



HOUSING AFFORDABILITY MATTERS

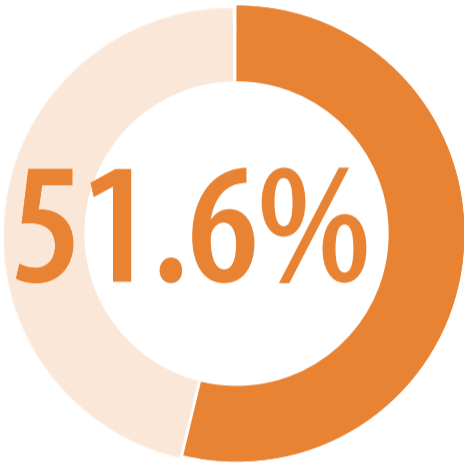
Exploring Unaffordable Rents on State Health Compare

Housing affordability is a social determinant of health. A lack of affordable housing contributes to housing instability and homelessness, both of which are strong predictors of higher health care costs and poor health outcomes, among others.¹⁻² Many states—especially those with high housing costs and large numbers of low-income residents—face housing affordability challenges. Unaffordable Rents, a measure on State Health Compare, provides ten years (2012-2019, 2021-2022) of data on the percentage of rental households that spend more than 30 percent of their monthly income on rent, both at the national and state level, including breakdowns for disability status, household income, Medicaid enrollment, white/non-white, and metropolitan status.

44.1%

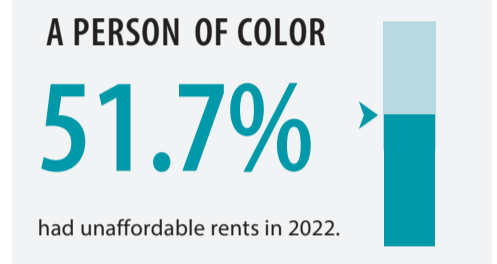
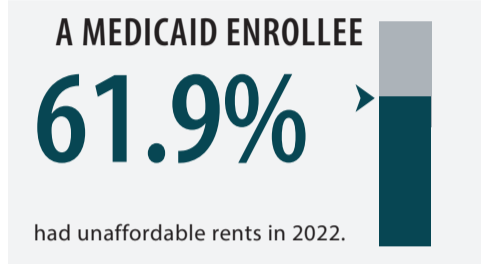
of households in California rented in 2022.

BREAKDOWN OF UNAFFORDABLE RENTS IN CALIFORNIA



of rental households in California had unaffordable rents in 2022.

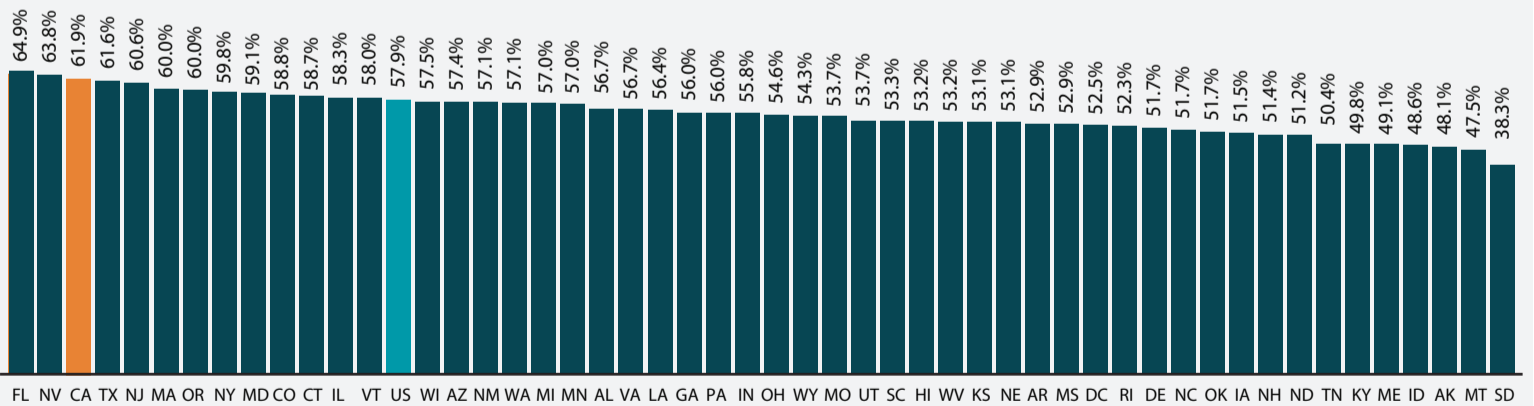
AMONG RENTAL HOUSEHOLDS WITH:



USING MEDICAID TO ADDRESS HOUSING INSTABILITY AT THE STATE LEVEL

States have the flexibility to use Medicaid funds to help provide housing support services for individuals with disabilities, older adults needing long-term services and supports, and individuals experiencing chronic homelessness. Medicaid can be used to provide services to support individuals' housing transitions, to help individuals sustain their tenancy, and to develop strategic housing collaboratives. These services can be reimbursed through Medicaid demonstration waivers and Medicaid state plans. For example, in June 2021, California requested a Section 1115 demonstration five-year extension to its California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) initiative Section 1115 that helps enrollees secure stable housing. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved this waiver in December 2021, but is in an amendment process as of January 2024.³ These amendments follow pilot studies on whole person care (WPC) approaches, and emphasize the importance of Community Supports such as housing, behavioral health care, and care coordination.⁴

AMONG RENTAL HOUSEHOLDS WITH A MEDICAID ENROLLEE: PERCENT WITH UNAFFORDABLE RENTS



THE MEASURES THAT MATTER SERIES

This infographic is a part of a series highlighting measures available from State Health Compare, a resource states can use to better understand trends in health and health care in their state and compare those to other states and the nation. The previous infographic in the series, Education Matters, highlighted the role education plays in inequities in health care affordability and access.

Notes: Unaffordable rent is defined as spending more than 30 percent of monthly household income on rent. Medicaid households are defined as households with one or more Medicaid enrollee. Differences described in this analysis are statistically significant at the 95 percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

Sources: SHADAC analysis of the 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) files, State Health Compare, SHADAC, University of Minnesota, statehealthcompare.shadac.org.

1 Paradise J, Ross DC. Linking Medicaid and Supporting Housing: Opportunities and On the Ground Examples. Jan 2017: Kaiser Family Foundation. <https://www.kff.org/report-section/linking-medicaid-and-supportive-housing-issue-brief/>

2 Cassidy A. Health Policy Brief: Medicaid and Permanent Supportive Housing. October 2016: Health Affairs and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. https://www.rwjf.org/content/dam/farm/reports/issue_briefs/2016/rwjf432103

3 National Academy for State Health Policy. CalAIM: Leveraging Medicaid Managed Care for Housing and Homelessness Supports. Published April 15, 2022. Accessed December 19, 2022. https://www.nashp.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/CalAIM-Housing_FINAL.pdf

4 Tong, M., & Hinton, E. (2022, March 17). California Efforts to Address Behavioral Health and SDOH: A Look at Whole Person Care Pilots. KFF; Kaiser Family Foundation. <https://www.kff.org/mental-health/issue-brief/california-efforts-to-address-behavioral-health-and-sdoh-a-look-at-whole-person-care-pilots/>

Click here to check out these and other estimates on State Health Compare!

