



California Medical Association

Physicians dedicated to the health of Californians

Covered California: Physician Perspective

Brett Johnson, JD, MPH, MS

Associate Director, Center for Medical and Regulatory Policy

Overview

- Enrollment beat projections, but unclear that network development kept up
- Network confusion among patients and providers
- Patient cost-sharing will demand greater attention from providers
- Administrative headaches for providers may get worse before they get better
- Looking forward
- CMA Resources



Exchange Enrollment Update

- National enrollment = Reportedly exceeded 8 million
 - Ages 18-34 = 25% (as of 3/1)
- As of 4/17, CA reported 1,395,929 “enrollees”
 - BUT 15%+ have not yet paid first month’s premium
 - **88% of enrollees receiving subsidies**
 - L.A. County accounts for 29% of all enrollments
- Enrollment among Asian communities in CA very high
 - 21% of enrollees, while only 13.1% of Californians
 - Nearly half of all CA’s eligible Asian-Americans

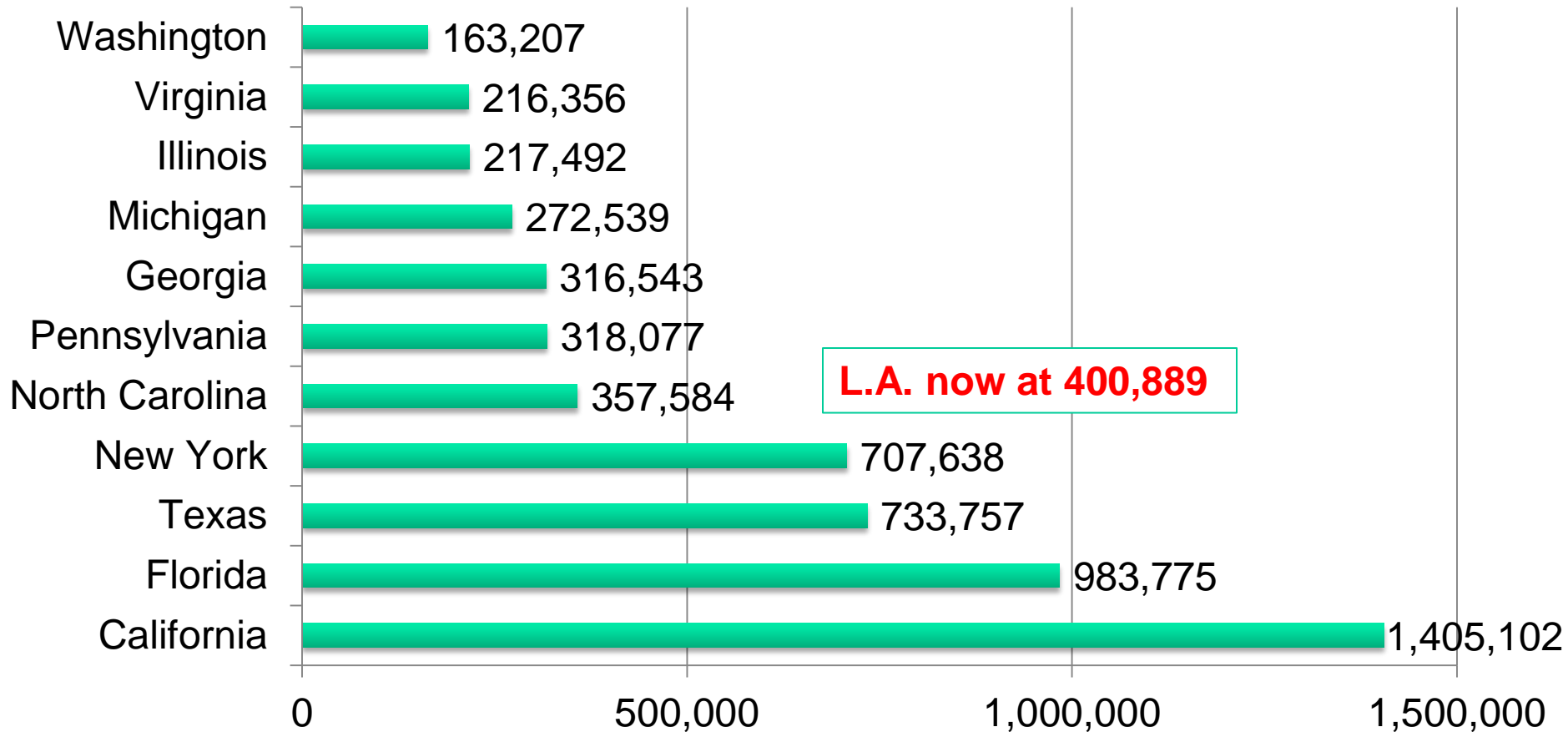
* **Medi-Cal enrollment = 1,930,000**



California Medical Association
Physicians dedicated to the health of Californians

