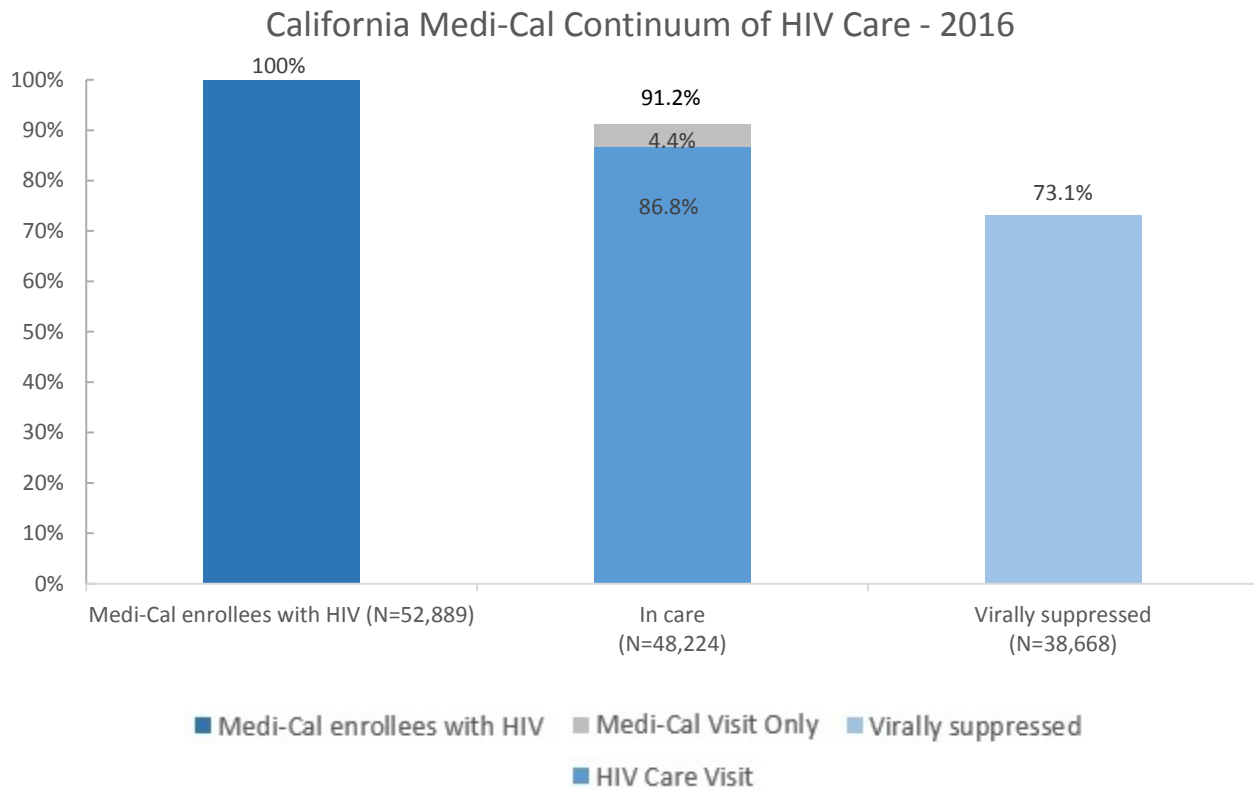


The California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) in collaboration with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Office of AIDS (OA), calculated the annual HIV viral load suppression indicator for the Medi-Cal population.

Sustained HIV viral suppression virtually eliminates HIV transmission to sexual partner(s), improves the health of people living with HIV, and is used as a marker for health care quality. The HIV viral load suppression indicator¹ calculates the number and percentage of HIV-positive Medi-Cal beneficiaries who were virally suppressed among those who had received a medical visit during calendar year (CY) 2016 and were confirmed to be HIV positive by CDPH HIV surveillance data.

