African-American Children and Health Coverage
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African-American Children Disproportionately Lack Health Coverage
Estimates from the 2004 Current Population Survey

- 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

- 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.
- 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)

- 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.iv

- **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.v

**SOURCES**


ii Urban Institute analysis of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s 2003 National Health Interview Survey.

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