

Children's Defense Fund

Health Coverage for All Children: South Carolina



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

Health Coverage for South Carolina's Children:

- 156,000 children are uninsured (13.1% of all children). *
- 489,574 children are enrolled in Medicaid. **
- 73,438 children are in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). ***

How affordable is health coverage for South Carolina's children? †

- Children's eligibility is up to 200 percent of poverty (\$44,700 for a family of four) through South Carolina's Medicaid expansion (includes CHIP).

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

- Simplification procedures:
 - 12-month continuous eligibility
 - No face-to-face interview
 - No waiting period
 - Joint application
- Barriers that remain:
 - \$30,000 asset test
 - 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

Do children in South Carolina's CHIP program receive the same comprehensive benefits as children in Medicaid?

- Yes. South Carolina 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.

^{*} U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau 2008, 2009, 2010 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) to the Current Population Survey (CPS); Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Single-Year of age Sex for the United States and States, April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2009, at <<http://www.census.gov/popest/states/asrh/files/SC-EST2009-AGESEX-RES.csv>> . Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.

^{**} U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services: Medicaid Statistical Information System, at <http://msis.cms.hhs.gov/>, accessed January 19, 2011. Calculations by Children's Defense Fund, 1/11.

^{***} U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CHIP Statistical Enrollment Data Systems (SEDS) forms CMS21E, CMS-64, 21E, CMS-21waiver, October 26, 2010. 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-file-system-action?file=statistics/snapshot.pdf>, accessed January 1, 2011.