



COVERED CALIFORNIA

Media Clips

COVERED CALIFORNIA BOARD CLIPS

Mar. 2, 2023 – April 13, 2023

Since our last board meeting, the media coverage includes:

- The Affordable Care Act turns 13.
- Biden Administration announces plan to expand ACA access to DACA recipients.

PRESS RELEASES

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Articles of Significance

[California’s Massive Medicaid Program Works for Some, but Fails Many Others, California Healthline](#)..... Mar. 2, 2023

[After a pandemic pause, the state will restart checking Medi-Cal eligibility, CalMatters](#)..... Mar. 3, 2023

[California to cut ties with Walgreens over abortion pill sales, Newsom says, Washington Post](#)..... Mar. 6 2023

[Editorial: Newsom’s Walgreens abortion edict fuels confusion, San Jose Mercury News](#)..... Mar. 8, 2023

[Patients are likely to avoid preventive care should ACA coverage ruling stand, survey finds, Fierce Healthcare](#)..... Mar. 8, 2023

[Walgreens pushes back on California contract cancellation over abortion pill plans, San Jose Mercury News](#)..... Mar. 9, 2023

[Over 1.7 million individuals signed up for Covered California during open enrollment process](#), State of Reform Mar. 10, 2023

[The Affordable Care Act has significantly reduced racial disparities in health care access, report says](#), CBS News Mar. 19, 2023

[Biden marks anniversary of Obamacare law that 'changed America'](#), Yahoo!..... Mar. 23, 2023

Also: [Washington Post](#) and [ABC News](#) and [U.S. News & World Report](#)

[Obamacare at 13: Biden and a KHN Reporter Remember](#), Kaiser Health News..... Mar. 24, 2023

[Hospitals complain problems persist a year after L.A. Care was hit with record fines](#), Los Angeles Times..... Mar. 26, 2023

[The Impact of Health Insurance on Poverty in California](#), Public Policy Institute of California Mar. 28, 2023

[How Xavier Becerra went from working construction in Sacramento to launching Obamacare](#), Sacramento Bee..... Mar. 29, 2023

[Obamacare Keeps Winning](#), New York Times Mar. 29, 2023

[Federal Judge Strikes Down Obamacare Requirement for Free Preventive Care](#), New York Times..... Mar. 30, 2023

Also: [NBC News](#) and [Forbes](#) and [CNN](#) and [NPR](#) and [Politico](#) and [Huff Post](#)

[Medi-Cal will soon end some people's benefits. What this means for you](#), Los Angeles Times Mar. 31, 2023

[Personalized Letters And Emails Increased Marketplace Enrollment Among Households Eligible For Zero-Premium Plans](#), Health Affairs..... April 3, 2023

[Gov. Newsom Wanted California to Cut Ties With Walgreens. Then Federal Law Got in the Way.](#), California Healthline..... April 6, 2023

[Health Leaders Celebrate Affordable Care Act Anniversary](#), Escalon Times April 11, 2023

Also: [Riverbank News](#)

[Biden says he's expanding some migrants' health care access](#), Associated Press April 13, 2023

Also: [Washington Post](#) and [Reuters](#) and [CNN](#) and [USA Today](#)



News Release

Mar. 9, 2023

Covered California Finishes Open Enrollment With More Than 1.7 Million People Signed Up to Receive Quality Health Care Coverage

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Covered California announced that 263,320 people had newly selected a health plan for 2023, continuing a trend of steady growth in recent years. The total is more than 14,000 higher than 2021's total, and 8,000 higher than last year's figure. In addition, more than 1.4 million Californians renewed their health insurance for 2023, bringing Covered California's overall enrollment to 1.74 million.

“Covered California is woven into the fabric of our health care system, providing quality coverage in every corner of the state and protecting more than 1.7 million Californians,” said Jessica Altman, executive director of Covered California. “The strength in these numbers is driven by the Inflation Reduction Act, which provides increased and expanded financial help, bringing the cost of coverage within reach for millions of Californians who need health insurance.”