For the 2016 data presented in this fact sheet, DHCS provided to OA a list of all Medi-Cal HIV-positive beneficiaries along with a variable indicating whether the patient received a medical visit during CY2016 and variables necessary for matching to CDPH’s HIV surveillance data.

OA matched the Medi-Cal beneficiaries with HIV-positive individuals in the CDPH HIV surveillance system to confirm HIV infection and determine whether patients were virally suppressed.



- Medi-Cal Enrollees with HIV:** Medi-Cal data was matched to HIV surveillance cases using a probabilistic matching algorithm. Of the 84,704 Medi-Cal cases provided by DHCS, 52,889 (62.4 percent) matched to HIV surveillance cases.

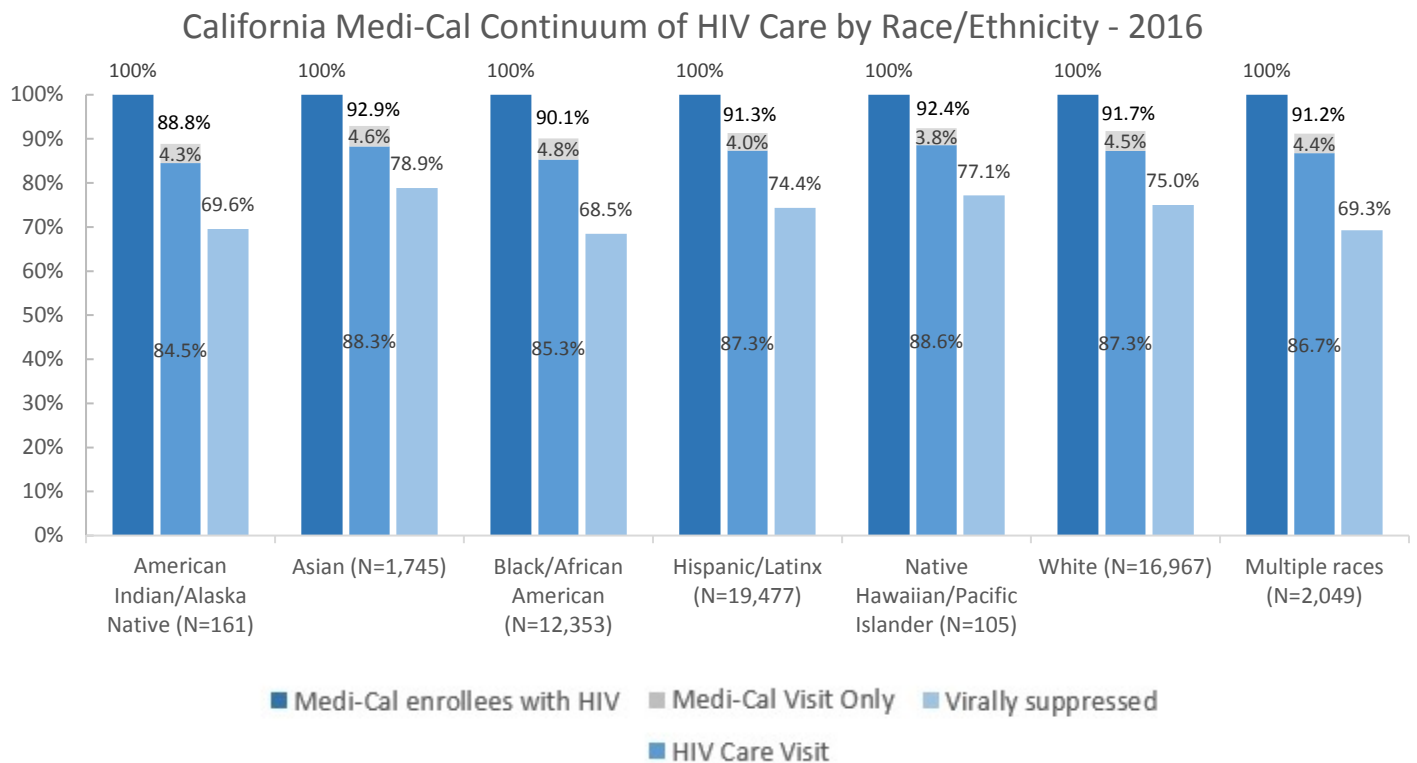
¹Specifications defined in the [Core Set of Adult Health Care Quality Measures for Medicaid \(Adult Core Set\) Technical Specifications and Resource Manual for Federal Fiscal Year 2018 Reporting](#).

