

Health Advocacy Project – Los Angeles County

Improving Health Coverage Retention for Latino Children in Los Angeles County

About the HAP-LA

- Created in 2013 to identify why children lose their Medi-Cal coverage during renewal period and process.
- Seeks solutions to retain uninterrupted Medi-Cal coverage and medical care for children.
- Goal is to create policies that will reduce loss of public health coverage among children.
- A Promotor led project working in Service Planning Areas (SPAs 2, 4, 6, 7, 8) conducted in 3 phases.

Project Overview

Three Phases

- Phase I Training of Promotores and Community Health Workers on the health system and public health coverage programs, as well as educating parents on coverage options.
- Phase II Research and analysis
- Phase III Development of policy recommendations.

Addressing the Issue

- Stat on enrollment/loss coverage here
- Going to the source completing:
 - 7 focus groups
 - 7 stakeholder interviews
 - 600 parent surveys
- Utilizing Promotores' existing role in the community to help reduce the loss of coverage through county policy recommendations.



Questions Being Explored

- Reasons why children lose coverage.
- Effective messaging
- Issues, trends, barriers affecting enrollment of Latino families.
- Existing challenges
- What current efforts exist to retain children.
- New trends in health coverage (Covered CA, Medi-Cal expansion, etc.)

Key Informant Interviews

- Why Children Lose Coverage:
- 1. Confusion around application and enrollment process.
- 2. Hard to understand applications and redetermination forms.
- 3. Parents don't always realize children have lost coverage until its too late.
- 4. Unopened mail.
- 5. Limited language accessibility.

Key Informant Interviews

- Messages About Health Insurance
- 1. Education still needed to shift to a "culture of coverage"
- 2. Mistrust, misinformation and confusion about Covered California and Medi-Cal.
- 3. Simple messages about enrollment that emphasize the importance of family health.
- 4. Inclusive messaging that is welcomes everyone in the family into the enrollment process.
- 5. Trusted, informed messengers are most trusted to deliver information on coverage options.

Key Informant Interviews

- Enrollment & Redetermination
- 1. Particular challenges for mixed status families.
- Eligibility for parents increases likelihood of whole family being covered.
- 3. Outreach and Enrollment staff must be sensitive to applicants.
- 4. Face to face contact most effective with Latino community.
- 5. Complexity of renewal process and reporting requirements continue to be burdensome.

Recommendations



- Increased in-person application assistance.
- Establish neighborhood-based centers with trained and knowledgeable staff to assist parents –when parents are available.
- Decrease eligibility workers caseload and improve efficiency of county offices.
- Improve cultural competency and customer service of workers.
- Improve ease of re-enrollment process.

Questions?

