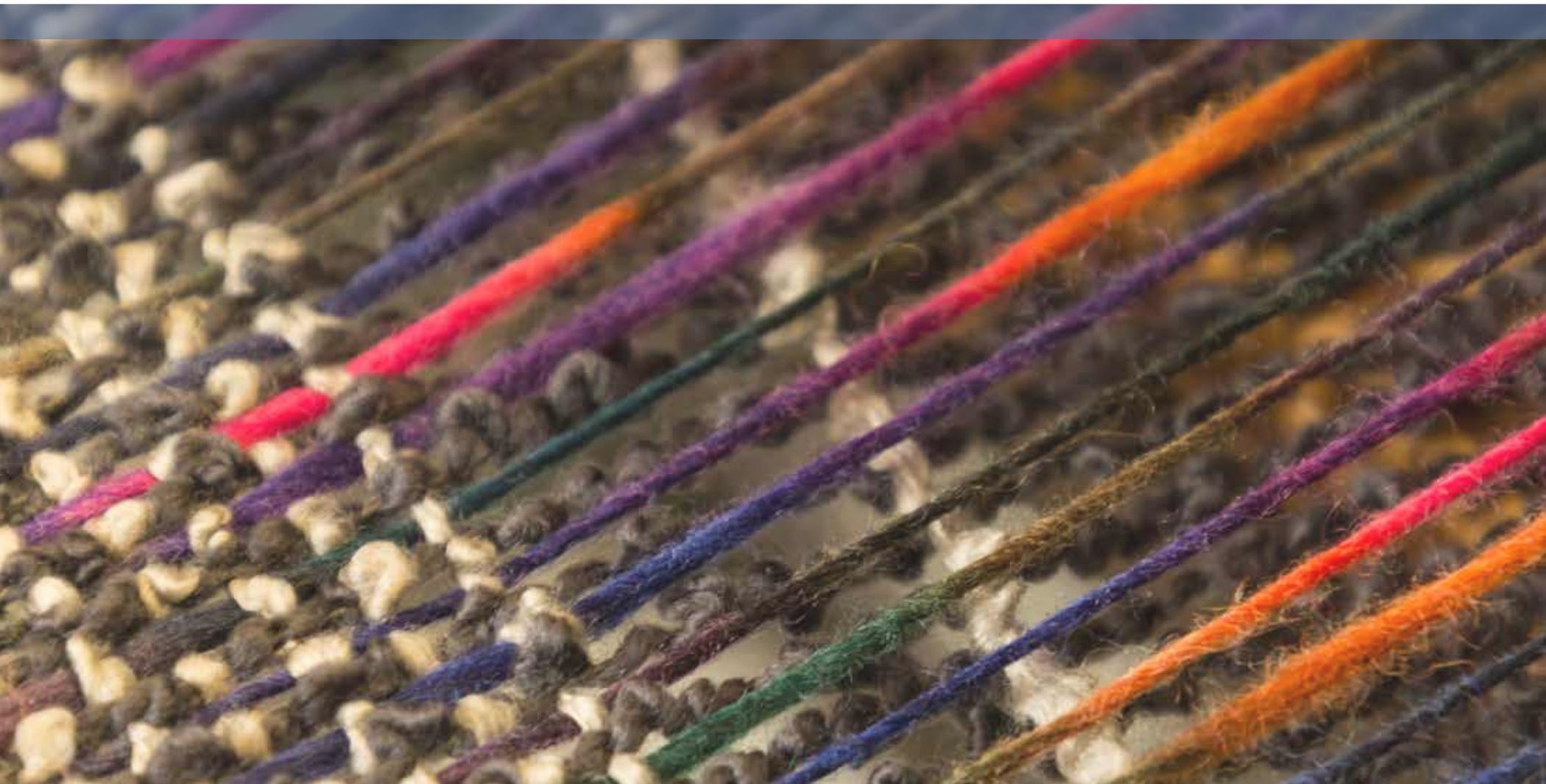


CALIFORNIA
HEALTH CARE ALMANAC



California's Uninsured: Progress Toward Universal Coverage

AUGUST 2018

Executive Summary

Since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in 2014, the uninsured rate in California dropped by nearly half, from 16% in 2013 to an all-time low of 9% in 2016. However, 2.9 million Californians remained uninsured.

California's Uninsured: Progress Toward Universal Coverage takes a look at who was uninsured three years after full implementation of the ACA, which allowed individuals to purchase insurance through ACA exchanges and also expanded Medi-Cal. Even with these gains, the future of health insurance coverage remains uncertain. There have been many efforts to roll back portions of the ACA, including the elimination of the tax penalty for not obtaining health coverage beginning in 2019. Analysts predict that this policy change will increase the uninsured rate in California and nationally starting that year.

KEY FINDINGS INCLUDE:

- The drop in the uninsured rate was mainly due to a five percentage point increase in individually purchased insurance coupled with a four percentage point increase in Medi-Cal enrollment.
- One in three of California's uninsured had annual incomes of less than \$25,000. At this income level, people are potentially eligible for Medi-Cal, unless they do not qualify due to immigration status.
- Of the 1.7 million uninsured workers in California, 47% worked for private companies with fewer than 50 workers.
- Of California's uninsured, one in four were aged 25 to 34, nearly one in three were noncitizens, and over half were Latino.
- A smaller percentage of Californians cited affordability as the reason for not having health insurance in 2016 compared to 2014.

Note: Measures used to calculate uninsured rates vary by source. To calculate uninsured rates in this publication, the author used CPS data.

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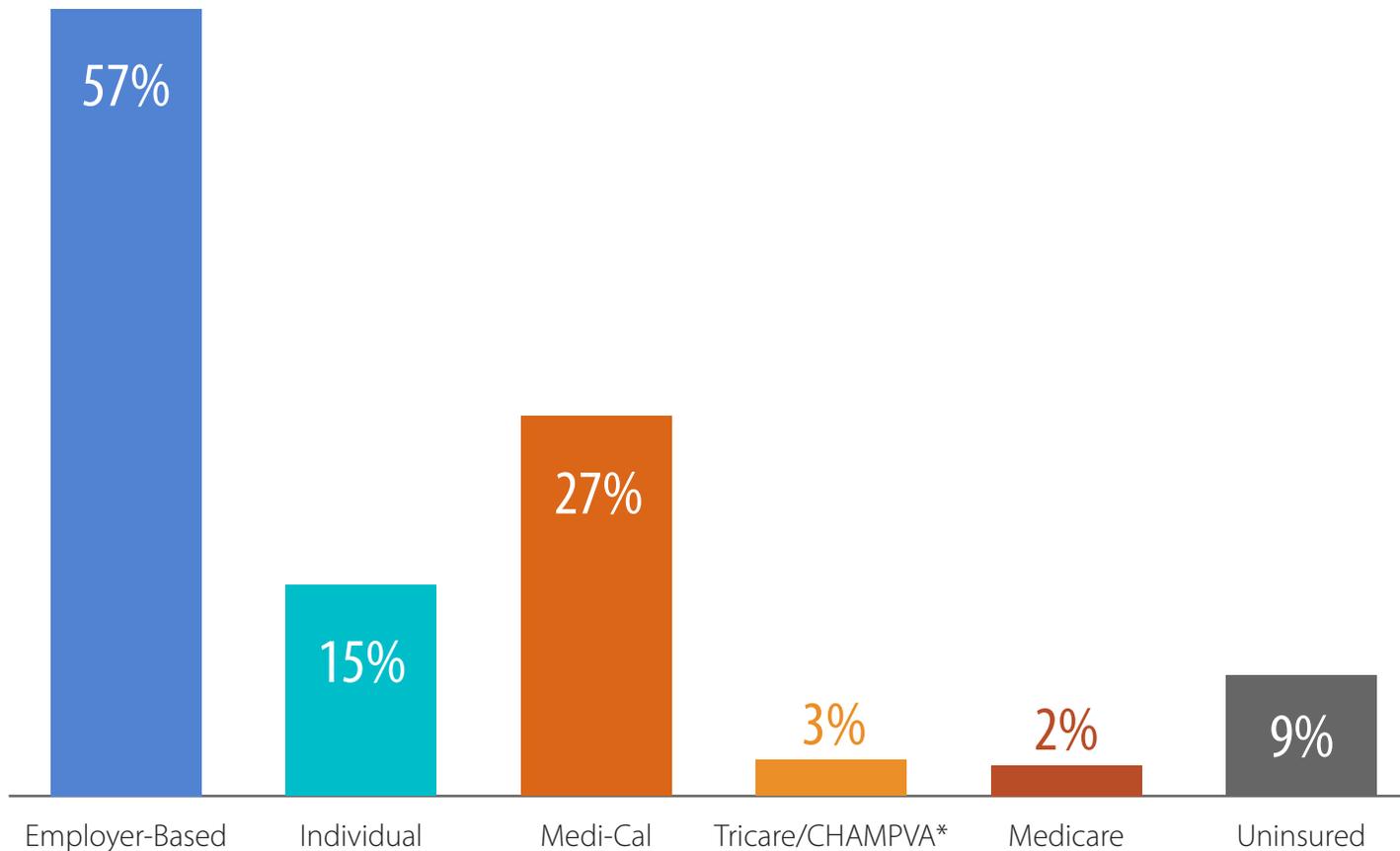
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Health Insurance, by Source

California, 2016



*TRICARE (formally known as CHAMPUS) is a program administered by the Department of Defense for military retirees as well as families of active duty, retired, and deceased service members. CHAMPVA, the Civilian Health and Medical Program for the Department of Veterans Affairs, is a health care benefits program for disabled dependents of veterans and certain survivors of veterans.

