Children's Defense Fund

Health Coverage for All Children: California

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

Health Coverage for California's Children: *

- 1,119,000 uninsured (11.2% of all children).
- 4,361,486 children are enrolled in Medicaid.
- 1,731,605 children are enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

How affordable is health coverage for California's children?

- CHIP eligibility is up to 250 percent of poverty ($55,875 for a family of four), plus income deductions.
- Medicaid eligibility is 200 percent of poverty ($44,700) for children 0-1, 133 percent of poverty ($29,726) for children 1-5, and 100 percent of poverty ($22,350) for children 6-19.

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

- Simplification procedures:
  - 12-month continuous eligibility
  - Presumptive eligibility for children in families up to 200 percent of poverty.
  - No asset test
  - No face-to-face interview for children
  - Joint application

- Barriers that remain:
  - 3 month waiting period for CHIP
  - No administrative verification of income—the state requires parents to provide proof of income before a child can get health coverage.

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* 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.