Covered California's analysis shows that the total number of consumers selecting a plan for 2023 is 1,739,360, which reflects 1,476,040 consumers renewing their coverage and 263,320 consumers newly signing up for coverage during open enrollment.

	2021	2022	2023
New Enrollees	249,279	255,575	263,320
Renewing Consumers	1,376,267	1,521,867	1,476,040
Total	1,625,546	1,777,442	1,739,360

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“The strength and stability that Covered California has seen since the pandemic started are a testament to the work we do, and the fundamental belief that health care is a right and not a privilege,” Altman said. “Covered California is dedicated to increasing the number of people who have quality health insurance and reducing the state’s uninsured rate, which now sits at a record low.”

Since Covered California’s first open-enrollment period in 2013, federal data shows that California’s uninsured rate fell from 17.2 percent to a record low 7.0 percent in 2021, which is the largest percentage point drop for any state in the nation over this time period.

In addition, Covered California’s total enrollment has increased by 200,000 since the beginning of 2020, before the pandemic started.

Californians Can Still Enroll in Coverage

Covered California is also reminding Californians that they still have an opportunity to sign up for quality health insurance through Covered California’s special-enrollment period. As Covered California illustrates in its television ad, entitled “[Life Takes a Turn](#),” some of the most common reasons that someone would be eligible for special enrollment would be losing health coverage, getting married, having a baby, permanently moving to California or moving within California.

A full list of qualifying life events can be found [here](#).

Those interested in learning more about their coverage options can:

- Visit www.CoveredCA.com.
- [Get free and confidential in-person assistance](#), in a variety of languages, from a certified enroller.
- Have a certified enroller [call them](#) and help them for free.
- Call Covered California at (800) 300-1506.

Many Californians Can Get Comprehensive Coverage for \$10 or Less

Consumers who sign up will benefit from the lower costs available through the increased and expanded financial help provided by the Inflation Reduction Act. Right now, nine out of every 10 Covered California consumers now qualify for financial help, and more than two-thirds of consumers are able to get comprehensive coverage for less than \$10 a month.



News Release

Mar. 23, 2023

President Biden Invites Covered California and Health Leaders from Across the Nation to the White House to Celebrate the Affordable Care Act's Anniversary

WASHINGTON, DC — President Joe Biden invited Covered California's Executive Director Jessica Altman and other health leaders from across the country to the White House to celebrate the 13th anniversary of the enactment of the Affordable Care Act. The landmark law, which has helped provide quality health care coverage for more than 40 million Americans, represents the most significant improvement to our nation's health care system since the passage of Medicaid and Medicare more than five decades ago.

"All Americans deserve the peace of mind that if an illness strikes or an accident occurs you can get the care you need," President Biden said. "The Affordable Care Act has been law for 13 years; it has developed deep roots in this country and become a critical part of providing health care and saving lives."

California is among the states that have fully embraced and supported the landmark law by establishing Covered California and expanding the state's Medi-Cal Program. Taken together, those programs have helped reduce the state's uninsured rate from 17.2 percent in 2013 to a record-low 7.0 percent in 2021, the largest reduction of any state in the nation.

Since the enactment of the Affordable Care Act, 5.4 million people have received quality health insurance through Covered California. Right now, 1.74 million Californians are enrolled for the 2023 coverage year, and 330,000 of

13TH ANNIVERSARY Affordable Care Act

- 5.4 million Californians received health coverage
- 1.74 million enrolled for 2023
- 330,000 enrolled in supplemental dental plan
- 80,000 covered through Covered California for Small Business

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(more)

those people are also signed up for a supplemental dental insurance plan. An additional 80,000 people are enrolled in Covered California for Small Business.

“Covered California is proud to here alongside President Biden and so many others who have helped build on the tremendous progress that has been made through the Affordable Care Act over the past 13 years,” Altman said. “Happy anniversary, and we look forward to continuing to make a difference in the lives of Californians and those across the country by making health insurance more affordable and providing protection and peace of mind to more people than ever before.”

