



**Consumers for
AFFORDABLE
Health Care**

*Advocating the right to quality, affordable
health care for every man, woman and child*



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

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REPORT: INSURED MAINE KIDS GET NEEDED HEALTH CARE, UNINSURED KIDS GO WITHOUT

New efforts underway to insure uninsured children

Augusta- A report just released on children's health shows that having health insurance makes an enormous difference in whether kids in Maine receive the care they need, especially if they are chronically ill. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and researchers at the University of Minnesota conducted the study. **Their findings show that insured children are three times more likely to visit a doctor's office in the course of a year than uninsured children. Insured kids are also far more likely to have had a regular check-up to keep them healthy.**

That is why Consumers for Affordable Health Care (CAHC) and RWJF are trying to get more eligible children enrolled in public health coverage programs. **Parents with uninsured children can call the CAHC HelpLine at 1-800-965-7476 or MaineCare assistance at 1-877-KIDS-NOW to determine if their child is eligible for low-cost or free health coverage.** Most parents don't realize their children may be eligible for programs like the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) or Medicaid called MaineCare in Maine. A simple call to our HelpLine could give you valuable information that may help your child.

The latest U.S. Census Bureau data show that more than 9 million children remain uninsured nationwide. That's more than the total number of kids enrolled in the first and second grades in U.S. public schools. Experts say most of those kids are likely eligible for successful public insurance programs like SCHIP and Medicaid. Data shows most uninsured children come from families in which at least one parent works full-time. Eligibility for programs varies by state and is based on family size and income, but children in a family of four earning up to \$42,000 a year or more may qualify for low-cost or free health coverage.

Fast Facts:

- Call the CAHC HelpLine at 1-800-965-7476 or 1-877-KIDS-NOW to determine if your uninsured child is eligible for low-cost or free health coverage.
- About seven in ten uninsured kids are eligible for low-cost or free health care coverage, but their parents may not realize it.
- Every state has an SCHIP and Medicaid program. Eligibility is based on family size and income.
- Information about health coverage options can be found at www.mainecahc.org or www.CoverTheUninsured.org.

Other Findings from the Report:

The report shows just how strong a safety net SCHIP and Medicaid are for kids, especially those who need health care to treat serious, ongoing illnesses such as asthma or diabetes.

“These programs allow kids to get the care they need, so that they can feel better, grow stronger and thrive in school,” said Dr. Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, M.D., M.B.A., president and CEO of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. “When children who need care do not receive it, their conditions worsen and are harder and more expensive to treat later.”

- **Kids with insurance are more likely to receive routine care.**

Thirty-one percent of all uninsured kids in America did not visit a doctor last year, compared to nine percent of children with insurance. Three out of four insured kids (77 percent) received a “well child” check-up in the past year, compared to less than half of all kids without insurance (45 percent).

- **Millions of kids benefit from public health insurance programs.**

In Maine, about 20,000 children with chronic conditions are covered by SCHIP or Medicaid. That’s 46 percent of all kids in the state who have chronic conditions covered by public insurance programs. About 3.6 million out of the 10 million chronically ill children nationwide are covered by SCHIP or Medicaid. That means more than one in three chronically ill children nationwide has consistent access to needed health care because they are enrolled in public health programs. Data shows kids who are chronically ill and covered by public insurance receive health services at the same levels as chronically ill kids with private insurance. **Uninsured children with chronic illness receive far less care.**

To view the report or learn more, log on to www.rwjf.org.

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“Health care should be a right, not a privilege.”