



Healthy Kids
A Healthy Colorado

CROSSING THE FINISH LINE

Achieving meaningful health care coverage and access for all children in Colorado

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The full report is available at www.allkidscoveredcolorado.org/report.pdf.

Health insurance makes a difference in kids' lives.

Meaningful health insurance benefits provide access to well child visits and important preventive services as well as enable children to get the care they need if they are sick and injured.

In the last five years, Colorado has made real progress toward crossing the finish line and ensuring that all kids have health insurance and access to the care they need.

Data shows that between 2008-2010 over 40,000 children in Colorado have gained insurance.¹

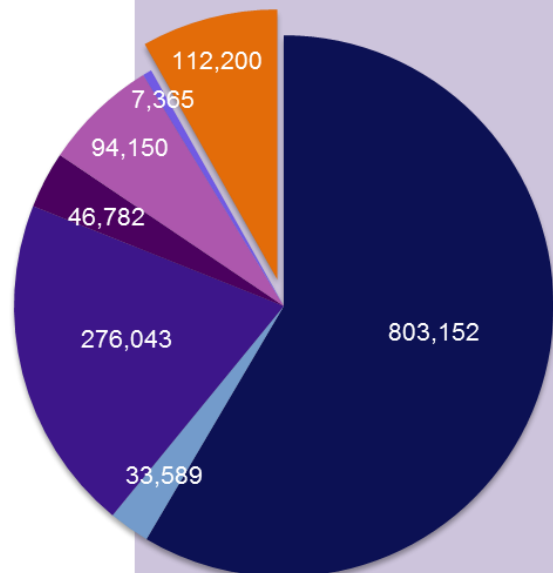
COVERAGE

Today, roughly 90% of all children in Colorado have health insurance coverage. This is significant progress and is an achievement that should be celebrated.

However, state and national research surveys estimate that **between 8.2%² and 10.1%¹ remain uninsured, leaving between 112,200 and 124,128 Colorado children without the health insurance coverage they need to grow up healthy and strong.**

Coverage for Colorado Kids, 2011

- Employer-Sponsored Insurance
- Medicare
- Medicaid
- Child Health Plan Plus
- Individual Policy
- Other Insurance
- Uninsured



Data from the Colorado Health Access Survey²

ACCESS

Health insurance coverage is only one piece of the equation that ensures children in Colorado get the care they need. Colorado has been and continues to be a recognized leader in developing medical homes, a recognized place for families and children to get their health care.

Across the state, access to care for children varies widely. **Fewer than 5% of children in metro Denver (3.8%), the Eastern Plains (3.1%–3.4%), and Northwest Colorado (4.6%) report they do not have a usual source of care. In contrast, nearly 1 in 13 children (7.6%) in Southwest Colorado do not have a usual source of care.**²

FIVE KEY STRATEGIES

Leadership and accountability – Colorado’s elected officials, agency staff, advocates and funders have been strong partners in the effort to provide coverage and access for kids. With a clear roadmap, we can continue our cross-sector, non-partisan work together.

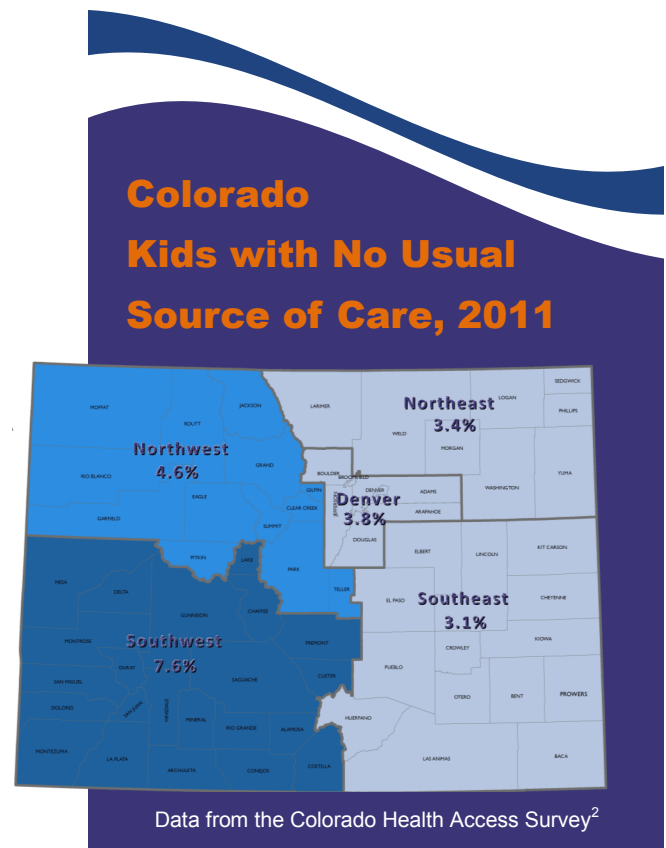
Coverage and access for all children – We must continue to enroll eligible but not enrolled children, maximize affordable and quality private health insurance options and ensure we have enough providers for all children in our state.

Systems and practices for maximizing enrollment and retention – We need an efficient and reliable technical infrastructure and related processes to support public coverage programs and the new Colorado Health Benefits Exchange.

Messaging and communications – We need simplified programs and effective avenues communication through trusted messengers, like community organizations, health plans and providers so that consumers can make smart choices about their coverage.

Regional adaptation – A single approach won’t work for both Colorado’s urban centers and remote frontier areas, so local communities must come together to determine a unified framework under which they can expand coverage and access for kids.

Pursuing strategies together, we can make sure that all our children will have the health coverage and health care services they need to have healthy and fulfilling lives.



¹ Georgetown Center for Children and Families, Georgetown University Health Policy Institute, Children’s Health Insurance Coverage in the United States from 2008-2010, analysis of the American Community Survey, 2011.

² The Colorado Trust, Colorado Health Access Survey, The Colorado Health Institute is responsible for analysis and interpretation of data, 2011. <http://www.coloradohealthaccesssurvey.org>