Media Clips

COVERED CALIFORNIA BOARD CLIPS

July 21, 2026 – September 2, 2026

Since our last board meeting, the media coverage includes:

- Covered California's health and dental rates and plans announcement for 2027.
- CalOptima Health's addition as a carrier in Orange County.
- Effects of reduced subsidies and policy changes on patients, hospitals, and California communities.
- Rising numbers of uninsured patients and the financial pressure placed on hospitals.
- Decline in ACA enrollment nationwide amidst rising costs.
- The federal government's claims of millions of fraudulent ACA and Medicaid enrollees.
- Work requirements and broader shifts affecting beneficiaries and healthcare access.
- California gubernatorial candidates' proposals in terms of healthcare ahead of the November election.
- Major parties continue to weigh affordability options, particularly around healthcare, ahead of midterm elections.

PRESS RELEASES

PRINT & BROADCAST

Articles of Significance

[Healthcare tops the Democrats' to-do list if they win control of the House in 2026]
NBC News……………………..September 2, 2026

[State Marketplace Network: Summer 2026 Enrollment Update]
State Marketplace Network..September 1, 2026

[How Obamacare changed healthcare]
Vox…………………...August 28, 2026

[California to penalize providers, insurers for overspending]
Modern Healthcare..August 27, 2026

[Covered California announces increase in rates for dental plans]
Action News Now…..August 25, 2026

[How to Enroll in Covered California If You Miss Open Enrollment]
CALWIRE………………..August 24, 2026

[U.S. Workers Are Paying More for Healthcare, and Next Year Will Be Worse]
The Washington Post..August 20, 2026

[Could California's Health Care Spending Benchmark Become A Global Budget?]
Health Affairs…..August 19, 2026

[As healthcare costs weigh on patients, states could play a bigger role, report finds]
Fierce Healthcare..August 18, 2026

[Federal Judge Mostly Rejects Blue State Suit Over 2025 ACA Rule]
Bloomberg…………………..August 17, 2026

[Understanding Health Coverage When Aging Out of Parent's Plan]
Precinct Reporter Group..August 14, 2026

[Premiums, out-of-pocket costs dominate Americans' healthcare concerns: survey]
Healthcare Drive………..August 14, 2026

[Becerra, Hilton offer promises on AI, gas prices, healthcare — and starkly contrasting views]
Los Angeles Times…..…...August 13, 2026

[California Prop 44 would force health clinics to spend 90% on patient care]
KCRA 3…………...….…...August 12, 2026

San Jose event highlights impact of federal health care cuts
NBC Bay Area……………...……..August 11, 2026

CMS tightens ACA broker access rules before open enrollment
Insurance Business…....…...…...August 10, 2026

How much and why premiums are going up for small businesses in 2027
KFF…………………………...……..August 7, 2026

Republicans Blocked Healthcare Subsidies—and Now More Americans Are Going Uninsured
The Nation…….………...……..August 7, 2026

Not All Change Is Good: Medicaid, Medicare Shifts Are Everyone's Problem
The Fulcrum……………...August 6, 2026

Insurers propose a median ACA rate hike of 15% for 2027: KFF
Fierce Healthcare……...August 6, 2026

Experts and government clash: controversy and concern over low Obamacare registration (translated).
La Opinión………...August 5, 2026

California nearly achieved universal healthcare. Now, millions are losing coverage
CalMatters………...August 4, 2026

Covered California CMO speaks on ACA marketplace enrollment drops
Healthcare Brew…...August 3, 2026

California ranks low for healthcare affordability, report finds
Stockton Record..…...August 3, 2026

Dr. Monica Soni Is Rewriting Healthcare Affordability To Put People First
HealthStack………...August 3, 2026

ACA Marketplace Take-Up Was High After Facilitated Enrollment In California; Disparities Remained
Health Affiars………...August 3, 2026

The Rising Number of Uninsured Patients Starts to Hit Hospitals Health
The Wall Street Journal……..July 31, 2026

Judge declines to block strict work rule for sick patients on Medicaid
POLITICO………...…...July 30, 2026

Trump admin puts Obamacare Marketplace agents on notice for possible violations
Fox Business…………………..July 30, 2026

[Uninsured Patients Rise Sharply, Hospitals Report, Citing Obamacare Cuts]
The New York Times…..…...July 30, 2026

[The health coverage crisis in Los Angeles is worsening (translated)]
La Opinión…………….…...July 30, 2026

[Covered California adds CalOptima Health to its offering, expanding its reach in Orange County (translated)]
Excelsior….…………..…...July 24, 2026

[Molina plans additional ACA cuts in 2027]
Healthcare Dive…..…...July 24, 2026

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COVERED CALIFORNIA **News Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 21, 2026

Covered California Rates and Plans for 2027: California Continues Fight for Health Insurance Affordability and Access

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Covered California announced its health plans and rates for the 2027 coverage year, with a preliminary weighted average rate increase of 9.9 percent and one new carrier entering the marketplace in 2027. Many enrollees can lessen the impact of increasing rates by shopping and switching to more affordable plans.

