



The Faces and the Facts: Children's Health Coverage Works

Providing health coverage for kids - such as Medicaid, CHP+ or private insurance - is a key way to ensure our children have the opportunity to grow into healthy adults, who live, work and [thrive](#) in every Colorado community. In fact, having health insurance helps improve social and emotional development, fosters school readiness and performance, and minimizes health disparities among children.

Meet Esther and her granddaughter Bianca

When Esther welcomed granddaughter Bianca into her care, she was overjoyed -- but with Bianca came concerns of caring for an active child. When the young child came to live with Grandma Esther, she had no health insurance.

Bianca has asthma.

Esther and her husband sought insurance for their granddaughter, but options were cost-prohibitive or would not cover Bianca's asthma. She worried constantly about Bianca having a violent asthma attack, as well as the potential cost of medical bills they could never afford.

With the help of a local nonprofit, Esther was able to apply for public health coverage for her granddaughter. As a result, Grandma Esther now truly enjoys her granddaughter without worry – and Bianca fully enjoys running, playing, and being a kid with her friends.

Covering kids works

- Children with public health coverage (e.g. Medicaid, CHP+) are [more likely](#) than their uninsured peers to have a regular provider of care, fewer unmet medical needs, and improved access to dental care. In fact, a 2005 study saw [increases in access](#) to all types of care and decreases in unmet medical need among Colorado children newly enrolled in the Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) program.
- Coverage helps kids get the care they need to stay healthy and see a doctor when they're sick or injured. In fact, ear infections (a common childhood illness that can lead to permanent hearing damage) go untreated [70 percent](#) more often among uninsured children than those who are covered.
- Uninsured children are less likely to receive care for childhood illnesses such as sore throats, earaches and asthma. In fact, children without coverage are [six times](#) more likely than those with insurance to go without needed medical or dental care and [30 percent](#) less likely to receive care for injuries.
- Preventive coverage reduces the need for costly emergency room visits. In fact, children who do not have a primary care doctor are [nine times](#) more likely to be hospitalized for a preventable problem.

Our opportunity is now. Colorado kids can't wait.

Learn more and view referenced links at www.allkidscoveredcolorado.org; contact Gretchen.Hammer@ccmu.org with questions.