

AFRICAN-AMERICAN CHILDREN'S HEALTH COVERAGE FACTSHEET

Covering Kids & Families is a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the health and health care of all Americans.



African-American Children Disproportionately Lack Health Coverage

- Nearly 1.6 million African-American children in the United States are without any health coverage.
- 13.4 percent of African-American children are uninsured, compared to 7.5 percent of white children.
- 17.1 percent of all uninsured children in America are African American.

The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) is helping by covering more African-American children but there is more to be done

- Since SCHIP began in 1997, the percentage of African-American children without health insurance has dropped 26 percent.
- Experts say 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

- Just half (50.9%) of African-American families with uninsured children report that their kids have someone they think of as his/her personal doctor or nurse, compared to nearly 80 (79.3%) percent of African-American families with insured children.

Additional Facts about African-American Families

- In 2004, one-third (33%) of African-American families with children under age 18 lived below the federal poverty level.
- 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.

SOURCES

ⁱ Covering Kids & Families, "The State of Kids' Coverage," (August 2006).
<http://coveringkidsandfamilies.org/press/docs/2006BTSResearchReport.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Ibid.

ⁱⁱⁱ Employee Benefit Research Institute estimates from the March Current Population Survey, 2005 Supplement.

^{iv} Covering Kids & Families, "The State of Kids' Coverage," (August 2006).
<http://coveringkidsandfamilies.org/press/docs/2006BTSResearchReport.pdf>

^v Covering Kids & Families, "Going Without: America's Uninsured Children." (August 2005). <http://coveringkidsandfamilies.org/press/docs/2005BTSResearchReport.pdf>

^{vi} Ibid.

^{vii} U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2005 Annual Social and Economic Supplement. http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032005/pov/new02_100_06.htm

^{viii} 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>