Exchange Enrollment Update

State Exchange Enrollment as of 4/19/14 (100k+)



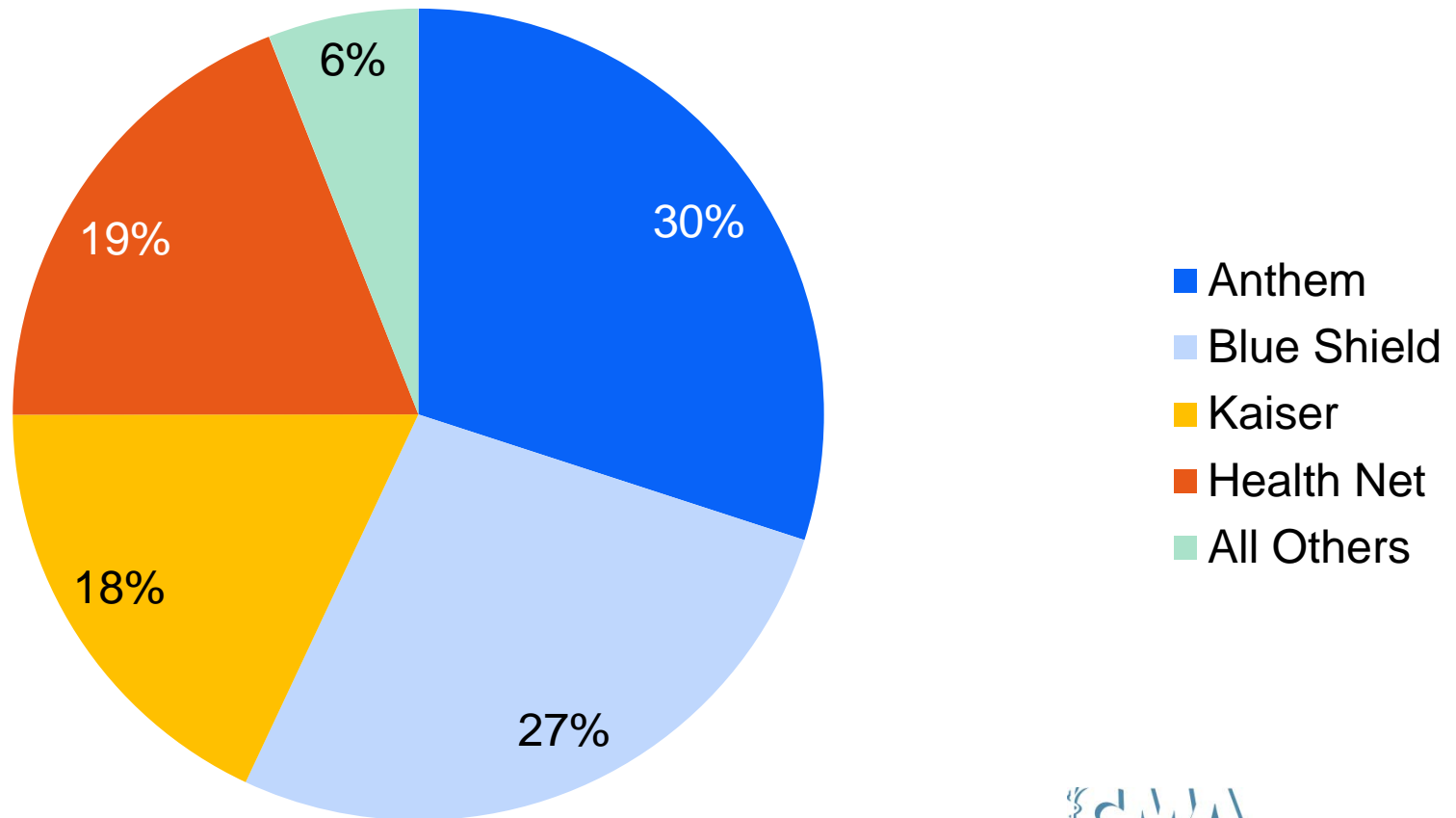
* Source: ASPE Issue Brief (May 1, 2014)



California Medical Association
Physicians dedicated to the health of Californians