Notes: All numbers reflect population under age 65. Details don't add to 100% because individuals may receive coverage from more than one source. The survey data used in this chart relies on self-reported insurance status. See About the Data on page 21 for a full explanation of how this could impact findings.

Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute estimates of the 2017 Current Population Survey, March supplement.

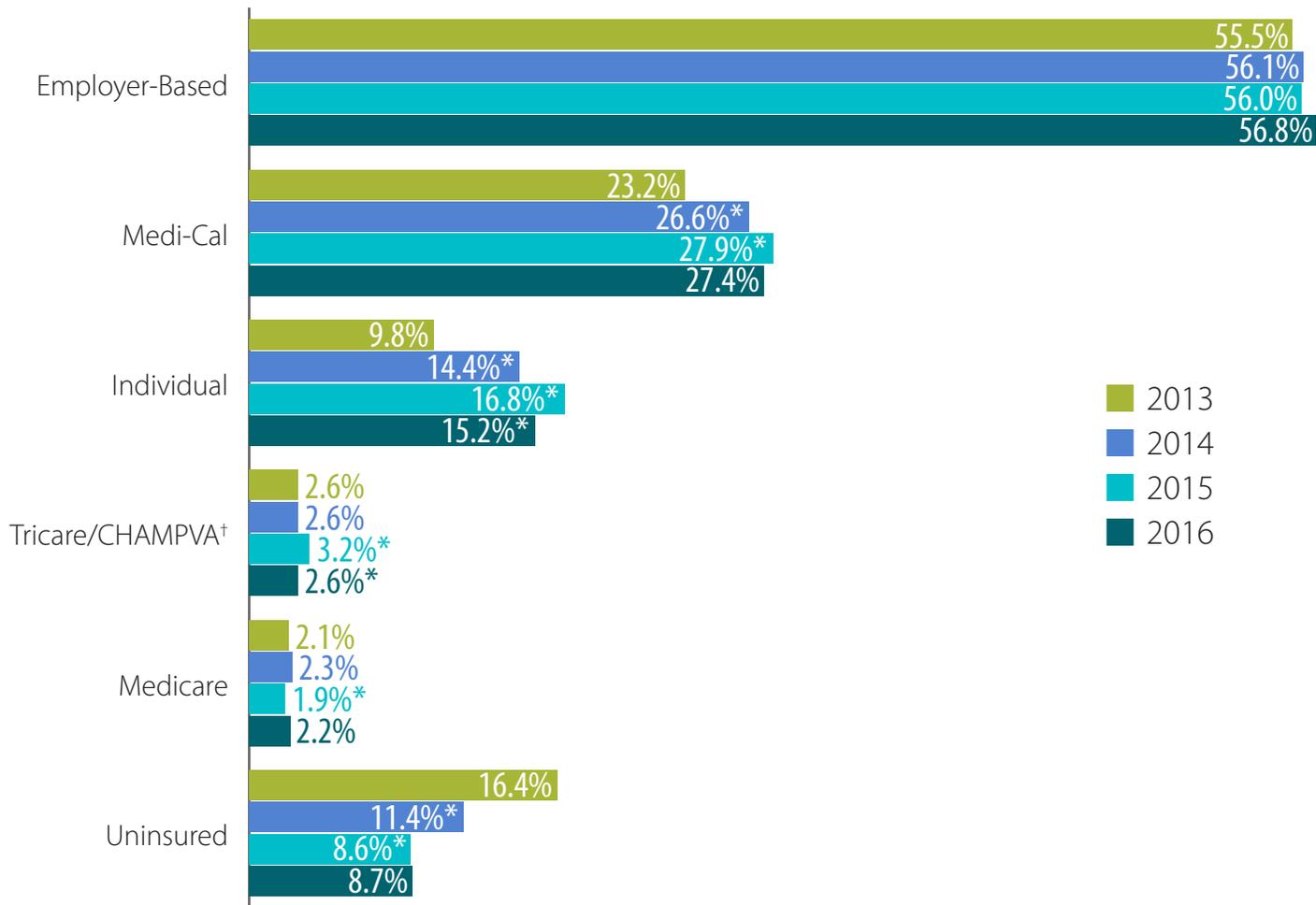
California's Uninsured

Coverage Sources and Trends

Nearly 6 in 10 nonelderly Californians had employer-based health insurance in 2016. More than 1 in 4 Californians under the age of 65 were covered by Medi-Cal.

Health Insurance Sources

California, 2013 to 2016



*Estimate is statistically different from prior year at $p \leq .05$ level.

†TRICARE (formally known as CHAMPUS) is a program administered by the Department of Defense for military retirees as well as families of active duty, retired, and deceased service members. CHAMPVA, the Civilian Health and Medical Program for the Department of Veterans Affairs, is a health care benefits program for disabled dependents of veterans and certain survivors of veterans.

Notes: All numbers reflect the population under age 65. Details may not add to totals because individuals may receive coverage from more than one source. The survey data used in this chart relies on self-reported insurance status. See About the Data on page 21 for a full explanation of how this could impact findings.

Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute estimates of the Current Population Survey, March 2014–2017 supplements.

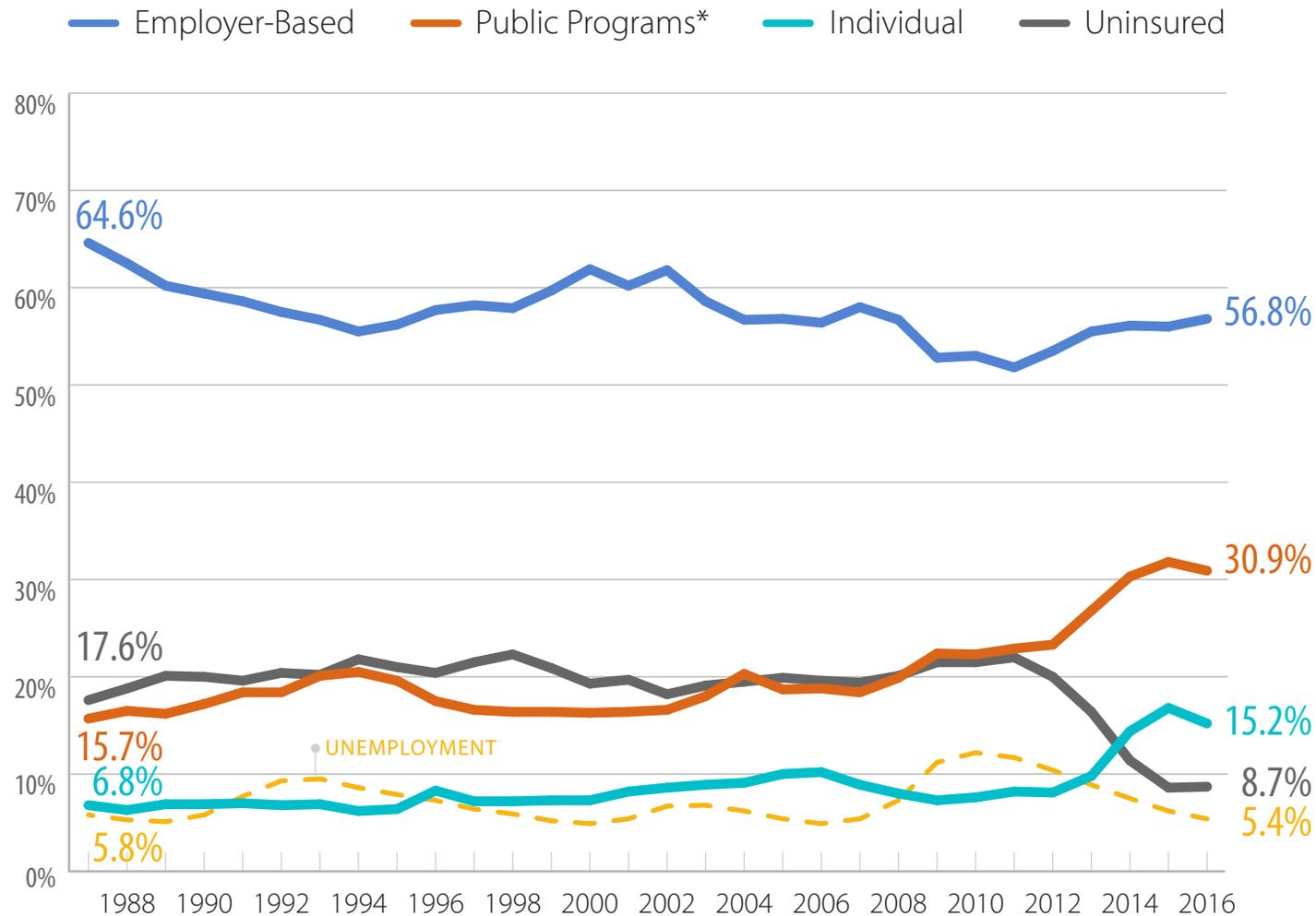
California's Uninsured

Coverage Sources and Trends

California's uninsured rate dropped by nearly 50% between 2013 and 2016. During the same time, individually purchased insurance increased by five percentage points and Medi-Cal enrollment increased by four percentage points. Both increases were results of ACA implementation, which expanded Medi-Cal programs and allowed individuals to purchase insurance through ACA exchanges. The percentage of employer-based coverage has remained flat.

