

# Quarterly Progress Report

## ACE Screening and Clinician Training Data

### July 2022

The California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and the Office of the California Surgeon General are leading ACEs Aware, a first-in-the-nation, statewide effort to screen for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and treat toxic stress to improve health across the state – now and for generations to come.

ACEs Aware offers Medi-Cal clinical team members training, clinical protocols, and payment for screening children and adults for ACEs.

New data is available on the number of ACE screenings conducted in California between January 1, 2020 and September 30, 2021, and the number of clinical team members who completed the “[Becoming ACEs Aware in California](#)” online training between December 4, 2019 and May 31, 2022.

### Medi-Cal Claims for ACE Screenings

Medi-Cal clinicians conducted **987,500** ACE screenings

Of the **793,000** unique Medi-Cal beneficiaries screened for ACEs, **6%** had ACE scores of **4 or more\*\***

Data from: January 1, 2020, to September 30, 2021

### Who is screening for ACEs?

Medi-Cal clinicians – primarily pediatric, family medicine, and behavioral health professionals – conducted more than 987,500 ACE screenings of 793,000 unique Medi-Cal beneficiaries between January 1, 2020 and September 30, 2021. More than four-fifths (85 percent) of all screenings conducted were with beneficiaries under age 21, and 15 percent of all screenings were conducted with adults ages 21-64. Six percent of unique beneficiaries screened had an ACE score of four or greater, indicating a high risk for toxic stress.

### Training & Certification

**23,400** Individuals completed the training

**96%** of participants indicated that based on the training, they plan to implement changes in their practice or that the training already enforced their current practice.

**11,900** Medi-Cal clinicians are ACEs Aware-certified\*

**Before the training**

**33%** of participants were not screening any patients for ACEs.

**After the training**

**78%** of participants who were not previously screening patients for ACEs indicated that they planned to implement routine ACE screening for children or adults.

Data from: December 4, 2019, to May 31, 2022

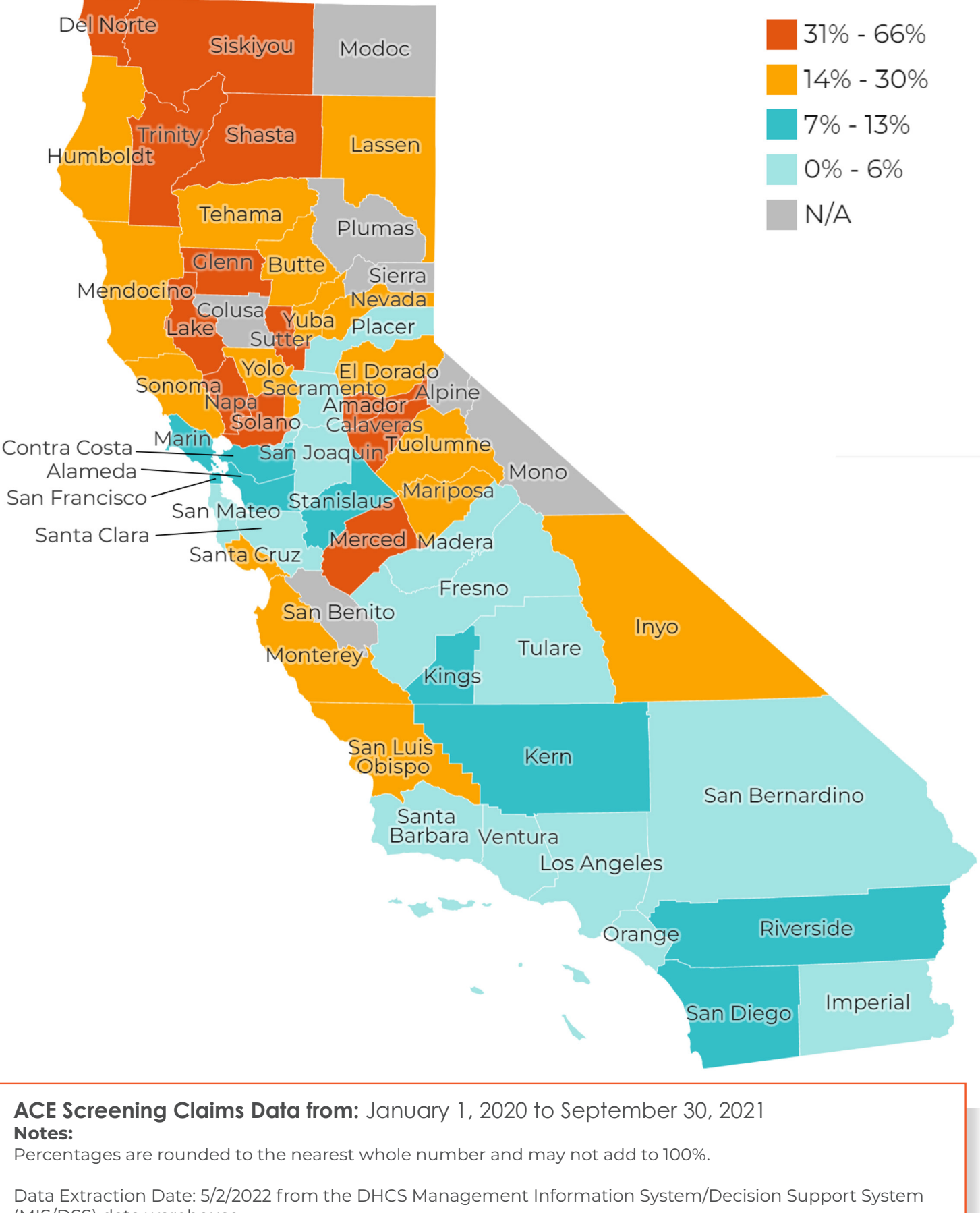
### How many people have completed the ACEs Aware Training?

