



Kentucky can...

**Ensure children and families continue to access the health care they need**

Kentucky has made strides to improve the number of children who have access to health coverage, including through Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program (KCHIP) and Medicaid.

KCHIP and Medicaid ensure children in low-income families receive access to health coverage that allows them to visit health care providers to address their physical, behavioral, oral, and vision health needs. While health coverage rates remain high, progress has stagnated; there are still at least **45,000 children and teens** who need to be enrolled in health insurance.

**Parents' health—and access to health insurance coverage—affects the health and well-being of their children.** When parents are insured, they are more likely to be healthy so they can care for and provide for their children, and children rely on their parents to sign them up for health insurance and to take them to receive care. Research has also shown that children with health coverage are more likely to receive regular preventive care, such as well-child exams, and to stay connected to a primary care doctor.

**96%**

**of Kentucky children under age 19 have health insurance**

**Child health coverage rates by race/ethnicity:**

**97%** of Black children

**96%** of White children

**91%** of Hispanic children

### **Advancing Health Equity in the Commonwealth**

All children need access to affordable health care to ensure healthy growth and development. During the pandemic, it is even more vital that everyone has access to health insurance so they can get the care they need. Yet, COVID-19 has highlighted some pre-existing racial disparities in health coverage and care.

As the Commonwealth builds pandemic recovery efforts, **the disproportionate impact on the health of Black and Latinx communities must be considered.** These communities have been impacted especially hard by COVID-19 due to pre-existing disparities that are the result of a variety of historic and present-day factors rooted in systemic racism, ranging from unequal access to health coverage and treatment in health care, to being more likely to live in areas with less access to healthy foods and safe outdoor spaces, along with education and employment barriers that have concentrated Black and Brown people in lower wage jobs.

### **Blueprint for Kentucky's Children Solution:**

Sustain investments in Medicaid and KCHIP, and prioritize investments focused on closing the remaining gap and addressing racial disparities in coverage so that children and families can continue to access the health care they need.