HEALTH FOR A CHANGE

Kentucky’s Children: Important Health Policy Updates

April 28, 2021
To address the unmet health needs of Kentuckians

by. . .
• Developing and influencing policy
• Improving access to care
• Reducing health risks and disparities
• Promoting health equity

And VALUES. . .
✓ Integrity ✓ Leadership
✓ Respect ✓ Policy Equity
✓ Effectiveness ✓ Collaboration
www.healthy-ky.org/events/health-for-a-change

- Tuesday, **May 4** 12PM ET / 11AM CT
  Data sharing, HIPAA, COVID-19: Legal Issues & Opportunities

- Wednesday, **May 19** 12PM ET / 11AM CT
  All things 2020 US Census: Review, new products, and Kentucky connections
SAVE THE DATE!

Howard L. Bost Memorial Health Policy Forum

Kentucky Vaccine Policy: Myths, Messengers, and Messages

Join us virtually September 20 - 21, 2021
Health Policy Updates for Children & Families

Kelly Whitener, JD/MPH
Associate Research Professor
April 28, 2021
Medicaid’s Role in Children’s Coverage

Source: US Census Bureau’s American Community Survey, 2019. The categories are not mutually exclusive; people can be covered by more than one type of insurance during the year.
Medicaid coverage of children and pregnant women improves health

Medicaid’s Long-Term Impact on Health

- Better overall health and reduced mortality
- Improved oral health
- Fewer chronic conditions
- Fewer hospitalizations
- Fewer ER visits

Medicaid coverage of children and pregnant women improves educational attainment

Increase in children’s uninsured rate 2016-2019

An increase in the child uninsured rate of one percentage point, from 4.7% to 5.7%, translates to 726,000 more uninsured children in just 3 years.

4.3% of children in KY do not have health insurance

A New Administration...

A Divided Congress

- House: 212 Republicans, 218 Democrats
- Senate: 50 Republicans, 50 I/Democrats
# Administrative & Legislative Agenda

## Health
- COVID-19 response
- Expanding access to coverage (e.g., filling the coverage gap; extending postpartum coverage; making Marketplace plans more affordable)
- Medicaid demonstration waivers (unwinding harmful waivers; exploring new ideas)
- Medicaid oversight

## Other Critical Issues
- Climate change
- Immigration policy
  - Public charge
- Racial equity
- Law enforcement and public safety
- Foreign policy
COVID Relief Bills & Medicaid

• Families First Coronavirus Response Act
  - 6.2%pt increase in federal matching payments to states
  - Maintenance of effort requirements include no disenrollment throughout the public health emergency

• American Rescue Plan
  - 5%pt increase for non-expansion states
  - 10%pt increase for home and community-based services
  - New state option to extend Medicaid/CHIP postpartum coverage from 60 days to 12 months
  - Enhanced premium tax credits for Marketplace plans
  - Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit

Public Charge Timeline

August 2019: Trump finalizes new public charge rules

September 2019 - January 2020: Courts block implementation of new rules

February 2020 - March 2021: Trump public charge rules in effect

March 2021: Biden stops defending Trump-era rule; earlier court ruling striking rule goes into effect; return to 1999 Field Guidance
Policy Opportunities in KY

**Medicaid Overall**
- Improve state oversight of managed care plans
- Proactively update beneficiary addresses
- Adopt 12-months continuous coverage in Medicaid/CHIP
- Improve home and community based services to draw down additional federal funds
- Extend postpartum coverage to 12 months

**Immigrant Families**
- Adopt the option to waive the 5-year bar for lawfully residing pregnant women
- Clarify the definition of emergency Medicaid services for COVID
- Tell families that the Trump-era public charge rule is no longer in effect
- Adopt the option to cover prenatal care for women otherwise ineligible due to citizenship status
Want to learn more?

- Visit ccf.georgetown.edu and kidshealthcarereport.ccf.georgetown.edu
- Sign up for ongoing Medicaid Learning Lab series
- Get regular policy updates on CCF’s Say Ahhh! blog
- Follow us on Twitter @GeorgetownCCF
Developments in Kentucky Kids Health Policy

How Kentucky’s policy landscape has changed for kids’ health in 2021
# Health in All Policies

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**Health Outcomes**
Mortality, Morbidity, Life Expectancy, Health Care Expenditures, Health Status, Functional Limitations
House Bills

**HB 50**: Mental Health Parity

**HB 95**: Cap on out-of-pocket costs for insulin

**HB 212**: Child and mother mortality reporting for race/ethnicity

**HB 382**: Full day Kindergarten funding

**HB 405**: $12 M for an increase to CCAP’s daily reimbursement rate (+$2/day)

**HB 497**: Ends SNAP drug felony ban
Senate Bills

**SB 21**: Outpatient mental health services for homeless youth

**SB 32**: (originally 36): Ends automatic juvenile transfer to adult court

**SB 51**: Prior authorization for SUD ban

**SB 65**: Child support enforcement (actually, not good)

**SB 84**: Improved conditions for pregnant women who are incarcerated
The State Budget

**HB 192: Executive Branch Budget**

An austere budget that continues the austere budget from last year:

- Third year in a row with SEEK at $4,000 per pupil (somewhat offset by ARPA)
- $0 for textbooks
- $5 million less for preschool
- No new social workers
- No new Michelle P or SCL slots
- No extra money for libraries
- $743 million in the rainy day fund
Expanded Child Tax Credit

More resources for more families more frequently:

- Increases the credit amount from $2,000
- Removes the income floor
- Makes the entire Credit refundable
- Provides half in “periodic” payments

Will cut child poverty in Kentucky by 49%!

- 1.1 million Kentucky kids will benefit
- 69,000 lifted above the poverty line (SPM)
- $1.8 billion investment in Kentucky's kids

Be sure to file your taxes this year!
Questions?

Dustin Pugel, Senior Policy Analyst

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Promoting the American Rescue Plan (ARPA)

ARPA was signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021 and is providing immediate relief to Kentuckians.

**Direct Relief**
- Stimulus payments
- Child Tax Credits
- Marketplace subsidies
- Food assistance
- Housing relief

**State & Local Aid**
- Public health
- Child care
- Infrastructure
- Jobs

Together, these relief efforts will help Kentucky put the COVID-19 pandemic behind us, strengthen our economy, and build back better.

Read the ARPA Explainer and FAQs
ThriveKY Quarterly Forum with CHFS

ThriveKY advocates for a strong and equitable safety-net that meets the basic needs of every Kentuckian.

**Goals for our quarterly forums:**
1. Create more open dialogue between Cabinet leadership, consumers, and advocates
2. Provide the latest information on the state and federal response to COVID-19
3. Share updates on our safety-net programs
4. Make space for feedback and questions

Register now for our May 4th forum