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NEW REPORT RANKS CHILD HEALTH A D+ IN COLORADO; POOR KIDS FALL FURTHER BEHIND

A new Health Report Card released today by the Colorado Health Foundation ranks the overall state of child health in Colorado a D+, based on factors that include accessible and quality care through a medical home, health coverage, poverty, overweight and obesity, dental care and nutrition. The same data resulted in a grade of C- last year.

According to the report, Colorado ranks 45th in the nation in the percent of children covered by public or private health insurance, 38th in the percent of children who received all routine dental preventive care in the last year and 34th for the percent of children who were physically active for four or more days per week.

"The data released today is crucial to understanding the reality of our children's health and what the future has in store," said Chris Watney, President of the Colorado Children's Campaign. "Children who do not have regular access to quality health care are more likely to use emergency services, develop long-term illnesses and struggle in school and life. This grade is a predictor of the many challenges ahead for Colorado's kids and the future of our state."

Additionally, though not included in the report card, the Colorado Children's Campaign's annual *KidsCount in Colorado!* report found that Colorado continues to lead the nation in the increase in percentage of children living in poverty.

"These issues are very closely aligned. Poverty is not just a measure of income, but also of the opportunities that go along with it, including access to quality health care," said Watney.

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