Insurance Coverage Source and Unemployment Trends

California, 1987 to 2016



*Includes Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, Medicare, and Tricare/CHAMPVA.

Notes: All numbers reflect the population under age 65. 1987–1998 data are not directly comparable with 1999–2012 data, which are not comparable with 2013–2016 data because of a change in the way individuals with coverage were counted. Unemployment rates are annual averages without seasonal adjustment. The survey data used in this chart relies on self-reported insurance status. See About the Data on page 21 for a full explanation of how this could impact findings.

Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute estimates of the Current Population Survey, March 1988–2017 supplements.

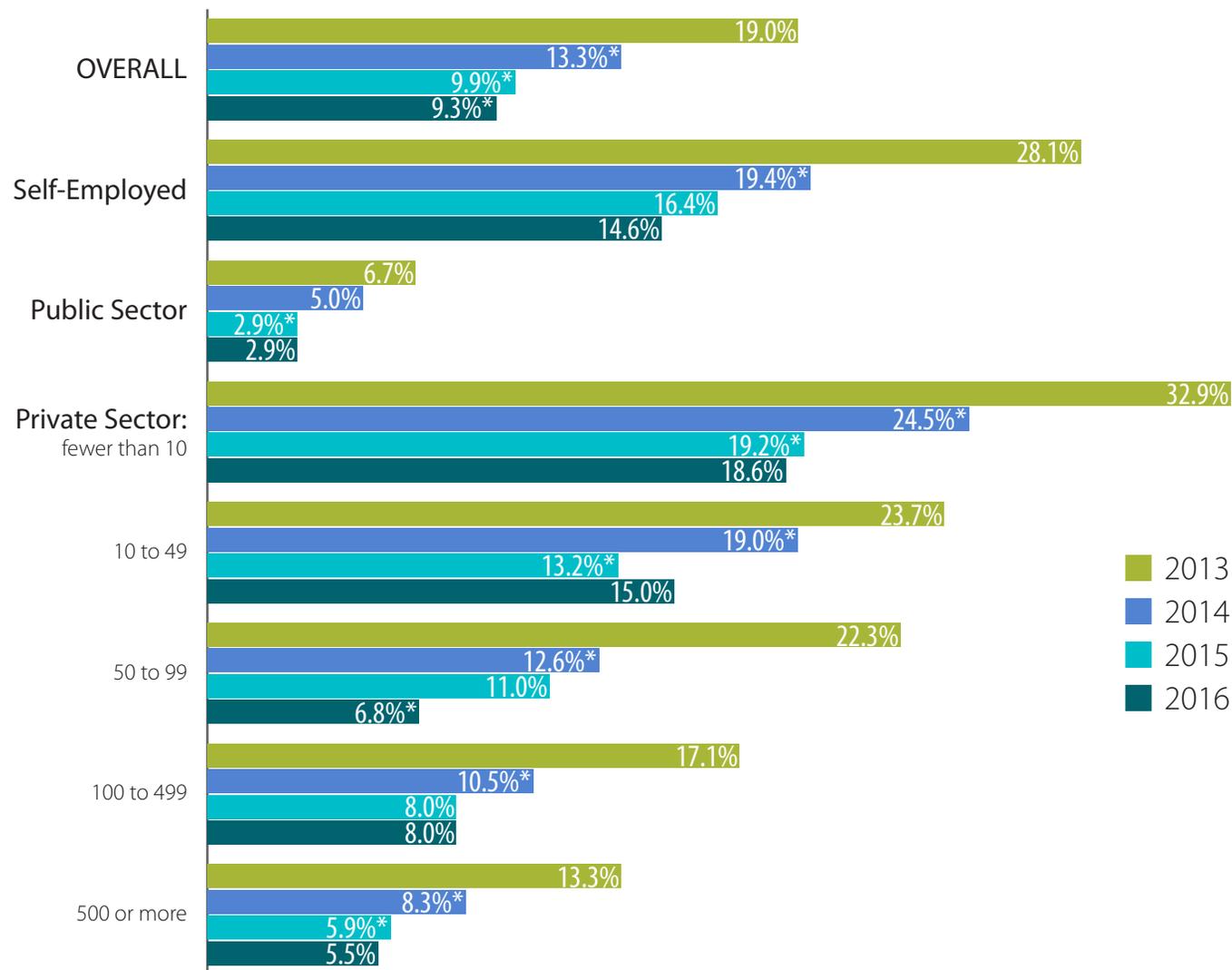
California's Uninsured

Coverage Sources and Trends

Continuing a longstanding trend, more than half of Californians received health insurance through employer-based coverage.

Likelihood of Workers Being Uninsured

by Employer Size and Type, California, 2013 to 2016



*Estimate is statistically different from prior year at $p \leq .05$ level.

Notes: All numbers reflect the working population, age 18 to 64. Private sector sorted by number of workers. The survey data used in this chart relies on self-reported insurance status. See About the Data on page 21 for a full explanation of how this could impact findings.

Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute estimates of the Current Population Survey, March 2014–2017 supplements.

California's Uninsured

by Employer Size and Type

Overall, there were 1.7 million fewer uninsured workers in 2016 than in 2013. Nearly 1 in 10 were likely to be uninsured in 2016. Workers in private firms with fewer than 10 workers were more likely to be uninsured than those in other firm types and sizes.

Uninsured Workers vs. Total Workers

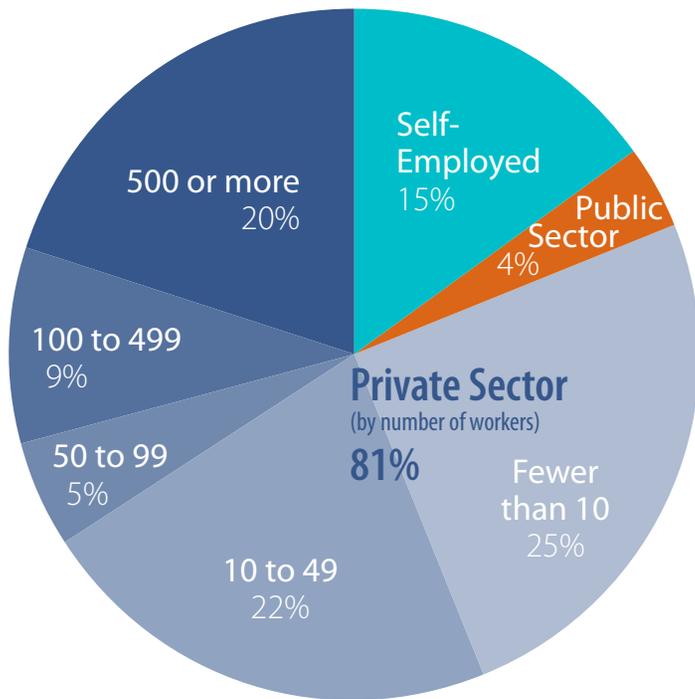
by Employer Size and Type, California, 2016

California's Uninsured

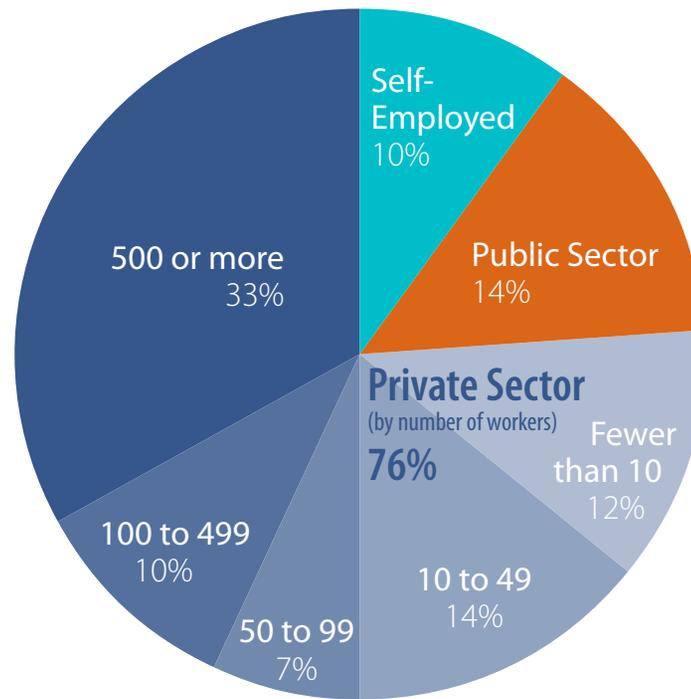
by Employer Size and Type

Of the nearly two million uninsured workers in California, 20% were employed by private companies with 500 or more workers.