The proposed rate change can be attributed to many factors, including the increasing cost of health care and pharmacy expenditures alongside broader industry challenges. Additionally, actions taken by the federal government have driven up prices for consumers. Last year, federal lawmakers failed to extend enhanced federal tax credits that helped millions of Americans afford their monthly premiums. This year, the Trump administration cut eligibility for lawfully present immigrants, added administrative burdens to families applying for financial help and made it more difficult for gig workers who have to recalculate their income on an annual basis.

“The federal government and this administration have made it more difficult for hard-working Americans to access high-quality health insurance at a price they can actually afford,” said Covered California Executive Director Jessica Altman. “The fallout from these federal actions continues to reduce affordability and put health insurance out of reach for too many — something our state is fortunately counteracting.”

California is continuing to fight for affordability and health care access by adding more insurance options and expanding the state’s subsidy program that will help one in four enrollees reduce their monthly premium.

(Continued)

“Since Republicans have not been able to repeal the Affordable Care Act, this administration has instead tried to do all it can to weaken and spread misinformation about ACA marketplaces like Covered California. Unfortunately for them, it’s not working,” said Governor Gavin Newsom. “California continues to lead the way in providing vital access to affordable health insurance. Our original subsidy program was an inspiration for the enhanced premium tax credits nationally that expired at the end of last year, and our expanded state subsidy program shows a path forward to protect affordability for the most vulnerable Americans.”

Expanded State Subsidy Program Reaching More Californians and Supporting the Most Vulnerable

In 2026, Gov. Newsom and the California Legislature increased the amount of state funds available for the Covered California State Subsidy Program, appropriating $300 million in Health Care Affordability Reserve Fund (HCARF), up from $190 million. As a result, Californians with incomes up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level in 2027 ($31,920 for an individual or $66,000 for a family of four) will be eligible for financial help to lower the cost of monthly premiums.

While the state subsidy program is not enough to fill the gap left by the expiration of enhanced federal subsidies, more than 500,000 Californians are projected to receive a state subsidy in 2027, about 30 percent of all enrollees. Additionally, nearly 200,000 can choose from two Silver-tier plans with a $0 premium.

“Investing in the health of our residents is good for people. It’s also good policy,” said Governor Newsom. “The federal government has decided that health care affordability is not a priority, so California is stepping up once again to help families most in need across our state.”

Covered California estimates the state subsidy program will open financial help to an additional 200,000 Californians who weren’t eligible in 2026 and prevent 90,000 people from dropping coverage in 2027.

“When people have access to health insurance, they face less risk of financial hardship due to a medical issue, they miss fewer days of work, and they’re able to contribute more to their families and communities,” said Altman. “We’re grateful for Gov. Newsom and the California Legislature for passing these critical investments to help more Californians get connected to the coverage they need.”

