

Pennsylvania's Babies and Toddlers More Likely to *NOT* Have Health Insurance



Infants and Toddlers Need Regular Check-Ups

For children to have the healthiest start possible, they need to be insured as early as possible. By age 3, children should have 12 well-child visits according to the schedule set by the American Academy of Pediatrics.ⁱ

These regular, preventive visits to the doctor or pediatrician are important to track a child's growth and development, to provide immunizations and to identify and address delays or concerns.

Youngest Children More Likely to be Uninsured

More than 21,000 babies and toddlers in Pennsylvania did not have health insurance in

2018, a number that has increased over the past two years.

Babies and toddlers under age 3 in Pennsylvania are more likely to go without health insurance compared to older school-age kids and teens and compared to the national average of kids under age 3ⁱⁱ.

Uninsured Children Under Age 3

United States	4.1%
Pennsylvania	5.3%

This means our youngest children are not receiving important health care in those early years when their brains are growing most rapidly, putting their healthy development at risk.



Path Forward for Reducing Uninsured Rate

No baby or toddler should go without health insurance, and keeping kids covered is more important than ever during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pennsylvania must do more for our youngest children.

1. **Educate families and the public** about their free or low-cost, affordable options for health insurance through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
2. **Encourage policymakers to keep Medicaid and CHIP strong!**
 - ✓ Pass Dream Care legislation to expand CHIP for children currently not eligible for health insurance due to their immigration status.
 - ✓ Ensure adequate state funding is provided to support the more than 43% of Pennsylvania children who rely on Medicaid and CHIP for their health insurance – a smart investment for our future.



Long-Term Benefits for Children with Medicaid Coverage

- ✓ Less likely to drop out of high school
- ✓ More likely to graduate from college
- ✓ Better health outcomes as adolescents and adults

Additionally, Medicaid provides significant return on investment from children with Medicaid coverage returning nearly one-third (32 cents on the dollar) of the initial cost from earning higher incomes and paying higher taxes as adults.ⁱⁱⁱ

Together, we can be the big voice for our littlest children.

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https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/periodicity_schedule.pdf

ⁱGeorgetown University Center for Children and Families analysis of the U.S. Census 2008-2018 American Community Survey (ACS) data using Integrated Public Use Microdata (IPUMS) via usa.ipums.org/usa.

ⁱⁱⁱ[Medicaid Provides an Excellent Long-Term Return on Investment, CCF, July 28, 2015](#)



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