- **In care:** Of the matched Medi-Cal enrollees with HIV, 48,224 (91.2 percent) cases had a medical visit during the year, including 86.8 percent who had at least one HIV care visit (defined as receipt of a CD4 or viral load laboratory test) and an additional 4.4 percent who only had evidence of a Medi-Cal visit (i.e., a Medi-Cal visit but no CD4 or viral load laboratory tests).
- **Virally suppressed:** 38,668 Medi-Cal enrollees with HIV were virally suppressed, determined by laboratory data indicating an HIV viral load of ≤ 200 copies/ml. This represents 73.1 percent of Medi-Cal enrollees with HIV, and 80.2 percent of the Medi-Cal enrollees receiving care.

In 2016, of all Californians living with HIV captured in HIV surveillance data, 73 percent were in HIV care and 61 percent achieved viral suppression. Compared to all persons living with HIV statewide, Medi-Cal enrollees with HIV were more likely to have received a medical visit and more likely to have achieved viral suppression, emphasizing the importance of continued access to quality health care for people living with HIV.

Medi-Cal Viral Suppression Rates by Race²

Of the 52,889 matched Medi-Cal enrollees with HIV, 0.3 percent were American Indian/Alaska Native, 3.3 percent Asian³, 23.4 percent Black/African American, 36.8 percent Hispanic/Latinx, 0.2 percent Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, 32.1 percent White, and 3.9 percent multiple races.



The percentage of Medi-Cal enrollees with HIV who were in care during CY2016 was similar among all racial/ethnic groups examined, ranging from 89 to 93 percent. In contrast, viral suppression rates varied, with Black/African American, multiple race, and American Indian/Alaska Native Medi-Cal

²As reported in HIV surveillance data. There were 32 persons diagnosed and living with HIV in California with an unknown race/ethnicity who are not included in the graph.

³Until 2003, Asian/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander was classified as a single category; therefore persons with race/ethnicity data only available prior to 2003 are classified as Asian because they cannot be disaggregated.

