

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 State Senate District

Party Affiliation	District	Senator	MA Enrollment <19 Years (Sep 2022)	CHIP Enrollment <19 Years (Sep 2022)	Total Child Enrollment (Sep 2022)	Estimated Percent of Total Population*
D	1	Saval	18,743	1,123	19,866	8%
D	2	Tartaglione	62,913	2,994	65,907	25%
D	3	Street	54,143	2,115	56,258	21%
D	4	Haywood	29,675	2,655	32,330	12%
D	5	Dillon	38,051	3,387	41,438	16%
R	6	Farry	17,839	3,427	21,266	8%
D	7	Hughes	35,305	1,825	37,130	14%
D	8	Williams	46,221	2,826	49,047	19%
D	9	Kane	23,049	2,464	25,513	10%
D	10	Santarsiero	17,514	2,741	20,255	8%
D	11	Schwank	38,380	3,721	42,101	16%
D	12	Collett	15,184	2,816	18,000	7%
R	13	Martin	26,022	3,617	29,639	11%
D	14	Miller	37,543	3,790	41,333	15%
R	15	DiSanto	34,543	2,629	37,172	14%
R	16	Coleman	16,839	2,960	19,799	7%
D	17	Cappelletti	17,653	2,025	19,678	8%
D	18	Boscola	24,319	3,014	27,333	10%
D	19	Comitta	15,622	2,237	17,859	7%
R	20	Baker	28,804	2,691	31,495	12%
R	21	Hutchinson	23,420	2,405	25,825	10%
D	22	Flynn	33,005	2,110	35,115	14%
R	23	Yaw	26,180	2,502	28,682	11%
R	24	Pennycuick	18,425	2,694	21,119	8%
R	25	Dush	20,439	1,871	22,310	8%
D	26	Kearney	25,996	3,179	29,175	11%

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Party Affiliation	District	Senator	MA Enrollment <19 Years (Sep 2022)	CHIP Enrollment <19 Years (Sep 2022)	Total Child Enrollment (Sep 2022)	Estimated Percent of Total Population*
R	27	Schlegel Culver	23,621	2,317	25,938	10%
R	28	Phillips-Hill	21,888	3,278	25,166	10%
R	29	Argall	34,600	2,808	37,408	14%
R	30	Ward	26,071	2,697	28,768	12%
R	31	Regan	30,256	3,037	33,293	13%
R	32	Stefano	27,279	2,721	30,000	12%
R	33	Mastriano	23,655	3,947	27,602	11%
R	34	Rothman	21,965	2,928	24,893	9%
R	35	Langerholc	23,880	2,013	25,893	10%
R	36	Aument	20,542	3,655	24,197	9%
R	37	Robinson	11,779	1,873	13,652	5%
D	38	Williams	14,771	1,989	16,760	7%
R	39	Ward	19,675	2,499	22,174	8%
R	40	Brown	26,241	2,728	28,969	11%
R	41	Pittman	24,382	2,389	26,771	11%
D	42	Fontana	23,843	1,627	25,470	10%
D	43	Costa	22,029	1,535	23,564	9%
D	44	Muth	14,416	2,239	16,655	6%
D	45	Brewster	28,603	2,434	31,037	12%
R	46	Bartolotta	22,360	2,256	24,616	10%
R	47	Vogel	20,236	2,229	22,465	9%
R	48	Gebhard	23,330	3,459	26,789	10%
R	49	Laughlin	33,235	2,122	35,357	14%
R	50	Brooks	27,904	2,214	30,118	11%
		Statewide	1,312,388	130,812	1,443,200	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 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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Source: Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children analysis of data provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services and the Pennsylvania State Data Center.