



## SCHIP and Medicaid Enrollment Data

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There are a number of different ways to measure the number of people enrolled in Medicaid and SCHIP and depending on which strategy is used, the results can give quite different impressions of the size of these programs. This discussion explains the different ways to measure enrollment and how the data should be used.

### “Point-in-Time” Enrollment Data

“Point-in-time” enrollment data reflects the unduplicated number of individuals enrolled in Medicaid or SCHIP *at a given point-in-time*, such as on the last day of a particular month. For example, nationally in Medicaid there were 21.3 million children enrolled in December 2006<sup>1</sup> and in SCHIP there were 4.4 million children enrolled in June 2007.<sup>2</sup>

### “Ever Enrolled” Enrollment Data

“Ever enrolled” data reflect the cumulative count of unduplicated individuals enrolled in Medicaid or SCHIP *over a given period of time*, including those enrolled for the full time period as well as those enrolled for only part of the time period. For example, in fiscal year 2005 there were 15.2 million children enrolled in Medicaid *for part or all of the year*,<sup>3</sup> and in fiscal year 2007, there were 7.1 million children enrolled in SCHIP *for part or all of the year*.<sup>4</sup>

### Understanding Enrollment Data

A hypothetical example may help illustrate the difference between point-in-time versus ever enrolled data. Assume that there is a state that had 1,000 children enrolled in SCHIP on January 1, 2008 and that over the course of the year, 100 new children enroll and 50 children disenroll from the program. A “point-in-time” estimate based on the last day of 2008 would show 1,050 children with coverage (1,000 children that began the year with SCHIP + 100 new enrollees – 50 disenrollees), whereas the number of children “ever enrolled” in 2008 would be 1,100 children (1,000 children that began the year with SCHIP + 100 new enrollees). Note that “ever enrolled” numbers are always higher than “point-in-time” numbers and the difference between two types of data will be greater the more enrollments and disenrollments there are over a time period.

### Comparing Enrollment Data

Not all children enrolled in Medicaid or SCHIP are covered for the entire year, and there are many children who cycle on and off public coverage throughout the year. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that, on average, children in Medicaid are enrolled for about 80 percent of the year and children in SCHIP are enrolled for about 60 percent of the year.<sup>5</sup> Based on these estimates, it is possible to roughly compare “ever enrolled” numbers to “point-in-time”

enrollment numbers. For example of the 7.1 million children that were ever enrolled in SCHIP over the course of FY2007, approximately 4.3 million (7.1 million x 60%) children were enrolled on any given day of the year.

## Endnotes:

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<sup>1</sup> E. Ellis, et al., "[Medicaid Enrollment in 50 States: December 2006 Data Update](#)," Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, (January 2008).

<sup>2</sup> V. Smith, *et al.*, "[SCHIP Enrollment in June 2007: An Update on Current Enrollment and SCHIP Policy Directions](#)," Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured (January 2008).

<sup>3</sup> Center for Children and Families analysis of Urban Institute estimates based on data from Medicaid Statistical Information System (MSIS) for the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, (2008).

<sup>4</sup> See Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, "[FY 2007 Annual Enrollment Report](#)," (February 7, 2008).

<sup>5</sup> See the following memos to congressional health staffers: J. De Sa & E. Rollins, "[Approximate Costs of Covering More Children in Medicaid and SCHIP](#)," Congressional Budget Office (February 20, 2007); and J. De Sa & E. Rollins, "[Clarifications to Our Estimates of the Costs of Covering More Children in Medicaid and SCHIP](#)," Congressional Budget Office (March 13, 2007).