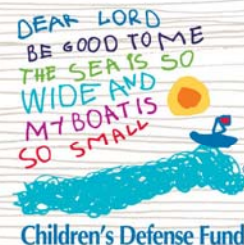


Children's Defense Fund

Health Coverage for All Children: Texas

October 2009



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

Health Coverage for Texas' Children:

- 1,469,000 children are uninsured (20.8% of all children).*
- 2.2 million children are enrolled in Medicaid.**
- 491,069 children are enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).***
- 65,840 infants and pregnant women enrolled in CHIP Perinatal†

How affordable is health coverage for Texas' children? ‡

- CHIP eligibility is 200 percent of poverty (\$44,100 for a family of four).
- Medicaid eligibility is 185 percent of poverty for children 0-1; 133 percent of poverty for children 1-5; 100 percent of poverty for children 6-19.

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

- Simplification procedures:
 - 12-month continuous enrollment for children in CHIP
 - No face-to-face interview
 - Joint application
- Barriers that remain:
 - \$2,000 asset test for children in Medicaid, \$10,000 asset test for children in families above 150 percent of poverty in CHIP
 - Children in Medicaid must renew their coverage every 6 months
 - Children applying for CHIP are subject to a 90 day waiting period before being able to receive coverage, unless they have already been uninsured for 90 days or qualify for one of several exceptions (e.g. leaving Medicaid, parent lost job, etc.)
 - No 12-month continuous eligibility for children in Medicaid—children in Medicaid must re-enroll every 6 months
 - 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 Texas 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.

^{**} Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Final Count Medicaid Enrollment by month, September 2009, at <http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/research/MedicaidEnrollment/meByMonthCompletedCount.html>, accessed October 14, 2009.

^{***} Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Statewide CHIP Enrollment, Renewals, Attempted Renewals, and Disenrollment by Month, September 2009, <http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/research/CHIP/ChipRenewStatewide.html>, accessed October 14, 2009.

[†] CHIP perinatal coverage enrollment numbers are in addition to the numbers of children enrolled in traditional CHIP. CHIP perinatal coverage enrollment numbers are not included in the other CHIP enrollment reports.

[‡] 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.