Children's Defense Fund

Health Coverage for All Children: Arkansas

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

Health Coverage for Arkansas' Children:

- 71,000 children are uninsured (9.5% of all children). *
- 448,593 children are enrolled in Medicaid. **
- 100,770 children are enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). ***

How affordable is health coverage for Arkansas' children? †

- Children's eligibility is up to 200 percent of poverty ($44,700 for a family of four) through Arkansas' Medicaid expansion program (which includes CHIP).

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

- Simplification procedures:
  - Administrative verification of income—parents are not required to provide proof of income at enrollment or renewal
  - No face-to-face interview
  - No asset test

- Barriers that remain:
  - No presumptive eligibility—which forces children to wait until their application is processed before they can see a doctor
  - 6 month waiting period for children under the Medicaid 1115 waiver

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

- Yes. Arkansas 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.