Children's Defense Fund

Health Coverage for All Children: Wisconsin

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

Health Coverage for Wisconsin's Children:

- 77,000 children are uninsured (5.5% of all children). *
- 423,949 children are enrolled in Medicaid. **
- 161,469 children are enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). ***

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

- Children's eligibility is up to 250 percent of poverty ($55,125 for a family of four) through Wisconsin's Medicaid expansion program (includes CHIP).
- Wisconsin has a state-funded expansion program for children up to 300 percent of poverty ($66,150 for a family of four).

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

- Simplification procedures:
  - No face-to-face interview
  - No asset test
  - Presumptive eligibility for newborns under 250 percent of poverty, age 1-5 under 185 percent of poverty, and age 6-18 under 150 percent of poverty
- Barriers that remain:
  - No 12-month continuous eligibility
  - 3 month waiting period for children above 150 percent of poverty.
  - No automatic enrollment and renewal—which results in children being dropped from coverage
  - No administrative verification of income—the state requires parents to provide proof of income before a child can get health coverage

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

- Yes. Wisconsin is one of 13 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.