

COLORADO CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE

2009 Update

The large number of children lacking health insurance in Colorado (approximately 153,000) has resulted in a growing interest among policymakers and others to find ways to extend coverage to as many children as possible within current fiscal constraints. To evaluate all available policy options, it is necessary to develop accurate and reliable estimates of the size and household characteristics of Colorado's uninsured children. Currently, the Medicaid and the Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) programs provide publicly financed health insurance to a large number of low-income children in Colorado,¹ although a significant number of uninsured children are eligible for but not enrolled in these programs. The extent to which children are eligible but not enrolled in Medicaid and CHP+ varies by county—a fact that has implications for strategies for enrollment efforts.

Over the past several months, the Colorado Health Institute (CHI) has conducted analyses relating to children's health insurance coverage. This brief summarizes these analyses and includes a discussion of:

- The number of uninsured and privately insured children in Colorado based on reported family income;

- The number of uninsured children in Colorado (at the state and county levels) who are eligible but not enrolled in Medicaid and CHP+; and,
- A subset of uninsured immigrant children who are currently ineligible for Medicaid or CHP+.

The primary data source used for this analysis was the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS), March Supplement, averaged over a three-year period from 2005-07. The CPS is a sample survey of approximately 4,000 Colorado households conducted every March. All data are self-reported.

Please see the Methods and Limitations section at the end of this brief for a description of how the estimates were calculated and the limitations of the data.

Estimates of Colorado's insured and uninsured children

From 2005-07, the majority of Colorado's 1.3 million children were covered by private insurance. In addition to these 855,000 children, an estimated 247,000 had other types of insurance (largely Medicaid and CHP+), while more than 153,000 were uninsured (Table 1).

Table 1. Colorado children ages 0-18 by insurance status, family income and documentation/citizenship status, 2005-07 average

Family income (percent of FPL) ^a	Uninsured ^b		Privately insured		All other insurance ^d	Total
	Estimate	95% Confidence interval (+/-)	Estimate	95% Confidence interval (+/-)		
0-133%	55,133	13,092	42,194	12,635	145,574	242,901
>133% - 200%	23,097	7,827	61,632	15,224	54,452	139,181
>200% - 300%	17,243	7,031	149,506	23,362	29,045	195,794
>300% - 400%	15,382	7,064	155,793	24,251	1,862	173,037
>400%	21,241	8,337	437,493	32,062	12,335	471,069
Ineligible children based on documentation or citizen- ship status ^c	21,192	7,532	7,988	5,175	3,237	32,417
Total	153,288		854,606		246,505	1,254,399

NOTES TO TABLE I

- a. The Federal Poverty Level (FPL) in 2007 was \$20,650 for a family of four.
- b. The health insurance coverage question on the CPS asks about coverage over the entire prior calendar year. Parents of those children counted as uninsured indicated their children had no source of coverage (public or private) for the entire previous calendar year. Research, however, has shown that the CPS more closely approximates uninsured status at a point in time, e.g., March, rather than uninsured status for an entire calendar year.
- c. Includes estimated number of undocumented children and documented non-citizen children who have resided in the U.S. for fewer than five years.
- d. Estimates in this column are included for informational purposes; they do not include confidence intervals due to the instability of the estimates. Results should be interpreted accordingly.

Source: CHI analysis of the 2006-08 Current Population Surveys (covering CYs 2005-07)

Included among the uninsured were approximately 21,000 children who lacked immigration documentation or who had not resided in the United States legally for at least five years, the amount of time required for legal immigrants to be eligible for Medicaid or CHP+ coverage. Of these children, an estimated 8,000 had private health insurance coverage.

Children eligible but not enrolled

Of the approximate 153,000 uninsured Colorado children ages birth-18 years, CHI found that more than 78,000 were eligible for but not enrolled in the Medicaid and CHP+ programs. On average, between 2005 and 2007, nearly 48,000 children were eligible for the Medicaid program but not enrolled and approximately 31,000 were eligible but not enrolled in the CHP+ program (Table 2). These estimates include only uninsured children who were U.S. citizens or documented non-citizens who had resided in the country for five or more years and met income guidelines.

