



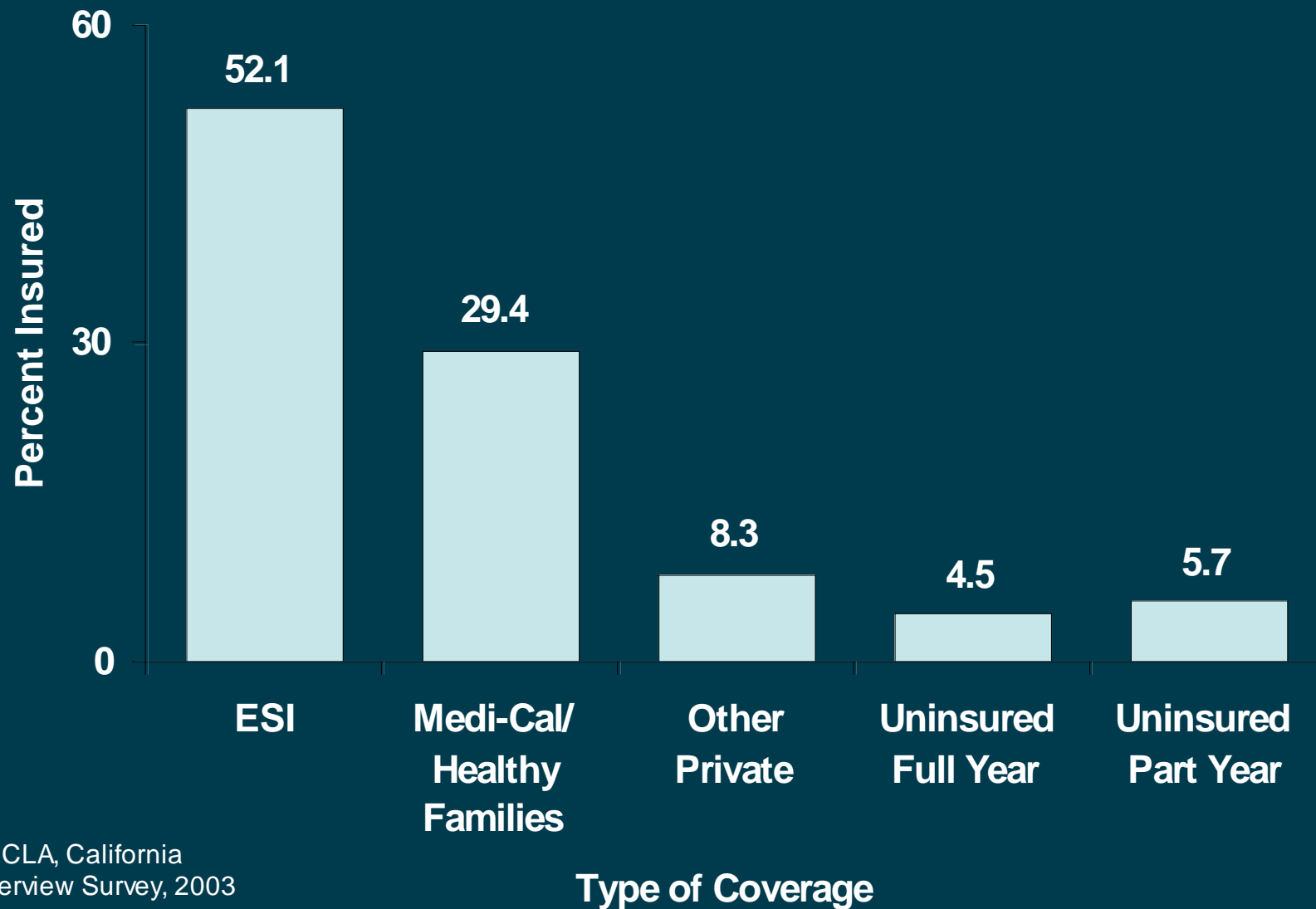
THE CALIFORNIA ENDOWMENT

Health Insurance for all Children

Building on Innovations in California's Diverse Communities

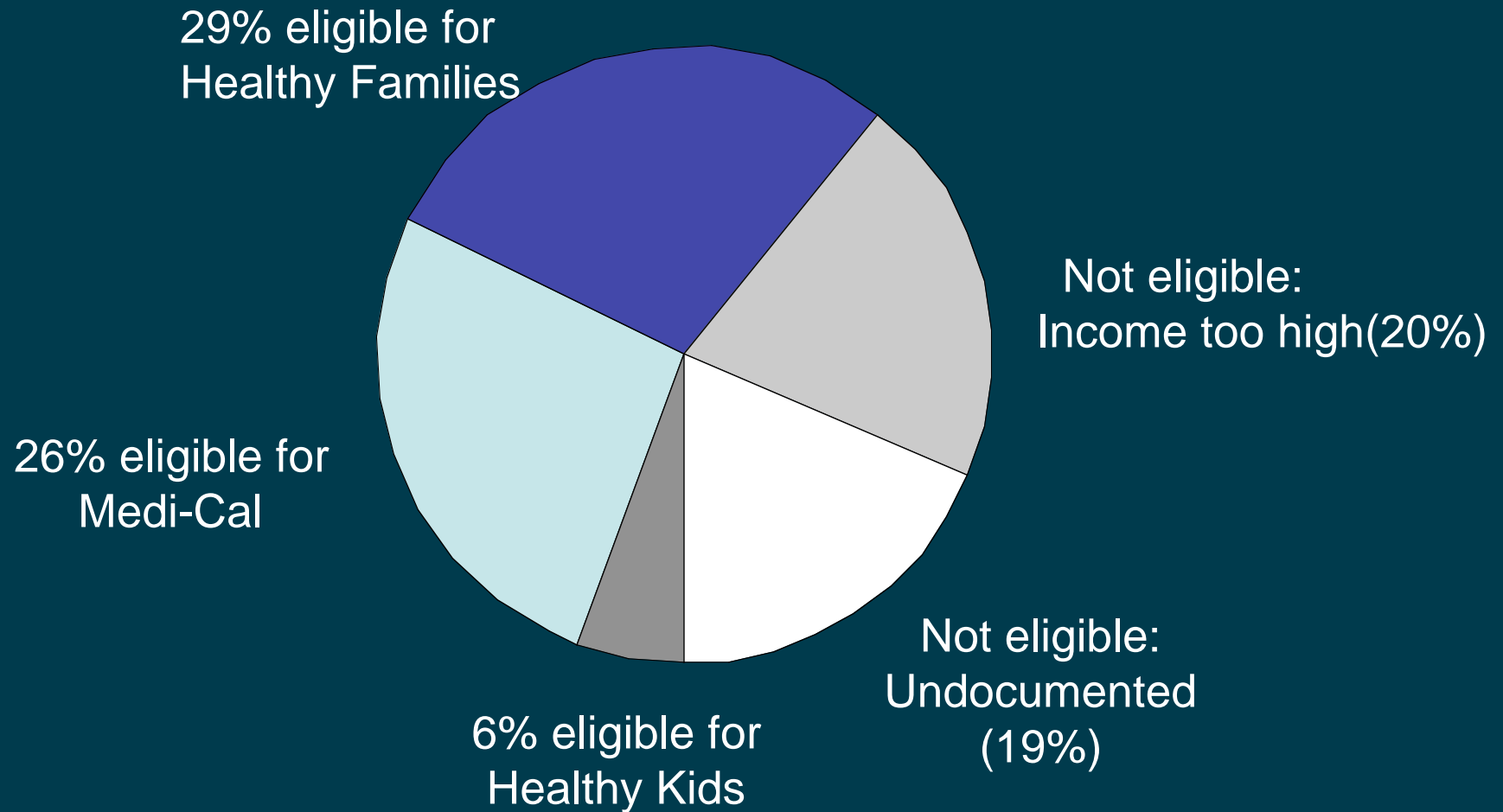
Peter V. Long, MHS
Senior Program Officer

Overview of Children's Coverage



Source: UCLA, California
Health Interview Survey, 2003

Nearly 800,000 Children Uninsured in 2003



Source: UCLA, California
Health Interview Survey, 2003

Why are Some Children in California Still Uninsured?

