

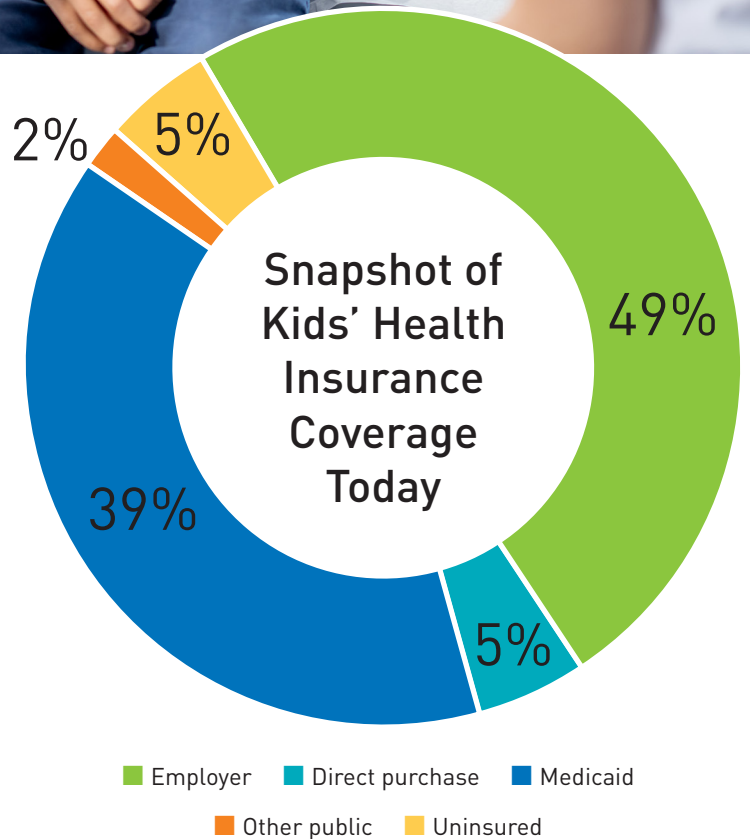
# COVERING AMERICA'S KIDS

January 2025

**There are approximately 75 million children in the United States.**

About 95% of children are insured through a variety of programs, including: **Medicaid**, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), **TRICARE**, **employer-based**, **direct purchase**, and other public coverage.

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**Note:** The above estimates are not adjusted to address the "Medicaid undercount" often observed when comparing survey data to the reported higher numbers of individuals enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP using federal and state administrative data. **Source:** KFF, "Health Insurance Coverage of Children 0-18," available at [kff.org/other/state-indicator/children-0-18](https://kff.org/other/state-indicator/children-0-18).



Photo: Allyn DiVito, Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital, St. Petersburg, Florida

# MEDICAID IS VITAL TO KIDS

~47%

of Medicaid/CHIP enrollees are children.

Source: CMS, October 2024 Medicaid & CHIP Enrollment Data Highlights

37 million

of nearly 75 million U.S. kids rely on Medicaid at some point during the year.

Source: CMS, October 2024 Medicaid & CHIP Enrollment Data Highlights

Almost half

of children with special health care needs rely on Medicaid/CHIP.

Source: KFF, "Children with Special Health Care Needs: Coverage, Affordability, and HCBS Access"

~3 million

kids in military-related families rely on Medicaid.

Report: Medicaid: A Vital Resource for Nearly 3 Million Military-Connected Children

40.6%

of children residing in small towns and rural areas were enrolled in Medicaid/CHIP in 2023.

Source: CCF, Medicaid's Role in Small Towns and Rural Areas, January 2025

## Medicaid helps our kids lead better lives—it's a smart investment in the nation's future

Medicaid is vital—it covers kids in every state, from every background. It provides affordable coverage to children in working, lower-income families and to kids with special health care needs. This federal-state partnership is the largest source of children's health care coverage in the U.S.

## Medicaid was designed with kids in mind

Medicaid provides children access to a comprehensive set of services through the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit. This benefit ensures Medicaid covers the preventive services all kids need—things like immunizations, well-child checkups, and vision and dental services. Medicaid is the nation's largest payer for behavioral health services. It also covers medically necessary care, so children can see a pediatric specialist or get the therapy they need.

## Medicaid steps up for kids when they need it most

Most of our nation's sickest children get coverage through Medicaid. For kids born with or who develop serious medical conditions, Medicaid provides coverage or fills coverage gaps for services not covered by private insurance. No one plans for kids to get sick, but thankfully Medicaid is a safety net for all our children. Source: MACPAC response to SFC BH letter November 2021

## Medicaid helps our kids reach their full potential

Medicaid helps kids grow into healthy and productive adults. Compared to uninsured children, those covered by Medicaid are more likely to have better health outcomes as adults, with higher school attendance and academic achievement. This leads to greater resiliency and success in careers and life. Source: Medicaid Works for Children | center on Budget and Policy Priorities (cbpp.org)

## Kids with Medicaid rely on children's hospitals

Children's hospitals are at the core of the health care delivery system for children, bringing together teams of specialists to provide care not available in any other setting. Since they serve children from many states, children's hospitals must coordinate with multiple state Medicaid programs.