Table 2. Uninsured Colorado children ages 0-18 years eligible but not enrolled (EBNE) in Medicaid or CHP+, 2005-07 average

	Estimate	95% Confidence interval (+/-)
EBNE Medicaid	47,604	11,425
EBNE CHP+	30,626	8,619
Total EBNE	78,230	

Source: CHI analysis of the 2006-08 Current Population Surveys (covering CYs 2005-07)

County-level estimates of EBNE children

Of the estimated 258,000 children eligible for Medicaid in CYs 2005-07, approximately 82 percent (211,000 children) were enrolled (Table 3). The percentage of Medicaid-eligible children enrolled ranged from 35 percent in Pitkin County to 87 percent in Prowers County.² Because both Pitkin and Prowers counties (and many other counties in Colorado) have small populations of children compared to large urban counties such as Denver and Arapahoe, the potential for misspecification of enrollment rates is amplified. For example, Pitkin County had the lowest Medicaid enrollment rate but also accounted for less than .01 percent of all eligible but not enrolled children statewide (figure not displayed). CHI advises that in counties with small population sizes, caution be used in interpreting the rates displayed in Tables 3-5.

CHP+ enrollment rates for eligible children ages 18 years and younger were lower than Medicaid rates with 60 percent (45,000) of eligible children enrolled statewide. Among the counties, estimated enrollment rates for CHP+ ranged from a low of 24 percent in Pitkin County to a high of 77 percent in Mesa County (Table 4).

Also see the Colorado maps showing Medicaid and CHP+ enrollment by county on pages 11 and 12.

Table 3. Number and percent of children (ages 0-18) eligible but not enrolled (EBNE) in Medicaid by county, Colorado, 2005-07

County	A. Total children 0-18	B. Medicaid enrolled	C. Medicaid EBNE	D. Total eligible Medicaid (B+C)	E. Percent EBNE in Medicaid (C/D)	F. Percent enrolled in Medicaid (B/D)
Adams	120,235	26,188	4,667	30,855	15.1%	84.9%
Alamosa	3,951	1,379	250	1,629	15.3%	84.7%
Arapahoe	149,087	23,444	6,171	29,615	20.8%	79.2%
Archuleta	2,581	535	142	677	21.0%	79.0%
Baca	1,192	247	75	322	23.3%	76.7%
Bent	1,518	418	78	496	15.7%	84.3%
Boulder	69,163	7,478	2,070	9,548	21.7%	78.3%
Broomfield	11,910	1,026	266	1,292	20.6%	79.4%
Chaffee	3,442	502	162	664	24.4%	75.6%
Cheyenne	564	88	29	117	24.7%	75.3%
Clear Creek	2,180	222	46	268	17.2%	82.8%
Conejos	2,218	722	139	861	16.1%	83.9%
Costilla	967	294	61	355	17.2%	82.8%
Crowley	1,398	281	71	352	20.2%	79.8%
Custer	742	109	35	144	24.4%	75.6%
Delta	7,260	1,530	400	1,930	20.7%	79.3%
Denver	146,795	36,136	7,706	43,842	17.6%	82.4%
Dolores	481	95	26	121	21.5%	78.5%
Douglas	79,804	2,596	560	3,156	17.7%	82.3%
Eagle	10,341	1,280	445	1,725	25.8%	74.2%
El Paso	165,420	26,674	5,324	31,998	16.6%	83.4%
Elbert	5,031	509	257	766	33.6%	66.4%
Fremont	9,778	2,206	460	2,666	17.3%	82.7%
Garfield	11,309	2,028	415	2,443	17.0%	83.0%
Gilpin	1,113	110	24	134	17.9%	82.1%
Grand	3,089	300	133	433	30.7%	69.3%
Gunnison	3,465	349	150	499	30.0%	70.0%
Hinsdale	196	Not available	9	Not available	Not available	Not available
Huerfano	2,076	487	130	617	21.1%	78.9%
Jackson	407	62	15	77	19.5%	80.5%
Jefferson	129,890	14,454	3,796	18,250	20.8%	79.2%
Kiowa	411	71	21	92	22.7%	77.3%
Kit Carson	2,029	389	104	493	21.1%	78.9%
La Plata	11,462	1,585	634	2,219	28.6%	71.4%
Lake	1,939	372	84	456	18.4%	81.6%