Since the launch of the ACEs Aware initiative in December 2019, more than 23,400 individuals have taken the training and are ACEs Aware-certified, including about 11,900 Medi-Cal clinicians in California who are eligible to receive Medi-Cal payment for conducting ACE screenings.

### Is ACEs Aware making a difference?

After completing the training, participants were asked about practice changes they plan to make based on the training. Two-thirds (67 percent) of participants reported they plan to implement changes in their practice based on the information presented in the training. More than half of individuals who completed the training reported they plan to conduct routine ACE screenings for children (55 percent) and adults (52 percent). 91 percent of individuals reported being somewhat or very confident that they would be able to make their intended practice changes. 39 percent of individuals plan to change their treatment or management approach based on the patient’s ACE score and toxic stress risk assessment, and 40 percent plan to apply a clinical algorithm on ACEs and toxic stress to guide patient care.

### Percentage of Patients Screened Who Disclosed an ACE Score of 4 or More, Based on Medi-Cal Claims Data, by County



**ACE Screening Claims Data from: January 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021**  
**Notes:** Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number and may not add to 100%.  
 Data Extraction Date: 5/2/2022 from the DHCS Management Information System/Decision Support System (MIS/DSS) data warehouse  
 \*N/A percentage of high-risk ACE scores means data has been suppressed in instances where values were at least one but less than 11, or whereby related data with values less than 11 not presented here could be deduced from the information in this map.  
 \*Medi-Cal clinicians must attest to completing a certified ACEs Aware core training to qualify for Medi-Cal payment.  
 \*\*ACE score refers to the total disclosed exposure to the 10 ACE categories. An ACE score of 4 or greater indicates that patients may be at high-risk for toxic stress. Patients with an ACE score of 0 to 3 may also be at risk for toxic stress.

## ACE Screenings by Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan (MCP) Network

**Children and Young Adults (ages 0 to 20):** MCP clinicians screened 570,680 unique Medi-Cal beneficiaries aged 20 and under who were enrolled with a single plan in any continuous 12-month period between January 1, 2020 and September 30, 2021 (and were not a dual-eligible for Medi-Cal and Medicare). This represents 12 percent of the measure’s denominator population. Fee-for-service (FFS) clinicians screened 6 percent of Medi-Cal beneficiaries who were not enrolled in any plan during the measurement period (Exhibit 1).

**Exhibit 1: ACE Screenings for Beneficiaries Ages 0 to 20 by Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan (January 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021)**

Managed Care Plan	Number of Beneficiaries Screened	Medi-Cal Enrollment	Percentage of Medi-Cal Population Screened
Aetna Better Health of California	790	9,060	9%
Alameda Alliance for Health	14,220	100,500	14%
Anthem Blue Cross Partnership Plan	40,450	340,120	12%
Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan	3,770	24,760	15%
California Health & Wellness Plan	2,610	89,450	3%
CalOptima	96,430	321,050	30%
CalViva Health	21,230	185,040	11%
CenCal Health	14,250	90,270	16%
Central California Alliance for Health	560	175,640	<1%
Community Health Group Partnership Plan	14,470	119,860	12%
Contra Costa Health Plan	560	77,760	1%
Gold Coast Health Plan	9,490	95,720	10%
Health Net Community Solutions, Inc.	78,800	579,630	14%
Health Plan of San Joaquin	6,570	176,150	4%
Health Plan of San Mateo	3,640	49,250	7%
Inland Empire Health	118,930	619,190	19%
Kaiser Permanente	1,090	74,590	1%
Kern Health Systems	16,820	144,380	12%
L.A. Care Health Plan	85,950	844,770	10%
Molina Healthcare of California Partner Plan, Inc.	22,500	181,910	12%
Partnership HealthPlan of California	10,690	226,680	5%
San Francisco Health Plan	230	42,160	1%
Santa Clara Family Health Plan	6,130	105,120	6%
United Healthcare Community Plan	510	5,260	10%
<b>Total – MCP</b>	<b>570,680</b>	<b>4,678,320</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>Total – FFS</b>	<b>13,810</b>	<b>233,460</b>	<b>6%</b>

**Adults (Ages 21 to 64):** MCP clinicians screened 106,860 unique Medi-Cal beneficiaries ages 21 through 64 who were enrolled with a single plan in any continuous 12-month period between January 1, 2020 and September 30, 2021 (and were not a dual-eligible for Medi-Cal and Medicare). This represents 2 percent of the measure’s denominator population. FFS clinicians screened less than 1 percent of Medi-Cal beneficiaries who were not enrolled in any plan during the measurement period (Exhibit 2).

**Exhibit 2: ACE Screenings for Beneficiaries Ages 21 to 64 by Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan (January 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021)**

Managed Care Plan	Number of Beneficiaries Screened	Medi-Cal Enrollment	Percentage of Medi-Cal Population Screened
Aetna Better Health of California	620	16,620	4%
Alameda Alliance for Health	190	128,230	<1%
AltaMed	0	320	0%
Anthem Blue Cross Partnership Plan	4,140	378,210	1%
Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan	3,950	50,850	8%
California Health & Wellness Plan	390	100,770	<1%
CalOptima	12,570	347,000	4%
CalViva Health	2,560	164,140	2%
CenCal Health	420	76,730	1%
Central California Alliance for Health	900	142,700	1%
Community Health Group Partnership Plan	8,210	122,140	7%
Contra Costa Health Plan	--	91,340	--
Gold Coast Health Plan	1,850	86,410	2%
Health Net Community Solutions, Inc.	13,550	618,170	2%
Health Plan of San Joaquin	1,910	155,790	1%
Health Plan of San Mateo	40	47,840	<1%
Inland Empire Health	25,120	588,340	4%
Kaiser Permanente	--	67,250	--
Kern Health Systems	1,540	123,180	1%
L.A. Care Health Plan	17,130	992,860	2%
Molina Healthcare of California Partner Plan, Inc.	8,100	203,700	4%
Partnership HealthPlan of California	2,910	257,430	1%
San Francisco Health Plan	20	73,680	<1%
Santa Clara Family Health Plan	80	108,610	<1%
United Healthcare Community Plan	670	11,450	6%
<b>Total – MCP</b>	<b>106,860</b>	<b>4,954,750</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Total – FFS</b>	<b>2,020</b>	<b>1,088,270</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>

**Notes:** "Number of Beneficiaries Screened" and "Medi-Cal Enrollment" are rounded to the nearest 10 and may not sum to the total.  
 \*Percentage Medi-Cal Population Screened" is rounded to the nearest whole percent.  
 "Number of Beneficiaries Screened" is the count of distinct non-dual individuals who were enrolled in a single plan in any continuous 12-month period and received an ACE screening during the measurement period.  
 "Medi-Cal Enrollment" is the count of distinct non-dual individuals who were enrolled in a single plan for any 12 continuous months during the measurement period.  
 The methodology for measure specifications has changed. For the 0-20 age group, the continuous enrollment criteria for the denominator changed from the most recent continuous 12 month period to any continuous 12 month period from January 2020 through September 2021. For the 21-64 age group, the continuous enrollment criteria remains any continuous 12 month period. For both age groups, previous rates included individuals in the numerator who received an ACE screening, regardless of whether they were continuously enrolled in an MCP. For the updated rates in this report, only those individuals meeting the denominator continuous enrollment criteria (see above) were eligible for numerator compliance. Screening rates are not comparable to previous reports, given updates to methodologies.  
 -- Cells have been suppressed in instances where values were at least one but less than 15, or whereby related data with values less than 11 not presented here could be deduced from the information in this table.  
 The screens in this report are collected by capturing claims utilizing the designated G9919 and G9920 codes for ACE screenings. Some plans report implementing ACE screening during the measurement period without the electronic coding and capture of the G9919 and G9920 codes. Any additional screenings that were not documented with these codes would not be counted in this report.  
 Data Extraction Date: 5/2/2022 from the DHCS Management Information System/Decision Support System (MIS/DSS) data warehouse.

ACEs Aware will continue to publish updates to screening and training data on a quarterly basis. In addition, the [ACEs Aware Screening, Training, and Certification Progress: March 2022 Update](#) includes additional details on demographics of clinical team members trained, characteristics of clinicians providing screening, profile of beneficiaries screened, as well as screening rates and quality improvement metrics for Medi-Cal managed care plans.