



# Coverage for Children Under 6 Reversed Course Between 2016 and 2017

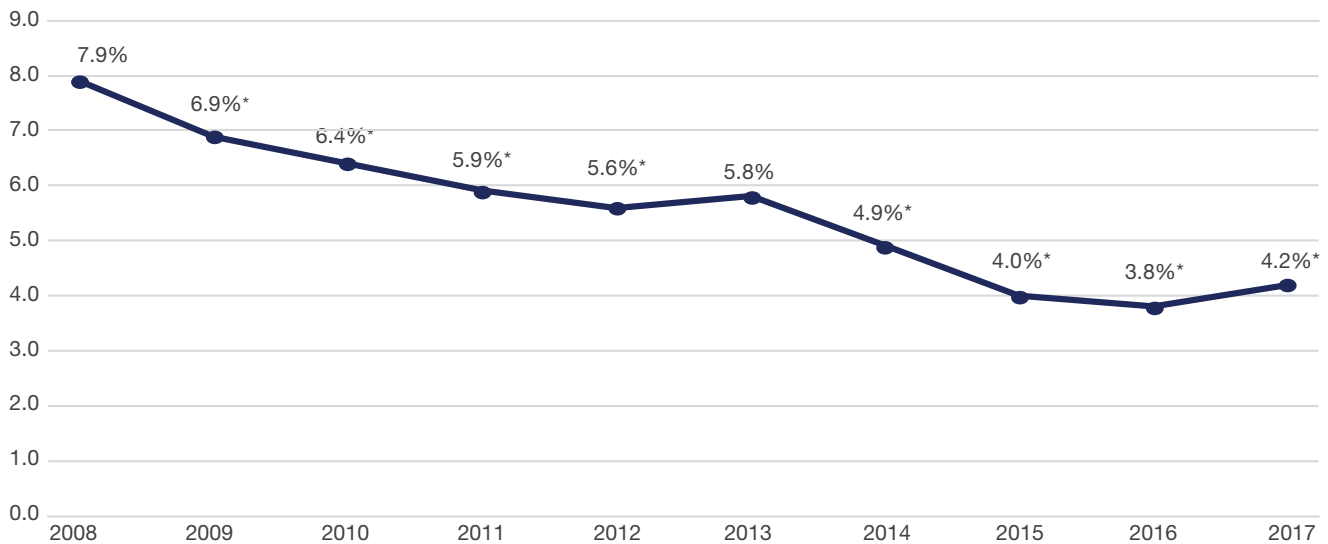
For the first time in nearly a decade, the rate of young children without health insurance significantly increased between 2016 and 2017, reversing years of steady progress in reducing the nation's uninsured rate for children, particularly in the early years.

Mirroring national trends for children age 18 and under, state Medicaid coverage rates for children under age 6 either remained flat or declined, adding a more troubling dimension to the nation's first backslide in children's coverage since 2008, the first year for which the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey began collecting this data.

Nationally, the rate of uninsured young children increased significantly, growing from 3.8 percent in 2016 to 4.2 percent in 2017 (See Figure 1). That trend follows the national increase in the uninsured rate for all children under 19, which grew from 4.7 percent in 2016 to 5 percent in 2017.<sup>1</sup>

No state made progress in covering more young children, and five states—Florida, Kentucky, Montana, New York, and Tennessee—saw statistically significant increases in their rates of uninsured children under age 6 (See Table 1).

Figure 1. Rate of Uninsured Children Under 6, 2008-2017



Source: Georgetown University CCF analysis of the 2008-2017 Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) American Community Survey data

\*Change is significant at the 90 percent confidence level. Significance is relative to the prior year. 2013 was the only year that did not show a significant one-year increase or decrease in the national rate of uninsured children under 6. The Census began collecting data for the health insurance series in 2008; therefore there is no significance available for 2008.



**Table 1. Uninsured Rate of Children Under 6, 2016 to 2017**

State	2016	2017	State	2016	2017
United States	3.8%	4.2% *	Missouri	3.7%	4.1%
Alabama	2.4%	2.7%	Montana	3.8%	7.8% *
Alaska	9.6%	7.9%	Nebraska	4.9%	3.3%
Arizona	6.0%	6.6%	Nevada	5.2%	5.4%
Arkansas	4.3%	3.3%	New Hampshire	2.0%	2.7%
California	2.4%	2.5%	New Jersey	2.9%	3.1%
Colorado	3.6%	3.1%	New Mexico	4.4%	3.9%
Connecticut	2.8%	3.3%	New York	1.9%	2.9% *
Delaware	2.7%	5.4%	North Carolina	3.3%	3.2%
District of Columbia	2.1%	1.7%	North Dakota	9.5%	6.6%
Florida	4.6%	5.9% *	Ohio	3.5%	3.8%
Georgia	6.1%	6.1%	Oklahoma	6.3%	7.0%
Hawaii	1.6%	1.4%	Oregon	2.0%	2.7%
Idaho	3.9%	3.8%	Pennsylvania	4.8%	4.6%
Illinois	2.1%	2.7%	Rhode Island	2.4%	1.3%
Indiana	5.0%	6.0%	South Carolina	3.7%	5.0%
Iowa	1.9%	2.6%	South Dakota	3.8%	4.5%
Kansas	4.0%	5.2%	Tennessee	2.6%	4.2% *
Kentucky	2.4%	3.8% *	Texas	7.2%	7.6%
Louisiana	2.5%	2.9%	Utah	4.7%	5.8%
Maine	4.2%	3.3%	Vermont	1.5%	1.7%
Maryland	3.2%	3.8%	Virginia	4.2%	4.0%
Massachusetts	1.2%	1.6%	Washington	1.6%	2.2%
Michigan	3.1%	2.6%	West Virginia	1.5%	1.7%
Minnesota	2.8%	3.1%	Wisconsin	3.3%	4.1%
Mississippi	3.9%	3.8%	Wyoming	8.4%	8.7%

\* States with a significant increase in the uninsured rate from 2016 to 2017. Change is significant at the 90% confidence level.

Source: Georgetown CCF analysis of 2016 and 2017 IPUMS ACS data..

<sup>1</sup> J. Alker and O. Pham, “Nation’s Progress on Children’s Coverage Reverses Course” (Washington: Georgetown University Center for Children and Families, November 2018), available at <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2018/11/21/nations-progress-on-childrens-health-coverage-reverses-course/>.