Uninsured Workers
N = 1.7 million



Total Workers
N = 18.1 million

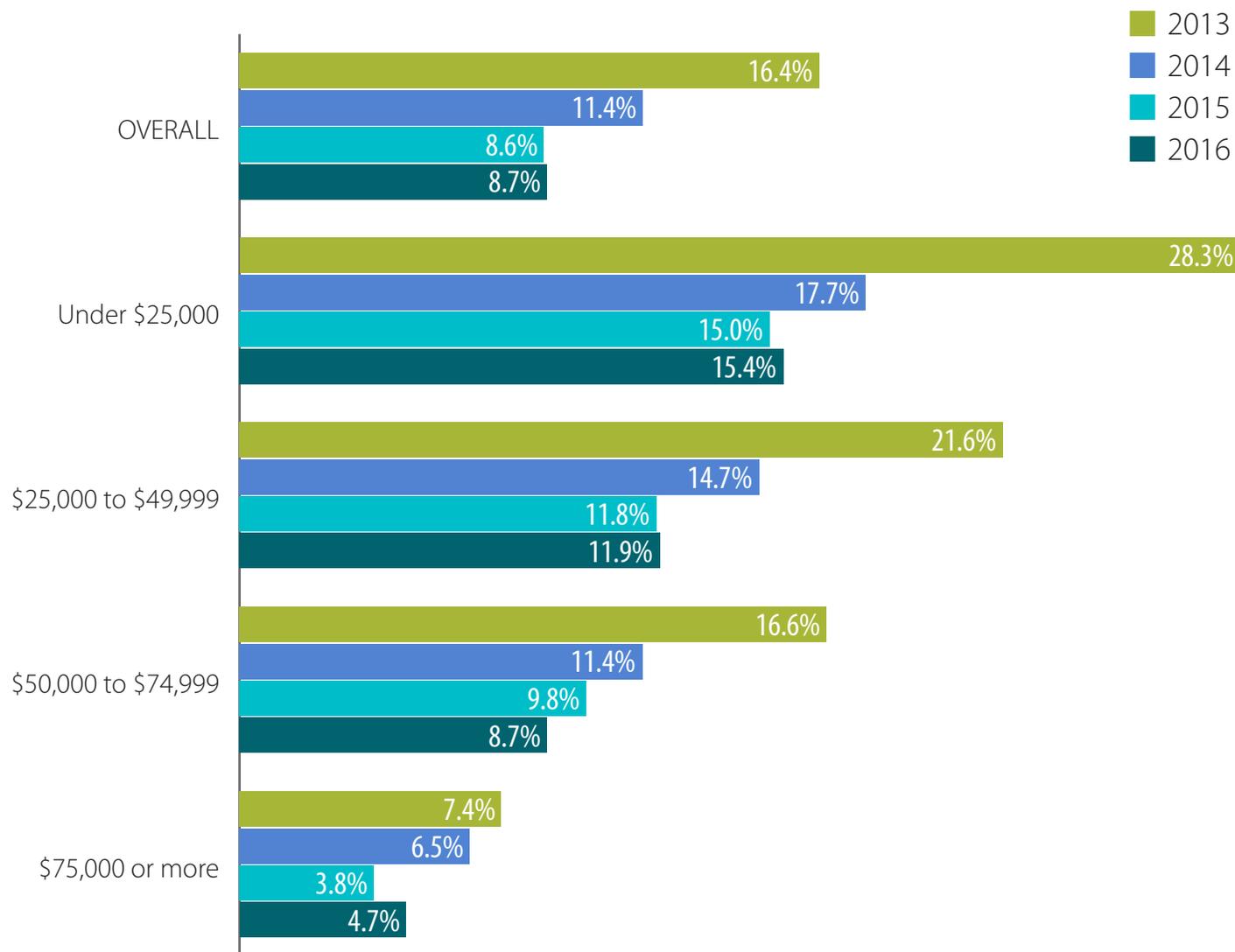


Notes: All numbers reflect the working population, age 18 to 64. The survey data used in this chart relies on self-reported insurance status. See About the Data on page 21 for a full explanation of how this could impact findings.

Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute estimates of the Current Population Survey, March 2017 supplement.

Likelihood of Being Uninsured, by Family Income

California, 2013 to 2016



California's Uninsured

by Family Income

From 2013 to 2016, the uninsured rate dropped dramatically for Californians with a family income under \$25,000. However, 15% of these individuals remained uninsured in 2016. Those with family incomes of less than \$25,000 are eligible for Medi-Cal, unless they do not qualify due to immigration status.

Notes: All numbers reflect population under age 65. The survey data used in this chart relies on self-reported insurance status. See About the Data on page 21 for a full explanation of how this could impact findings.

Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute estimates of the Current Population Survey, March 2014–2017 supplements.

Family Income of the Uninsured

California vs. United States, 2016

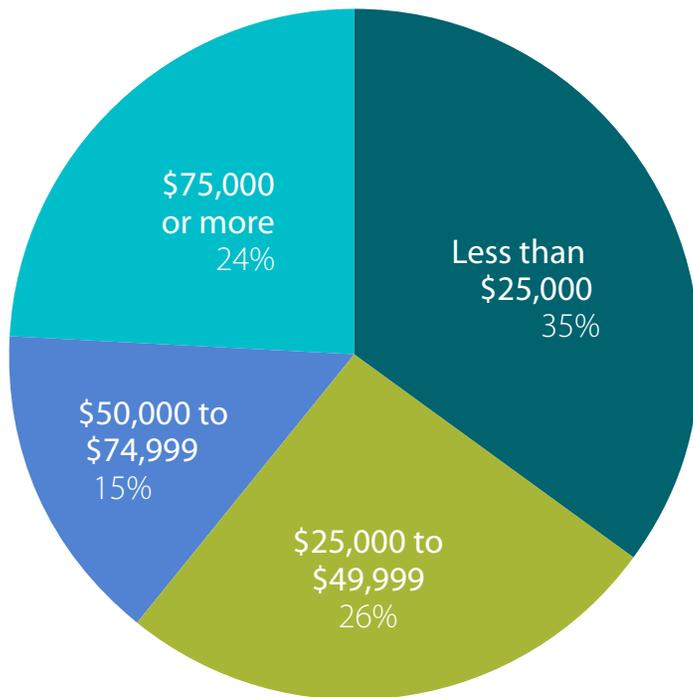
California's Uninsured

by Family Income

More than one in four of the uninsured in California and nationally had annual family income over \$75,000. One in three of California's uninsured had annual incomes of less than \$25,000. Individuals at this income level are potentially eligible for Medi-Cal, unless they do not qualify due to immigration status.

