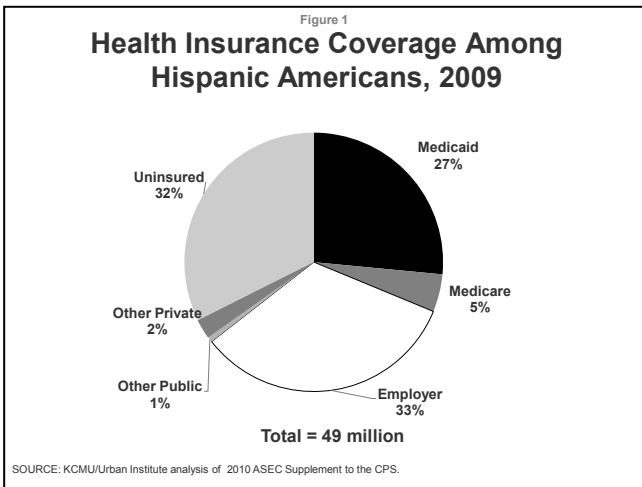


May 2011

Medicaid's Role for Hispanic Americans

Medicaid is a major source of health insurance coverage for Hispanic Americans.

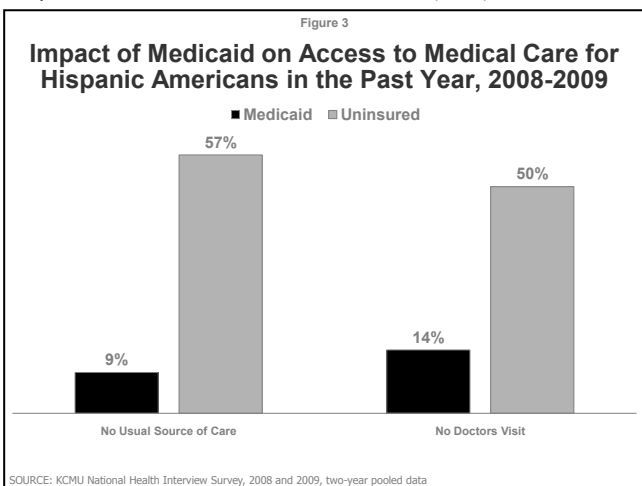
In 2009, 27% of Hispanic Americans—13 million people, including 9 million children—were covered by Medicaid, compared to 33% covered by employer-based coverage and 5% covered by Medicare (see Figure 1). In contrast, 11% of non-Hispanic white Americans were covered by Medicaid. Hispanic Americans account for 1 in 4 Medicaid enrollees.



Medicaid enables Hispanic Americans to access medical care.

Lack of health insurance is a major barrier to care for Hispanic Americans. In 2008 and 2009, more than half of uninsured Hispanic Americans did not have a usual source of health care in the past year (57%), as compared to 9% of Hispanic Americans enrolled in Medicaid (see Figure 2)

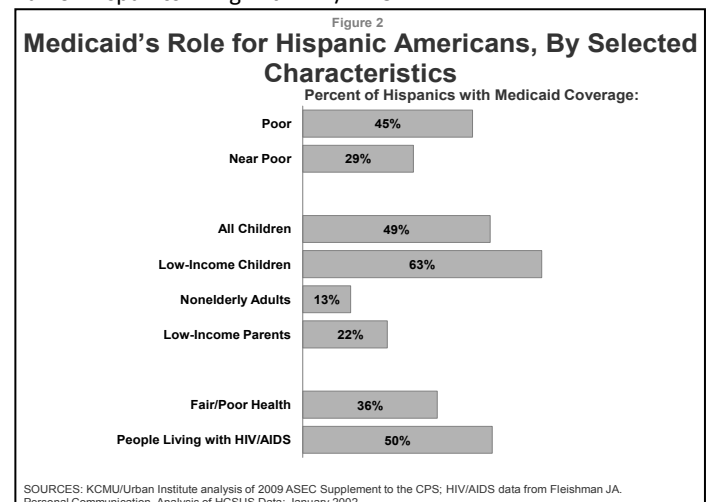
Approximately three times more uninsured Hispanic Americans went without a doctor visit in the past year (50%) than did Hispanic Americans enrolled in Medicaid (14%).



Medicaid plays a particularly important role among Hispanic Americans who are low-income, children, or in poor health.

In 2009, Medicaid covered 45% of poor Hispanic Americans, or those living below the poverty line (\$22,050 for a family of four in 2009), and 29% of near-poor, or those with incomes above poverty but below twice the poverty line (see Figure 3). Medicaid covered nearly half of all Hispanic children in the United States and 63% of low-income Hispanic children.

Medicaid is an important source of coverage for many Hispanic Americans with substantial health services needs. Medicaid covered over a third (36%) of Hispanics in fair or poor health and half of Hispanics living with HIV/AIDS.



Medicaid provided crucial support to Hispanic Americans during the economic recession.

Hispanic Americans have been disproportionately negatively affected by the economic recession, with 38% reporting that they lost a job as a result of the economic downturn.¹ Because health insurance is often tied to people's jobs, many also lose health coverage when they lose their jobs. As people's incomes fall due to unemployment, Medicaid enrollment expands to meet growing need. Between 2007 and 2009, Medicaid enrollment among nonelderly Hispanic Americans increased 4 percentage points, covering an additional 2.5 million people.

