

# Decade of Success for Latino Children's Health Now in Jeopardy

## Executive Summary

All children should have the opportunity to lead long, healthy lives. Having health coverage is an essential foundation for children's health and well-being in the present and over their lifetime. While Latino children are more likely than other children to be uninsured, efforts to reduce this inequity by expanding affordable coverage options such as Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) Marketplaces yielded significant results. After years of

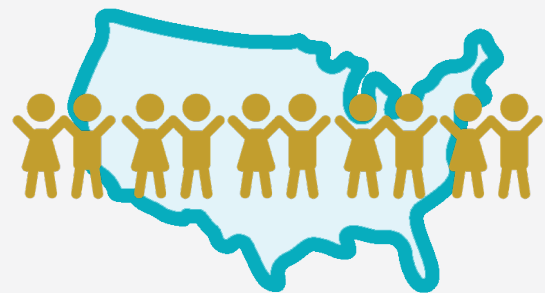
progress following the implementation of major coverage provisions under the ACA, the rate of uninsured Latino children decreased to a historic low of 7.7 percent in 2016.

Unfortunately, progress to reduce inequities is now eroding as the gap between health coverage rates for Latino children and all children widened in 2018 for the first time in a decade.

## Health Coverage for Latino Children

**1.6 million**

Latino children in the United States were uninsured in 2018.



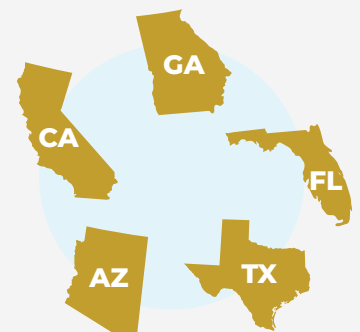
Latino children are nearly

**2x more**

more likely to be uninsured than non-Latino children, with an uninsured rate of 8.1 percent compared to 4.2 percent in 2018.

**65%**

of uninsured Latino children reside in just five states



## Medicaid Helps Children Succeed

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While Medicaid and CHIP are important sources of coverage for all children, this is disproportionately true for Latino children, covering nearly 55 percent in 2018 compared to about 39 percent of children overall. Access to Medicaid in childhood leads to longer, healthier lives, and children with Medicaid miss fewer school days and do better in high school and college, which leads to better jobs with higher wages.

*Medicaid covered nearly 55 percent of Latino children in 2018.*

Efforts to repeal the ACA and cut Medicaid, increased red tape barriers for Medicaid and CHIP, and the general climate of fear and confusion for immigrant families that discourages them from enrolling eligible children in public health coverage have all contributed to a troubling erosion in Latino children's coverage.

## We Must Protect Latino Children's Coverage

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Latino children already make up a quarter of the overall child population in the U.S. and by 2050, are expected to comprise over one-third. We must reverse the alarming trends in Latino children's coverage so that they can access the health care they need to live long and productive lives, securing a more prosperous future.

For more information and data sources, see <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2020/03/10/decade-of-success-for-latino-childrens-health-now-in-jeopardy/>. Visit our websites at [ccf.georgetown.edu](http://ccf.georgetown.edu) and [unidosus.org](http://unidosus.org).

## Report Key Findings

- **The gap between health coverage rates for Latino children and all children widened in 2018 for the first time in a decade.** Progress in reducing inequities in coverage for Latino children is unraveling. The uninsured rate for Latino children rose to 8.1 percent compared to 5.2 percent for all children and 4.2 percent for non-Latino children in 2018.
- **Both the number and rate of uninsured Latino children in the U.S. increased significantly between 2016 and 2018.** The number of uninsured Latino children increased by more than 122,000, bringing the total to almost 1.6 million Latino children without health insurance. Their uninsured rate increased from 7.7 to 8.1 percent.
- **The vast majority of Latino children are citizens (95 percent) but concerns related to immigration status still present a notable barrier to coverage.** State policies to cover all children regardless of immigration status are effective in increasing the coverage rates for Latino children overall.
- **Together, Texas and Georgia account for more than 60 percent of the nationwide increase in the number of uninsured Latino children.** The rate of uninsured Latino children increased the most sharply in Mississippi and Utah – going up by more than six percentage points in each state.
- **California is the only state with statistically significant decreases in the number and rate of uninsured Latino children between 2016 and 2018.** The number of uninsured Latino children in California decreased by almost 11 percent, bringing the uninsured rate down to 3.7 percent, well below the national average for Latino children.