



Colorado Children's Health Insurance Status

FACT SHEET
MARCH 2012

How many children are eligible but not enrolled in Medicaid or CHP+?

There has been much debate about expanding eligibility for publicly-financed health insurance coverage. However, many children are already eligible for existing programs. In Colorado, the Colorado Health Institute estimates that 82,000 low-income

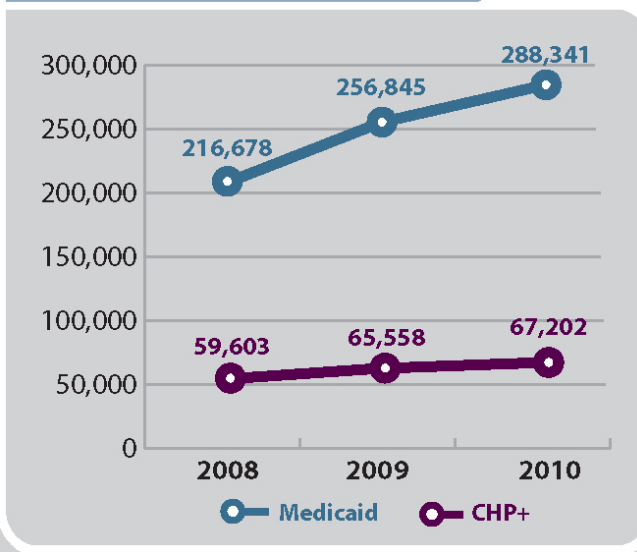
children were eligible for public health insurance programs but not enrolled in them (EBNE) in 2010. This represents a small increase over the estimate for 2009 (78,000) but is substantially lower than 2008 (104,000).

Number and percent of low income children in Colorado (ages 0-18) eligible but not enrolled in Medicaid or CHP+, 2010

Program	A. Number enrolled	B. Number EBNE	C. Total eligible (A+B)	D. Percent EBNE (B/C)	E. Percent enrolled (A/C)
Medicaid	288,341	42,288	330,629	12.8%	87.2%
CHP+	67,202	39,748	106,950	37.2%	62.8%
Medicaid or CHP+	355,543	82,036	437,579	18.7%	81.3%

Even though the number of EBNE children increased, the overall estimated number of uninsured children appears to have leveled off between 2009 (134,508, or 10.3%) and 2010 (132,055, or 10.4%). While a struggling economy contributed to an increase in uninsured adults, CHI didn't observe that same trend with children. Although some children lost private health insurance coverage when their parents became unemployed, higher numbers of children enrolled in Medicaid and the Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) due to lower family incomes. Figure 1 displays the increasing enrollment seen over this three-year period.

Figure 1: Number of children in Colorado enrolled in Medicaid and CHP+, 2008-10



Source for Figure 1: Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing

Figure 2: Number of children in Colorado eligible but not enrolled in Medicaid and CHP+, 2008-10

