



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

Health Coverage for Mississippi's Children:

- 124,000 children are uninsured (15.3% of all children). *
- 419,665 children are enrolled in Medicaid. **
- 84,370 children are enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). ***

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

- CHIP eligibility is up to 200 percent of poverty (\$44,100 for a family of four).
- Medicaid eligibility is 185 percent of poverty (\$40,793) for children 0-1, 133 percent of poverty (\$29,327) for children 1-5, and 100 percent of poverty (\$22,050) for children 6-19.

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

- Simplification procedures:
 - 12-month continuous eligibility
 - No waiting period
 - No asset test
 - Joint application
- Barriers that remain:
 - Face to face interview required for enrollment and renewal
 - No presumptive eligibility—which forces children to wait until their application is processed before they can see a doctor
 - No administrative verification of income—the state requires parents to provide proof of income before a child can get health coverage

Call your Member of Congress and tell them: *Health reform needs to make sure that ALL children in Mississippi 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.