

## Maternal and Child Health Access



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### Monthly Virtual Meeting

Thursday, January 18, 2024 - 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

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#### Where?

This is a virtual meeting



**10:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

After you register, look for the Zoom link in your registration confirmation email

#### Speaker/Topic:

Linda Nguy  
Associate Director of Policy  
Advocacy  
Western Center on Law and Poverty  
California's State Budget Proposal -  
what's ahead?

Health4All in 2024!! - What is  
happening with new enrollees?

Updates

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**January is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month** - Organizations to know about include: [Freedom United](#), [Free the Slaves](#), [Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking \(LA-based\)](#)

**CELEBRATE 2024!!**  
**GOOD THINGS AHEAD – GOOD THINGS IN STORE!**

**Medi-Cal regardless of immigration status – for everyone!**

Full-Scope Medi-Cal regardless of immigration status for ages 26-49 opened up on January 1. Don't let that age range confuse people – 0-25 and 50 and over are already eligible for full scope Medi-Cal! An income requirement still exists; people must have income below 138% of poverty.

The amount of income allowed for Medi-Cal is raised for Cost of Living Adjustments every January, but it takes a while to update the eligibility systems. Thus, someone could apply now and be rejected, when in fact, they are "just over" or will be included once the income limits are raised! Liz Ramirez reminds that the county will have to go back and re-evaluate everyone rejected for certain MAGI and other aid codes by around the end of this month. So let your clients know and "flag" them if they are just slightly over-income, then use the new charts out by the end of this month (ask us or look online!) and see if they should qualify for MC.

### **Kaiser Community Health Plan – Kaiser steps up!!**

For children and adults truly above the Medi-Cal limits, Kaiser Community Health Plan (KCHP) [English](#) & [Spanish](#) is open for enrollment until Jan. 31 ONLY. After Open Enrollment, you may be able to enroll with a valid reason. KCHP is an option for individuals (adults and children) over the Medi-Cal income limit and up to 300% of the Federal Poverty Level who are not eligible for or offered other health insurance, such as an employer plan. The program is FREE and there are no deductibles. Enrollment is through their website, but since it is a little tricky but [assistance is available from community organizations](#) who can enroll during a three-month pilot. Not listed are Long Beach City Health Department and Venice Family Clinic! MCHA, Worksite Wellness, St. Louise and Rising Communities can help. You can refer clients to any of us.

### **No More Asset Test for Medi-Cal**

Starting January 1, 2024, assets (resources) will no longer be counted to determine eligibility! Assets are things you own, which can be counted for Medi-Cal eligibility. These items include bank accounts, cash, second vehicles and homes, jewelry, yachts, and other financial resources. Please note that [information online](#) often refers to the dropping of the asset test with Non-MAGI eligibility – for Aged, Blind and Disabled, Working Disabled and other specific programs. That's because MAGI eligibility – up to 138% of poverty for adults – does not have an asset limit. So all that remained with an asset limit was the non-MAGI Medi-Cal. Programs.

### **Notes from Monthly Meeting November 16, 2023 ([website](#))**

**Guest Speaker: Adriana Diaz, MPH, Vaccines During Pregnancy  
Senior Health Program Analyst, Prenatal and Pediatric Immunization Units  
Lead, Vaccine Preventable Disease Control Program  
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health**

Ms. Diaz gave an excellent comprehensive review of vaccines during pregnancy and what is happening with Respiratory Syncytial Virus vaccine for infants and during pregnancy. We were provided with excellent resources and strategies for building vaccine confidence with clients and patients. Like many, MCHA has seen a great deal of vaccine resistance among pregnant people AND their providers.

When a pregnant person receives a vaccine during pregnancy, the vaccine can protect both the pregnant person and their baby from preventable diseases. Vaccines teach the person's body to recognize harmful viruses or bacteria and create special antibodies to keep them and their baby healthy. When a vaccine is received during pregnancy, some of the mother's antibodies are passed along to the baby before birth. These antibodies provide the baby with protection against severe illness during the first few months of life. Vaccination during pregnancy is the best way to protect newborns from serious illness, especially since they can't get their own vaccines yet, and vaccines are safe during pregnancy for pregnant people and their babies. The vaccines for pregnant people include Tdap for pertussis, or whooping cough, flu vaccine, COVID-19 vaccine, RSV vaccine and HepB vaccine. Tdap and RSV have timing restrictions, so it is important to know when they are provided; flu and COVID and HepB can be provided at any time during pregnancy.