Table 3 (continued)

County	A. Total children 0-18	B. Medicaid enrolled	C. Medicaid EBNE	D. Total eligible Medicaid (B+C)	E. Percent EBNE in Medicaid (C/D)	F. Percent enrolled in Medicaid (B/D)
Larimer	68,816	9,012	2,245	11,257	19.9%	80.1%
Las Animas	4,014	934	253	1,187	21.3%	78.7%
Lincoln	1,540	321	79	400	19.8%	80.2%
Logan	5,191	993	266	1,259	21.1%	78.9%
Mesa	32,825	7,039	1,314	8,353	15.7%	84.3%
Mineral	207	Not available	10	Not available	Not available	Not available
Moffat	3,405	650	125	775	16.1%	83.9%
Montezuma	6,216	1,611	344	1,955	17.6%	82.4%
Montrose	8,720	2,105	482	2,587	18.6%	81.4%
Morgan	6,879	1,708	352	2,060	17.1%	82.9%
Otero	5,362	1,645	338	1,983	17.0%	83.0%
Ouray	929	101	39	140	27.8%	72.2%
Park	3,078	408	144	552	26.1%	73.9%
Phillips	1,134	208	58	266	21.8%	78.2%
Pitkin	3,691	86	159	245	64.8%	35.2%
Prowers	3,666	1,300	187	1,487	12.6%	87.4%
Pueblo	38,499	12,102	2,661	14,763	18.0%	82.0%
Rio Blanco	1,546	292	57	349	16.3%	83.7%
Rio Grande	3,278	1,096	206	1,302	15.8%	84.2%
Routt	5,085	345	186	531	35.0%	65.0%
Saguache	1,562	554	99	653	15.2%	84.8%
San Juan	145	Not available	8	Not available	Not available	Not available
San Miguel	1,720	131	95	226	42.0%	58.0%
Sedgwick	695	85	35	120	29.2%	70.8%
Summit	5,845	621	252	873	28.9%	71.1%
Teller	4,356	701	205	906	22.6%	77.4%
Washington	1,248	181	64	245	26.1%	73.9%
Weld	68,813	11,677	2,257	13,934	16.2%	83.8%
Yuma	2,492	556	128	684	18.7%	81.3%
Total	1,254,401	210,695	47,603	258,298	18.4%	81.6%

Not available = Not reported by HCPF due to fewer than 30 cases.

Sources: CHI analysis of the 2007 American Community Survey and 2006-08 Current Population Survey (covering CY 2005-07).

Table 4. Number and percent of children (ages 0-18) eligible but not enrolled (EBNE) in CHP+ by county, Colorado, 2005-07