- Program fragmentation
- Administrative barriers
- “Churning” on and off programs
- Erosion of affordable employer coverage
- Immigration status of children and parents



Children's Health Initiatives

- **Began in Santa Clara County in January 2001**
- **Shared vision across public and private sectors of health coverage for all children**
- **Created a new program (Healthy Kids) for children below 300% of poverty level not eligible for other programs**
- **Coordinated “one open door” outreach and enrollment for all of the programs**

Elements of Children's Health Initiative Model

- Done without legislative or administrative action at federal or state level
- Collaboration of local advocates and public health care system
- Local public funding (County, City, First 5, Santa Clara Family Health Plan)
- Philanthropic investments (The California Endowment, Packard Foundation, and Blue Shield Foundation)

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Summary of CHI Results and Outcomes

- Major CHI evaluations are under way in Santa Clara, San Mateo, and Los Angeles Counties.

Key findings from Santa Clara include:

- Children's Health Initiatives (CHIs) improve health
 - CHIs increase from 50 to 89% the proportion of children with usual source of primary care
 - Percentage of children with usual source of dental care increases from 29 to 81%
 - Use of preventive care increased from 24 to 43%
 - CHIs have contributed to increased enrollment in Medi-Cal and Healthy Families
 - 28% increase in Santa Clara resulting in \$24.4M additional revenues over 2 year period for the county

– Source: "Santa Clara Healthy Kids Program Reduces Gaps in Children's Access to Medical and Dental Care", Mathematics Policy Research, April 2005

Why Do CHIs Work?

- Has support from “Main Street” coalitions that are committed to solving the issue
- Projects a single positive message of health care for all children
- Implements systems changes to create “no wrong door” for families
- Healthy Kids products fills gaps in coverage does not create another categorical program
- Maximizes federal and state fund through Healthy Families and Medi-Cal enrollment

Policy Implications of CHIs

- CHI is a very promising model
- CHI benefits all children
- CHI brings significant State and federal money to the local health care system

Can it be replicated and translated to state level?



The California Endowment's Cover California's Kids Program

- Local Coverage Technical Assistance Center
- Direct Funding for premium subsidies in 18 CHIs
- Policy-oriented evaluation
- Strategic communications
- Advocacy, research and policy analysis
- Simplified enrollment (Express enrollment and One-e-App)



Growing from Local to Statewide

- **Need enough of the right counties to adopt universal coverage - “tipping point” theory**
- **County programs must be consistent**
- **Grassroots campaign to bring support for health insurance coverage for children**
- **Strong public support to cover all children**
- **Engaging business leaders in policy discussions**

Map of County Children's Health Initiatives



Finishing the Job: All Children in California

- **Political/public will exists**
- **Children's health care is high on the policy agenda**
- **Social expectation that all children should have health insurance**
- **Public-private investments and partnerships have been started**
- **Building consensus to simplify enrollment and eligibility determination, improve retention, expand coverage options**

Where Do We Stand?

- Continued local expansions and new models for CHIs
- Engaging business leaders in developing policy options for buy-in or financing
- More than 200 organizations support Californians for Healthy Kids coalition
- Two bills have been passed by the state legislature that would expand coverage, simplify enrollment system, and create public-private trust fund. Bills sitting on the Governor's desk for his signature.
- Another bill is waiting to be passed in early 2006 and submitted for Governor's signature

What Does the Future Hold if We Do Not Finish the Job?



- By 2010, 280,000 more children will be uninsured
- 400,000 more children will be enrolled in Medi-Cal and Healthy Families

Source: UCLA, California Health Interview Survey, 2003



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