

Insurance Coverage Portfolio

Health insurance coverage and the effect of coverage on quality of care are central issues addressed by the Child Policy Research Center (CPRC). Research has shown that children with insurance coverage are more likely than their uninsured counterparts to have a usual source of care, to have regular checkups, and be better immunized. Conversely, they are less likely to have unmet needs and delayed care. Nationally, nine million children are uninsured, and remarkably, two-thirds of the uninsured children, both nationally and in Ohio are eligible for public programs right now. In addition, public and private insurance coverage can dramatically affect children's access to high quality, effective care.

CPRC has a robust portfolio of projects aimed at improving the performance of public insurance programs for children. The activities include ones to: maximize enrollment and retention of eligible children, identifying and evaluating best practices, ensuring that the needs of special populations are met (e.g., children with special health care needs, children with mental or behavioral health needs), and assessing the effects of selected state policies on enrollment, cost, and quality.

Research and Analysis: Creating the Evidence Base

- *Utilizing the 2008 Ohio Family Health Survey (OFHS)* – CPRC faculty and staff are analyzing and producing a printed and web based resource to provide a comprehensive description of the degree to which our current health system is meeting children's needs in Ohio. This is being combined with other relevant datasets to evaluate key dimensions of child health (including physical, mental/behavioral, and oral health) and health care (including coverage, access, unmet needs, and quality.) www.ohiochartbook.childhealthdata.org
- *Assessment of coverage patterns in the Medicaid population* – CPRC faculty analyzed 2004 & 2008 Ohio Family Health Survey data as well as national datasets to determine the characteristics of insured and uninsured, the reasons that eligible children are not on Medicaid and whether there have been changes between 2004 & 2008 <http://grc.osu.edu/ofhs/reports/sponsoredresearchreports/>
- *Policy assessment of children with special health care needs* – CPRC faculty are involved in assessing children with special health care needs in Ohio and regionally. The findings will be disseminated in public policy briefs, presentations and technical reports. This analysis is focusing on health care challenges, including barriers to coordination of care, unmet needs, access to health care in general and major medical costs, as well as prevalence.
- *Assisting States in Enhancing Enrollment and Retention* – CPRC faculty and analysts are analyzing Medicaid enrollment data to help states determine which eligible children are hardest to enroll and retain for several states. In Ohio, faculty and analysts are assisting the state in developing a system for monitoring enrollment and retention as well as assessing best practices.
- *Analysis of Churning in Medicaid* – CPRC faculty and staff are assessing cost and consequence of churning (which happens when children come on and off of public coverage). We are examining the length of gaps in coverage, the reasons for these gaps, and identifying children most likely to sustain a gap. Further, we are examining cost to Medicaid after a gap when children return with pent-up needs during a gap which result in costs to both families and state programs.
- *Analysis of the effects of citizenship documentation* – CPRC faculty examined the effects of requiring citizenship documentation in California by utilizing focus groups and interviews of five beneficiary groups in addition to Medicaid database analysis.
- *The role of Medicaid and CHIP in improving quality of care* – CPRC faculty continue to work on strategies for the most effective implementation of Medicaid and CHIP programs at the federal and state levels. Most recently, this portfolio has focused on the Child Health Insurance Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) of 2009, with a 2007 report helping to inform the drafting of the legislation. <http://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/assets/0/78/1067/1395/1833/1835/1849/eaac3f51-b455-4ecc-952c-d76bbfaee6e8.pdf>. A 2009 report focusing on

federal implementation options was released in September, 2009 and a national webinar held. Both are available from the Commonwealth Fund site. <http://www.commonwealth-fund.org/Content/Publications/Fund-Reports/2009/Sep/Implementation-Choices-for-the-Childrens-Health-Insurance-Program.aspx#>.

Partnerships: Working with Communities and Stakeholders

- *Ohio Covering Kids & Families Coalition (Ohio CKF)* is a statewide network of organizations working to reduce the number of uninsured children and families in Ohio. CPRC faculty and staff participate in this monthly dialogue.
- *Ohio Business Roundtable* - CPRC faculty are partnering to discuss implications of public coverage on business.
- *Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky* - CPRC faculty have an ongoing partnership around best practices for Medicaid enrollment and retention for the entire family. Legal Aid Society recently was awarded a grant under CHIPRA to conduct outreach in the Cincinnati area. CPRC is working with Legal Aid to help evaluate these outreach efforts.
- *Voices for Ohio's Children* is a leading policy/advocacy group that has been a central player in legislative and budgetary discussion on coverage. CPRC works closely with Voices policy staff to ensure that the best evidence based information is in their hands.

Resources and Publications

Ohio child health scorecard available at <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Charts-and-Maps/Childrens-Scorecard.aspx>

Medicaid calculator - assess the impact of Medicaid cuts on your state's economy <http://www.familiesusa.org/issues/medicaid/other/medicaid-calculator/medicaid-calculator-states-map.html>

State scorecard for benchmarking Ohio's health systems performance at <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Content/State-Scorecards/Ohio.aspx>

Ohio Child Health Chartbook available at www.ohiochartbook.childhealthdata.org

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