



**Traditional and Safety Net Provider as
Primary Care Provider Report For
Calendar Year 2009 and 2010**

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California Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board

Benefits and Quality Monitoring Division



California Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board

Healthy Families Program (HFP)

MRMIB provides and promotes access to affordable coverage for comprehensive, high quality, cost effective health care services to improve the health of Californians.

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Introduction

The Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board (MRMIB) provides subscribers in the Healthy Families Program (HFP) with a choice of health plans in accordance with California Insurance Code, Section 12693.37. The range of choices available to each subscriber includes health plans that contract with Traditional and Safety Net (T&SN) providers. MRMIB requires plans to annually report on the number of subscribers with T&SN providers as their primary care providers. This report summarizes plan data for the 2009 and 2010 calendar year.

Background

MRMIB defines T&SN providers as those who belong to at least one of three categories of providers who have historically served low income and/or uninsured children. The three categories of providers are:

1. Providers, except clinical laboratories, participating in the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program.
2. Clinics, including community clinics, free clinics, rural health clinics, community hospital-based outpatient clinics, and county owned and operated clinics that serve children in the Medi-Cal program.
3. Hospitals designated by the Department of Health Care Services as disproportionate share hospitals, university teaching hospitals, children's hospitals, or county owned and operated general acute care hospitals.

Each year, MRMIB generates a list of T&SN providers based on these categories and uses it in the Community Provider Plan (CPP) designation process. Each plan uses the list to identify which T&SN providers are contracted with the plan, and reports to MRMIB the number of HFP children who have a T&SN provider as their primary care providers. MRMIB

then periodically assesses the extent to which HFP subscribers select T&SN providers for their primary care providers.

Report Methodology

MRMIB requested all HFP health plans to report the number of HFP children who had a T&SN provider as their primary care providers for calendar year 2009 and 2010. The health plans were instructed to indicate whether the T&SN provider was assigned by the health plan or selected by the applicant.

MRMIB linked the health plans' data with the enrollment data to add information related to ethnicity of the member and the primary language of the applicant (usually the parent).

Out of 24 health plans that participated in the HFP during this report period, 20 are included in this report. These plans represent approximately 70% of the total HFP enrollment for 2009 and 2010 calendar year. The plans excluded from the report are Kaiser Foundation Health Plan (Kaiser has a closed system and does not contract with T&SN providers), Anthem Blue Cross EPO, Blue Shield EPO and Health Net EPO (these exclusive provider organization plans do not require HFP subscribers to receive primary care services from a specific primary care provider). The four excluded health plans represent approximately 30% of total HFP enrollment.

Major Findings

- In both 2009 and 2010 approximately half of HFP members enrolled in the 20 plans that reported data received primary care from T&SN providers.
- In both 2009 and 2010, there were more subscribers who selected the T&SN provider themselves than assigned to a T&SN provider.
- There is wide variation among the plans in the percentage of HFP subscribers that select a T&SN provider. In general, subscribers enrolled in local plans utilize a T&SN provider for primary care at a higher rate than subscribers enrolled in plans that serve a larger geographic region.
- HFP subscribers who are non-white and who speak languages other than English utilize T&SN providers at a higher rate than subscribers who are white and speak English as their primary language.
- In 2009 and 2010, T&SN utilization rates were lower than the previous years (see figure 1).

Selection/Assignment to a T&SN Provider

The HFP allows applicants to note their child's primary care provider. All health maintenance organization (HMO) health plans require their members to select or be assigned to primary care providers who manage their care. Administrative policies among plans vary in terms of

assignment and/or selection of a primary care provider. Certain plans require subscribers to select a primary care provider while others automatically assign one. If the applicant specifies a particular primary care provider on the application, this information is forwarded electronically to the health plan by the HFP administrative vendor. HMO health plans allow members to change their primary care providers on a monthly basis; a small number of HMOs allow primary care provider changes more frequently.

Table 1 compares the percentage of subscribers who selected a T&SN provider and those who were assigned to a T&SN provider. The plans are listed in order from highest to lowest by the percentage of HFP subscribers who use T&SN providers as primary care providers in 2010.

