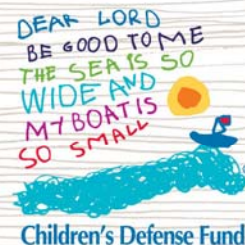


Children's Defense Fund

Health Coverage for All Children: Rhode Island

October 2009



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

Health Coverage for Rhode Island's Children:

- 18,000 children are uninsured (7.2% of all children). *
- 91,922 children are enrolled in Medicaid. **
- 26,031 children are enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). ***

How affordable is health coverage for Rhode Island's children? †

- Children's eligibility is up to 250 percent of poverty (\$55,125 for a family of four) through Rhode Island's Medicaid expansion program (includes CHIP).

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

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

Do children in Rhode Island's CHIP program receive the same comprehensive benefits as children in Medicaid?

- Yes. Rhode Island 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.

Despite difficult economic times, Rhode Island was one of 23 states that took steps to improve health coverage for children in the last year. In 2009, Rhode Island reduced Medicaid premium levels and eliminated monthly premiums charged to families between 133 and 150 percent of poverty. ‡

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

Senator Jack Reed (D) #

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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.

‡ Georgetown Center for Children and Families; "Weathering the Storm: States Move Forward on Child and Family Health Coverage Despite Tough Economic Climate." September 2009. [http://ccf.georgetown.edu/index/cms-filesystem-action?file=ccf publications/health reform/weathering the storm.pdf](http://ccf.georgetown.edu/index/cms-filesystem-action?file=ccf%20publications/health%20reform/weathering%20the%20storm.pdf), accessed October 1, 2009.