

NATIONAL NEWS

REPORT ON HEALTHCARE COVERAGE 2007

On August 26, 2008, the US Census Bureau released an update on income, poverty, and health insurance coverage from the American Community Survey, 2008 Current Population Survey, and Annual Social and Economic Supplement for all states, congressional districts, metropolitan areas, counties, cities and American Indian/Alaska Native areas. Some results from the ACS are listed below:

Income

- The nation's poverty rate was not statistically different from 2006 to 2007.
- Median income rose in the Midwest, declined in the Northeast and remained statistically unchanged in the West.

Poverty

- The family poverty rate remained statistically unchanged from 2006 to 2007.
- For children younger than 18, the poverty rate climbed from 17.4% to 18.0 % in 2007.
- The poverty rate for the Northeast, Midwest and West all remained statistically unchanged from 2006 to 2007.
- The poverty rate in the South increased from 14.9 million in 2006 to 15.5 million in 2007.

Health Insurance Coverage

- The number of people covered by government health programs increased from 80.3 million in 2006 to 83.0 million in 2007.
- The Northeast and the Midwest had lower uninsured rates than the West and the South.
- Uninsured rates declined in every region except the Midwest where the change was not significant.
- The number of uninsured children declined from 11.7 % in 2006 to 11.0% in 2007, which is considered not statistically significant.



Using a three-year average, the US Census Bureau reports that Texas had the highest percentage of uninsured at 24.4%. The report also indicates that no one state had the "lowest" uninsured rate. Comparing a two-year average of uninsured rates, five states and the District of Columbia witnessed a reduction and 10 states saw an increase in the uninsured rate. For more data from the report and to learn how your state rates, visit the US Census Bureau website at <http://www.census.gov>.

WHAT'S UP WITH THE NETWORK

OUR NEW MEMBERS ROCK!

The membership committee is busy signing up new members to the Network. Please welcome our newest members:

- ◆ Colorado Children's Campaign: <http://www.coloradokids.org>
- ◆ Connecticut Voices for Children: <http://www.ctkidslink.org>
- ◆ Rhode Island Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics: <http://www.riaap.org>
- ◆ Rhode Island Kids Count: <http://www.rikidscount.org>
- ◆ Southern Institute on Children and Families: <http://www.thesoutherninstitute.org>
- ◆ Voices for Utah Children: <http://www.utahchildren.org>



TEAMWORK DESTINED FOR SUCCESS

SOUTHERN NCKF REGIONAL CONVENING

The National Covering Kids & Families Network is pleased to announce the upcoming NCKF Network Southern Regional Convening "**Teamwork Destined for Success**" taking place September 30 and October 1, 2008 at the Astor Crowne Plaza New Orleans. The regional convening is open to all current NCKF Network members and anyone interested in joining the network. For more information contact Derrick Edmond, Program Coordinator with Agenda for Children, dedmond@agendaforchildren.org or at 504.586.8509 X 122. For NCKF member travel scholarships, please contact Michelle Wood, Policy Analyst, Community Health Councils at michelle@chc-inc.org by September 12th, 2008.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: COVERING KIDS & FAMILIES IN IOWA ~ BACK TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

The Healthcare Coverage for Kids Coalition (HCKC) in collaboration with the Iowa Covering Kids & Families initiative (CKF) aim to increase enrollment and retention for eligible, uninsured children in public healthcare coverage programs such as Medicaid and Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa (**hawk-i**). This year these two groups, along with over 40 volunteers, partnered to hold a third annual Back-to-School Health Fair at McKinley Elementary on August 6, 2008. Children were provided with free school physicals, nutrition information, dental screenings, lead tests, immunizations, school supplies and **hawk-i** and Medicaid information. A total of 884 kids received school supplies (including one **hawk-i** application per bag), 370 received physicals, 44 received lead tests, 25 kids were immunized and 130 were provided with dental screenings.

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*"You may never know what results come from your action.
But if you do nothing, there will be no result." ~ Mahatma Gandhi ~*



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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Iowa events included not only those in Des Moines; many **hawk-i** outreach coordinators participated in the *Back-to-School* campaign in their local communities. From creating bulletin boards to distributing **hawk-i** applications at school registrations, children across the state were being prepared to go back to school healthy and ready to learn.

In addition to the health fair, **hawk-i** materials and information were provided to families and other interested partners each day at the Iowa State Fair, which is one of the largest events in Iowa, with millions of attendees each year. Partnering with the Iowa Department of Public Health, CKF staff gave away over 500 brochures and other materials, all promoting the **hawk-i** program.

For more information, contact Jenny Hodges, BS, CHES, Iowa Department of Public Health, Early Childhood Iowa/Covering Kids & Families at JHodges@idph.state.ia.us

Want to be a Member Spotlight? If you are looking for an opportunity to recognize one of your staff or to highlight a solution or resource for Network members, please forward your information by the third Thursday of the month to Amy Ellrod: aellrod@nhhealthykids.com



COMMITTEES SIGN UP TODAY!

Advocacy/Policy : For those who want to get involved in advocacy activities around SCHIP and Medicaid rule changes, this is the committee to join! Contact Diane Ragbeer of the Children's Trust in Florida at diana@thechildrenstrust.org.

Communications: If you have creative talent and would like to write articles for the monthly newsletter, we are looking for writers and readers. Contact Nancy Whitman with Nevada CKF via e-mail at nwhitman@healthinsight.org.

Education: Conference planners and educators, join this committee! If you have a knack for planning educational teleconferences, contact David Roos of CKF Indiana at droos@ckfindiana.org or Anne Joseph of Covering Kentucky Kids and Families at annejoseph@earthlink.net.

Membership: This committee is moving and shaking and increasing our membership. If you like talking to people, here is your chance. Contact Barbara Luksch with Hawaii Covering Kids at coverkids@aol.com.

RESOURCES

<http://www.chc-inc.org> Toolkit on Outreach, Enrollment, Retention & Utilization strategies.

<http://www.aspirationtech.org> Connects nonprofits to software solutions that help them more effectively meet their missions of positive global change.

<http://www.westernprogress.org> Currently conducting studies on outreach and SCHIP. A report will be available this Fall.

Credits: Nancy Whitman, Nevada Covering Kids and Families; Amy Ellrod, New Hampshire Healthy Kids; Diana Cook, Wyoming Department of Health/SCHIP; Caroline Rivas, Community Health Councils/California CKF. Edited by: Janice Taylor, Community Health Councils.