Children's Defense Fund

Health Coverage for All Children: Kentucky

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

Health Coverage for Kentucky's Children:

- 101,000 children are uninsured (9.4% of all children). *
- 462,225 children are enrolled in Medicaid. **
- 79,380 children are enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). ***

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

- CHIP eligibility is up to 200 percent of poverty ($44,700 for a family of four).
- Medicaid eligibility is 185 percent of poverty ($41,348) 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 Kentucky's children?

- Simplification procedures:
  - No face-to-face interview
  - No asset test
  - Joint application

- Barriers that remain:
  - No 12-month continuous eligibility
  - 6 month waiting period
  - 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 Kentucky's CHIP program receive the same comprehensive benefits as children in Medicaid?

- Yes. Kentucky provides children in its CHIP program 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.