



Fact Sheet

The Role of Small Non-FQHC Practices in Medi-Cal Primary Care Delivery

Small, non-FQHC practices play an important role in California's health care system by providing Medi-Cal enrollees with primary care. In 2022, these small non-FQHC practices provided 2.1 million primary care visits to Medi-Cal enrollees (15% of all visits). The role of these practices in providing care for Medi-Cal enrollees varies across counties with some counties handling more than the average rate.

Small practices typically consist of one to three providers and are important access points for Medi-Cal enrollees. They can operate as FQHCs or non-FQHCs. FQHCs operate under specific federal guidelines and funding structures. Non-FQHCs often work independently and get funding and provide care in different ways. This analysis focuses on small, non-FQHC primary care practices.

These findings are summarized from [*Understanding California's Safety Net: Identifying the Health Care Providers Delivering Primary Care to Medi-Cal Enrollees*](#). For this study, practices were identified by National Provider Identifiers. These are unique 10-digit numbers used to track what each provider does across health care systems.

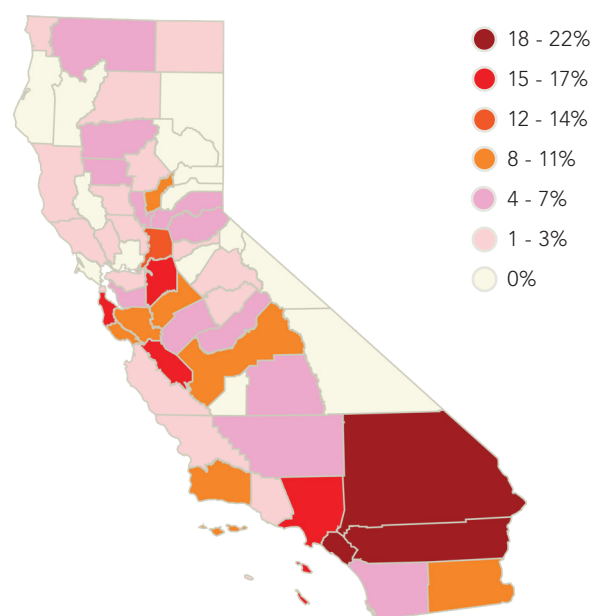
Small Non-FQHC Practices Provided 2.1 Million Medi-Cal Primary Care Visits

In 2022, Medi-Cal enrollees made 20.4 million primary care visits total. Of these visits, 14.3 million were to non-FQHC providers (70%). Small non-FQHC practices with one to three providers handled over 2.1 million (15%) of these visits.

The Number of Visits Varies Significantly by County

The number of Medi-Cal primary care visits that happen at small practices changes from county to county (Figure 1). Small practices handled much more than the state average (15%) of non-FQHC primary care visits in several counties. Four large (by population) southern counties had higher rates: Riverside (29%), Orange (26%), San Bernardino (25%), and Los Angeles (22%). Two smaller northern counties also had higher rates: Yuba (31%) and Sutter (26%).

Figure 1. Percentage of Primary Care Visits at Small Non-FQHC Practices, 2022



Source: Petra W. Rasmussen et. al., [*Understanding California's Safety Net: Identifying the Health Care Providers Delivering Primary Care to Medi-Cal Enrollees*](#), RAND, Sept. 19, 2025.