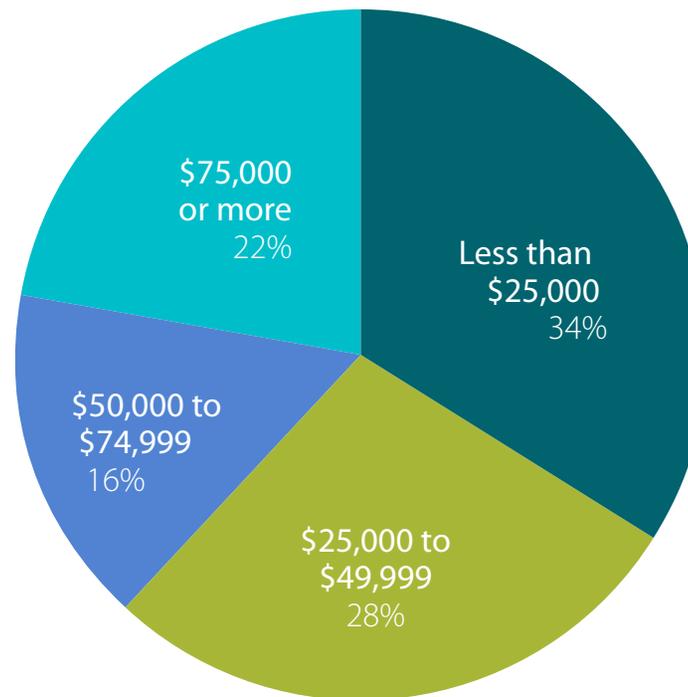
California

N=2.9 million



United States

N=27.5 million

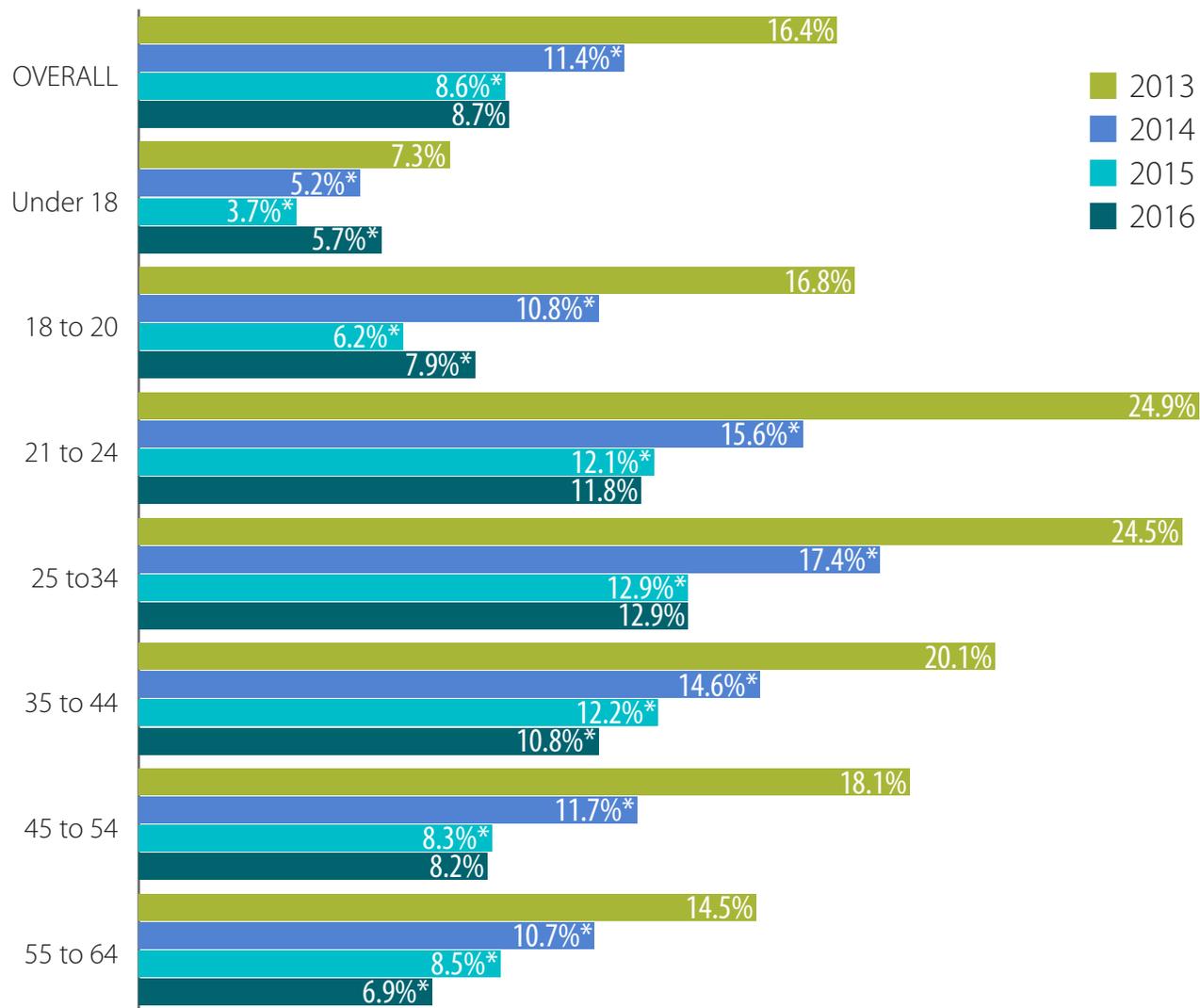


Notes: All numbers reflect population under age 65. The survey data used in this chart relies on self-reported insurance status. See About the Data on page 21 for a full explanation of how this could impact findings.

Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute estimates of the Current Population Survey, March 2017 supplement.

Likelihood of Being Uninsured, by Age Group

California, 2013 to 2016



*Estimate is statistically different from prior year at $p \leq .05$ level.

Notes: Uninsured rates are tracked by various sources including CPS, ACS, and CHIS. Due to differences in survey methodology, sources may publish different rates. The survey data used in this chart relies on self-reported insurance status. See About the Data on page 21 for a full explanation of how this could impact findings.

Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute estimates of the Current Population Survey, March 2014-2017 supplements.

California's Uninsured

by Age Group

Californians age 20 and under were slightly more likely to be uninsured in 2016 than in 2015. About one in eight adults age 21 to 44 was likely to lack health insurance.

Age Group of the Uninsured vs. Total Population

California, 2016

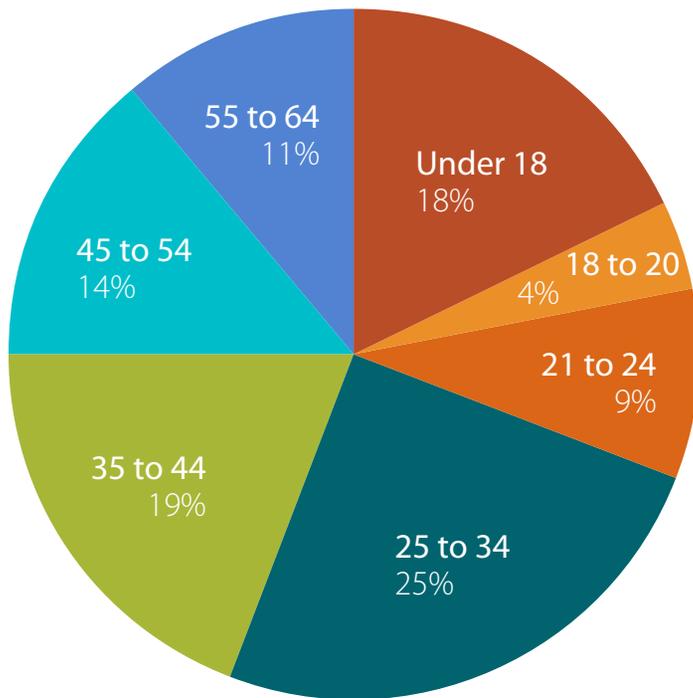
California's Uninsured

by Age Group

One in four of California's uninsured was between the age of 25 and 34. Children accounted for 18% of the uninsured population but made up 27% of the nonelderly population.

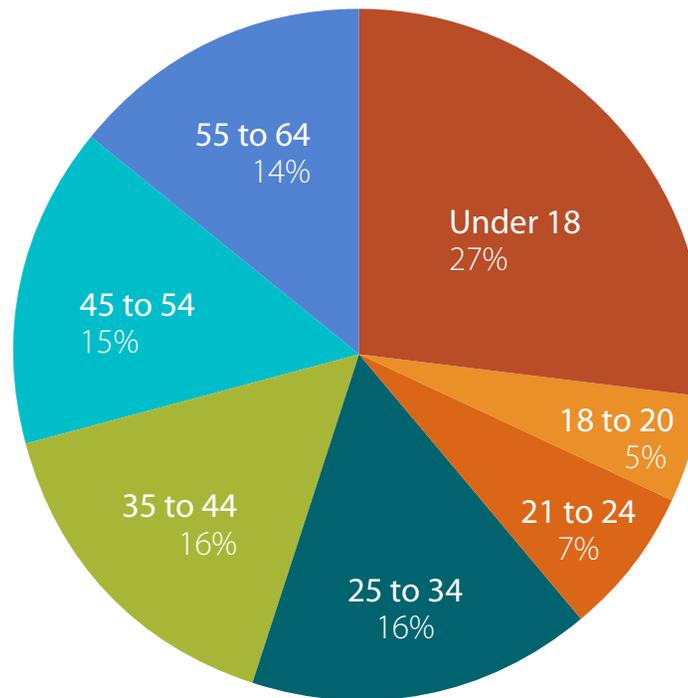
Uninsured

N=2.9 million



Total Population

N=33.7 million



Notes: Uninsured rates are tracked by various sources including CPS, ACS, and CHIS. Due to differences in survey methodology, sources may publish different rates. The survey data used in this chart relies on self-reported insurance status. See About the Data on page 21 for a full explanation of how this could impact findings.

Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute estimates of the Current Population Survey, March 2017 supplement.