RSV is a very contagious respiratory virus that can cause cold-like symptoms in some, but can cause pneumonia and severe disease in others. RSV is a common cause of lower respiratory tract infection in infants. Most (68%) infants are infected in the first year of life and nearly all (97%) by age 2 years. It is the leading cause of hospitalization in U.S. infants. Two to three percent of young infants will be hospitalized for RSV. The highest RSV hospitalization rates occur in first months of life and risk declines with increasing age in early childhood. Although medical conditions are associated with increased risk of severe disease, 79% of children hospitalized with RSV aged less than two years had NO underlying medical conditions.

January is an extremely important month for RSV vaccines for pregnancy 32-36 weeks – there is a shortage of infant vaccine supply and immunization during pregnancy may be the best way to ensure newborns are covered. DPH advises - If a practice does not carry or has insufficient supplies of any vaccine, refer patients elsewhere in the community when feasible and to use a “presumptive approach” – assuming and talking to patients as if they WILL be getting vaccinated instead of a “participatory” approach. Motivational interviewing comes into play: “What is your main concern?” “It’s clear you’ve really looked into this” “That’s a great question. I heard that too so I looked into it”. “Can I share some facts?” OR “Can I get you some credible sources so your research helps you make an informed decision?”

Additional information about all the vaccines during pregnancy, resources, and addressing vaccine hesitancy or refusal are included in the information posted on our website under Monthly Meetings for November, 2023. DPH has an inventory of **printed 1-page information sheets** on [Vaccines for Pregnant Persons](#). If your organization would like to receive printed copies to share with community members and community partners, please notify us.

If you have any questions or have any feedback to share regarding maternal immunization, please reach out to us anytime by emailing [BLeggis@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:BLeggis@ph.lacounty.gov). We look forward to hearing from you soon!

**Make sure people get “full breadth” Medi-Cal during pregnancy and for the year after!**

**Note: we run this every month because we still see so many problems with post-pregnancy Medi-Cal/MCAP coverage. Even though most undocumented pregnant people will be in full-scope Medi-Cal as of Jan. 1, 2024, those with income 138% and over will not! Between 138-212 undocumented still get assigned to aid codes that may make the provider think “lesser” scope. But all pregnancy coverage is “Full Breadth” which is DHCS’s term for Full Scope!!**

On May 18, 2023, about one year after implementation of ARPA postpartum coverage (April, 2022), DHCS issued the strongest language yet about coverage postpartum:

- It is for the “full breadth” of medically necessary services;
- There is no difference between “full breadth” and “full scope”;
- Coverage lasts for 365 days post-pregnancy;
- Coverage is regardless of immigration status;
- The 365 days coverage is regardless of how the pregnancy ends: “(for example live birth, stillbirth, miscarriage or termination)”

Please see the [DHCS Reminder Publication](#)

Please contact MCHA (213-749-4261 or [info@mchaccess.org](mailto:info@mchaccess.org)) should you have questions, or if you are trying to help a post-pregnancy client who has been denied services, or is being billed, or if you are a clinic or other provider whose bills for post-pregnancy care have been rejected, please call MCHA as well: 213-749-4261.

[Published July 31, 2023](#)

Note: The guidance in this article supersedes the previous Aid Code Master Chart (aid codes) published June 16, 2023.

Under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Postpartum Care Extension, pregnant Medi-Cal beneficiaries in restricted scope aid codes are eligible to receive the “full breadth of medically necessary services” as long as the service is a covered benefit of Medi-Cal.

The description for full breadth of medically necessary programs was updated due to an increase in denial of vision services. For providers that have vision services claims that were denied, please send denied claims to [Pregnancy@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:Pregnancy@dhcs.ca.gov).

**Please let us know if you are having difficulty with Medi-Cal’s post-pregnancy care for someone**

## **New Since Last Meeting**

**January: Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month –**

Thanks to Protecting Immigrant Families!

