

# MEDICAID PUTTING ARKANSAS CHILDREN ON A PATH TO SUCCESS

Medicaid and ARKids First (CHIP) provide health insurance for Arkansas children; bring federal dollars into the state; and help children grow into healthy, productive adults.

## PROVIDING HEALTH INSURANCE FOR ARKANSAS CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

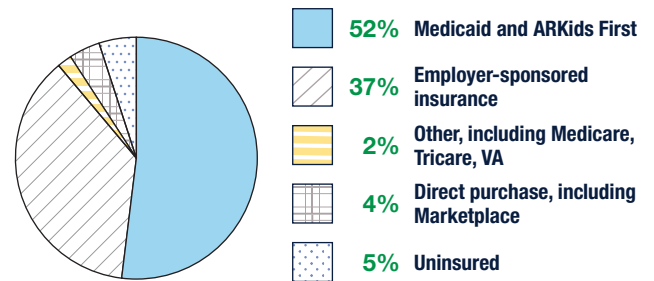


Children make up **50%** of Arkansas residents covered by Medicaid and ARKids First.

This equals **426,599** Arkansas children, including:

- 100%** of children in foster care
- 87%** of children who live in or near poverty
- 67%** of children born to moms covered by Medicaid
- 64%** of children with disabilities or special health care needs such as diabetes and asthma
- 58%** of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers

### WHERE MEDICAID FITS IN: CHILDREN'S COVERAGE IN ARKANSAS



## HELPING CHILDREN SUCCEED IN SCHOOL AND LIFE

### CHILDREN WITH MEDICAID



MISS LESS SCHOOL



DO BETTER IN SCHOOL



GRADUATE AND ATTEND COLLEGE



BECOME HEALTHIER ADULTS



EARN HIGHER WAGES



PAY MORE IN TAXES

## ENSURING HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT FROM THE START

Medicaid guarantees access to care for children through its **Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment** benefit, known as **EPSDT**.

EPSDT is one of the best ways Medicaid helps vulnerable children stay healthy and on track with their peers. It:

- ✓ Identifies problems **early**
- ✓ Checks children's health at **periodic** intervals
- ✓ Provides development, vision, and hearing **screenings** to detect problems
- ✓ Performs **diagnostic** tests to identify risks
- ✓ Provides **treatment** for any problems found



Georgetown University  
Health Policy Institute  
CENTER FOR CHILDREN  
AND FAMILIES

American Academy  
of Pediatrics



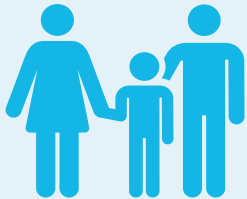
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®

## INVESTING IN ARKANSAS' ECONOMY AND FAMILIES

Medicaid is an economic driver, bringing state tax dollars back home:



Every **\$1** Arkansas invests in Medicaid brings back **\$2.39** in federal funds



### Medicaid strengthens families:

- When parents are covered, they are healthier and better able to care for their children.
- Data show that children are more likely to get and keep health insurance when their parents are covered.
- When parents and children are covered, the whole family is more financially secure.

## AFTER YEARS OF PROGRESS, WE'RE LOSING GROUND

- In 2017, the number of uninsured children **increased** for the first time in a decade. **276,000** more U.S. children became uninsured, and progress in covering Arkansas children stalled.
- In 2018, the number of children enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP **fell by about 840,000** nationwide— including 9,736 in Arkansas.



These data show that **children's health coverage is headed in the wrong direction**— an alarming trend that cannot be ignored.

## WE MUST PROTECT CHILDREN'S COVERAGE

### KEEP MEDICAID STRONG

Medicaid faces serious threats in states where enrollment barriers such as work reporting requirements, budget cuts, and moves to block grant or cap Medicaid funding are being proposed. Actions like these prevent Medicaid from doing its job of providing health insurance. We must prevent harmful changes that add costly administrative burden for states while also taking away people's health coverage.



### KEEP CHILDREN COVERED

States have made historic gains in covering children. But, with coverage rates stalling or headed in the wrong direction, we must double down on efforts to reach and enroll eligible children, focus on system improvements to keep them covered, and ensure that parents have health insurance, so they can keep themselves and their families healthy.



This 2019 fact sheet was created by the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

For data sources used see: [ccf.georgetown.edu/2019/03/20/medicaid-and-chip-snapshot-data-sources-2019/](https://www.ccf.georgetown.edu/2019/03/20/medicaid-and-chip-snapshot-data-sources-2019/)

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