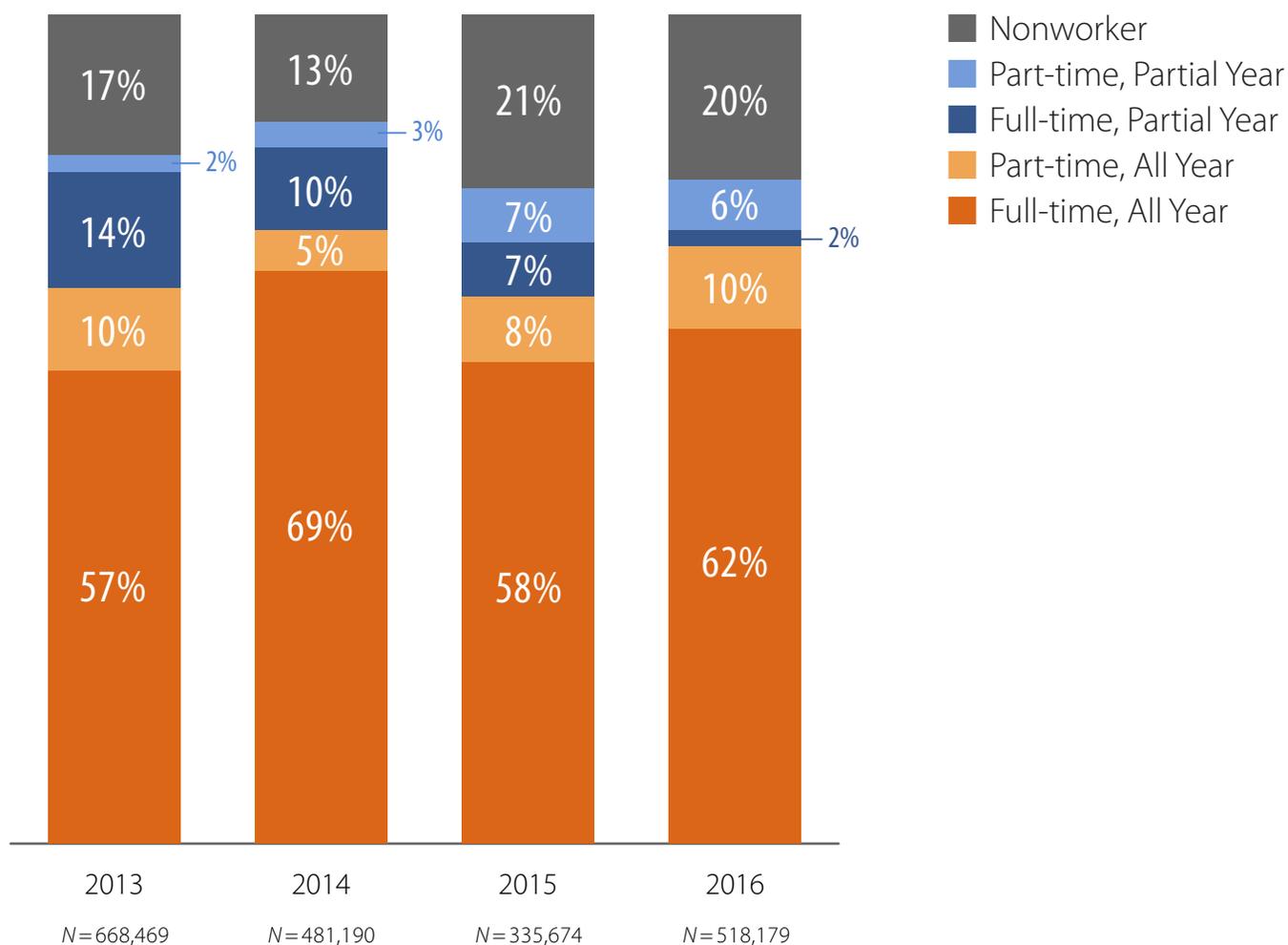
Uninsured Children, by Work Status of Head of Household

California, 2013 to 2016

California's Uninsured

by Work Status

The majority of uninsured children lived in families where the head of household worked full-time, all year.

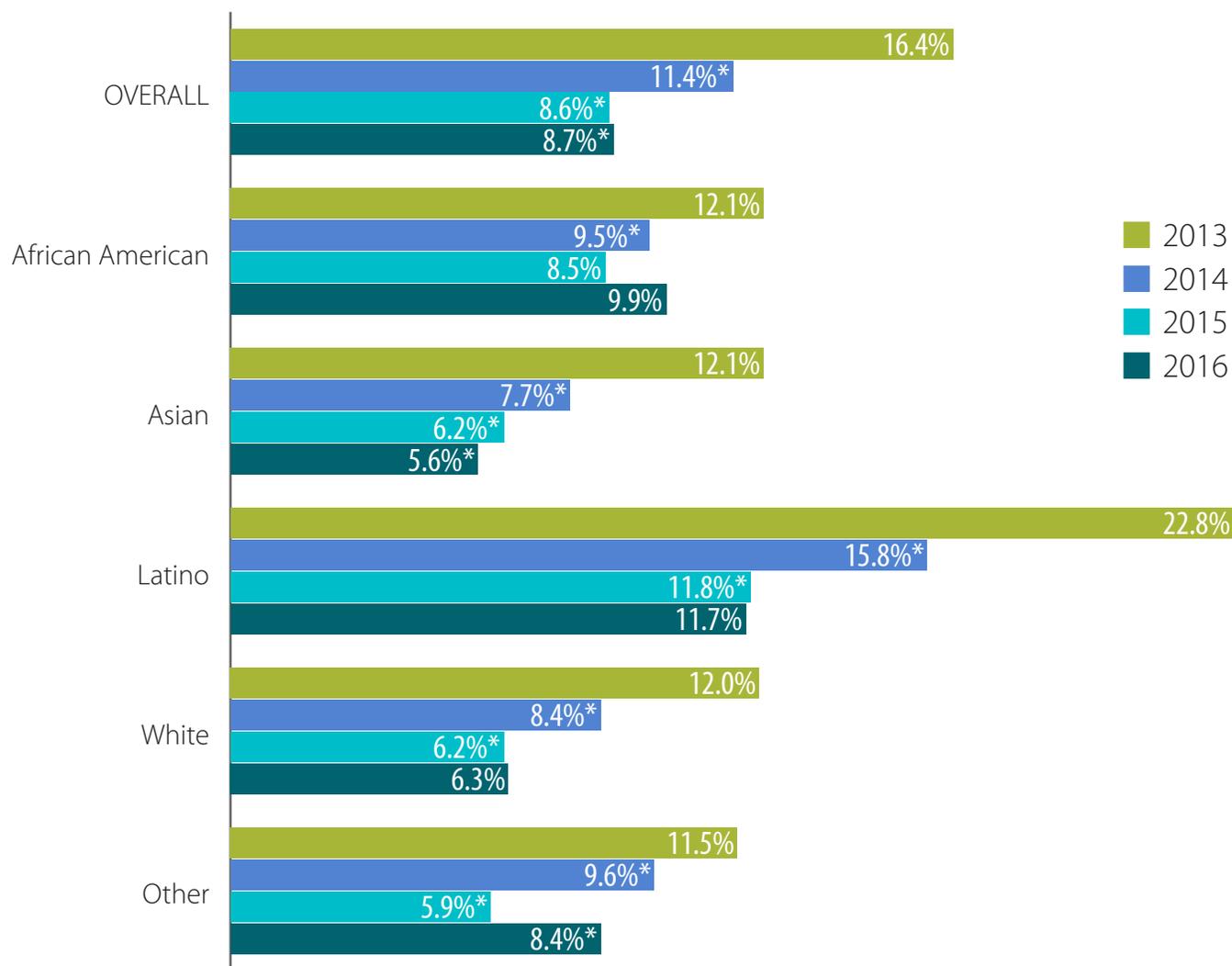


Notes: Numbers reflect the population under age 18. Segments may not add to 100% due to rounding. Uninsured rates are tracked by various sources including CPS, ACS, and CHIS. Due to differences in survey methodology, sources may publish different rates.

Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute estimates of the Current Population Survey, March 2014–2017 supplements.

Likelihood of Being Uninsured, by Race/Ethnicity

California, 2013 to 2016



*Estimate is statistically different from prior year at $p \leq .05$ level.

Notes: All numbers reflect population under age 65. The survey data used in this chart relies on self-reported insurance status. See About the Data on page 21 for a full explanation of how this could impact findings.

Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute estimates of the Current Population Survey, March 2014–2017 supplements.

California's Uninsured

by Race/Ethnicity

Latinos experienced the largest percentage point decrease in the uninsured rate from 2013 to 2016.

Still, about one in eight Latinos was likely to be uninsured in 2016.

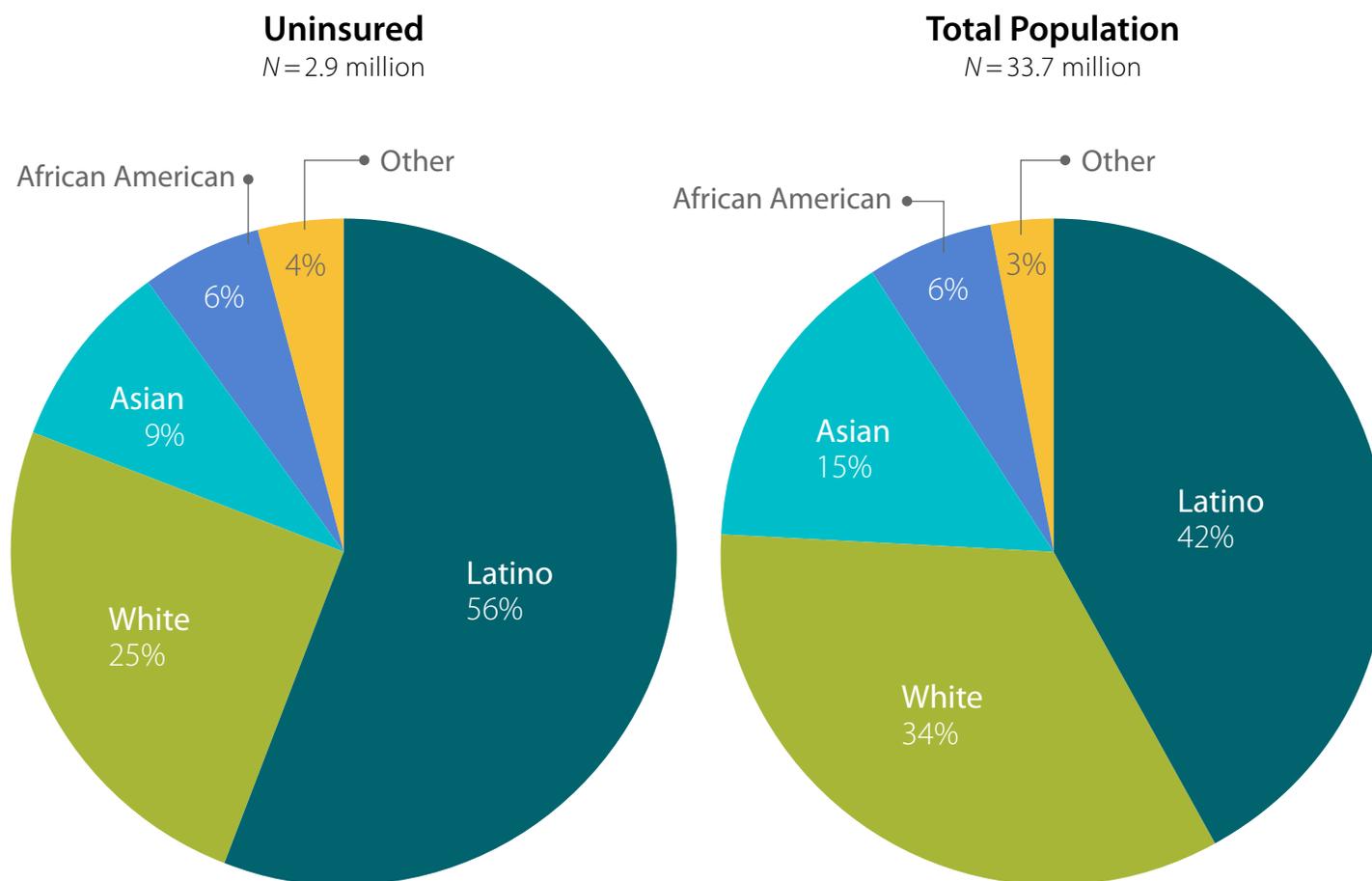
Race/Ethnicity of the Uninsured vs. Total Population

California, 2016

California's Uninsured

by Race/Ethnicity

In California, Latinos represented 42% of the total population but accounted for 56% of the uninsured.



Notes: All numbers reflect population under age 65. The survey data used in this chart relies on self-reported insurance status. See About the Data on page 21 for a full explanation of how this could impact findings.

Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute estimates of the Current Population Survey, March 2017 supplement.

Highest Uninsured Noncitizen Rates

by State, Compared to United States, 2016

	TOTAL POPULATION		PERCENTAGE UNINSURED	
	IN MILLIONS	NONCITIZENS	CITIZENS	NONCITIZENS
United States	270.2	8.0%	8.6%	27.5%
Texas	24.2	12.0%	13.2%	46.4%
Florida	16.6	11.9%	12.6%	29.1%
New Jersey	7.5	11.2 %	7.1%	24.6%
California	33.7	14.3%	7.0%	19.1%
New York	16.2	10.0 %	5.4%	17.3%
Hawaii	1.1	11.2 %	5.3%	15.1%
Massachusetts	5.8	11.3 %	5.8%	11.2%

California's Uninsured

by Citizenship

While California had the largest percentage of noncitizens of any state, Texas had the largest percentage of uninsured noncitizens. Forty-six percent of noncitizens in Texas did not have health insurance in 2016 compared to 19% of California's noncitizens.

Notes: All numbers reflect population under age 65. Includes only states with at least 10% noncitizens and at least 75,000 noncitizens. Undocumented immigrants receiving restricted scope Medicaid may be categorized as insured. The survey data used in this chart relies on self-reported insurance status. See About the Data on page 21 for a full explanation of how this could impact findings.

Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute estimates of the Current Population Survey, March 2017 supplement.

Health Status, by Insurance Source

California, 2016

■ Excellent/Very Good
 ■ Good
 ■ Fair/Poor

OVERALL



Employer-Based



Individual



Medi-Cal



Uninsured



California's Uninsured

by Health Status

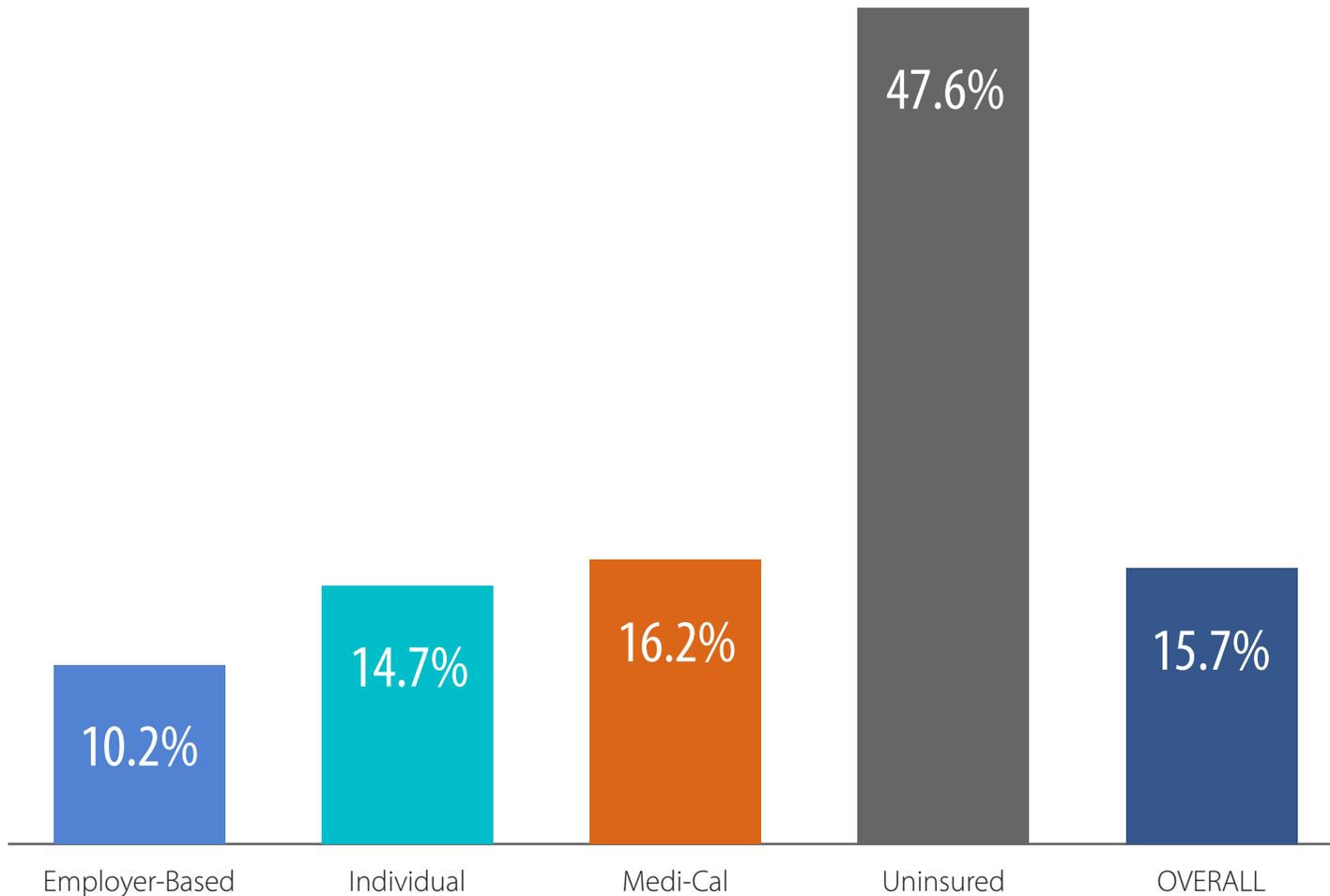
Californians who were uninsured or enrolled in Medi-Cal were most likely to report their health status as fair or poor, compared to those with employer-based or privately purchased insurance. One in 6 Medi-Cal enrollees is a senior and/or person with disabilities.

Notes: All numbers reflect population under age 65. Segments may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), UCLA, 2016.

No Usual Source of Care, by Insurance Source

California, 2016



Note: All numbers reflect population under age 65.
Source: California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), UCLA, 2016.