State Enrollment by Plan

California Enrollment by Plan as of 3/31/14



Network Confusion

- Covered CA ID cards will have logo*
- BUT mirror products will not
 - Both use the same exchange network
- EPOs have no out-of-network benefits
 - Blue Shield EPO in Marin & Alameda counties
- Plan websites are only way to verify participation
 - See [CMA's "Surviving the Second Month of Covered California"](#)



Network Confusion

- CMA recently conducted a survey of practices:
 - 80% at some point confused about participation
 - 20% still unclear whether in-network
 - 56% confused due to unclear product identification
 - 50% confused because automatically opted in
 - 51% reported a loss of patients due to exchange
 - 71% b/c patient unknowingly chose non-par product
 - 55% reporting difficulty finding in-network referral
 - 50% believe rates will negatively impact access
 - 23% = likely to close or sell practice



Patient Cost-Sharing and Rates

- Some kept same commercial rates
- Others had (much) lower rates for exchange
- Monitor your EOBs
- Assess policies on extending credit



Patient Cost-Sharing and Rates



"I'm afraid we couldn't stop the billing."

Patient Cost-Sharing in Exchange Plans

Service Category	Patient Co-Pay	
	Standard Silver	Standard Bronze
Hospital Stay	20%* (physician services exempted from deductible)	30%*
ER Services	\$250*	\$300*
Specialist Visit	\$65	\$70*
X-rays and Diagnostic Imaging	\$65	30%*
Imaging (CT/PET, MRIs)	20%* or \$250	30%*
“Integral Part” of a Preventive Care Service	No patient cost share across all plans.	
DEDUCTIBLES *Deductible applies.	Medical = \$2,000; brand drugs = \$250	Medical & drug integrated (inpatient, ER, drugs) = \$5,000 (\$4,500 for HSA)

Administrative Headaches

A Brief History of Health-Care

Gary Varvel
THE INDIVIDUALS OF COMIC
CARTOON CREATIONS.COM
garyvarvel.com



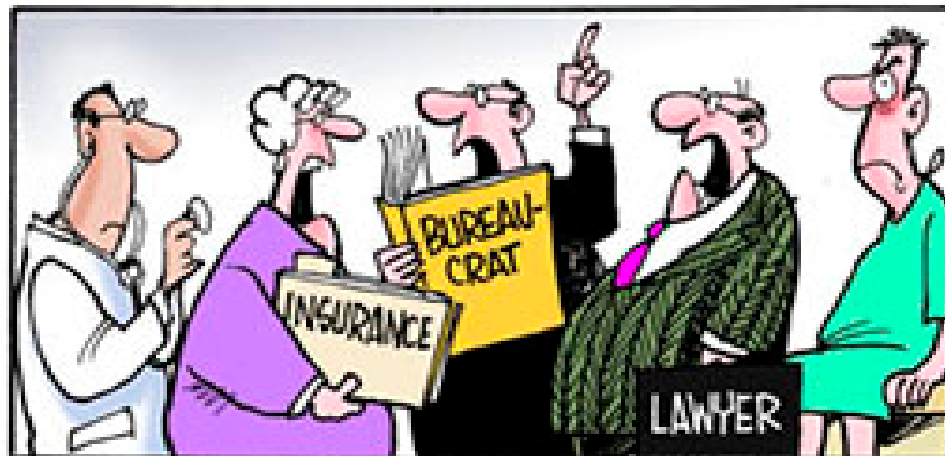
The House Call



The Office Call



The 1-800 Call



The Conference Call

Administrative Headaches

- Federal 3-month grace period for the subsidized
 - Suspension of coverage pending in CA
 - **Verifying eligibility near time of service is critical**
- Must notify patient of out-of-network providers in treatment plan or referral
 - Anthem & Blue Shield require patient signature
- More quality and cost data being demanded
 - Individual physician rating
 - 70+ new plan reports required



Looking Forward

- Sort out the networks
 - Especially those in underserved areas
 - Exchange considering doing more
- Broad network/high cost vs. Narrow network/low cost
- Who signed up for bronze plans?
- How much will premiums increase?
- Preparing for October 1st (or November 15th) open enrollment



CMA Resources: www.cmanet.org/exchange

- FAQ for Covered CA Patients
- Survival Guide Series for Jan., Feb., & March
- Numerous fact sheets, including one on networks
- “CMA’s Got You Covered” – a comprehensive guide for physicians on Covered CA
- FAQs for physicians and staff
- Call CMA’s members’ only reimbursement helpline: **(888) 401-5911** or economicsservices@cmanet.org



Additional Questions and Comments

Brett Johnson

Associate Director, Center for Medical and Regulatory Policy

bjohnson@cmanet.org

(916) 551-2552



California Medical Association
Physicians dedicated to the health of Californians