Next Steps for CHIP: What is at Stake for Children?

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is an important complement to Medicaid, covering 8.9 million children with family incomes above Medicaid eligibility limits who often lack access to affordable private coverage. Together with Medicaid, which covers an additional 37.1 million children, the programs provide a strong base of coverage for our nation’s low-income children. New legislative authority is needed to continue funding for CHIP beyond September 2017. Failure to extend CHIP funding would likely result in coverage losses for children and increased financial pressure for states. These effects would be compounded if combined with the changes in the American Health Care Act (AHCA), which would fundamentally restructure Medicaid by capping federal funding and eliminate longstanding federal protections and standards for children. Following are key facts that highlight what is at stake for children.

Expansions of Medicaid and CHIP have helped reduce the children's uninsured rate to a record low of 5% (Figure 1).

All states have expanded eligibility for children through Medicaid and CHIP above federal minimum levels (Figure 2).
Medicaid and CHIP are major sources of coverage for our nation’s children (Figure 3).

![Image of Health Insurance Coverage of Children, 2015](image)

NOTE: Values may not add to 100% due to rounding. Other Public includes those covered under the military or Veterans Administration as well as nonelderly Medicare enrollees.

SOURCE: Kaiser Family Foundation analysis of the 2016 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) Supplement to the CPS.

Health Insurance Coverage of Children, 2015
Total: 78.2 Million Children
Medicaid/CHIP 39%
Other Public 2%
Employer/Other Private 53%
Uninsured 5%

Medicaid and CHIP cover over half of children of color (Figure 4).

![Image of Health Insurance Coverage of Children by Race/Ethnicity, 2014](image)

* Indicates statistically significant difference from the White population at the p<0.05 level.

Note: AIAN refers to American Indians and Alaska Natives. NHOPI refers to Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race but are categorized as Hispanic for this analysis; other groups are non-Hispanic. Includes children 0-18 years of age. Totals may not sum to 100% due to rounding. N/A: Point estimates do not meet minimum standards for statistical reliability.

Medicaid and CHIP provide children **access to needed care** (Figure 5).

Medicaid and CHIP promote improved health, education, and financial success for children over the long-term (Figure 6).

Endnotes


2 Ibid.