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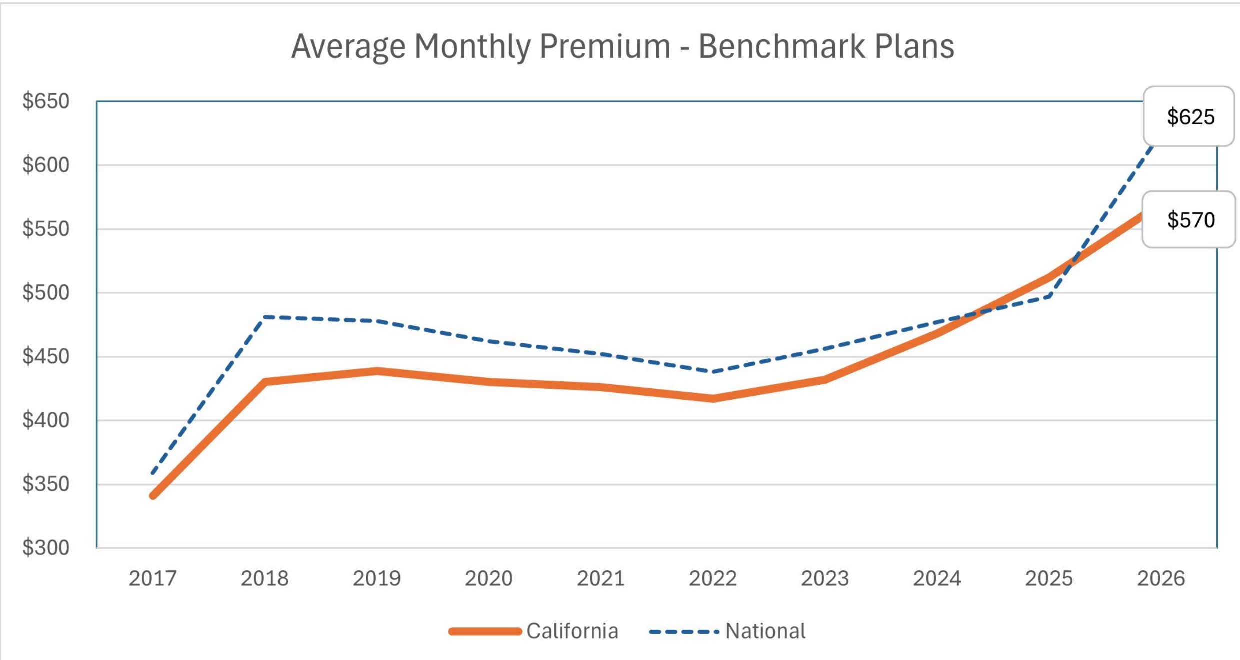
California’s Individual Market Changes for 2027

Despite ongoing federal rule changes that affect eligibility and affordability, Covered California maintains a strong marketplace, with 1,785,000 enrollees as of March 2026, and engages in active negotiations with health insurance companies to help keep Covered California one of the most affordable options for health insurance.
This has helped ensure that California’s rate increase of 9.9 percent is significantly lower than the preliminary national median rate increase of 14 percent. It’s also why for most of the past decade, the average cost for a benchmark plan in California has been lower than the national average.

Figure 1: Covered California’s Monthly Premiums Remain Under National Average[1]



[1]Source: KFF estimates of marketplace average monthly benchmark premiums. Note that California is included in the Nationwide average.

Covered California’s 9.9 percent increase for 2027 reflects an average of proposed rates across all health insurance companies that offer individual plans. As it does every year, actual rates can differ greatly by plan and region. They are subject to final review and public comment by California’s Department of Managed Health Care (see Table 1: Covered California Individual Market Rate Changes by Rating Region and Table 2: California Individual Market Rate Changes by Carrier). Final rates will take effect on Jan. 1, 2027.

[1] Source: KFF estimates of marketplace average monthly benchmark premiums. Note that California is included in the Nationwide average.

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Covered California Continues to Provide Affordability, Value
Despite rising premiums and declining enrollment across the country, Covered California has connected 1.785 million Californians to health insurance this year, the second highest mark in its history.

"It really shows the value of having a Covered California plan, that even when prices increase, people are choosing to keep or switch their health plans rather than lose insurance altogether," said Altman. "It's clear that once people get access to health insurance, they want to keep it, so it is critical that we continue to fight and find ways to make that access affordable for all Californians."

Despite a weighted average rate increase of 9.9 percent, most Covered California enrollees will be protected from higher monthly premiums. Thanks to existing federal tax credits and California's expanded subsidy program, 60 percent of enrollees will see no increase in their monthly premium, 26 percent will remain eligible for $0 premiums without changing plans, and many others may actually pay less each month.
Another way to reduce costs for consumers is to increase competition and options. In 2027, 12 health insurance carriers will offer plans across the state, ensuring that all Californians have access to two or more choices. Additionally, 92 percent will be able to choose from three carriers or more, and nearly 75 percent will have four or more carriers to choose from.

All of this works together to help make health insurance as affordable as possible for families across California:

- A couple in Los Angeles earning around $38,000 could get a Bronze plan with a $0 monthly premium.

- A family of four in Sacramento with an income around $82,000 could get a Silver plan for less than $580 a month.

- A family of three in Orange County earning around $41,000 a year could get a Silver plan for less than $240 a month.