Medicaid will serve as a key building block to extending health insurance to Hispanic Americans.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) expands Medicaid eligibility to include most individuals with incomes up to 133% FPL, including men and childless adults. This expansion extends eligibility to nearly 8 million Hispanic Americans.²

¹ Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted June 1-8, 2009)

² Kaiser Family Foundation. 2010. *Health Reform and Communities of Color: Implications for Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*. (#8016-02; September).

Health Insurance Coverage of Hispanic Americans
by State, 2007-2009

	Population		Percent Distribution of Hispanic American Population by Coverage Type			
	Hispanic Population (thousands)	Hispanic Population as Percent of Total Population	Medicaid	Other Public*	Private	Uninsured
United States	47,391	15.8%	24.5%	5.4%	38.4%	31.8%
Alabama	148	3.2%	---	---	42.6%	37.7%
Alaska	28	4.2%	17.4%	14.9%	47.6%	20.2%
Arizona	2,024	31.3%	27.5%	5.0%	35.9%	31.6%
Arkansas	140	5.0%	23.7%	---	36.2%	37.8%
California	13,862	38.0%	26.7%	4.2%	39.7%	29.4%
Colorado	908	18.5%	20.7%	5.9%	40.8%	32.6%
Connecticut	385	11.1%	32.8%	7.3%	35.5%	24.4%
Delaware	57	6.6%	25.2%	---	35.2%	36.9%
District of Columbia	60	10.2%	24.8%	4.6%	39.6%	30.9%
Florida	3,755	20.7%	14.3%	9.5%	42.2%	34.0%
Georgia	786	8.3%	17.7%	3.5%	33.0%	45.8%
Hawaii	90	7.3%	19.9%	11.7%	59.1%	9.3%
Idaho	149	9.8%	23.1%	---	40.4%	33.8%
Illinois	1,720	13.5%	23.8%	4.1%	46.2%	26.0%
Indiana	311	4.9%	25.7%	---	43.3%	25.8%
Iowa	162	5.4%	27.6%	---	43.7%	26.5%
Kansas	228	8.4%	23.4%	4.8%	38.3%	33.5%
Kentucky	116	2.7%	28.0%	---	23.1%	46.3%
Louisiana	132	3.1%	---	---	40.8%	39.2%
Maine	17	1.3%	30.4%	---	44.3%	16.6%
Maryland	431	7.7%	10.7%	4.0%	42.6%	42.8%
Massachusetts	500	7.7%	54.0%	---	35.2%	8.5%
Michigan	353	3.6%	25.4%	8.5%	45.9%	20.3%
Minnesota	206	4.0%	22.0%	---	47.0%	28.9%
Mississippi	76	2.7%	---	---	38.7%	45.3%
Missouri	179	3.1%	25.1%	---	38.1%	31.2%
Montana	25	2.6%	---	---	45.0%	23.9%
Nebraska	148	8.4%	23.9%	5.7%	42.1%	28.3%
Nevada	602	23.3%	13.4%	3.9%	50.8%	31.9%
New Hampshire	30	2.3%	20.0%	---	46.3%	29.7%
New Jersey	1,550	18.1%	21.1%	4.6%	41.5%	32.8%
New Mexico	825	42.1%	23.6%	10.9%	39.9%	25.6%
New York	3,234	16.9%	37.4%	5.5%	33.7%	23.4%
North Carolina	623	6.8%	20.1%	---	27.2%	50.0%
North Dakota	9	1.4%	43.4%	---	33.1%	---
Ohio	296	2.6%	25.6%	---	39.9%	28.1%
Oklahoma	275	7.7%	26.5%	8.3%	32.7%	32.6%
Oregon	383	10.1%	26.1%	---	30.4%	41.4%
Pennsylvania	633	5.2%	34.1%	---	42.8%	19.2%
Rhode Island	119	11.4%	40.3%	---	32.0%	24.8%
South Carolina	117	2.6%	---	---	34.5%	48.0%
South Dakota	20	2.5%	19.2%	---	41.9%	32.1%
Tennessee	258	4.2%	20.0%	---	32.8%	40.8%
Texas	9,657	40.0%	22.1%	6.1%	34.0%	37.8%
Utah	306	11.2%	13.6%	---	50.7%	32.1%
Vermont	7	1.2%	---	---	60.1%	---
Virginia	486	6.4%	10.3%	6.6%	45.1%	38.0%
Washington	572	8.8%	27.5%	4.7%	35.6%	32.2%
West Virginia	19	1.1%	---	---	---	---
Wisconsin	334	6.0%	31.6%	---	42.7%	23.1%
Wyoming	40	7.6%	15.5%	10.0%	49.6%	25.0%

* Other Public include other public insurance (mostly Medicare and military-related). The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is included in Medicaid.

--- Sample size not sufficient for reliable estimate

SOURCE: Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and Uninsured analysis, Current Population Survey, 2008-2010 Supplement, three-year pooled data

This publication (#8189) is available on the Kaiser Family Foundation's website at www.kff.org.

The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured provides information and analysis on health care coverage and access for the low-income population, with a special focus on Medicaid's role and coverage of the uninsured. Begun in 1991 and based in the Kaiser Family Foundation's Washington, DC office, the Commission is the largest operating program of the Foundation. The Commission's work is conducted by Foundation staff under the guidance of a bipartisan group of national leaders and experts in health care and public policy.