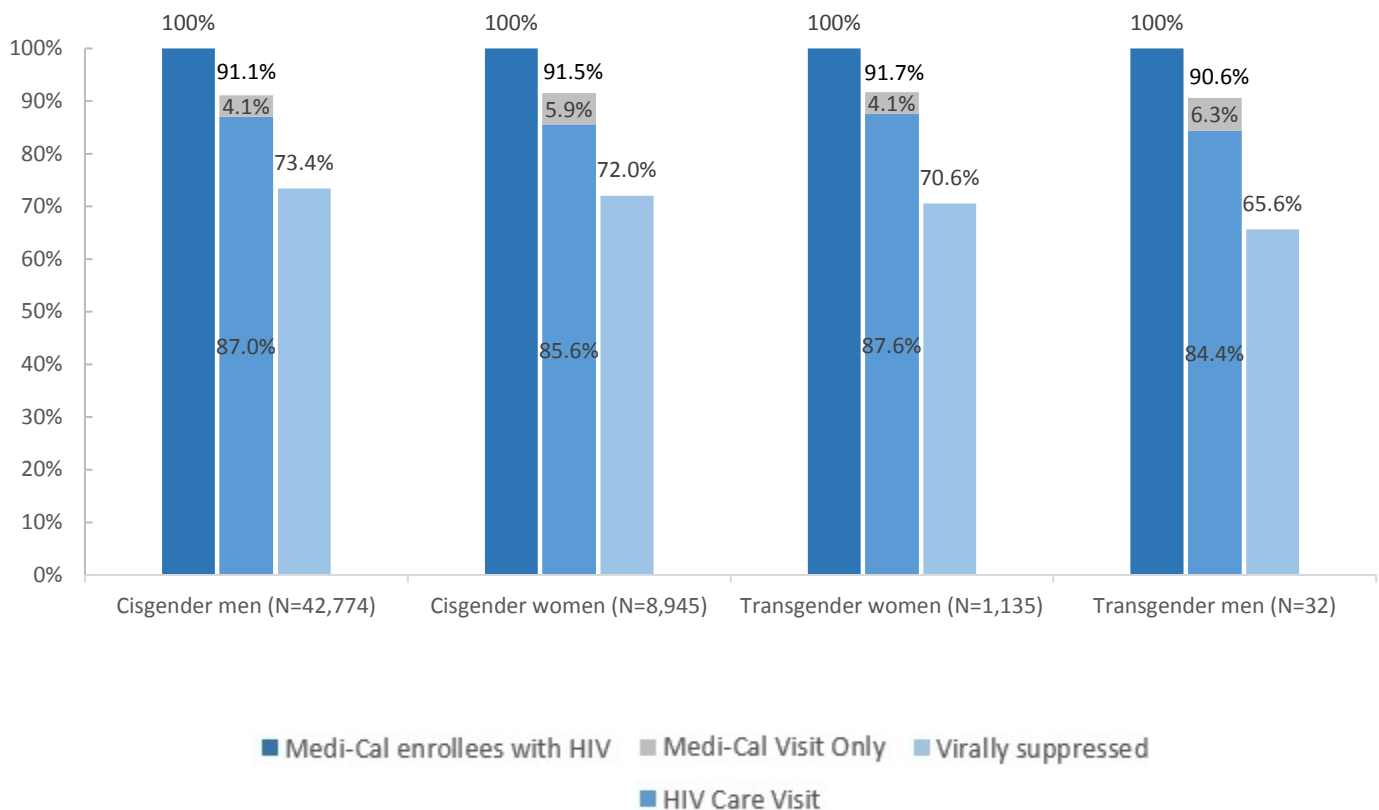
enrollees having the lowest viral suppression at 68.5 percent, 69.3 percent and 69.6 percent respectively. Asians had the highest viral suppression at 78.9 percent followed by Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders, Whites, and Hispanic/Latinxs (77.1 percent, 75 percent, and 74.4 percent respectively).

For comparison, statewide, American Indian/Alaska Natives, Black/African Americans, and Hispanic/Latinxs had the lowest levels of engagement in care in 2016 (64-70 percent) and were less likely than Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders, Whites, and Asians to be virally suppressed (53 percent, 55 percent, and 58 percent respectively, compared to 65 percent for Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders and 67 percent for Whites and Asians).

Medi-Cal Viral Suppression Rates by Gender⁴

The majority of the 52,889 matched Medi-Cal enrollees with HIV were cisgender men (81 percent). Retention in care among the gender groups ranged from 90.6 percent to 91.7 percent. Cisgender men achieved a higher viral suppression (73.4 percent) followed by cisgender women, transgender women, and transgender men (72 percent, 70.6 percent, and 65.6 percent respectively).

California Medi-Cal Continuum of HIV Care by Gender - 2016



The statewide viral suppression rate is lower than that of Medi-Cal enrollees. Statewide, cisgender men are more likely to be virally suppressed (62 percent) compared to transgender men, cisgender women, and transgender women (60 percent, 59 percent, and 57 percent respectively).

⁴As reported in HIV surveillance data. Gender was determined as of the last day of the calendar year. Persons were classified as being transgender if a case report form affirming their transgender status was present in HIV surveillance data.