County	A. Total children 0-18	B. CHP+ enrolled	C. CHP+ EBNE	D. Total eligible CHP+ (B+C)	E. Percent EBNE in CHP+ (C/D)	F. Percent enrolled in CHP+ (B/D)
Adams	120,235	5,764	2,584	8,348	31.0%	69.0%
Alamosa	3,951	395	141	536	26.3%	73.7%
Arapahoe	149,087	4,571	3,276	7,847	41.8%	58.2%
Archuleta	2,581	209	99	308	32.2%	67.8%
Baca	1,192	72	43	115	37.4%	62.6%
Bent	1,518	62	51	113	45.0%	55.0%
Boulder	69,163	1,457	1,190	2,647	45.0%	55.0%
Broomfield	11,910	340	137	477	28.7%	71.3%
Chaffee	3,442	186	145	331	43.8%	56.2%
Cheyenne	564	29	19	48	39.6%	60.4%
Clear Creek	2,180	51	35	86	40.5%	59.5%
Conejos	2,218	239	79	318	24.9%	75.1%
Costilla	967	70	35	105	33.3%	66.7%
Crowley	1,398	74	47	121	38.8%	61.2%
Custer	742	40	32	72	44.5%	55.5%
Delta	7,260	413	278	691	40.2%	59.8%
Denver	146,795	6,007	3,897	9,904	39.3%	60.7%
Dolores	481	45	19	64	29.7%	70.3%
Douglas	79,804	785	947	1,732	54.7%	45.3%
Eagle	10,341	239	435	674	64.5%	35.5%
El Paso	165,420	3,254	5,082	8,336	61.0%	39.0%
Elbert	5,031	112	169	281	60.1%	39.9%
Fremont	9,778	536	410	946	43.4%	56.6%
Garfield	11,309	565	305	870	35.1%	64.9%
Gilpin	1,113	Not available	17	Not available	Not available	Not available
Grand	3,089	129	130	259	50.1%	49.9%
Gunnison	3,465	149	146	295	49.5%	50.5%
Hinsdale	196	Not available	8	Not available	Not available	Not available
Huerfano	2,076	119	74	193	38.3%	61.7%
Jackson	407	Not available	11	Not available	Not available	Not available
Jefferson	129,890	3,302	2,469	5,771	42.8%	57.2%
Kiowa	411	Not available	13	Not available	Not available	Not available
Kit Carson	2,029	177	67	244	27.5%	72.5%
La Plata	11,462	732	439	1,171	37.5%	62.5%
Lake	1,939	112	82	194	42.3%	57.7%
Larimer	68,816	2,691	1,478	4,169	35.5%	64.5%

Table 4 (continued)

County	A. Total children 0-18	B. CHP+ enrolled	C. CHP+ EBNE	D. Total eligible CHP+ (B+C)	E. Percent EBNE in CHP+ (C/D)	F. Percent enrolled in CHP+ (B/D)
Las Animas	4,014	196	143	339	42.2%	57.8%
Lincoln	1,540	53	52	105	49.6%	50.4%
Logan	5,191	265	173	438	39.5%	60.5%
Mesa	32,825	2,077	618	2,695	22.9%	77.1%
Mineral	207	Not available	10	Not available	Not available	Not available
Moffat	3,405	194	92	286	32.1%	67.9%
Montezuma	6,216	561	238	799	29.8%	70.2%
Montrose	8,720	878	334	1,212	27.6%	72.4%
Morgan	6,879	419	230	649	35.4%	64.6%
Otero	5,362	321	191	512	37.3%	62.7%
Ouray	929	39	39	78	49.8%	50.2%
Park	3,078	100	129	229	56.4%	43.6%
Phillips	1,134	59	38	97	39.3%	60.7%
Pitkin	3,691	50	155	205	75.8%	24.2%
Prowers	3,666	322	123	445	27.7%	72.3%
Pueblo	38,499	1,647	957	2,604	36.7%	63.3%
Rio Blanco	1,546	44	42	86	49.0%	51.0%
Rio Grande	3,278	303	116	419	27.7%	72.3%
Routt	5,085	177	137	314	43.6%	56.4%
Saguache	1,562	120	55	175	31.5%	68.5%
San Juan	145	Not available	6	Not available	Not available	Not available
San Miguel	1,720	75	65	140	46.5%	53.5%
Sedgwick	695	43	23	66	34.8%	65.2%
Summit	5,845	129	245	374	65.6%	34.4%
Teller	4,356	210	183	393	46.5%	53.5%
Washington	1,248	76	41	117	35.1%	64.9%
Weld	68,813	3,506	1,719	5,225	32.9%	67.1%
Yuma	2,492	160	82	242	33.9%	66.1%
Total	1,254,401	45,146	30,625	75,771	40.4%	59.6%

Not available = Not reported by HCPF due to fewer than 30 cases.

Sources: CHI analysis of the 2007 American Community Survey and 2006-08 Current Population Survey (covering CY 2005-07).

Examining the two programs together (Table 5), CHI found that nearly one-quarter (23%) of eligible Colorado children were not enrolled in Medicaid or CHP+ during the time period studied. Pitkin County

had the lowest joint enrollment rate (30%), with approximately 136 out of 450 eligible children enrolled in Medicaid or CHP+. Prowers County had the highest enrollment rate at 84 percent.

