

Health Insurance for Children: Medicaid

Definition

Children enrolled in Medicaid is the monthly average number of children enrolled in the Kentucky Medicaid program during the reported year.

Data in context

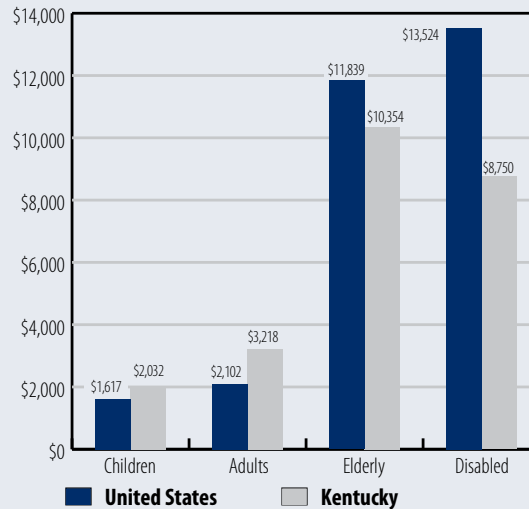
Kentucky's future depends on our children, and they need to be healthy to fulfill that promise. However, some families' incomes prohibit them from affording health insurance to provide care for their children.¹ Medicaid, a jointly funded federal and state program, covers health care costs for children living at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level. Medicaid continues to be a vital safety net by providing comprehensive health care coverage for approximately 28 million children of low-income families in the United States.²

In addition to receiving immediate care for an illness, children need preventive health care such as well-child visits to receive immunizations or to check for health problems that might jeopardize the child's development. Children covered by Medicaid are much more likely than uninsured children to receive such preventive health care.³

In Kentucky, eligible families living in Jefferson County and surrounding areas receive Medicaid through *Passport Health Plan* – a Medicaid managed care program established in 1997.⁴ The remaining counties receive Medicaid through the state plan administered by the Department of Medicaid Services, now called *KyHealth Choices*. *KyHealth Choices* is the end result of program restructuring that took place in 2006 after the Congressional passage of the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005.

An equally important program for children enrolled in Medicaid is EPSDT (Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment). EPSDT is a federally mandated program covering children under the age of 18 who receive Medicaid. With an emphasis on preventive care, EPSDT is a comprehensive health care plan that provides early and periodic medical, vision, hearing, and dental screenings and immunizations.⁵

Medicaid Payments by Enrollee in the United States and Kentucky, FFY 2005



Source: Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured.

In 2007, 43 percent of children in Kentucky were covered by Medicaid at some point during the year.⁶ On average, 346,798 children were enrolled in Medicaid each month, compared to 326,096 children in 2006. Statewide, Medicaid enrollment grew by nearly a third (over 83,000 children) from 2000 to 2007. Over that seven year period, the number of children receiving Medicaid more than doubled in Boone and Shelby Counties.

Medicaid is particularly important to communities of color, who due to several factors – including language and cultural barriers and unequal socioeconomic conditions – are disproportionately more likely than Whites to rely on Medicaid to access health care services.^{7,8} In Kentucky, 64 percent of Black youth and 39 percent of White youth received Medicaid at some point during 2007. This presents an opportunity to reduce disparities in health outcomes by improving the quality of care for children enrolled in public health insurance programs.⁹

A number of children in Kentucky remain uninsured, despite being eligible for Medicaid or the Kentucky

Children's Health Insurance Program (KCHIP).¹⁰ Simplifying enrollment and eligibility procedures would not only improve health care coverage but also have a positive impact on children's health. For example, policies that provide continuous 12-month coverage can reduce hospitalizations.¹¹ Kentucky's Governor has announced plans to reduce the number of uninsured children by eliminating face-to-face interview requirements, as well as increasing retention and outreach efforts, for Medicaid and KCHIP.¹²

Data Source: Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Medicaid Services.

Data Note: Children counted as receiving Medicaid during the reported year may also have received KCHIP at a different point during the year.

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Children enrolled in Medicaid (average monthly number of children)

	2000	2007
Kentucky	263,531	346,798
Adair	1,407	1,605
Allen	989	1,628
Anderson	699	1,083
Ballard	464	567
Barren	2,285	3,381
Bath	1,101	1,434
Bell	3,885	4,220
Boone	2,176	4,372
Bourbon	989	1,491
Boyd	3,546	4,320
Boyle	1,317	1,921
Bracken	487	797
Breathitt	2,253	2,280
Breckinridge	1,269	1,689
Bullitt	2,668	4,045
Butler	914	1,219
Caldwell	809	1,034
Calloway	1,521	1,971
Campbell	3,262	4,655
Carlisle	281	376
Carroll	612	912
Carter	2,633	3,378
Casey	1,292	1,776
Christian	4,164	5,733
Clark	2,012	2,938
Clay	3,277	3,475
Clinton	1,059	1,299
Crittenden	539	668
Cumberland	628	742
Daviess	5,567	7,673
Edmonson	815	980
Elliott	867	892
Estill	1,465	1,830
Fayette	10,154	15,523
Fleming	999	1,269
Floyd	5,311	5,585
Franklin	1,969	2,974
Fulton	780	895
Gallatin	503	777
Garrard	911	1,272

	2000	2007
Grant	1,316	2,477
Graves	2,225	3,275
Grayson	1,766	2,548
Green	748	915
Greenup	2,411	3,096
Hancock	409	572
Hardin	4,726	6,530
Harlan	4,352	4,298
Harrison	987	1,466
Hart	1,430	1,723
Henderson	2,631	3,665
Henry	793	1,150
Hickman	323	353
Hopkins	3,271	3,876
Jackson	1,481	1,697
Jefferson	38,706	55,145
Jessamine	2,140	3,319
Johnson	2,690	2,837
Kenton	6,701	10,213
Knott	2,222	2,099
Knox	4,314	4,995
LaRue	783	1,163
Laurel	5,120	6,296
Lawrence	1,833	1,954
Lee	951	1,052
Leslie	1,522	1,502
Letcher	3,037	2,928
Lewis	1,551	1,819
Lincoln	1,803	2,347
Livingston	514	592
Logan	1,528	2,177
Lyon	294	357
McCracken	4,157	4,954
McCreary	2,599	2,832
McLean	586	816
Madison	3,769	5,449
Magoffin	1,972	2,157
Marion	1,175	1,438
Marshall	1,277	1,851
Martin	1,942	1,902
Mason	1,120	1,608

	2000	2007
Meade	1,260	1,758
Menifee	693	850
Mercer	1,027	1,531
Metcalfe	783	1,072
Monroe	955	1,107
Montgomery	1,792	2,324
Morgan	1,380	1,492
Muhlenberg	2,313	2,827
Nelson	2,016	2,991
Nicholas	511	734
Ohio	1,820	2,440
Oldham	801	1,563
Owen	646	898
Owsley	810	814
Pendleton	773	1,109
Perry	3,798	3,814
Pike	6,693	6,851
Powell	1,389	1,820
Pulaski	4,439	6,032
Robertson	166	193
Rockcastle	1,490	1,904
Rowan	1,481	1,917
Russell	1,535	1,849
Scott	1,620	2,698
Shelby	1,213	2,660
Simpson	812	1,327
Spencer	509	767
Taylor	1,608	1,932
Todd	785	1,115
Trigg	608	826
Trimble	500	757
Union	894	1,189
Warren	5,585	7,651
Washington	614	747
Wayne	2,081	2,396
Webster	773	1,082
Whitley	4,559	5,292
Wolfe	1,065	1,254
Woodford	680	1,093