

Re: Leading Children's Health and Medical Groups React to Staggering Decline in Children's Enrollment in Public Health Insurance Coverage

Dear Member of Congress,

After years of progress improving children's coverage, new data show that the number of children enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) fell by 840,000 in 2018.

These data, which are highlighted in [newly released state-by-state snapshots](#) by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and Georgetown University Center for Children and Families (CCF), come on the heels of the first increase in the children's uninsured rate in almost a decade. The staggering decline in Medicaid and CHIP enrollment in 2018 is a warning sign that cannot be ignored.

Nearly one-third of America's children rely on Medicaid and CHIP for medical and dental coverage, including children in foster care, children who live in or near poverty, and children with disabilities or special health care needs. These are the children who need coverage the most. For these kids, no coverage often means no care.

Medicaid and CHIP enrollment losses of this magnitude are especially concerning at a time when the United States is facing numerous public health challenges, such as the largest measles outbreak in decades, an opioid crisis, and staggering rates of adolescent suicide.

With coverage rates stalling or heading in the wrong direction in most states, we must double-down on policies that boost enrollment for eligible children, focus on system improvements to keep them covered, and ensure that parents have health insurance so that they can keep themselves and their families healthy.

If you have any questions on the snapshots or would like to discuss ways to reverse this troubling trend in children's coverage, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Pediatrics
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Dental Health Project
Children's Hospital Association
Family Voices
First Focus
Georgetown Center for Children and Families
March of Dimes
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners