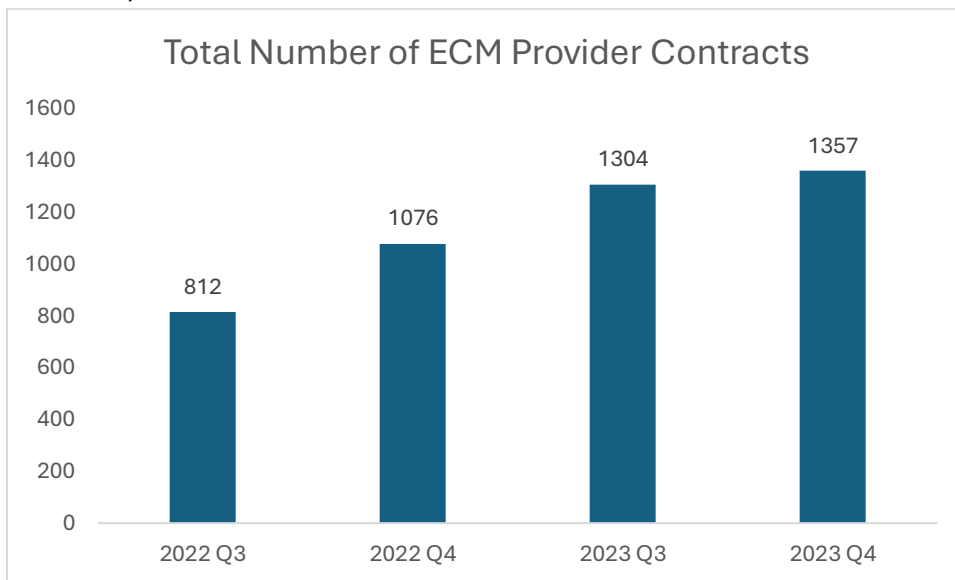
Children and Youth POF	Children Enrolled (Q3)	Children Enrolled (Q4)	Growth (number of children and youth)	Percent Change
Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness	1,775	3,054	1,279	72.1
Children and Youth at Risk for Avoidable ED	2,277	4,566	2,289	100.5
Children and Youth with BH/SUD Needs	2,525	4,604	2,079	82.3
Children and Youth Enrolled in CCS	501	1,250	749	149.5
Children and Youth Involved in Child Welfare	263	1,212	949	360.8
Children and Youth Transitioning from Incarceration	13	35	22	169.2
<b>Statewide Total</b>	<b>7,354</b>	<b>14,721</b>	<b>7,367</b>	<b>100.2</b>

**Penetration Rate Data on ECM Enrollment for Children and Youth POFs by County and MCP**

- Counties with the highest penetration of ECM enrollment for members under 21 are (i.e., what percentage of MCP members under 21 were enrolled in ECM): San Diego, with 1.2% penetration rate; Santa Cruz, with 1.16% penetration rate; Kern, with 0.83% penetration rate; Contra Costa, with 0.79%; and San Benito with 0.71%. (Overall ECM enrollment penetration rates for all populations were as high as 2.35%).
- MCPs with the highest penetration of ECM enrollment for members under 21 are: Community Health Group in San Diego County (2.69%), Central California Alliance for Health in Santa Cruz County (1.16%), Kern Health Systems in Kern County (1.01%), Contra Costa Health Plan in Contra Costa County (0.89%), and Aetna Better Health of California in San Diego County (0.74%).

**Data on ECM Providers Serving Enrolled Children and Youth POFs**

- Overall, ECM provider contracts reached an all-time high in Q4, with 1,357 unique provider contracts, inclusive of children and adult POFs.



- The table below summarizes the total statewide number of ECM provider contracts specifically by children and youth POF, the number of children enrolled in ECM by POF, and the approximate provider-to-enrollee ratios, with the caveat that both providers and enrollees may be counted under multiple POFs.
- Note: a provider contract may include multiple POFs and would be counted in these charts for each POF they serve, hence the discrepancy in statewide unique provider contracts (1,357) and ECM provider contracts for all children and youth POFs (2,008),

**ECM Provider-to-Enrollee Ratios, Statewide Aggregate for Children and Youth POFs**

Children and Youth POF	ECM Provider Contracts (Q4 2023)	Children Enrolled (Q4 2023)	Approximate Provider-to-Enrollee Ratio (Q4 2023)	Approximate Provider-to-Enrollee Ratio (Q3 2023)
Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness	452	3,054	1:7	1:5
Children and Youth at Risk for Avoidable ED	415	4,566	1:11	1:7
Children and Youth with BH/SUD Needs	373	4,604	1:12	1:8
Children and Youth Enrolled in CCS	309	1,250	1:4	1:3
Children and Youth Involved in Child Welfare	297	1,212	1:4	1:1
Children and Youth Transitioning from Incarceration	162	35	5:1	9:1
<b>Statewide Total</b>	<b>2,008</b>	<b>14,721</b>	<b>1:7</b>	<b>1:5</b>