Coverage Is More Affordable Than Ever

Today, health insurance through Covered California and other Affordable Care Act marketplaces is more affordable than ever thanks to the recent passage of the Inflation Reduction Act. The law increased and expanded the amount of financial help available to those needing coverage. As a result, two out of every three Californians can get a comprehensive health insurance plan through Covered California for \$10 or less per month.

“While we are celebrating today, we know that there are more people out there who need health care, and it is never too late to check out your options on [CoveredCA.com](https://www.CoveredCA.com),” Altman said. “Many people can get name-brand coverage for less than the price of a movie ticket, thanks to the increased and expanded financial help that is available.”

Californians Can Still Enroll in Coverage

On this anniversary, Covered California is also reminding people that they may still be able to sign up for coverage during the current special-enrollment period if they have recently experienced a significant life event.

As Covered California illustrates in its television ad, entitled “[Life Takes a Turn](#),” some of the most common reasons that someone would be eligible for special enrollment would be losing health coverage, getting married, having a baby, permanently moving to California, or moving within California.

A full list of qualifying life events can be found [here](#).

Those interested in learning more about their coverage options can:

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- Call Covered California at (800) 300-1506.



News Release

April 13, 2023

Covered California Names Dr. Monica Soni as Its New Chief Medical Officer

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Covered California has appointed Monica Soni, MD, as its new chief medical officer. Dr. Soni comes to Covered California after serving as the associate chief medical officer at New Century Health. During her time at the organization, Dr. Soni played a critical role in clinical informatics, provider engagement, value-based strategies and innovation. She is also a board-certified internal medicine physician with more than a decade of experience in serving patients.

“Dr. Soni brings a powerful commitment to improving quality, equity and affordability in health care for the people we serve, and we are proud to have her join Covered California,” said Jessica Altman, executive director of Covered California. “She brings unique skills that are perfectly suited to Covered California’s mission to improve health care for all Californians.”

The move to Covered California will mark a return to public service. Prior to her work at New Century Health, Dr. Soni served as the director of Specialty Care for the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, the second-largest municipal health system in the United States. There she ensured the delivery of specialty care across four hospitals, 20 ambulatory care clinics, the correctional health system and more than 200 community partners.

Dr. Soni has also served as the director of Continuity Care for Martin Luther King, Jr. Outpatient Center, where she led primary care, urgent care and transitions of care. She is also a professor within the UCLA Department of Medicine, and at the Charles R. Drew University Department of Internal Medicine, where she is focused on residency diversification and pipeline development.



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“Dr. Soni embraces Covered California’s mission of making coverage more affordable and accessible, and her unique perspective will help us amplify our work around improving value, quality and outcomes, as well as reducing disparities,” said Dr. Mark Ghaly, the California Health and Human Services secretary and chair of the Covered California Board of Directors. “Throughout her career, Dr. Soni has dedicated herself to making a positive difference in the health and wellbeing of others, and we look forward to her continuing that work at Covered California.”

As Covered California’s chief medical officer, Dr. Soni will lead Covered California’s Health Equity and Quality Transformation division and be responsible for health equity, health care strategy, medical policy, medical management and other clinical operations to continuously improve not only the health services provided through Covered California’s contracted health plans, but also California’s delivery system. The chief medical officer is also responsible for ensuring that the health care strategy, tactics and resources are in place to successfully advance the mission of Covered California and help the agency improve the evolving health care landscape. In addition, Dr. Soni will join Covered California’s executive leadership team and report directly to Jessica Altman.

A graduate of Harvard College, Dr. Soni graduated cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in Anthropology. She received her medical degree from Harvard Medical School and completed her residency in internal medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. In addition, Dr. Soni was a fellow in the California Health Care Foundation Leadership Program. She is currently a board member for Mercy Housing California, a leading affordable housing organization, and previously served as a commissioner for the Los Angeles County Hospital and Health Care Delivery Commission.

Dr. Soni will be replacing Dr. Alice Hm Chen, who stepped down in November of 2022 after serving in the position since November of 2020. Dr. Soni will earn \$418,008 annually, effective May 15, 2023.