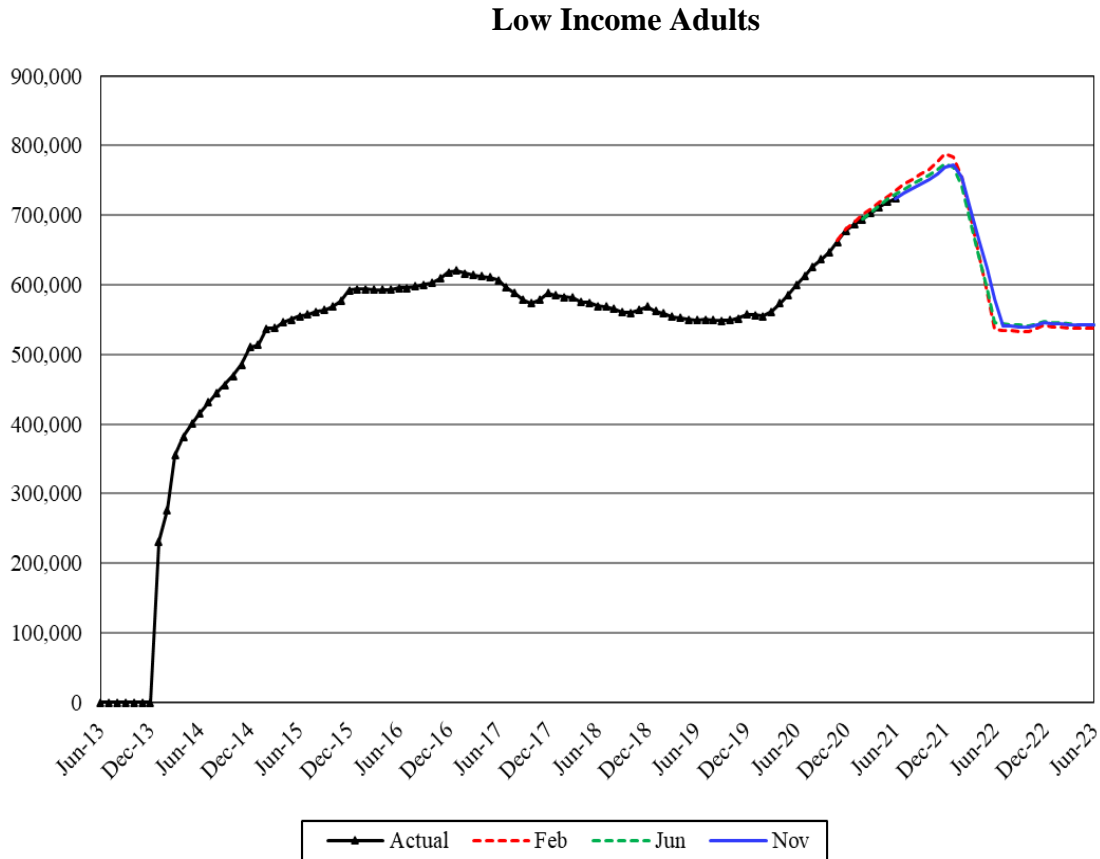


Medical Assistance Low Income Adults

Caseload Forecast Council
November 9, 2021



The Low Income Adults caseload forecast began in January 2014 with the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and reflects the extension of Medicaid eligibility to all adults under 138 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL).

Forecast Comparisons (Fiscal Year Averages)							
Fiscal Year	Feb-21 Forecast	Jun-21 Forecast	Nov-21 Forecast	Feb to Nov Difference	Percent Difference	Jun to Nov Difference	Percent Difference
2022	716,215	709,547	716,875	660	0.1%	7,328	1.0%
2023	537,199	543,621	542,327	5,128	1.0%	-1,293	-0.2%

The November 2021 forecast is, on average, 2,894 cases or 0.5 percent higher than the February forecast, and 3,017 or 0.5 percent higher than the June forecast for the 2021-23 Biennium.

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Tracking the Current Forecast

	Jun-21 Forecast	Actual	Variance	Percent Variance
Mar-21	704,742	703,241	-1,501	-0.2%
Apr-21	713,583	711,808	-1,775	-0.2%
May-21	723,160	719,465	-3,695	-0.5%
Jun-21	730,479	724,477	-6,002	-0.8%

Actuals are tracking, on average, 3,243 cases or 0.5 percent lower than the June 2021 forecast.

During the Public Health Emergency (PHE) period, the Health Care Authority (HCA) cannot terminate a client’s eligibility except for a few exemptions according to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), resulting in a continuous increase in this caseload and historically low uninsured rate. On the other hand, it also reduces new enrollments and the related potential client pool. The November forecast changed the PHE end month assumption from December 2021 to January 2022. In addition, this forecast modified the SB 5068 step to reflect the historical pregnant women and family planning caseload data adjustments.

After the PHE, we expect large caseload drops in the following six months when HCA starts to process the postponed cases according to the federal requirement.

Fiscal Year Caseload Change

	Fiscal Year	Caseload	Change from Prior Year	Percent Change
Actual	2014	171,843		
	2015	503,333	331,489	192.9%
	2016	582,129	78,796	15.7%
	2017	608,848	26,719	4.6%
	2018	581,127	-27,721	-4.6%
	2019	559,730	-21,397	-3.7%
	2020	561,666	1,936	0.3%
	2021	675,344	113,677	20.2%
<i>Forecast</i>	2022	716,875	41,532	6.1%
	2023	542,327	-174,548	-24.3%

Recent caseload growth is not stable mainly due to improvements in the post eligibility review process and residency checks. In the following years, this caseload will continue to be impacted by COVID-19 and related policy changes.

Risks to the Forecast

Risks to this forecast are moderate to high because of the uncertainties of the COVID-19 impact and corresponding economic and policy impacts, and uncertainty of the post PHE eligibility processing. In addition, the November forecast doesn’t incorporate a step adjustment for Afghan refugees, but the impact would not be significant.

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