Table 5. Number and percent of children (ages 0-18) eligible but not enrolled (EBNE) in Medicaid or CHP+ by county, Colorado, 2005-07

County	A. Total children 0-18	B. Medicaid or CHP+ enrolled	C. Medicaid or CHP+ EBNE	D. Total eligible for Medicaid or CHP+ (B+C)	E. Percent EBNE in Medicaid or CHP+ (C/D)	F. Percent enrolled in Medicaid or CHP+ (B/D)
Adams	120,235	31,952	7,251	39,203	18.5%	81.5%
Alamosa	3,951	1,774	391	2,165	18.1%	81.9%
Arapahoe	149,087	28,014	9,447	37,461	25.2%	74.8%
Archuleta	2,581	744	241	985	24.5%	75.5%
Baca	1,192	319	118	437	27.0%	73.0%
Bent	1,518	480	129	609	21.2%	78.8%
Boulder	69,163	8,935	3,260	12,195	26.7%	73.3%
Broomfield	11,910	1,366	403	1,769	22.8%	77.2%
Chaffee	3,442	688	307	995	30.8%	69.2%
Cheyenne	564	117	48	165	29.0%	71.0%
Clear Creek	2,180	274	81	355	22.8%	77.2%
Conejos	2,218	961	218	1,179	18.5%	81.5%
Costilla	967	364	96	460	20.9%	79.1%
Crowley	1,398	355	118	473	24.9%	75.1%
Custer	742	149	67	216	31.1%	68.9%
Delta	7,260	1,943	678	2,621	25.9%	74.1%
Denver	146,795	42,143	11,603	53,746	21.6%	78.4%
Dolores	481	140	45	185	24.3%	75.7%
Douglas	79,804	3,380	1,507	4,887	30.8%	69.2%
Eagle	10,341	1,519	880	2,399	36.7%	63.3%
El Paso	165,420	29,927	10,406	40,333	25.8%	74.2%
Elbert	5,031	621	426	1,047	40.7%	59.3%
Fremont	9,778	2,742	870	3,612	24.1%	75.9%
Garfield	11,309	2,593	720	3,313	21.7%	78.3%
Gilpin	1,113	Not available	41	Not available	Not available	Not available
Grand	3,089	430	263	693	38.0%	62.0%
Gunnison	3,465	498	296	794	37.3%	62.7%
Hinsdale	196	Not available	17	Not available	Not available	Not available
Huerfano	2,076	606	204	810	25.2%	74.8%
Jackson	407	Not available	26	Not available	Not available	Not available
Jefferson	129,890	17,756	6,265	24,021	26.1%	73.9%
Kiowa	411	Not available	34	Not available	Not available	Not available

Table 5 (continued)

