

**CHILDREN'S HEALTH COVERAGE  
STORY COLLECTION FORM**



The cost of health care is rising. Families across Colorado are having a harder time finding insurance, affording it, keeping it, and navigating through it.

The All Kids Covered Initiative is a broad network of parents and patients; policymakers and researchers; doctors and service providers; and administrators and advocates who know the importance of ensuring that all children have access to quality, affordable health care so that they can grow up healthy and strong. The Initiative and its partners are working to create a Colorado where all kids have health insurance by the year 2010. Colorado can do it and you can be a part of this historic Initiative.

As part of the Initiative's work, we are looking for your stories about health care - including dental and mental health care. The Initiative will use your specific experiences to help illustrate to policymakers, media and the public, the importance of a health care system that is easy to access, affordable and available when kids need it. Document and submit your health care experience here or your provider/administrative staff can help document for you.

**Sample Story**

*Twelve-year-old Kevin suffered from severe allergic asthma for most of his life. His mom, Carmen, has access to health insurance through work at a used car dealership in Denver, but with two children to feed on a family income of \$35,000 the \$775 monthly premiums put coverage out of reach.*

*Despite Carmen's efforts to limit the many triggers to his asthma, it kept getting worse. At times his lung capacity was only 60 percent - equivalent to breathing through only one nostril. He was thin and weak - if he rode his bike to the park across the street, he often needed help coming home. Until recently, he missed an average of 60 days of school every year. And because she had to take Kevin to the emergency room, Carmen regularly missed work.*

*Ultimately, for Kevin, he received coverage through the CHP+ program which allowed him regular medical checkups and treatments for his asthma, which have literally given Kevin back his life. His lung function is now 98 percent. Carmen has been able to focus on work, knowing that Kevin is healthy. And last spring, Kevin did not miss a day of school, his weight is up to 125 pounds, and now he can ride his bike and play with friends just like other children his age. His dreams of becoming a doctor, an expert on weather and a basketball player are suddenly within his reach.*

Some other examples include: difficulties getting to a health care provider (transportation, scheduling, language barriers); getting the right care for your child's special needs; getting through the application process to apply for CHP+ or Medicaid; accessing care for a child or children in a single family through a combination of programs.

**TELL YOUR STORY.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
(h/w/c)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Story Submitted By (if someone other than parent): \_\_\_\_\_  
(Organization and Individual Contact Info)

Race/Ethnicity: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Can you get coverage through work? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, how much does it cost? \_\_\_\_\_  
(month / year)

Names of your children (attach another sheet if necessary):

\_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Coverage: Medicaid, CHP+, Private, None  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Coverage: Medicaid, CHP+, Private, None  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Coverage: Medicaid, CHP+, Private, None

If your children have been covered by a public program, when did coverage begin?

Tell us about your positive experience with public coverage:

If your children lost public coverage, when and why?

Does your child have any specific health care needs, like diabetes, dental problems, or asthma, which make coverage especially critical?

How did you provide health care for your children before you had public coverage?

How did your child's lack of coverage affect your family's life?

School performance:

Missed work:

Other:

Did you have any costly medical bills while your child went without coverage?

How has your child's health been improved with reliable coverage?

How did your family's life improve with reliable coverage?

School performance:

Missed work:

Other:

What would you say to lawmakers about public programs providing coverage for children?

Would the parent be willing to: (Check all that apply)

Allow his/her story to be shared by others? (You can request we not identify you personally)

Allow his/her children to be photographed for the story bank (or supply family photos)?

Sign a letter to the editor or op-ed?

Be interviewed by media over the phone or in person? (We can help prepare you to talk about your experiences)

Attend press conferences/public speaking opportunities in the community?

Travel for private meetings or public events?

Receive information about health care advocacy activities?

Are there language barriers or other issues we should be sensitive to when involving the family in advocacy efforts?

What days and times are best for follow-up calls or visits?

**(Optional)** Family income? \_\_\_\_\_ (two weeks / month / other)

Thank you! Please mail, fax or e-mail as follows:  
Colorado Children's Campaign Your Story Bank Project  
1580 Lincoln Street, Suite 420, Denver, CO 80203  
Phone (303) 620-4574; Fax (303) 839-1580; E-mail Tara Trujillo, [tara@coloradokids.org](mailto:tara@coloradokids.org)