

# Medicaid and CHIP Keep Pennsylvania Kids Covered During the Storm of the Pandemic



The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the critical importance of quality health care coverage for kids in Pennsylvania. Thankfully, during this unprecedented time, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provide an umbrella of coverage for kids and families to help them weather the storm. This public health coverage is especially critical for parents who lost their jobs and employer-sponsored health insurance.

Our Commonwealth's kids rely on Medicaid and CHIP for their comprehensive health insurance, including more than 1.2 million children enrolled in Medicaid and more than 151,000 children enrolled in CHIP. **That's nearly half (47%) of all Pennsylvania children, spanning every county of the state!**

Since the onset of the pandemic, each of Pennsylvania's 67 counties has seen an increase in enrollment — the Commonwealth saw a statewide average enrollment growth of 11% between Medicaid and CHIP data. Since the pandemic started, Medicaid enrollment alone has increased by over 192,000 children, or 16%.

*This growth underscores the need in every corner of the state, spanning geographies and demographics, and the importance of these programs during the public health crisis.*

A key factor behind the rise in these numbers is the disenrollment freeze implemented by Congress in March of 2020. This freeze will remain in place for as long as the federal public health emergency (PHE) remains in effect. While there has yet to be a definitive date determined for when the PHE will expire, the Biden Administration has signaled it will provide a 60-day notice.

**Once the PHE ends, we must ensure every eligible child is not dropped from coverage.** There are steps that the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) can take to provide a smoother path for the estimated 500,000 individuals who will be at risk of termination when the PHE ends:



Use the full 12 months permitted to complete renewals for enrollees at their next annual renewal due date;



Ensure addresses are current for sending renewal requests; and



Enhance the automated renewal process, where the state reviews electronic data sources to renew coverage automatically.

While we continue to navigate the uncertainty of the pandemic, one constant through the crisis is the umbrella of health care coverage families can rely on for their kids from Medicaid and CHIP. With the end of the pandemic will come the end of the public health emergency, and it will be crucial to take the appropriate steps to ensure hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians stay covered.

# Pennsylvania Children Enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP by Congressional District

Member of Congress	MA Enrollment <19 Years (Sep 2021)	CHIP Enrollment <19 Years (Sep 2021)	Total Child Enrollment (Sep 2021)	Estimated Percent of Child Population	Estimated Percent of Total Population
Fitzpatrick (R-1)	44,384	9,391	53,775	31%	8%
Boyle (D-2)	134,436	10,211	144,647	76%	20%
Evans (D-3)	102,777	6,358	109,135	73%	15%
Dean (D-4)	47,124	8,174	55,298	32%	8%
Scanlon (D-5)	78,067	8,847	86,914	49%	12%
Houlahan (D-6)	62,520	9,110	71,630	38%	10%
Wild (D-7)	74,122	10,251	84,373	49%	12%
Cartwright (D-8)	81,873	7,939	89,812	56%	13%
Meuser (R-9)	61,774	8,542	70,316	44%	10%
Perry (R-10)	78,981	9,287	88,268	52%	13%
Smucker (R-11)	60,855	11,465	72,320	40%	10%
Keller (R-12)	57,751	7,329	65,080	41%	9%
Joyce (R-13)	63,952	9,782	73,734	46%	10%
Reschenthaler (R-14)	60,182	7,648	67,830	45%	10%
Thompson (R-15)	57,681	7,089	64,770	42%	9%
Kelly (R-16)	69,618	6,782	76,400	46%	11%
Lamb (D-17)	46,560	6,885	53,445	34%	8%
Doyle (D-18)	66,157	6,308	72,465	51%	10%
<b>Sen. Bob Casey (D- statewide)</b> <b>Sen. Pat Toomey (R- statewide)</b>	<b>1,248,814</b>	<b>151,398</b>	<b>1,400,212</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>11%</b>

Note: The totals above will not match the enrollment counts provided monthly by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services due to report timing differences. Monthly Medicaid child enrollment includes youth ages 19-20: an additional 116,969 youth ages 19-20 were also served in September 2021. CHIP data does not reflect the 22 youth who turned 19 in September 2021.



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Source: Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children analysis of data provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services and the Pennsylvania State Data Center.