California's Uninsured

Access

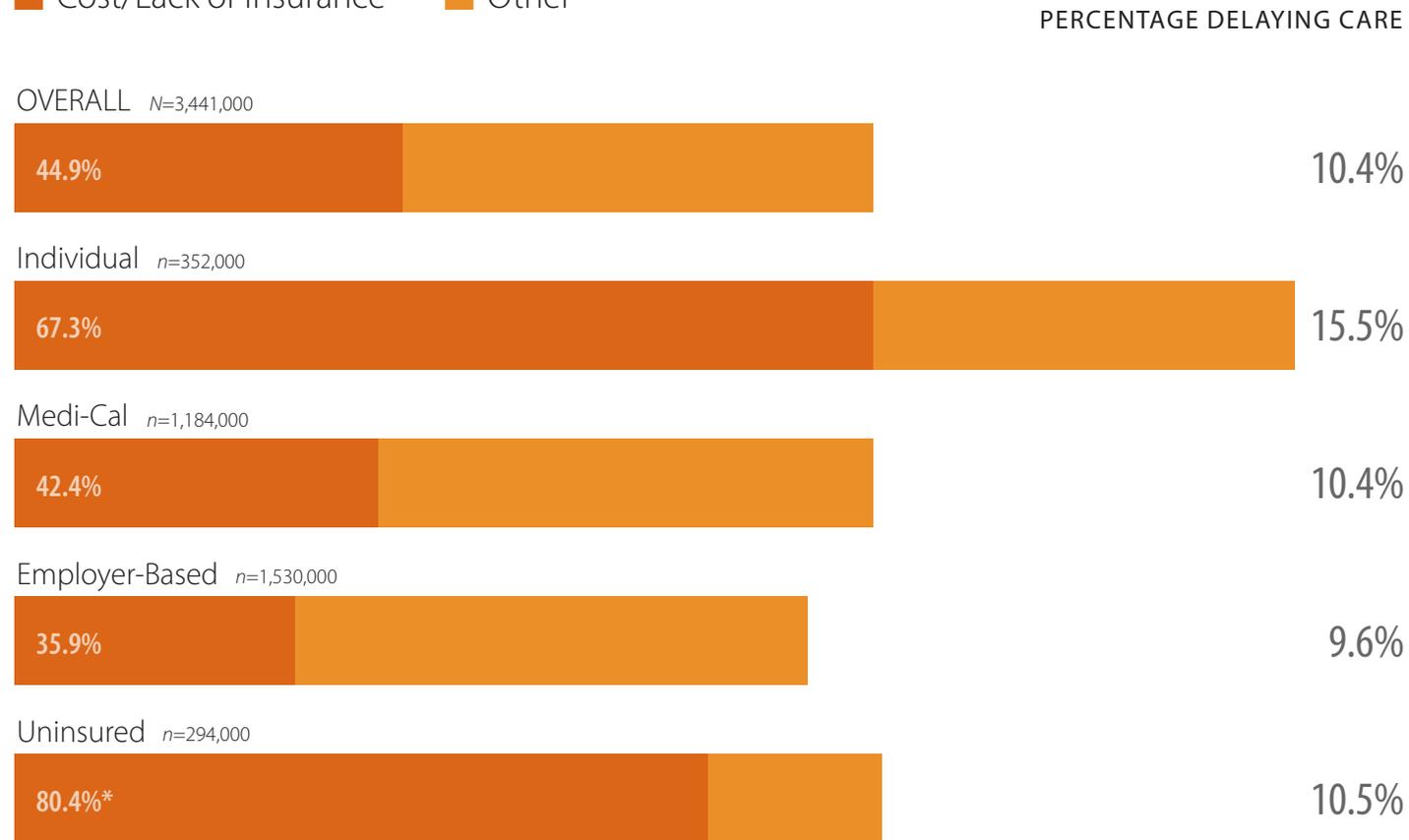
Nearly half of Californians without health insurance reported they had no usual source of care. The percentage who reported no usual source of care was similar for Medi-Cal and individual coverage. It was lowest among those with employer-based coverage.

Delayed Care, by Insurance Source

California, 2016

Reason for Delay

■ Cost/Lack of Insurance ■ Other



*Statistically unstable.

Notes: All numbers reflect population under age 65. Other public not shown, but included in *OVERALL*.

Source: California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), UCLA, 2016.

California's Uninsured

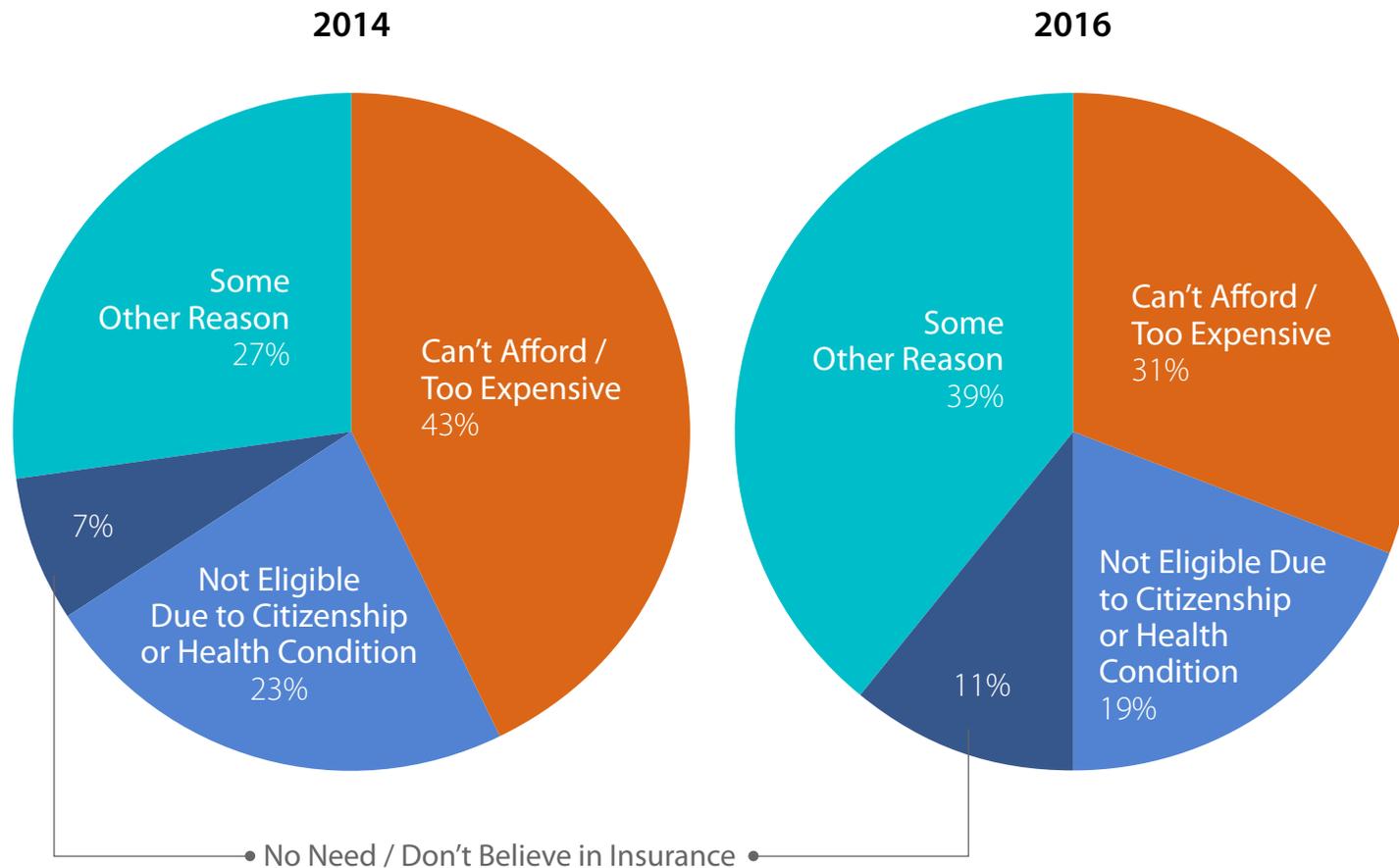
Access

Californians with individual insurance were more likely to delay care than any other group, even those without insurance.

Reasons Cited for Lack of Insurance

California, 2014 and 2016

A smaller percentage of Californians cited affordability as the reason for not having health insurance in 2016 compared to 2014.



Notes: All numbers reflect population under age 65. Other reasons for not having insurance include: can get health care for free / pay for own; not offered at job; delay due to switching insurance companies; family situation changed; not eligible due to working status; in process of looking for / getting insurance; can't qualify for public program coverage; don't know where or how to get insurance; health insurance was canceled/dropped; procrastination; and falsely thinking oneself insured.

Source: California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), UCLA, 2014 and 2016.

About the Data

The majority of the data presented in this report come from the March Supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS) conducted by the US Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The monthly CPS is a primary source of data on labor force characteristics of the US civilian, noninstitutionalized population. It is also the official source of data on unemployment rates, poverty, and income in the US. Approximately 100,000 households, representing nearly 200,000 individuals, were interviewed in March 2017 as part of the CPS.

Data from the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) were used to report on health status and access issues. The survey data used in this publication relies on self-reported insurance status. When asked by survey researchers about health coverage, some undocumented immigrants who have used restricted-scope Medi-Cal may respond that they have Medi-Cal coverage. Restricted-scope Medi-Cal, which covers only emergency and pregnancy-related services, is not comprehensive coverage. Therefore, if these undocumented adults reporting Medi-Cal were considered uninsured, the number of Californians without insurance would be higher.

Measures used to calculate uninsured rates vary by source. To calculate uninsured rates in this publication, the author used CPS data.

ABOUT THIS SERIES

The California Health Care Almanac is an online clearinghouse for data and analysis examining the state's health care system. It focuses on issues of quality, affordability, insurance coverage and the uninsured, and the financial health of the system with the goal of supporting thoughtful planning and effective decisionmaking. Learn more at www.chcf.org/almanac.

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