

CHILD AND FAMILY HEALTH



IN ORDER TO BE HEALTHY, COLORADO'S KIDS AND FAMILIES NEED COMPREHENSIVE, AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE THAT PROVIDES ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY PHYSICAL, BEHAVIORAL AND ORAL HEALTH SERVICES AND MORE.

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of health insurance coverage for ensuring family financial security and the health of entire communities.

Health insurance coverage is fundamental to a healthy start in life. Insurance coverage improves health status, mental health, and access to health care, while decreasing infant, child, and adult mortality rates. **In 2020, 5.3%, or roughly 70,000 Colorado kids, went without health insurance during the greatest public health crisis of our time.**

Federal legislation required states to keep all children and families enrolled in Medicaid and CHP+ once the COVID-19 public health emergency went into effect, preventing additional coverage losses as job losses increased. However, we expect that the public health emergency will end at some point over the next year, and with it, the requirement that states keep families enrolled in Medicaid and CHP+. **It is estimated that more than 200,000 Colorado kids could lose their insurance as the public health emergency unwinds.** Recent bipartisan state policy changes have been designed to improve Colorado's insurance landscape and welcome all Colorado families into affordable, high-quality health insurance coverage.



During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Medicaid and CHP+ together insured almost half of all Colorado children.

To maintain our progress in covering all Colorado kids, we must ensure strong implementation of new coverage programs and benefits. In addition, we must work to provide information and resources to help eligible Coloradans stay enrolled in health coverage as the public health emergency unwinds.



REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

The recent Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade has made it difficult for people across the country to access the abortion care they need to make the best decisions for themselves, their families and their futures.

Alongside reproductive rights and justice organizations in Colorado, the Children's Campaign works to maintain and expand access to reproductive health care services. These services include the high-quality family planning services and abortion care that people need to ensure autonomy over their bodies and chart their own futures.

Bipartisan investments in family planning services led to a decline of more than 50% in the rate of births and abortions among Colorado women aged 15-19 during the past decade. However, our progress may be in jeopardy as more individuals travel to Colorado to access critically important abortion services, straining our reproductive health system.

To protect access to reproductive health services for Coloradans, we must support strong enforcement of contraceptive coverage requirements, support outreach and enrollment into new Medicaid family planning programs, and continue investing in family planning services.



For more information, go to www.cokidsvote.org. Follow our KidsFlash blog for more weekly updates on issues relating to kids and families across Colorado at bit.ly/joinkidsflash. Contact info@coloradokids.org with any questions.



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