Table 1 – 2009 and 2010 Utilization of T&SN Providers

Health Plan	2010 Subscribers Assigned to T&SN PCP	2010 Subscribers Selecting T&SN PCP	2010 Total T&SN Percent age	2009 Subscribers Assigned to T&SN PCP	2009 Subscribers Selecting T&SN PCP	2009 Total T&SN Percentage
Inland Empire Health Plan	7%	93%	100%	7%	93%	100%
Molina	15%	85%	100%	22%	78%	100%
Community Health Group	78%	17%	95%	77%	20%	97%
Alameda Alliance for Health	13%	80%	93%	10%	85%	94%
Ventura County Health Care Plan	52%	40%	92%	63%	32%	95%
San Francisco Health Plan	8%	82%	90%	6%	87%	93%
Cen Cal Health	44%	42%	86%	37%	54%	91%
Health Plan of San Mateo	3%	83%	86%	3%	83%	86%
Central Coast Alliance for Health	35%	45%	80%	21%	55%	76%
Contra Costa Health Plan	41%	39%	80%	57%	9%	66%
Care 1st	52%	27%	79%	57%	25%	82%
Anthem Blue Cross HMO	1%	77%	78%	0%	21%	21%
Santa Clara Family Health Plan	4%	68%	72%	0%	72%	72%
Community Health Plan	60%	11%	71%	43%	28%	70%
Kern Family Health	60%	1%	61%	70%	2%	72%
Health Plan of San Joaquin	1%	49%	50%	5%	73%	78%
L.A. Care Health Plan	28%	18%	46%	25%	16%	41%
CalOptima	0%	35%	35%	0%	37%	37%
Health Net HMO	22%	12%	34%	21%	3%	24%
Blue Shield HMO	0%	4%	4%	0%	2%	2%
Overall Utilization	21%	29%	50%	16%	33%	49%

As Table 1 shows:

- In both 2009 and 2010, there are more subscribers who selected T&SN providers as their Primary Care Providers than those who were assigned. However, there were more subscribers assigned by health plans with T&SN providers in 2010 compared to 2009 by percentage.

- Inland Empire Health Plan reported the highest percentage of subscribers who *selected* T&SN providers for primary care – 93% of their total subscribers.
- Community Health Group reported the highest percentage of subscribers who were *assigned* to T&SN providers for primary care – 77% of their total subscribers in 2009 and 78% in 2010.
- Anthem Blue Cross reported the biggest change of utilization by percentage between 2009 and 2010.

The following three plans reported that all (or nearly all) of their subscribers receive primary care from T&SN providers:

- Molina Health Care 100% for both 2009 and 2010.
- Inland Empire Health Plan 100% for both 2009 and 2010.
- Community Health Group 97% in 2009 and 95% in 2010.

Table 1 shows that four plans reported that less than half of their HFP subscribers receive primary care from a T&SN provider in 2009 and 2010. The four plans include Blue Shield HMO, Health Net HMO, CalOptima and L.A. Care Health Plan.

Subscriber Demographics

Figures 2 through 4 compare the percentage of subscribers who either were assigned to or selected a T&SN provider by demographic categories concerning subscribers' Ethnicity, Spoken Language and Region.

- Hispanic/Latino subscribers utilized T&SN providers at the highest rate (54%) among all ethnic groups, exceeding the average of 49% for all HFP subscribers.
- Whites had the lowest rate of subscribers utilizing T&SN providers (36% in 2009 and 42% in 2010).
- Subscribers from the Bay Area and the Southern region were more likely to utilize a T&SN provider than those from the South Coast and Los Angeles.

Conclusion

In 2009 and 2010, about half of HFP members overall used T&SN providers for primary care, a decrease of 14% compared to 2008. Non-whites and members who speak languages other than English utilize T&SN providers at higher rates than Whites and English speaking members. In addition, subscribers enrolled in local health plans utilize a T&SN provider for primary care at higher rates than subscribers enrolled in plans that serve a larger geographic region.