Immigrants are often targeted by human traffickers because they may be less confident reporting crimes and excluded from the health and social services that improve resilience against abuse. This January, please share with your networks the [immigration benefits](#) and [health and social services](#) available to trafficking survivors. And please to remind your congressional delegation that cosponsoring the LIFT the BAR Act ([House](#) / [Senate](#)), the WISE Act ([House](#)), and the HEAL Act ([House](#) / [Senate](#)) is an important step they can take this January to fight human trafficking.

## MIHA Data Briefs

### Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Division is excited to announce the release of a data brief series describing the well-being of Californians who gave birth in Spring 2020, early in the COVID-19 pandemic, using Maternal and Infant Health Assessment (MIHA) survey data. Each brief focuses on a secondary or indirect impact of the pandemic, including job and income loss, food insecurity and housing instability, and mental health, on birthing individuals and their families.

Visit the MIHA COVID-19 data brief series webpage to read the data briefs and supplements.

[Read the data briefs](#) – the data briefs cover COVID impacts such as food insecurity and housing instability, income and job loss and childcare issues, and mental health during and after pregnancy during the pandemic.

To learn more about MIHA visit the [MIHA website](#).

## 2023 Covered California Health Plan Performance Report

Covered California's recently published [2023 Health Plan Performance Report](#) shows how health insurance issuers' plans performed over previous years in regards to disparities reduction, cost reduction, and quality improvement. This 2023 report is the second report and generally includes performance measures from plan years 2020 and 2021. Please note, however, that some individual measures may include additional years for purposes of trending or fewer years if there are specific data quality restrictions. Measure results released each year will be available on a rolling basis as they are finalized. All measure results here have met Covered California's criteria for public reporting, including:

- All data has been assessed for validity, reliability, and completeness.
- All data is displayed as plan-specific whenever the data is not proprietary, plan-level reporting would add value, and plan performance comparisons are methodologically sound.
- Data sources are cited (see Data Sources [here](#)) and non-standard measures are documented.
- Covered California will defer to the applicable measure stewards to determine when year-over-year trending is appropriate for standard measures.

**All doors to Medi-Cal open for **real time** Accelerated Enrollment (AE) into MAGI Medi-Cal on **November 1!** State should also grant AE to applicants still stuck in the COVID-era backlog.**

**What is AE?** It provides temporary Full Scope coverage in real time when a person's application information shows they are eligible for MAGI (non-disability, non-aged) Medi-Cal. AE lasts until the county completes the final eligibility decision, even if that takes more than the 45-day limit. AE also frees up county time to process the small minority of applications that are not based on MAGI. AE is provided under Medi-Cal eligibility aid code 8E. All immigrants, regardless of status, and pregnant adults who are

waiting for a final eligibility decision also go into 8E for Full Scope under AE when their application information shows they are eligible for any MAGI category

AE expands to applications submitted directly to the county: Starting November 1, MAGI-eligible individuals applying for Medi-Cal directly to the county using BenefitsCal or by mail, phone, fax or in person will also be granted AE. [MEDIL I 23-45](#); [ACWDL 22-24](#).

See full MCHA Bulletin [here](#)

### **NIH Studies Cannabis use in pregnancy may impair placental function, suggests NIH-funded study**

Compared to pregnant people who tested negative for cannabis use during pregnancy, pregnant people who tested positive had a 27% higher risk for disorders associated with poor functioning of the placenta, including hypertensive disorders of pregnancy or having an infant born small for gestational age, suggests a study funded by the National Institutes of Health.

Read the [full Science Update](#)

### **NIH-funded study finds no link between preconception COVID-19 vaccination and miscarriage risk**

A study funded by the National Institutes of Health has found that among more than 1,800 women planning a pregnancy, those who received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine before getting pregnant were no more likely to miscarry than those who were unvaccinated. Similarly, no increased miscarriage risk was found among roughly 1,500 couples whether the male partner was vaccinated before trying to conceive. The findings provide useful information on vaccination safety for couples planning pregnancy.

