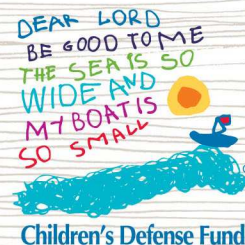


Children's Defense Fund

Health Coverage for All Children: Arkansas

October 2009



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

Health Coverage for Arkansas' Children:

- 66,000 children are uninsured (8.9% of all children).*
- 441,867 children are enrolled in Medicaid.**
- 93,446 children are enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).***

How affordable is health coverage for Arkansas' children? †

- Children's eligibility is up to 200 percent of poverty (\$44,100 for a family of four) through Arkansas' Medicaid expansion program (which includes CHIP).

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

- Simplification procedures:
 - Administrative verification of income—parents are not required to provide proof of income at enrollment or renewal
 - No face-to-face interview
 - No asset test
- Barriers that remain:
 - No presumptive eligibility—which forces children to wait until their application is processed before they can see a doctor
 - 6 month waiting period for children under the Medicaid 1115 waiver

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

- Yes. Arkansas 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.

Call your Member of Congress and tell them: *Health reform needs to make sure that ALL children in Arkansas and America have health coverage that is affordable, comprehensive, and simple. A pound sign (#) designates Members who serve on one or more of the committees that developed the health reform bills being considered in the House and Senate.*

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* U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey, 2007, 2008, and 2009 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC); and U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, "State Single Year of Age and Sex Population Estimates: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2008 - RESIDENT," at <<http://www.census.gov/popest/states/asrh/files/SC-EST2008-AGESEX-RES.csv>> . Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.

** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, FY2006 Medicaid Statistical Information System, at <http://msis.cms.hhs.gov/>, accessed June 5, 2009. Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.

*** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, SCHIP Statistical Enrollment Data System, January 20, 2009, at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalCHIPPolicy/downloads/FY2008StateTotalTable012309FINAL.pdf>, accessed June 2, 2009. 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 October 12, 2009.