Figure 1 Utilization of T&SN Provider by Percentage 2007-2010

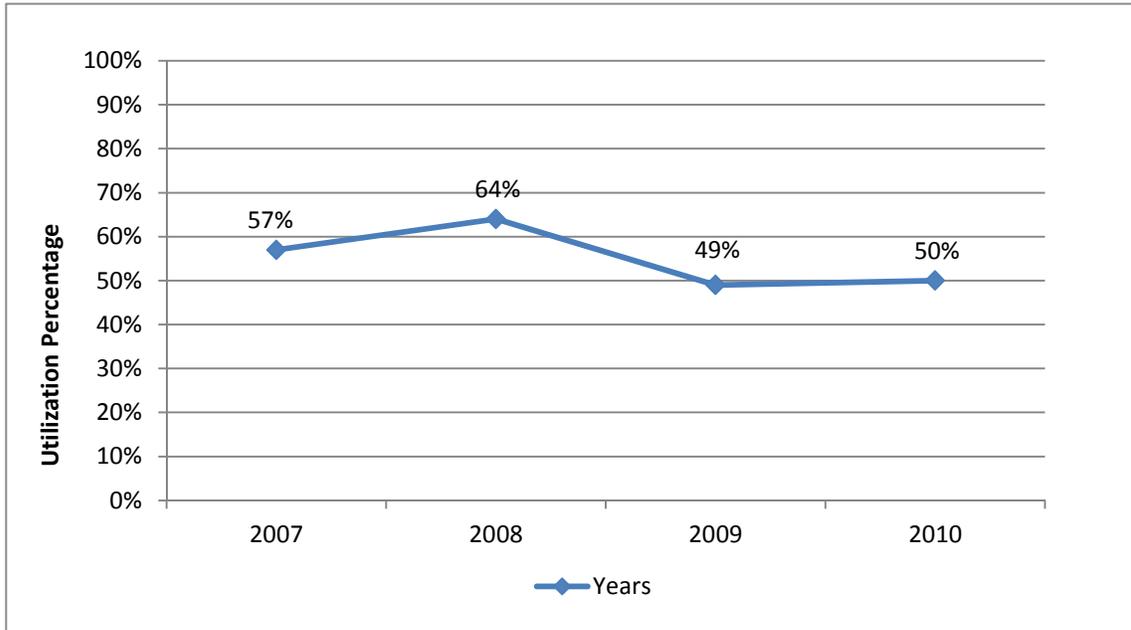


Figure 2 – Utilization of T&SN as PCP by Ethnicity

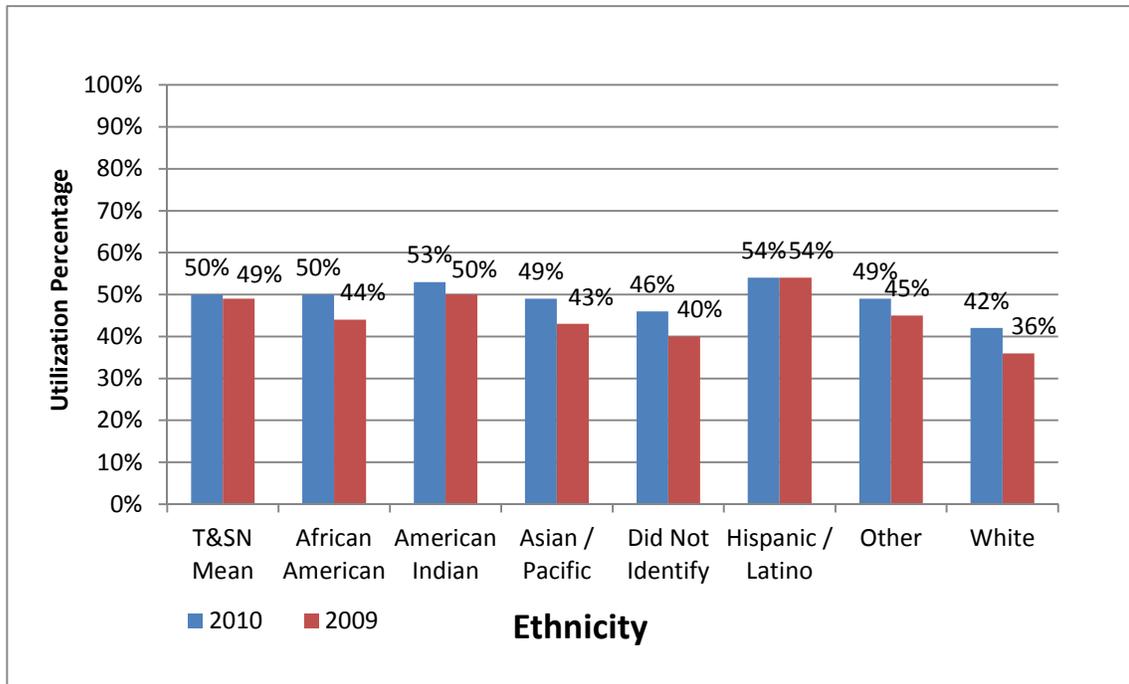
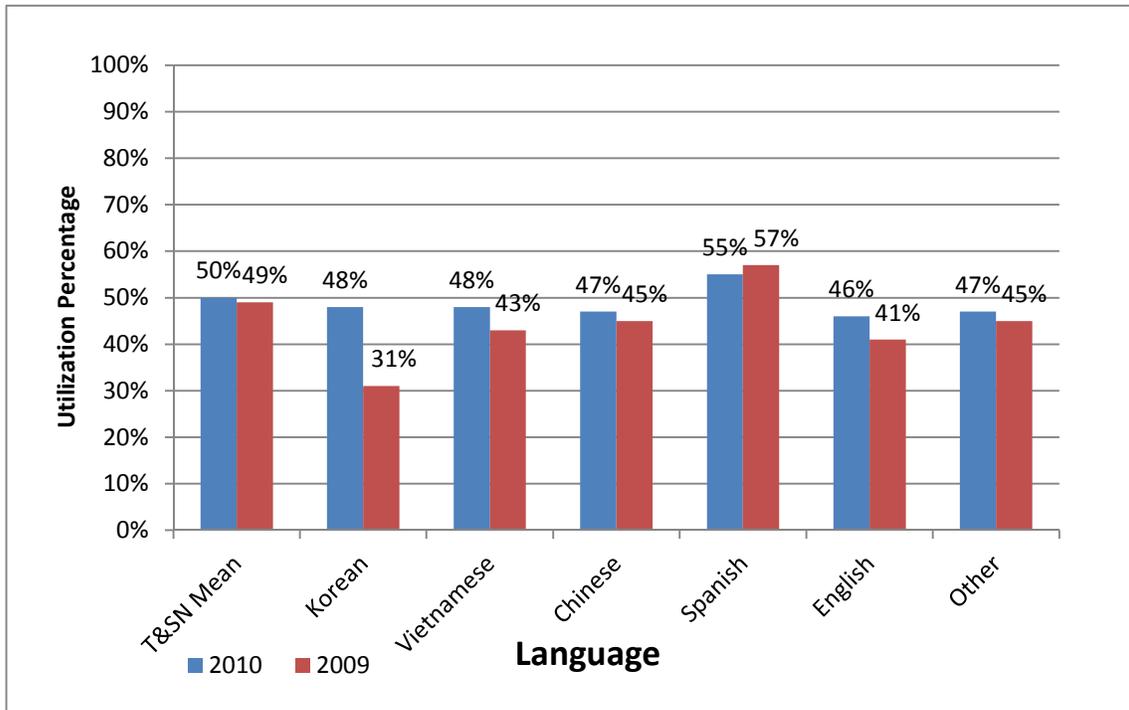


Figure 3 – Utilization of T&SN as PCP by Spoken Language



*Other languages include Arabic, Armenian, Cambodian, Farsi, French, Hebrew, Hmong, Italian, Japanese, Lao, Llacano, Mien, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Samoan, Tagalog, Thai and Turkish.

Figure 4 – Utilization of T&SN as PCP by Region

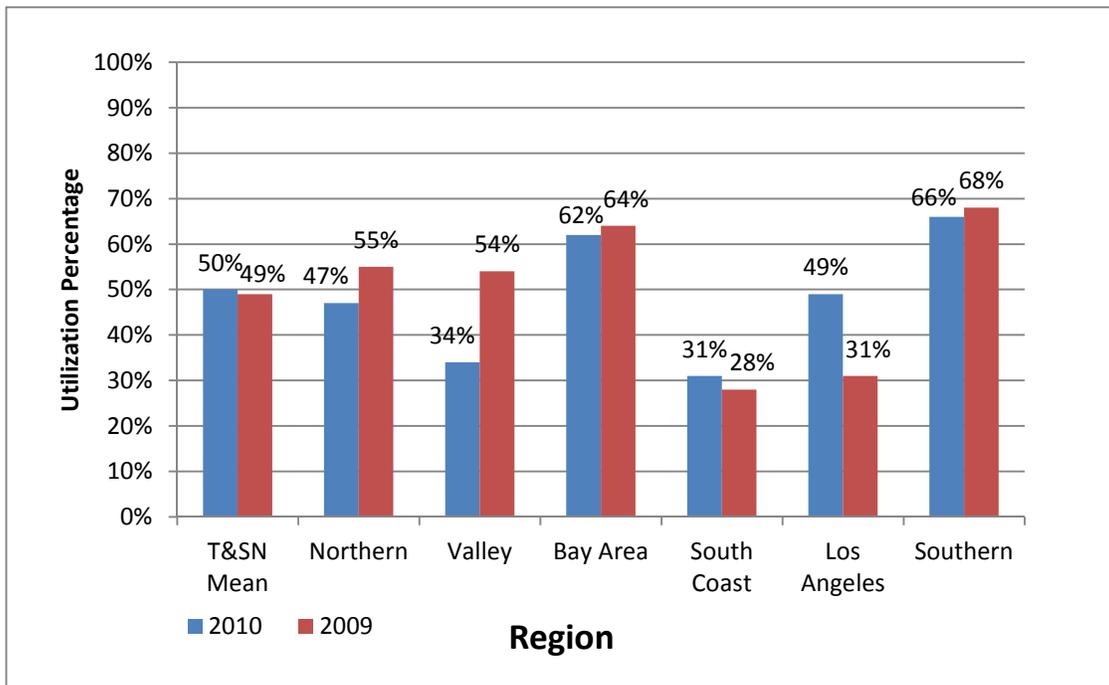


Figure 5 – HFP Map of California Regions

