

U.S.A. reaches goal of 95% health insurance coverage for children but Utah

Published: Wednesday, 27 April 2016 14:00

Written by: Questions?



In 2007, on the 10th anniversary of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and its partners committed to helping ensure that 95% of the nation's children ages 0 to 18 had health insurance. This year the nation reached this historic goal, according to the Urban Institute's report: [Uninsurance among Children, 1997–2015 : Long-Term Trends and Recent Patterns](#). The success of CHIP and the expansion of Medicaid in many states were critical for reaching these historic numbers for health insurance coverage.

However, Utah lags the nation, with only 90.6% of Utah children insured. In fact, Utah ranks among the bottom of all states for children's health insurance coverage and Utah Hispanic children are particularly unlikely to have health insurance. Nationwide, 9.7% of Hispanic children are uninsured but 23.4% of Utah Hispanic children are uninsured.

Children with access to quality, comprehensive health coverage are more likely to attend school and stay focused on learning. Healthier children means parents take fewer days off work to care for a sick child. It also means parents don't have to choose between paying a medical bill or paying rent.

States that have expanded Medicaid have seen increased health insurance enrollment for kids.

#MedicaidWorks

Learn more at utahchildren.org

#UTleg



Follow

through with the work begun at the 2016 Legislature. During the recent session, Utah lawmakers added intent language to end the 5-year wait for lawfully residing immigrant children, agreed to study options to improve enrollment in Medicaid, and allocated funding to Medicaid and CHIP outreach for the first time in years. Let's finish what we started.

- **Cover the gap.** States that fully expanded Medicaid saw more improvement in children's health insurance coverage than states like Utah. Utah lawmakers chose to leave money on the table in Washington rather than fully cover the gap. Expanding Medicaid would help Utah address Utah's low enrollment of eligible children in Medicaid and CHIP, as newly eligible adults enroll their whole families.
- **Extend CHIP.** CHIP funding is scheduled to end in 2017 despite its overwhelming success.

Now that the goal of getting 95% of children insured has been met nationally, the Packard Foundation has announced a new commitment to reach 98% coverage for our nation's children. By the time the nation meets this new goal, we hope to be able to say that Utah kids are just as likely to be insured as children across the nation. Let's catch up now.

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HISTORIC 95% OF CHILDREN IN U.S. NOW HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE - LET'S MAKE IT 98%!

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation knows that health care coverage for U.S. children is foundational to a healthy life. When children are healthy, they are more likely to succeed in school and in life. That's why in 2007, on the tenth anniversary of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), we committed to supporting organizations that could advance the goal of 95% coverage for all children. In 2015, the U.S. reached that milestone. We are excited to work together to build on this success by reaching 98% coverage!

SUCCESS LARGELY A RESULT OF MEDICAID AND CHIP



19 OUT
OF 20
KIDS HAVE
HEALTH INSURANCE



OVER
1 OUT
OF 3
CHILDREN HAVE
MEDICAID/CHIP COVERAGE

THE ROAD TO 95% CHILDREN'S COVERAGE

1997

85% of U.S. children covered
Passage of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for families who make too much for Medicaid but can't afford private health insurance

2006

90% of U.S. children covered

2007

10th Anniversary of CHIP
CHIP extended for two years

2009

CHIP Reauthorization #1

2010

Passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA)

2015

CHIP Reauthorization #2
95% of U.S. children covered!

HEALTH CARE COVERAGE IS THE FOUNDATION TO GOOD HEALTH The Benefits of Insurance



Children more likely to show up in school and stay focused on learning



Parents don't have to choose between paying a medical bill or paying rent



Healthier children mean fewer days a parent has to take off work to care for a sick child



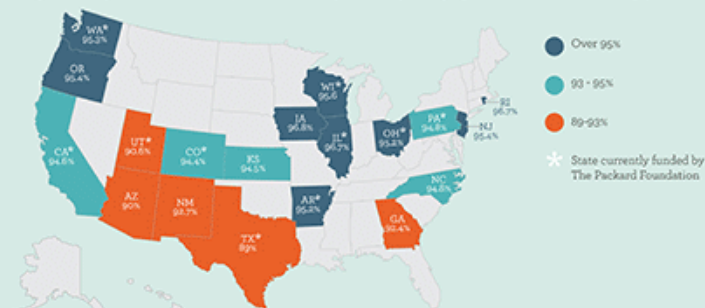
Parents are less likely to forego their own care



Youth are more likely to graduate from high school and go to college

2014 SNAPSHOT: Health Insurance Coverage of Children in Select States

States that received funding by the Packard Foundation are making strides, but stark differences remain for children depending on where they live. To improve children's health, we will work with partners to protect progress made and address these gaps.



Data Source for children ages 0-17: Georgetown University Center for Children and Families analysis of 2014 American Community Survey Data.

THE WORK AHEAD Secure the 95% and get to 98%

1

**SECURE
AND PROTECT**
public coverage for kids

2

Focus on quality insurance
that gets parents and kids the
**RIGHT CARE AT
THE RIGHT TIME**

3

**ENSURE KIDS IN EVERY
STATE ARE HEALTHY**
and receive appropriate developmental
screenings, referrals and services
to prepare them for school.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: www.Packard.org

Data Source for estimated uninsured rates for children ages 18 and under: Urban Institute tabulations of the 1997, 2006, and January-June 2015 National Health Interview Survey.
Data Source for estimated Medicaid/CHIP coverage for children ages 18 and under: Urban Institute tabulations of the 2014 National Health Interview Survey.

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For 30 years now, Voices for Utah Children has called on our state, federal and local leaders to put children's needs first. But the work is not done. The children of 30 years ago now have children of their own. Too many of these children are growing up in poverty, without access to healthcare or quality educational opportunities.

How can you be involved?

[Make a tax-deductible donation](#) to Voices for Utah Children—or [or join our Network](#) with a monthly donation of \$20 or more. Network membership includes complimentary admission to Network events with food, socializing, and opportunity to meet child advocacy experts. And don't forget to [join our listserv](#) to stay informed!

We look forward to the future of Voices for Utah Children and we hope you will be a part of our next 30 years.

Special thanks to American Express for sponsoring our 30th Anniversary Year.