County	A. Total children 0-18	B. Medicaid or CHP+ enrolled	C. Medicaid or CHP+ EBNE	D. Total eligible for Medicaid or CHP+ (B+C)	E. Percent EBNE in Medicaid or CHP+ (C/D)	F. Percent enrolled in Medicaid or CHP+ (B/D)
Kit Carson	2,029	566	171	737	23.2%	76.8%
La Plata	11,462	2,317	1,073	3,390	31.7%	68.3%
Lake	1,939	484	166	650	25.5%	74.5%
Larimer	68,816	11,703	3,723	15,426	24.1%	75.9%
Las Animas	4,014	1,129	396	1,525	26.0%	74.0%
Lincoln	1,540	374	131	505	26.0%	74.0%
Logan	5,191	1,258	439	1,697	25.9%	74.1%
Mesa	32,825	9,117	1,932	11,049	17.5%	82.5%
Mineral	207	Not available	20	Not available	Not available	Not available
Moffat	3,405	844	217	1,061	20.5%	79.5%
Montezuma	6,216	2,172	582	2,754	21.1%	78.9%
Montrose	8,720	2,983	816	3,799	21.5%	78.5%
Morgan	6,879	2,127	582	2,709	21.5%	78.5%
Otero	5,362	1,966	529	2,495	21.2%	78.8%
Ouray	929	141	78	219	35.7%	64.3%
Park	3,078	508	273	781	34.9%	65.1%
Phillips	1,134	267	96	363	26.5%	73.5%
Pitkin	3,691	136	314	450	69.8%	30.2%
Prowers	3,666	1,622	310	1,932	16.0%	84.0%
Pueblo	38,499	13,749	3,618	17,367	20.8%	79.2%
Rio Blanco	1,546	336	99	435	22.8%	77.2%
Rio Grande	3,278	1,399	322	1,721	18.7%	81.3%
Routt	5,085	522	323	845	38.2%	61.8%
Saguache	1,562	674	154	828	18.6%	81.4%
San Juan	145	Not available	14	Not available	Not available	Not available
San Miguel	1,720	206	160	366	43.7%	56.3%
Sedgwick	695	128	58	186	31.2%	68.8%
Summit	5,845	750	497	1,247	39.9%	60.1%
Teller	4,356	911	388	1,299	29.9%	70.1%
Washington	1,248	257	105	362	29.0%	71.0%
Weld	68,813	15,183	3,976	19,159	20.8%	79.2%
Yuma	2,492	715	210	925	22.7%	77.3%
Total	1,254,401	255,841	78,228	334,069	23.4%	76.6%

Not available = Not reported by HCPF due to fewer than 30 cases.

Sources: CHI analysis of the 2007 American Community Survey and 2006-08 Current Population Survey (covering CY 2005-07).

Table 6. Number of uninsured, documented non-citizen children (ages 0-18) in Colorado ineligible for Medicaid or CHP+ with fewer than 5 years of residency in the U.S., CY 2005-07 average

	Population estimate	95% confidence interval (+/-)
Eligible for Medicaid	5,124	3,711
Eligible for CHP+	*	*
Total	8,375	4,418

NOTE: Includes all documented non-citizen children ages 0-18 years who have resided in the U.S. for fewer than 5 years. Includes children who were uninsured but eligible for Medicaid and CHP+ based on age and income guidelines. Analysis assumes that non-citizen children legally residing in Colorado did not experience a change in documentation status during their residence in the United States.

* Estimates are statistically unstable due to small numbers of observations.

Source: CHI analysis of the 2006-08 Current Population Survey (covering CY 2005-07)

In Tables 3-5, the statewide Medicaid and CHP+ enrollment estimate displayed in the last row of Column B was calculated using a 36-month average of monthly caseload figures from the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF). County enrollment (displayed in all other rows of Column B) was determined by applying each county’s proportion of all children enrolled for at least one day (“ever enrolled”) in FY2006-07 to the statewide 36-month caseload average total. (Please refer to page 10 for additional details about this calculation method.)

Uninsured, ineligible non-citizen children

Until February 2009, federal law prohibited states from enrolling non-citizen children with legal documentation who met age and income guidelines for Medicaid and CHP+ but who had not resided legally in the United States for at least five years. Recent legislation passed by Congress³ eliminates this five-year waiting period for legal immigrant children and provides states with the option of enrolling these children. Although Colorado has not changed eligibility guidelines, CHI was asked to estimate the impact of lifting this time-in-country requirement. The analysis found a relatively small number—an estimated 8,000 Colorado children that fit into this category (Table 6). Because the sample size was quite small and had a large margin of error, this number should be interpreted with caution. Estimates for this population could range from as few as 4,000 children to as many as 13,000.

Methods and Limitations

Health insurance status

Research comparing survey data from the CPS and administrative data from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services suggests that the CPS consistently undercounts the number of people enrolled in Medicaid. Undercounting the Medicaid population could have the effect of overestimating uninsured and privately insured populations.⁴ CHI adapted methods used by other researchers to adjust for the Medicaid and CHP+ “undercount” and found that underreporting among children resulted in an approximate 12 percent decrease in the estimated number of uninsured children.⁵ The specific steps followed to adjust for the Medicaid and CHP+ undercounts are described in a recent CHI presentation.⁶ CHI staff would be pleased to provide additional details upon request.

