

## Maternal and Child Health Access



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### Monthly Virtual Meeting

Thursday, October 20, 2022 - 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:

Speakers on the health-related ballot measures and city housing measures for November:

Will Barrett, National Senior Director|Advocacy, Clean Air American Lung Association  
Prop 30 - Funding for programs to reduce air pollution and prevent wildfires by increasing tax on personal income over \$2 million

TBD - Prop 31 - Flavored Tobacco Products Ban Referendum

Kath Rogers, Staff Atty, ACLU of Southern CA  
Los Angeles City Measure ULA - Funding Affordable Housing and Tenant Assistance through Property Transfer Tax and More!

Updates - Legislation passed and signed!

**Updates** - Health and Social Services - bills, administrative changes and more!

**Public Health Emergency Extended through January 11, 2023! Governor ends PHE in CA Feb. 28, 2023**

In response to continued impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, on October 13, 2022, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) extended the national Public Health Emergency (PHE). This extension will last for the duration of the PHE or up to an additional 90 days, through January 11, 2023. The State Department of Health Care Services has committed that they will not end Medi-Cal for 60 days past this day, or mid-March for April effective date.

With the Governor's announcement this week of a Feb. 28 end date, advocates will be verifying that Medi-Cal terminations do not take effect for 60 days, i.e., for an effective May 1 date. Please help clients stay on Medi-Cal or transition well to Covered CA if they can. The Governor's office has produced the "SMARTER" plan to guide protection from COVID-19, and you can read the October update [here](#).

**Remember** - States that administer Medicaid (Medi-Cal in California) and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), cannot terminate a beneficiary's enrollment during the PHE unless they move out of state, become deceased, or the beneficiary requests a voluntary termination of eligibility from their local county social services. Covered California has produced a guide: [Medi-Cal Reminders and When to Contact County Social Services Guide](#) with information that certified enrollers can use when assisting Medi-Cal beneficiaries who may be eligible for and wish to enroll into a Covered California plan.

**The Automatic Enrollment Program (also known as Senate Bill 260) authorizes Covered California to enroll consumers in a qualified health plan** automatically when they lose Medi-Cal coverage and their income has increased to gain eligibility for advanced premium tax credits (APTC). This program will be activated at the end of the national COVID-19 PHE. Covered CA's [Auto Enrollment Program Toolkit](#) contains important program information, resources, and support materials.

Remember, however:

- the newly eligible populations of undocumented young (0-26) and older adults (50 and older) are not eligible for Covered CA. If their income has increased, they will lose coverage.
- Young people over 26 currently on Medi-Cal because of the PHE will be allowed to stay on Medi-Cal until the transition in 2024 for 26-49 year olds. NOW IS THE TIME to get young people on Medi-Cal if they are reaching that 26<sup>th</sup> birthday!!!!

## Notes from Monthly Meeting Sep. 15, 2022 ([website](#))

**Guest speaker: Faith Raider and Lisa Feuchtbaum**  
**Communication and Education Unit**  
**Newborn & Prenatal Screening Program Genetic Disease**  
**Screening Program**  
**California Department of Public Health**

Faith Raider and Dr. Feuchtbaum brought us up to date with implementation of California's Prenatal Screening Program scheduled for that following Monday, Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>!! . California's is the largest screening program in the world and California is one of the few states that has such a program. Newborn screening is required for all newborns, but pregnancy screening is voluntary and thus, even more education may be necessary to ensure pregnant individuals utilize it. The screening and follow-up services must be covered by Medi-Cal and private insurance, except where health plans are out of state or insurers are self-insured. The California Prenatal Screening Program offers two screenings to be done in the first and second semester of pregnancy. Those who choose to participate will provide two blood samples for the two types of prenatal screening. Both screenings are recommended since they screen for different birth defects. These are the two screenings:

1. Cell-free DNA (cfDNA) screening; and
2. Maternal serum alpha-fetoprotein (MSAFP) screening

These two screen for:

- Down syndrome (trisomy 21);
- Trisomy 18;
- Trisomy 13; and
- Neural tube defects, like spina bifida.

We spent some time on the difference between screening and diagnostic testing, which can be confusing or tragically misunderstood when someone has not gotten proper counseling or guidance and has perhaps made the decision from a screen to not follow up with testing. The state program works against that to encourage screening, provide in-depth counseling of results and the best follow up to make informed decisions. Screening checks the fetus for increased chances of having certain birth defects, but testing is needed to find out if the screening was right.

About three-quarters of pregnant individuals opt for screening. We can work to close the gap with the other 25% of people not being screened. A huge array of educational materials are now available in English, Spanish and Simplified Chinese, including videos - at the [Prenatal Screening Program website](#)

### **New since last meeting:**

Millions of Americans are losing access to maternal care.  
Here's what can be done

Thanks to the **March of Dimes** for this excellent [report](#), “Nowhere to Go: Maternity Care Deserts Across the US”. finding that 36% of counties in the US are “maternity care deserts” meaning they have NO obstetric care hospitals or birth centers and no obstetric providers. Four or five of those are in California, with several additional counties with low or moderate access to care. [Read more here](#)

## Suicide During and After Pregnancy an Urgent Concern

Screening for suicide risk in pregnant and postpartum patients can enhance prevention efforts

Over the past decade, nearly 9% of women of childbearing age (15 to 44) who died by suicide were pregnant or recently postpartum, according to a recent study. More complete screening, referral, and treatment processes are vital to prevention efforts. Mental health conditions and substance use disorders were common preceding circumstances.