Read the [full Science Update](#)

### **[Public Health Approaches to Perinatal Substance Use – a Maternal and Child Health Journal special issue](#)**

The [Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs](#) (AMCHP) and the [Association of State and Territorial Health Officials](#) (ASTHO) unveiled its [special issue on perinatal substance use](#) within the *Maternal and Child Health Journal*. **Here is the link to the [event recording and transcript](#) and the event [handouts](#).**

They invite you to keep the conversation going on social media by using AMCHP's [social media toolkit](#).

## **RESOURCES**

### **Free COVID tests**

[COVID.gov - Free at-home COVID-19 tests](#)

Every U.S. household is eligible to order 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests.

[www.covid.gov](http://www.covid.gov)

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### **Rapid Response Senior Meals Program (RRSMP) Sign-Up Sheet**

The RRSMP offers (5) home-delivered meals weekly to individuals 60+ who reside in the **City of Los Angeles**, prioritizing those with the most significant economic and social needs.

Please note that we cannot accommodate special diets and restrictions at this time.

Before you begin the application, please verify that you live within the City of LA by using the following link to confirm your address: [City of Los Angeles Neighborhood Info Link](#). If your address is not found, you do not live within the City of LA and therefore do not qualify for the RRSMP with the Dept. of Aging.

After verifying your address, [please complete this form](#) to sign up for the program.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, you can call us at (213) 202-5669 or email us at [seniormealprogram@lacity.org](mailto:seniormealprogram@lacity.org).

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### **Electronic Theft – CalFresh, CalWorks – Here in English, Spanish, Armenian, Vietnamese, and Chinese – see zip folder**

**See article last month about EBT theft and the new app, “Edge”**

CDSS language services has completed all of the translations for PUB 525 (11/23) – Protect Yourself From Electronic Theft By Downloading the ebtEDGE Mobile Application Today.

Here is the [link to the multiple languages](#):

Once the language is selected, the viewer locates and selects PUB 525 and clicks on the link to open the PDF.

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## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **Coalition for Economic Survival Tenants’ Rights Clinic Every Saturday at 10 AM PT**

Via Zoom

- Individual, one-on-one counseling
- Registration required no later than 5 PM on Friday
- Serving renters in the entire Southern California area
- Accommodations for Spanish and Russian speakers provided
- **Request a registration link via email at** [helpinglarenters@gmail.com](mailto:helpinglarenters@gmail.com)

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### **Jan 27 – April 27 (depending on location): Rise, Reclaim, Restore Youth Mental Health Summit!**

These youth mental health summits are part of Office of Violence Prevention’s initiative to increase access to mental health support and resources as part of the Gun Violence Prevention Platform. Summit participants will learn to recognize common mental health challenges, identify and develop healthy coping strategies and support networks, and participate in a community resource and activity fair with local mental health partners.

Youth will also engage in mindfulness practices, and leave with mental health guides, workbooks, and tools.

We are asking that you register the young people in your life and share information about these events with your colleagues, friends, and youth-serving partners.

As we approach these summits, there are a few areas where we could use your help:

1. Register Youth and Spread the Word: We hope to have at least 200 youth at each of the five summits. We can only reach this ambitious goal with your support. Please register middle and high school youth for the summits and use our comprehensive [Rise, Reclaim, Restore Community Outreach Toolkit](#) to share about each summit with youth, caregivers, and mentors.

2. Table at the Resource Fair: Each summit will conclude with a community resource fair, during which youth will complete a series of short activities to earn a gift card. For more information and to put in a request to table, click [here](#).

3. Share your Resource Information: Some of you may not have the opportunity to table at every summit. As an alternative, we invite you to share your organization's services and contact information with us to be shared at the summit. Click [here](#) to submit your information.

Registration for a summit near you is now open! [TINYURL.COM/LACYOUTHSUMMITS](https://tinyurl.com/lacyouthsummits)

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### **Job opportunities available!**

MCHA is an Equal Opportunity Employer; women and people of color are strongly encouraged to apply.

- [Finance Associate – Full Time](#)
- [Health Care/Practical Support Navigator – Women's Health](#)
- [Parent Coach – Bilingual English & Spanish](#)
- [Health Programs and Benefits Trainer](#)
- [Social-Digital Media Consultant](#)
- [IT Support Technician](#)
- [Volunteering](#)

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## **Maternal and Child Health Access**

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