Children's Defense Fund

Health Coverage for All Children: Tennessee

February 2011



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

Health Coverage for Tennessee's Children:

- 140,000 children uninsured (8.9% of all children). *
- 733,596 children are enrolled in Medicaid. **
- 81,341 children are enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). ***

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

- CHIP eligibility is up to 250 percent of poverty ($55,875 for a family of four).
- Medicaid eligibility is 185 percent of poverty for children 0-1 ($41,348), 133 percent of poverty ($29,327) 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 Tennessee's children?

- Simplification procedures:
  - 12-month continuous eligibility for children in CHIP
  - No face-to-face interview for children in CHIP
  - Administrative verification of income for children in CHIP only
  - No asset test

- Barriers that remain:
  - Face-to-face interview for children in Medicaid
  - No 12-month continuous eligibility for children in Medicaid
  - No joint application
  - No presumptive eligibility—which forces children to wait until their application is processed before they can see a doctor.
  - No administrative verification of income for children in Medicaid—the state requires parents to provide proof of income before a child can get health coverage.
  - 3 month waiting period

---

* 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.