

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 State Senate District

Senator	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
Saval (D-1)	26,227	1,821	28,048	68%	11%
Tartaglione (D-2)	56,655	3,950	60,605	78%	24%
Street (D-3)	51,773	2,557	54,330	80%	22%
Haywood (D-4)	27,271	3,103	30,374	51%	12%
VACANT (District 5)	40,287	4,183	44,470	74%	17%
Tomlinson (R-6)	19,818	3,979	23,797	40%	9%
Hughes (D-7)	32,064	2,248	34,312	62%	14%
A. Williams (D-8)	45,519	3,422	48,941	73%	20%
Kane (D-9)	20,953	2,452	23,405	36%	9%
Santarsiero (D-10)	11,748	2,521	14,269	23%	6%
Schwank (D-11)	36,561	4,305	40,866	61%	16%
Collett (D-12)	13,882	3,268	17,150	29%	7%
Martin (R-13)	26,097	4,393	30,490	44%	12%
Yudichak (I-14)	39,354	3,201	42,555	74%	16%
DiSanto (R-15)	30,429	3,160	33,589	53%	13%
Browne (R-16)	34,321	4,236	38,557	56%	15%
Cappelletti (D-17)	17,125	2,478	19,603	32%	8%
Boscola (D-18)	26,898	3,841	30,739	51%	12%
Comitta (D-19)	18,891	3,263	22,154	31%	8%
Baker (R-20)	20,120	2,654	22,774	41%	9%
Hutchinson (R-21)	19,949	2,646	22,595	38%	9%
Flynn (D-22)	28,274	2,663	30,937	53%	12%
Yaw (R-23)	21,861	2,543	24,404	45%	10%
Mensch (R-24)	18,258	3,324	21,582	35%	9%
Dush (R-25)	23,442	2,490	25,932	46%	11%
Kearney (D-26)	23,758	3,658	27,416	44%	11%

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Gordner (R-27)	21,011	2,499	23,510	43%	9%
Phillips-Hill (R-28)	29,187	3,576	32,763	49%	12%
Argall (R-29)	21,800	3,122	24,922	44%	10%
J. Ward (R-30)	22,670	3,345	26,015	44%	11%
Regan (R-31)	19,581	3,308	22,889	40%	9%
Stefano (R-32)	24,744	2,848	27,592	52%	11%
Mastriano (R-33)	24,286	4,635	28,921	46%	11%
Corman (R-34)	13,318	1,956	15,274	31%	6%
Langerholc (R-35)	23,201	2,662	25,863	48%	10%
Aument (R-36)	19,621	4,422	24,043	36%	9%
Robinson (R-37)	12,826	2,508	15,334	24%	6%
L. Williams (D-38)	13,500	2,298	15,798	27%	6%
K. Ward (R-39)	16,988	2,571	19,559	38%	8%
Scavello (R-40)	20,552	3,213	23,765	37%	9%
Pittman (R-41)	17,685	2,527	20,212	37%	8%
Fontana (D-42)	27,360	2,133	29,493	57%	11%
Costa (D-43)	20,298	1,932	22,230	49%	9%
Muth (D-44)	13,837	2,570	16,407	24%	6%
Brewster (D-45)	29,109	3,039	32,148	57%	12%
Bartolotta (R-46)	22,650	2,844	25,494	48%	10%
Vogel (R-47)	21,786	2,583	24,369	45%	10%
Gebhard (R-48)	28,477	3,929	32,406	53%	13%
Laughlin (R-49)	29,439	2,290	31,729	53%	13%
Brooks (R-50)	23,353	2,229	25,582	44%	10%
Statewide	1,248,814	151,398	1,400,212	47%	11%

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.