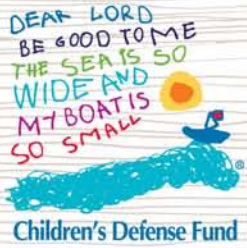
Children's Defense Fund

Health Coverage for All Children: Alaska

February 2011



All Children Need Health Coverage that is Affordable, Comprehensive, and Simple.

Health Coverage for Alaska's Children:

- 24,000 children are uninsured (12.2% of all children). *
- 77,835 children are enrolled in Medicaid. **
- 12,473 children are enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). ***

How affordable is health coverage for Alaska's children? †

- Children's eligibility is up to 175 percent of poverty ($48,895 for a family of four) through Alaska's Medicaid expansion program.

How simple are enrollment procedures in CHIP and Medicaid for Alaska's children?

- Simplification procedures:
  - 12-month continuous eligibility for children in Medicaid
  - No face-to-face interview
  - No asset test
  - No waiting period for CHIP

- Barriers that remain:
  - No presumptive eligibility—which forces children to wait until their application is processed before they can see a doctor
  - No administrative verification of income—the state requires parents to provide proof of income before a child can get health coverage

Do children in Alaska's CHIP program receive the same comprehensive benefits as children in Medicaid?

- Yes. Alaska is one of 14 states (plus the District of Columbia) that has used CHIP funding to cover all children eligible for CHIP and Medicaid under one program. As a result, children in CHIP in these states receive the same comprehensive health and mental health coverage (through the Early and Periodic Screening Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit) that all children in Medicaid receive.

[*] U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau 2008, 2009, 2010 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) to the Current Population Survey (CPS); Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Single-Year of age Sex for the United States and States, April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2009, at <http://www.census.gov/popest/states/asrh/files/SC-EST2009-AGESEX-RES.csv> . Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.

[**] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services: Medicaid Statistical Information System, at http://msis.cms.hhs.gov/, accessed January 19, 2011. Calculations by Children's Defense Fund, 1/11.

[***] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CHIP Statistical Enrollment Data Systems (SEDS) forms CMS21E, CMS-64, 21E, CMS-21waiver, October 26, 2010. Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.

[†] Georgetown Center for Children and Families; "State Snapshot—Medicaid and CHIP Eligibility Levels and Enrollment and Renewal Procedures." http://ccf.georgetown.edu/index/cms-filesystem-action?file=statistics/snapshot.pdf, accessed January 1, 2011.