Study authors analyzed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) [National Violent Death Reporting System](#) (NVDRS), a national database that collects data on violent deaths including homicides and suicides from all 50 states. They found that from 2008 to 2019, 640 individuals who were either pregnant or had recently given birth died by suicide. Notably, the authors indicated that the number is likely an underestimate given the limitations of the data.

[Read more here](#)

## October,2022 Medi-Cal Dental Bulletin Highlights Pregnancy Coverage During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

Medi-Cal members in pregnancy-related, limited, and restricted scope aid codes continue to keep eligibility for non-pregnancy-related services beyond the end of their postpartum period during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE). Providers are recommended to continue providing members in pregnancy-related aid codes with any medically necessary service throughout the PHE. [Read more](#). and access flyers for pregnant members here in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)

## Maternity Care C-Section Honor Roll, 2022

The [Maternity Care \(C-Section\) Honor Roll 2022 data visualization](#) gives an overview of the 211 hospitals that offer maternity services in California. The visualization identifies 108 hospitals named to the 2022 Maternity Care Honor Roll **that have reduced Cesarean (C-section) birth rates to 23.6% or lower for first-time mothers**

with **low-risk pregnancies**. Of these 108 hospitals, 75 achieved each of the last three years, and 32 have achieved Honor Roll status seven years running.

## California Health and Human Services Releases Public Charge Guide in 21 Languages!!

The updated public charge guide provides current information regarding federal changes to “public charge” determinations and the use of public benefits. The main message is: **"Immigrants can now access health care, food and housing support, and many more public benefits without fear of immigration consequences."** You can find the full list of guides by language below:

View [California's updated Public Charge Guide](#), available in the following languages:

- [Arabic](#)
- [Armenian](#)
- [Chinese](#)
- [English](#)
- [Farsi](#)
- [Hindi](#)
- [Hmong](#)
- [Japanese](#)
- [Khmer](#)
- [Korean](#)
- [Lao](#)
- [Mien](#)
- [Pashto](#)
- [Portuguese](#)
- [Punjabi](#)
- [Russian](#)
- [Spanish](#)
- [Tagalog](#)
- [Thai](#)
- [Ukrainian](#)
- [Vietnamese](#)

## California Health Report: Wildfire Smoke Is Hurting Pregnant People And Babies. Can California Cities Protect Them?

The legacy of redlining in Fresno isn't just linked to housing access. It also has deadly effects on air quality and preterm birth.

People living in substandard housing, a problem tied to redlining, are more likely to be exposed to wildfire smoke. This exposure can hurt pregnant people and the children they carry. Read more about the effect of smoke and heat on pregnancy [here](#):

## WIC Families Get More Fruits and Veggies Through Dec. 2022!

President Biden signed a short-term continuing resolution extending the [increased fruit and vegetable benefits](#) through December, 2022. This continued investment builds nutrition security for low-income families facing rising food costs. Families will receive:

- \$25 each month for children ages 1-4
- \$44 each month for pregnant and postpartum participants
- \$49 each month for breastfeeding/chestfeeding postpartum participants

Families can buy fresh, dried, canned and frozen fruits and vegetables in any brand, type or combination with their WIC Fruits and Vegetables benefits. Organic fruits and vegetables are included.

**Connect families to WIC! #StartWithWIC**

Text **APPLY** to **91997** or visit [phfewic.org/apply](https://phfewic.org/apply)

## SAVE THE DATE

**Monday Nov. 7, 4-6 PM In person at UCLA –Panel and Reception - Criminalizing Reproduction Before and After Dobbs – Royce Hall Rm. 314 (panel)**  
**RSVP ONLINE by Monday Oct. 31, 2022. [Download the event flyer](#)**

The Child Care Resource Center has an [infant massage class](#) starting TOMORROW, October 19 - It is a 5-week series and folks do need to register ahead of time to secure their spot. Families can use the link below to register:

<https://ccrc2.jotform.com/212575767137060>

Thank you for helping to spread the word!

## RESOURCES

New Report Out Today! “Delivering Clean Air”

The American Lung Association released a new report today titled, “[Delivering Clean Air: Health Benefits of Zero-Emission Trucks and Electricity](#).” This report focuses attention on air pollution impacts and highlight equity challenges posed by heavy-duty truck traffic and the health benefits of zero-emission technologies in communities with major trucking routes. This report builds off of our recent “Zeroing In on Healthy Air” report to illustrate the potential health benefits if all new medium- and heavy-duty vehicles sold in the United States are zero-emission by 2040 and all electricity generation is non-combustion by 2035.

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## Maternal and Child Health Access

1111 W. 6th St., Ste. 400

Los Angeles, CA 90017

213 749 4261 phone

213 745 1040 fax

[www.mchaccess.org](http://www.mchaccess.org)

[info@mchaccess.org](mailto:info@mchaccess.org)



Maternal and Child Health Access | 1111 W. 6th St., Fourth Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017

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