



## The Faces and the Facts: It's Time to Finish the Job

Over the last six months, All Kids Covered has created a series of snapshots of the “Faces and Facts” behind children’s health coverage in Colorado. During this time, we have profiled the families whose lives have been enriched and made more secure because they had health coverage for their children, and those that struggle to find needed care for a child. And, there are more stories to be told – many from families you know.

### **Meet the more than 175,000 Uninsured Kids in Colorado**

One Colorado child in eight is [uninsured](#). That adds up to more than [175,000](#) kids across our state who lack coverage for routine doctor visits and needed urgent care. In fact, the number of kids who go without coverage every day in our state is enough to fill Invesco Field at Mile High nearly two and a half times over – and that’s too many.

Since the late 1990s, Colorado has had a much higher percentage of [uninsured children](#) compared to the national average. Further, our state ranks [second to last](#) in the nation for covering kids living in poverty. These children make up many of the almost [115,000](#) kids who are eligible for public coverage, such as [Medicaid](#) or [CHP+](#), yet not enrolled.

Over [90 percent](#) of low-income parents say they would enroll their uninsured child if he or she was eligible for coverage, but many do not know that their child is eligible, do not know how to apply, or find the application processes difficult. And, [over two-thirds](#) of eligible but not enrolled children participate in some other government support program -- over half in the school lunch program.

The Colorado counties with the [highest number](#) of kids eligible for public coverage, but not enrolled include Denver, Arapahoe, Jefferson, Adams, El Paso and Weld. The counties with the [less than 50% enrollment rates](#) of children eligible for coverage include Pitkin, Routt, San Miguel and Rio Blanco.

### **Three Easy Ways You can Help Ensure Kids’ Coverage In Your District**

- **Lead a local “Connecting Kids to Coverage Challenge”:** This five year campaign led by [HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius](#) challenges elected officials and community organizations to work to enroll eligible but not enrolled children - including the nearly 115,000 in Colorado.
- **Distribute “PEAK” and other application assistance information to residents:** The state recently launched an online tool called [PEAK](#). This site allows families to check potential eligibility and current benefits. In addition, there are over 150 community organizations around the state that help families enroll in Medicaid and CHP+. For information to include in newsletters and for organizations in your district that can help your constituents enroll in public health programs contact Christy Trimmer with [Covering Kids and Families](#) at [Christy@cchn.org](mailto:Christy@cchn.org)
- **Visit a local community resource organization:** Learn more about the how families access public health programs by contacting and touring a [community organization](#) in your district.

## **Our opportunity is now. Colorado kids can’t wait.**

*Learn more and view referenced links at [www.allkidscoveredcolorado.org](http://www.allkidscoveredcolorado.org); contact [Gretchen.Hammer@cmmu.org](mailto:Gretchen.Hammer@cmmu.org) with questions.*