



**Reinstating Medi-Cal Quarterly Status Reports (QSRs)
for adults and children:
Well over half a million individuals could lose coverage statewide**

At present, families must “report” eligibility information to Medi-Cal once a year for children (under the “Continuing Eligibility for Children”, or CEC, program), and every six months for most adults. The Governor’s budget proposal, however, would require reports every three months (i.e., quarterly) for children as well as adults.

California has used QSRs in the past, and they are a proven nightmare, resulting in *eligible* children and adults losing their Medi-Cal coverage simply because they can’t keep up with all the paper work. QSRs also drain funds away from health coverage into unnecessary administrative paper-chasing by the counties.

How many adults and kids would lose coverage?

- **122,000 is the most conservative estimate:** The state Legislative Analyst’s estimate is **122,000 individuals statewide**, a big number raising concern in and of itself. But the actual number is likely to be much higher.
- **162,000 likely according to the state in the 2008-9 budget year alone:** State Department of Health Care Services’ (DHCS) savings of \$92 million for 2008-9 is based on the assumption that **nearly 162,000 individuals -- including 157,000 children --** would lose Medi-Cal by June 30, 2009 if QSRs are reinstated. DHCS expects that even more people will drop off after that.
- **Up to 632,000 likely based on actual drop off rates in California:** About **20%** of children lost their Medi-Cal when California used QSRs in 1997 (The Lewin Group, May 1999).
 - Today, there are about 1.96 million children plus 1.2 million adults in the Medi-Cal programs to which the QSR proposal would apply.
 - The 20% Medi-Cal drop off rate in 1997 unfortunately suggests that **392,000 children plus 240,000 adults**, or 632,000 individuals, could become uninsured if QSRs are reinstated. While some of these people will find their way back onto Medi-Cal, the administrative costs to the state and counties for reapplying will be significant, and families will have missed necessary preventive and other medical care, or even become saddled with bankrupting medical debt in the meantime.
- **About 40% of these cuts will be in Los Angeles:** About 40% of people with Medi-Cal reside in L.A., so the impacts in the county will be hard especially hard felt and the loss of federal and state health care funding for the county system impossible to fully absorb.

Impacts on Disabled People and Pregnant Women. The Governor’s proposal would exempt from QSRs adults and children on CalWORKs or SSI, people with share-of-cost Medi-Cal, and pregnant women in a “pregnancy-only” Medi-Cal aid code.

But other pregnant women and disabled adults and children would be subject to QSRs. These are individuals with *income below poverty* who are in Medi-Cal programs that are not “coded” to specifically identify them as pregnant or disabled. Unless these individuals know how to identify themselves to the system as pregnant or disabled and are able to work through the bureaucracy, they will be among those falling through the QSRs cracks to uninsurance.