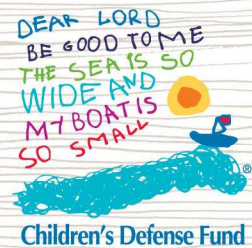


# Children's Defense Fund

## Health Coverage for All Children: Massachusetts



October 2009

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

### Health Coverage for Massachusetts' Children:

- 69,000 children are uninsured (4.5% of all children).\*
- 437,642 children are enrolled in Medicaid.\*\*
- 200,950 children are enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).\*\*\*

### How affordable is health coverage for Massachusetts' children?†

- CHIP eligibility is up to 300 percent of poverty (\$66,150 for a family of four). Massachusetts has a state-funded expansion for *all* children.
- Medicaid eligibility is up to 200 percent of poverty (\$44,100) for children 0-1; 150 percent of poverty (\$33,075) for children 1-19.

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

- Good for children:
  - Presumptive Eligibility
  - No face-to-face interview
  - No asset test
  - Joint application
- NOT good for children:
  - No 12-month continuous eligibility
  - 6 month waiting period in CHIP program for children between 200-300 percent of poverty
  - No administrative verification of income—the state requires parents to provide proof of income before a child can get health coverage

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

- Yes. Massachusetts provides children in its CHIP program 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 Massachusetts 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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<sup>\*</sup> 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.

<sup>\*\*</sup> 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.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> 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.

<sup>†</sup> Georgetown Center for Children and Families; "State Snapshot—Medicaid and CHIP Eligibility Levels and Enrollment and Renewal Procedures." <http://ccf.georgetown.edu/index/cms-file-system-action?file=statistics/snapshot.pdf>, accessed October 12, 2009.