

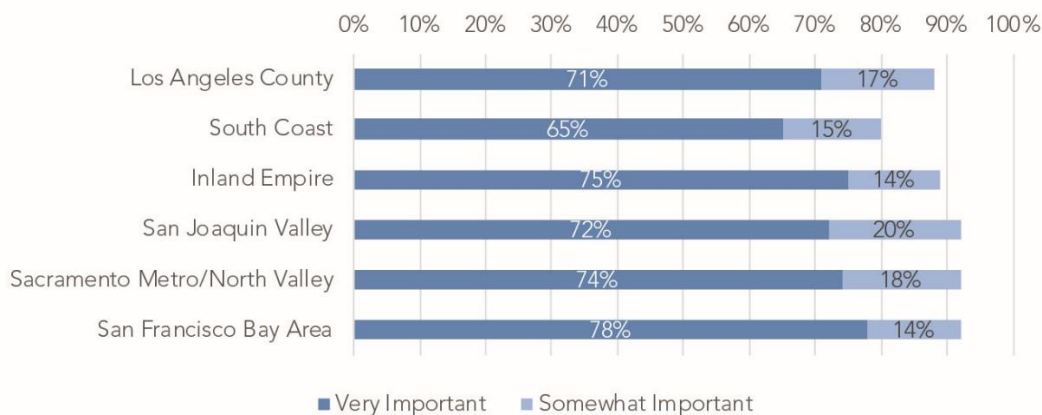
Poll on ACA/Medi-Cal

The Institute of Governmental Studies (IGS) at UC Berkeley released two statewide polls on health policy in June 2017 on behalf of the California Health Care Foundation. One of these assessed public perceptions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Medi-Cal, and found strong support for both programs.

Californians Strongly Support the Affordable Care Act: Support for the ACA is at a record high in California. Supporters now outnumber opponents by a greater than two-to-one margin, 65% to 26%, with 45% supporting the law strongly. While this support crosses all major regional and demographic subgroups in California, opinions remain highly partisan. Democrats overwhelmingly favor the ACA (88% to 9%) while less than one in four (22%) Republicans is supportive, with 69% opposed.

Virtually All Californians – Nearly 90% – Support Medi-Cal: When asked about Medi-Cal, nearly nine in ten said they believed the program was important to the state, with 72% saying they considered it “very important.” This support was strong across California. In every major region of the state, at least 80% of respondents considered Medi-Cal important.

Percentage of Californians who say Medi-Cal is important to the state, by region



Source: Berkeley IGS poll, 2017

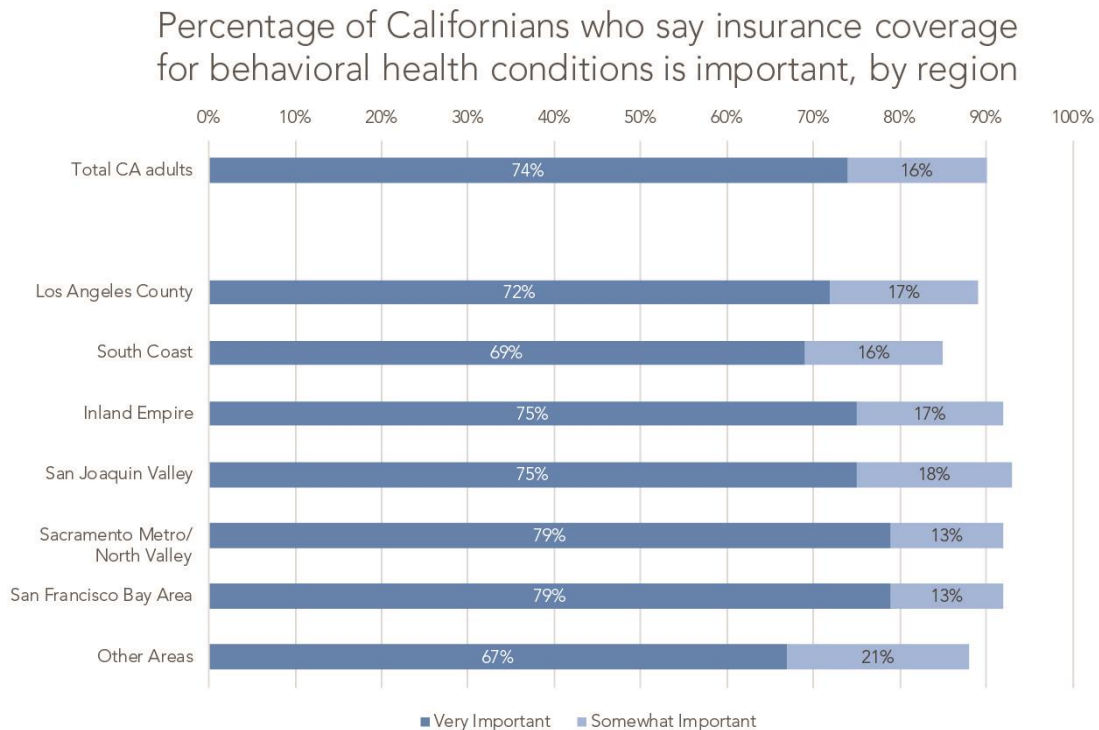
The support is bipartisan, with 95% support among Democrats and 75% among Republicans.

Many Californians Have Worried About a Potential Loss in Coverage: The Berkeley IGS poll was conducted when lawmakers in Congress were actively debating the potential repeal and replacement of the ACA. More than half of poll respondents, 56%, said they were worried that they or a family member would lose their coverage if the ACA was repealed. The concern varied with household income. Among respondents at the lowest end of the income scale (less than \$20,000 per year), 77% were worried, as well as 81% of those currently covered by Medi-Cal. In contrast, only about one in three residents with incomes of \$100,000 or more said they were concerned.

The UC Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies surveyed 1,845 California adults in six languages on landline and cell phones May 4-31, 2017. The maximum sampling error was +/- 2.4%.

Poll on Behavioral Health Conditions

Californians Support Insurance Coverage for Behavioral Health Conditions: Three in four Californians (74%) believe it is “very important” for health insurance plans to cover treatment for mental health conditions and alcohol or drug use problems. This support spans all major regions and demographic subgroups of those surveyed, including nearly six in ten (59%) Republican voters and those who described themselves as politically conservative.



Source: Berkeley IGS poll, 2017

Various Factors Influence Support for Behavioral Health Coverage: Three in four Californians say treatment for behavioral health conditions can help people live healthy and productive lives. In addition, two in three people said they would be “very likely” to seek professional help if they needed counseling or treatment for a mental health condition, such as depression or anxiety, or a substance use problem, including alcoholism or addiction.

Most Are Aware of the Behavioral Health Insurance Benefit: Two in three Californians (65%) said their health insurance plan included coverage for behavioral health conditions. This response reflects a 5 percentage point increase of the awareness of the benefit compared to a similar statewide survey conducted in 2014.

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