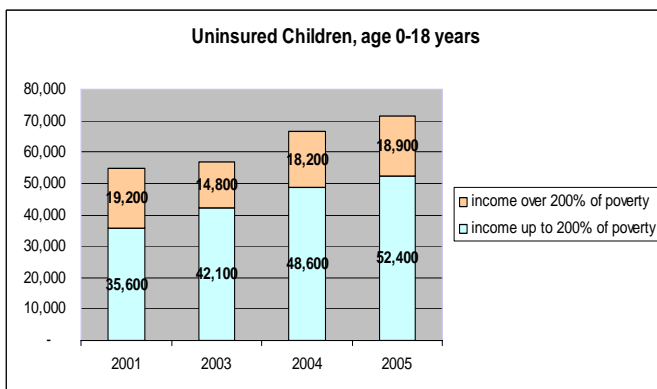


Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

Since 1997, CHIP has provided health insurance coverage to 112,325 Utah children. However, from **2001 to 2005 the number of uninsured children in Utah increased by 30%.**

It is estimated that approximately 24,000 of the uninsured children in Utah are eligible for CHIP.



Source: Utah Department of Health

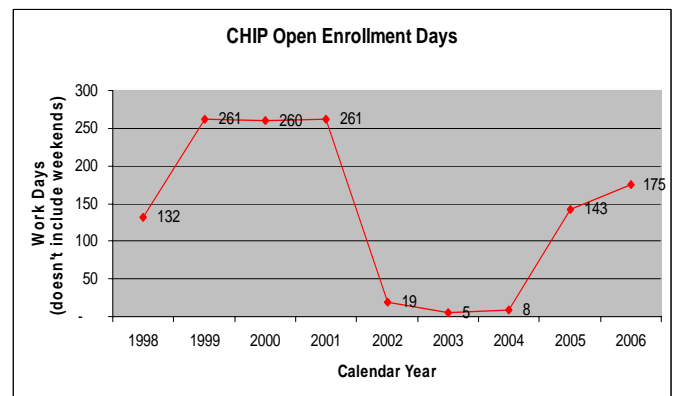
Private insurance is covering fewer families because small businesses increasingly find they cannot afford to provide coverage. **Employer sponsored insurance in Utah has declined by more than 6% between 2000 and 2004.**

The good thing is that there IS a cure to this problem of uninsurance. Thanks to CHIP, more than 35,000 children have health coverage today. This important program helps children have the coverage that gets them the health care they need, when they need it.

90% of the uninsured children have at least one parent working full-time. One way Utah can ease the economic burden on working families is to provide this cost-effective insurance to more children.

CHIP has increased access to insurance for families, but we need to make sure that door to coverage stays open.

Utah capped CHIP enrollment in December 2001, and until July 2005 had only limited enrollment opportunities. On September 1, 2006 Utah again closed enrollment, the **only** state in the nation to close enrollment in its CHIP program last year.



Note: Does not take into account holidays that may fall on a work day.

BOTTOMLINE

Funding CHIP at \$4.2 million recommended by Governor Huntsman will enroll an additional 12,300 children. This funding could cut in half the number of uninsured children who may be eligible for CHIP. Insuring children provides them with cost-efficient, quality care. Keeping them insured reduces costs.

While fixing the entire health-care system may seem overwhelmingly complex and costly, providing health insurance for children is a goal we can achieve and afford.

UTAHNS SAY THE STATE SHOULD DO MORE TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED CHILDREN

Utahns overwhelmingly support expanding the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) according to a Dan Jones statewide poll. 87% of individuals surveyed favor Governor Huntsman's proposal to invest \$4.2 million in CHIP so that it can cover more children.

The poll commissioned by Voices for Utah Children measured attitudes toward children's health care coverage and specifically CHIP. Included in the survey were a series of policy questions as well as arguments for and against CHIP. While some of the arguments against expanding CHIP did matter to people, Utahns polled said those arguments were outweighed by the value of expanding coverage for children.

The public understands that children should have health care coverage 365 days a year. That means getting the care they need, when they need it - getting glasses to see the blackboard, having a pediatrician who makes sure they receive all the right immunizations, or receiving treatment for their asthma right away.

Key findings from the poll:

- 88% agree that investing in children's health through CHIP is a responsible way to invest in Utah's future.
- 74% agree that getting health coverage for children shouldn't depend on the job a parent has.
- 84% agree that the state needs to be investing more right now to make sure all people, especially children, have health care.
- 87% agreed that the state should use part of its surplus to increase funding for CHIP.
- 65% disapproved of limiting CHIP enrollment to only certain days out of the year.
- 69% opposed cutting back on the program and spending more of the tobacco settlement funds on other things, like cancer screenings and programs to quit smoking.
- 24% agreed we should have bigger tax cuts, rather than expanding CHIP.
- 75% disagreed with the statement: We should not enroll more children in CHIP since we cannot guarantee that the program will always be there for them.

The statewide poll surveyed 621 households January 11 - 26. The margin of error was +/- 4%.

Other poll information:

- 81% have heard of CHIP
- 85% stated they always vote (59%) or almost always vote (26%)
- 90% were covered by health insurance (81% private, 12% public, 5% public and private)
- 87% have children under 18 that are covered by health insurance
- 90% stated that their own children have private coverage (3% CHIP and 4% Medicaid)