Citizenship and documentation status

The CPS contains variables on citizenship but not on documentation status. Based on methods used by the Urban Institute, CHI assumed that 41.5 percent of non-citizen children were undocumented.⁷ From the remaining group of non-citizen children, CHI removed any children from the estimate who had resided in the United States fewer than five years.

Notes to tables 1, 2 and 6

Tables 1, 2 and 6 include a column for a population estimate with an accompanying 95 percent confidence interval.⁸ Because of the very small number of

observations on which some of these estimates are based, CHI combined results from the three most recent CPS surveys (2006-08, covering calendar years 2005-07) to produce a more stable estimate. In spite of using a 3-year average and reducing the margin of error, some variables still have a very small number of observations on which to calculate an estimate; therefore we encourage the reader to use the estimate prudently.

Notes to tables 3-5

To determine the statewide estimate for the number of children who were eligible but not enrolled in Medicaid and CHP+, CHI used the results of its CPS-based analysis reported in Table 2. To determine the distribution of these children across Colorado's 64 counties, CHI used methods recommended by the State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC) at the University of Minnesota. SHADAC proposed using county population estimates derived from the American Community Survey (ACS)⁹ and uninsured rates derived from the Current Population Survey (CPS) to derive the number of EBNE children in each county. Additional details about this calculation are available upon request.

Specific methods used to calculate the estimates contained in Tables 3-5 included:

- CHI uniformly adjusted the eligible but not enrolled county estimates downward by 12.3 percent to adjust for the Medicaid undercount.
- CHI was not able to provide confidence intervals for the county eligible but not enrolled estimates due to the fact that the estimates were derived from multiple data sources.
- The Medicaid and CHP+ enrollment estimates displayed in Column B of Tables 3-5 were calculated using official statewide caseload figures as well as county "ever enrolled" data provided by the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. Official caseload numbers summarize children who were enrolled based on 12 months of enrollment similar to a full-time equivalent (FTE) calculation (for example, two children who were each enrolled for six months would be counted as one enrollee). Official caseload numbers, however, are only available at the state level. To estimate county-level

caseload numbers, CHI used "ever enrolled" data to calculate each county's percentage of the state's "ever enrolled" total. These data summarize the number of individual children who were enrolled in Medicaid for at least one day during the fiscal year. CHI then applied each county's percentage of "ever enrolled" children to the official statewide caseload number.¹⁰ The resulting county-level caseload estimates are summarized in column B.

- Because enrollment data were unavailable for a few small counties, the sum of the counties does not equal the state enrollment totals in Tables 3-5.

For more information

CHI welcomes the opportunity to discuss any questions this document may raise or to provide additional information about the methods, data sources or assumptions. Please contact Jeff Bontrager, senior research analyst, at 303.831.4200 x 205 or info@coloradohealthinstitute.org.

Data online

The county and state estimates included in Tables 3-5 are available for download in Excel format on CHI's Web site. Tables, maps, and graphs of the data are also available online.

1. Go to <http://datacenter.coloradohealthinstitute.org/data.jsp>
2. Click on "Uninsured, Health Coverage and Access"
3. Click on "Eligible but not enrolled children"

Endnotes

¹ Currently, children 5 years old and younger with family incomes at or below 133% of the federal poverty level (FPL) are eligible for Medicaid, whereas children ages 6 to 18 are eligible if their family income is at or below 100 percent of FPL. Children in families with incomes that are higher than the Medicaid limits but at or below 205% of FPL are eligible for CHP+. In 2009, the FPL for a family of four is \$22,050. Additional eligibility guidelines are discussed in this paper.

² Numbers for some counties were not available.

³ Federal legislation passed by Congress in February 2009 reauthorized the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), in Colorado known as Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+).



