



## **African-American Children and Health Coverage August 2005**

### ***African-American Children Disproportionately Lack Health Coverage*** *Estimates from the 2004 Current Population Survey<sup>i</sup>*

- There are 1.6 million uninsured African-American children in the United States. Nearly one out of every seven African-American children under age 18 lacks health insurance.
- About one-fifth (19%) of all uninsured children under age 18 are African-American.

### ***Coverage Rates for African-American Children Are Rising But Are Still Lower Than For Non-Hispanic White Children***

*New Urban Institute analysis of data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention<sup>ii</sup>*

- African-American children are more likely to be uninsured than non-Hispanic white children. Nine percent of African-American children are uninsured, compared to 6 percent of white children.
- While uninsurance rates for African-American children fell five percentage points—from 14 percent in 1998 to 9 percent in 2003—uninsured African-American parents failed to make any gains.
- More than 8 in 10 uninsured African-American children are eligible for coverage through Medicaid or SCHIP, but are not enrolled.

### ***Uninsured African-American Children Are Not Getting Medical Care***

*New analysis of data compiled by the State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC)<sup>iii</sup>*

- Nearly 30 percent of uninsured African-American children did not receive any medical care during 2003.
- Uninsured African-American children are 20 times more likely not to receive the medical care they need than insured African-American children (14.7% vs. 0.7%).
- More than three-fourths (79.3%) of African-American families with insured children report that their kids have someone they think of as his/her personal doctor or nurse, compared with just half (50.9%) of African-American families with uninsured children.

### *Additional Facts about African-American Families and Health Care Coverage*

- *Poverty in the African-American Community:* In 2003, one-third (33%) of African-American families with children under age 18 lived below the federal poverty level.<sup>iv</sup>
- *Program Awareness and Desire to Enroll in Medicaid and SCHIP:* About nine out of every 10 low-income African-American parents with an uninsured child have heard of Medicaid, SCHIP or both. The vast majority of low-income African-American parents with uninsured children who have heard of Medicaid and/or SCHIP say they would enroll their children if they knew they were eligible.<sup>v</sup>

## SOURCES

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<sup>i</sup> United States Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey (released in September 2004). [http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032004/health/h08\\_000.htm](http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032004/health/h08_000.htm).

<sup>ii</sup> Urban Institute analysis of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2003 National Health Interview Survey.

<sup>iii</sup> State Health Access Data Center (SHADAC) analysis of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2003 National Survey of Children's Health.

<sup>iv</sup> United States Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey (released in September 2004). [http://ferret.bls.census.gov/macro/032004/pov/new02\\_100\\_16.htm](http://ferret.bls.census.gov/macro/032004/pov/new02_100_16.htm).

<sup>v</sup> Kenney, G.; Haley, J.; and Tebay, A. "Key Findings From the Urban Institute's 1999 and 2002 NSAF Surveys." <http://coveringkidsandfamilies.org/press/docs/UrbanKeyFindings2003.pdf>