Additionally, one new insurance company, CalOptima Health, is entering the marketplace in 2027 in Region 18 to serve Orange County, while Molina Healthcare will no longer offer marketplace plans in Regions 15 and 18. Molina's approximately 1,600 enrollees in these regions will be allowed to choose a new plan or move to the carrier with the lowest-cost plan in the same metal tier.

Covered California's commitment to affordability and access remains unwavering. Its proactive approach to negotiating rates, combined with state subsidies, showcases California's leadership in advancing the goals of the Affordable Care Act and protecting individuals and families during times of rapidly increasing costs of living.

(Continued)

Table 1: Covered California Individual Market Rate Changes by Rating Region

Rating Region	Total enrollment[i]	Avg. rate change	Shop and switch[ii]
Statewide Total	**1,785,900**	**9.9%**	**-0.2%**
Region 1 *Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Nevada, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne and Yuba counties*	57,920	10.1%	7.2%
Region 2 *Marin, Napa, Solano and Sonoma counties*	57,430	8.0%	0.5%
Region 3 *Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado and Yolo counties*	99,330	9.0%	4.4%
Region 4 *San Francisco County*	37,140	9.7%	0.9%
Region 5 *Contra Costa County*	54,880	8.3%	1.7%
Region 6 *Alameda County*	79,530	8.4%	2.9%
Region 7 *Santa Clara County*	76,750	11.3%	1.4%
Region 8 *San Mateo County*	30,970	8.8%	0.6%
Region 9 *Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties*	32,270	10.0%	-1.1%
Region 10 *San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Mariposa and Tulare counties*	90,150	10.8%	5.9%
Region 11 *Fresno, Kings and Madera counties*	48,980	11.8%	7.7%
Region 12 *San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties*	78,110	11.6%	2.7%
Region 13 *Mono, Inyo and Imperial counties*	12,740	14.9%	12.6%
Region 14 *Kern County*	27,470	11.4%	8.6%

Region 15 *Los Angeles County (northeast)*	244,070	8.5%	-4.0%
Region 16 *Los Angeles County (southwest)*	283,870	9.3%	-8.1%
Region 17 *San Bernardino and Riverside counties*	167,180	9.8%	0.8%
Region 18 *Orange County*	170,790	10.4%	-2.3%
Region 19 *San Diego County*	136,310	13.1%	2.8%

Table 2: California Individual Market Rate Changes by Carrier

Carrier	Weighted Average Rate Change
Anthem Blue Cross	13.0%
Blue Shield of California	12.5%
Balance by CCHP	14.6%
Health Net	13.2%
Inland Empire Health Plan	5.6%
Kaiser Permanente	6.7%
LA Care Health Plan	8.1%
Molina Healthcare	16.9%
Sharp Health Plan	12.3%
Valley Health Plan	20.4%
Western Health Advantage	9.6%
Overall	**9.9%**

i: Covered California's Active Member Profile, March 2026: https://hbex.coveredca.com/data-research/library/CC_Membership_Profile_2026_03_R20260702.xlsx

ii: Shop and switch refers to the average rate change consumers could see if they shop around and switch to the lowest-cost plan in their current metal tier.

(Continued)

Plan options and prices differ depending on the region. For plan information in your area, Covered California recommends comparing plans online on CoveredCA.com. After entering some basic information like your income and location, you can find out what plans are available in your area, what they cover, how much they cost, and what kinds of financial help and programs you may be eligible to receive.

Current Covered California enrollees can choose to renew or switch their plans beginning Oct. 1. You can review your options at any time on CoveredCA.com. Open enrollment, which is when anyone can sign up for a plan, runs for three months beginning Nov. 1 and ending Jan. 31, 2027.

About Covered California

Covered California is the state's health insurance marketplace, where Californians can find affordable, high-quality insurance from top insurance companies. Covered California is the only place where individuals who qualify can get financial assistance on a sliding scale to reduce premium costs. Consumers can then compare health insurance plans and choose the plan that works best for their health needs and budget. Depending on their income, some consumers may qualify for the low-cost or no-cost Medi-Cal program.

Covered California is an independent part of the state government whose job is to make the health insurance marketplace work for California's consumers. It is overseen by a five-member board appointed by the governor and the Legislature. For more information about Covered California, please visit CoveredCA.com.