Percent of eligible children (ages 0-18) enrolled in CHP+, Colorado counties, 2005-07 average



Percent of eligible children enrolled

- Not available
- < 50.1%
- 50.1% - 54.8%
- 54.9% - 59.6%
- ≥ 59.7%

Colorado average 59.6%

Data source information

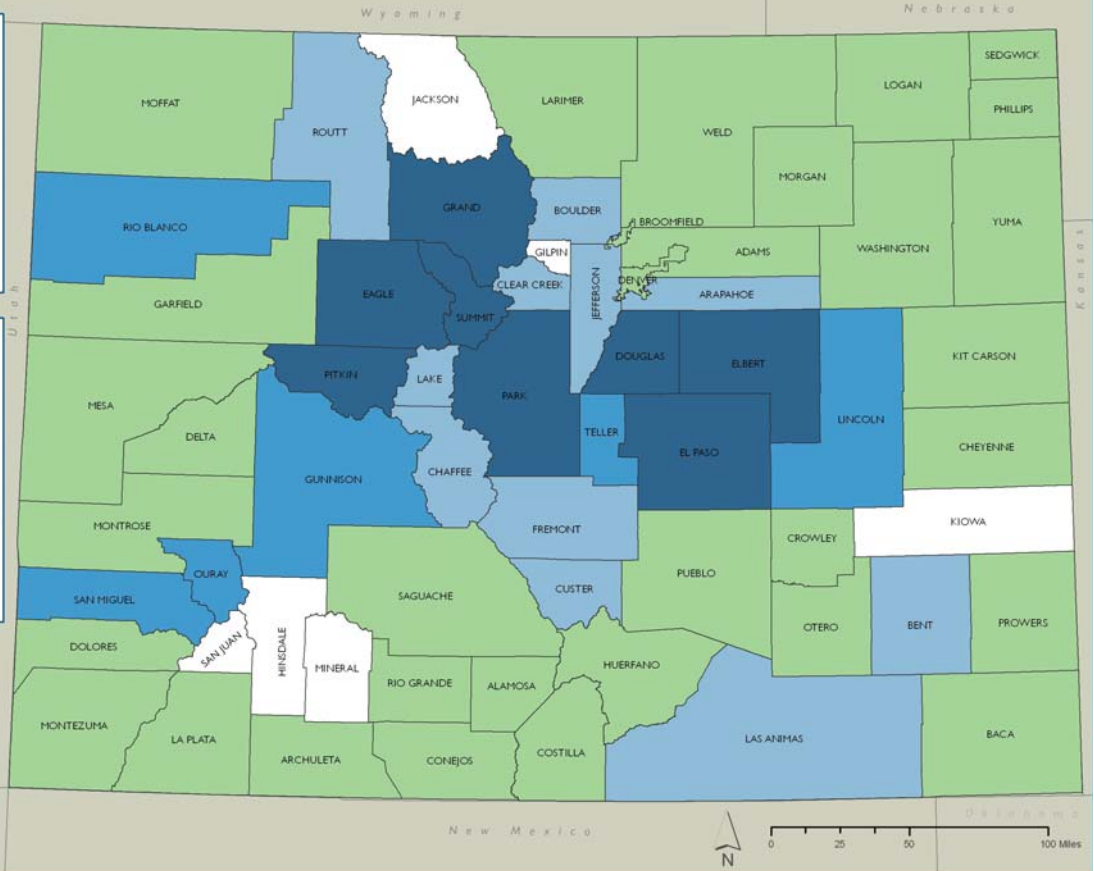
CHI analysis of the 2007 American Community Survey and 2006-08 Current Population Survey (covering CY 2005-07).

Children were deemed eligible based on age, income, and documentation guidelines. For further information on assumptions and methods, see "Colorado Children's Health Insurance: 2009 Update" available for download at: www.coloradohealthinstitute.org/documents/sr/EBNE.pdf

Some county estimates were not available from HCPF due to fewer than 30 cases.

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Map created March 24, 2009



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The Colorado Health Institute (CHI) is an independent, nonprofit health policy and research organization based in Denver. It was established in 2002 by Caring for Colorado Foundation, The Colorado Trust and Rose Community Foundation. CHI's mission is to advance the overall health of the people of Colorado by serving as an independent and impartial source of reliable and relevant data for informed decisionmaking.