

Children's Defense Fund

Children's Rights

<https://www.childrensdefense.org/policy/policy-priorities/health/>

Campaign and Advocacy

Decades of hard fought progress to expand access to comprehensive, affordable health and mental health coverage through expansions of Medicaid, the Childrens Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) brought the rate of uninsured children in America to a historic low. However, our nation shamefully reversed course and the number of uninsured children in America has been steadily increasing since 2016. In 2019, an estimated 5.7 percent of children under age 19 (nearly 4.4 million) were uninsured an increase of 320,000 more children without health insurance since 2018. Children living in poverty and children of color have worse access to healthcare and worse outcomes than their higher-income, white counterparts. Children with unmet health needs fall behind developmentally and have trouble catching up physically, socially and academically.

All children in America should have access to health and mental health coverage and care that is comprehensive, affordable and easy to get and keep regardless of income, zip code, place of birth or immigration status.

We work to ensure all children in America have access to health and mental health coverage and care that is comprehensive, affordable, child-appropriate, and easy to get and keep regardless of income, zip code, place of birth of immigration status. We must:

Any gaps in health coverage are harmful for children and their families. Our partners at Georgetown University Center for Children and Families (CCF) just released a new report with strategies for states to ensure children dont lose coverage when the Medicaid continuous coverage requirement ends.

Being there isnt negotiable. National paid family and medical leave is one building block in a stack of policies, including the Child Tax Credit and high-quality, affordable child care, that create a solid foundation for children to grow and thrive. Congress must raise the pillars of stronger, better, and more inclusive national paid family and medical leave in Build Back Better and beyond.

Childrens emotional and behavioral health was a concern even before the pandemic, but the ongoing public health emergency has made a bad situation worse. Congress must act to ensure children and families have access to the supports they need to address this crisis.

A gift today helps children get the help they need

The Childrens Defense Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our Federal Tax ID number is 52-0895622.

Let us know how youre using this resource



Count me in!

Be a champion for every child. Sign up for updates about our work to fight for children and ways you can help.

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CDF-National Constituent

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Fight for children, stay informed and know when to act.