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COVERED CALIFORNIA News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Aug. 25, 2026

Covered California Announces Premium Change for 2027 Dental Plans While Continuing to Deliver Affordable Coverage Options

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Covered California announced its dental plans and preliminary rates for the 2027 coverage year, with a statewide weighted average rate increase of 6.2 percent for plans offered through the marketplace in 2027.

The industry-wide rise in the cost of dental care, along with an increased use of services, contributed to the rate change. Enrollment in Covered California dental insurance remained steady at 370,500 enrollees as of March 2026, however, with enrollees paying an average of $27 per month. Since 2020, enrollment in dental plans through Covered has increased by 85 percent.

“We are proud to continue to offer a competitive marketplace that helps ensure affordable and equitable access for Californians seeking health and dental insurance,” said Covered California Executive Director Jessica Altman. “Even in this era of rising costs, Covered California is striving to offer the highest-quality dental plans for the best value.”

While dental insurance for children is included in Covered California’s standard health benefits, adults can purchase optional family dental plans as an add-on to their health plans. The family dental insurance is offered on a *guaranteed issue* basis, meaning it is available to anyone who wants it, regardless of any pre-existing oral health conditions.

In 2027, Covered California will offer eight dental plans from five insurers, including Anthem Blue Cross, Blue Shield of California, DentaQuest, Delta Dental of California and Humana Insurance Company.

After enrolling in a health plan, Californians may choose from dental health maintenance organization (DHMO) and dental preferred provider organization (DPPO) plans, giving consumers the possibility to shop for and select the plan that best fits their dental needs and budget.

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Table 1: Weighted Rate Change by Dental Plan for 2027

Dental Plan	Weighted Average Rate Change
Anthem DHMO	0.0%
Anthem DPPO	0.0%
Blue Shield DHMO	6.6%
Blue Shield DPPO	6.5%
DentaQuest DHMO	25.8%
Delta Dental DHMO	8.4%
Delta Dental DPPO	0.0%
Humana DPPO	7.7%

All dental plans obtained through Covered California will continue to include preventive and diagnostic dental care at no extra cost. All Covered California health plans include coverage for core pediatric dental services for members under the age of 19 without needing to purchase a separate dental plan. Adults can purchase family dental insurance as an add-on to their health plan.

"Good oral health is critical for overall wellness, and it can help maintain a healthy heart and lungs, manage and control diabetes, and even help increase the chances of positive pregnancy outcomes," said Dr. Monica Soni, chief medical officer for Covered California. "It also helps us eat without pain, speak clearly and smile with confidence. The equitable access to dental care that Covered California offers is crucial in addressing health disparities and achieving whole-person care."

The benefits and rates of Covered California's family dental plans can be found at https://www.coveredca.com/dental/adult-add-on/hmo/.

Covered California's Special-Enrollment Period

While the rate changes will not go into effect until Jan. 1, 2027, Californians experiencing qualifying life events, such as losing health insurance, getting married, having a baby or turning 26 years old, can sign up for health and dental insurance during Covered California's ongoing special-enrollment period. A full list of qualifying life events can be found by visiting coveredca.com/special-enrollment/.

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Californians will have their insurance begin on the first day of the following month after signing up. They can explore their options to get insurance during special enrollment in several ways:

- Get free and confidential assistance over the phone, in a variety of languages, from one of more than 14,000 certified agents and community-based organizations throughout the state that provide free, confidential help.
- Use CoveredCA.com's Help on Demand feature to get free help from a certified enroller.
- Call Covered California at (800) 300-1506.

Opportunities for Californians to Enroll in Insurance for 2027

- Covered California's open-enrollment period, when consumers can sign up for insurance for 2027, begins on Nov. 1, 2026, and will run through Jan. 31, 2027. For coverage for all of 2027, enrollment must be completed by Dec. 31, 2026.
- Covered California's nearly 1.8 million enrollees may renew or switch their plans starting on Oct. 1. They may review their options at any time on CoveredCA.com.

About Covered California

Covered California is the state's health insurance marketplace, where Californians can find affordable, high-quality insurance from top insurance companies. Covered California is the only place where individuals who qualify can get financial assistance on a sliding scale to reduce premium costs. Consumers can then compare health insurance plans and choose the plan that works best for their health needs and budget. Depending on their income, some consumers may qualify for the low-cost or no-cost Medi-Cal program.

Covered California is an independent part of the state government whose job is to make the health insurance marketplace work for California's consumers. It is overseen by a five-member board appointed by the governor and the Legislature. For more information about Covered California, please visit www.CoveredCA.com.