

# Medicaid & CHIP Helped Improve PA's Child Uninsured Rate During the COVID-19 Pandemic

## Medicaid and CHIP = Quality Health Insurance for Kids

Medicaid is an important source of coverage for Pennsylvania children with disabilities, children living in low-income families, and children living in and aging out of foster care. The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit requires that states cover any medically necessary services for children.

CHIP fills the gap for families who don't qualify for Medicaid yet can't afford private health insurance. Through private insurance companies contracting with the state, CHIP allows children access to regular doctor visits, well visits, dental, vision and hearing services, prescriptions, and mental health benefits.

During the past three years, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) have been a lifeline for families by providing continuous health insurance coverage throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the most recent Census data, the number of children without health insurance began to improve during the pandemic despite the enormous toll of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health and economic security for so many across Pennsylvania. The role of publicly funded health insurance through Medicaid and CHIP was a driving factor of this early progress.

**With more than 1.4 million Pennsylvania children enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP, these programs connect kids to health care in every community across the commonwealth.**

There are more kids who count on Medicaid now than ever before. Child enrollment rose by a historic 20% thanks to the continuous coverage provision passed by Congress in March 2020, which prohibited states from disenrolling individuals during the public health emergency. However, that provision has expired.

Starting April 1st, the process of Medicaid renewals will begin to determine whether enrollees still qualify for coverage. PPC has two key objectives during the yearlong "unwinding" process:

- Ensure that children who are determined to no longer be eligible for Medicaid are quickly connected to CHIP to avoid gaps in coverage.
- Ensure that children who remain eligible for Medicaid keep their coverage without experiencing inappropriate terminations or disruptions in coverage (churn) that often impact children more than the adult population.

It is imperative for Pennsylvania to implement an unwinding process that does not disconnect the children most at risk of losing coverage, particularly when the child uninsured rate is starting to improve.



# Pennsylvania Children Enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP by Congressional District

Party Affiliation	District	Member of Congress	MA Enrollment <19 Years (Sep 2022)	CHIP Enrollment <19 Years (Sep 2022)	Total Child Enrollment (Sep 2022)	Estimated Percent of Total Population*
R	1	Fitzpatrick	49,110	8,808	57,918	8%
D	2	Boyle	139,881	8,239	148,120	19%
D	3	Evans	109,116	5,348	114,464	15%
D	4	Dean	47,091	7,691	54,782	7%
D	5	Scanlon	86,738	8,087	94,825	12%
D	6	Houlahan	66,191	8,149	74,340	10%
D	7	Wild	80,110	9,278	89,388	12%
D	8	Cartwright	91,664	7,420	99,084	13%
R	9	Meuser	78,073	7,859	85,932	11%
R	10	Perry	84,886	8,327	93,213	12%
R	11	Smucker	65,705	10,229	75,934	10%
D	12	Lee	71,562	5,864	77,426	10%
R	13	Joyce	74,824	9,284	84,108	11%
R	14	Reschenthaler	72,339	7,161	79,500	10%
R	15	Thompson	64,189	6,369	70,558	9%
R	16	Kelly	78,402	6,507	84,909	11%
D	17	Deluzio	52,507	6,192	58,699	8%
D	Statewide	<b>Sen. Bob Casey, Jr.</b>	<b>1,312,388</b>	<b>130,812</b>	<b>1,443,200</b>	<b>11%</b>
D	Statewide	<b>Sen. John Fetterman</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 125,856 youth ages 19-20 were also served in September 2022. CHIP data does not reflect the 22 youth who turned 19 in September 2022.

\*Estimated Percent of Child Population (under 19 years) is not yet available by legislative district.



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