

Health Coverage for All Children: Massachusetts



February 2011

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

Health Coverage for Massachusetts' Children:

- 49,000 children are uninsured (3.2% of all children).*
- 530,412 children are enrolled in Medicaid.**
- 142,279 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 (\$67,050 for a family of four). Massachusetts has a state-funded expansion for *all* children.
- Medicaid eligibility is up to 185 percent of poverty (\$41,348) for children 0-1, 133 percent of poverty (\$29,726) for children 1-5 and 114 percent of poverty (25,479) children 6-19.

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.

* 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-filesystem-action?file=statistics/snapshot.pdf>, accessed January 1, 2011.