

Pocket Facts & Summary

The Children's Health Insurance Program in Texas

- The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) was passed by Congress in 1997 and passed by the Texas Legislature in 1999.
 - In Texas, the CHIP program reached its peak enrollment of more than 529,000 children in May 2002 and has been in almost continuous decline since that time. In the 47 months since the program's peak enrollment, the total number of children enrolled in the state's CHIP program declined in all but eight months.
 - The number of uninsured children in the state has remained relatively unchanged, even at the peak of CHIP enrollment.
 - Nationwide from 2000-2004, the percentage of children receiving private health insurance coverage declined by slightly more than 4 percent, while the percentage receiving coverage from the government increased by more than 5 percent. The percent of uninsured children nationwide dropped by less than 1 percent over the same period.
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This publication looks at the design of the CHIP program, its impact on the uninsured, and the impact of Texas policy changes on the program and the CHIP caseload. While Texas has been focused on recent declines in the CHIP caseload, there are more fundamental questions to consider regarding the program's performance in meeting its goal of reducing the number of uninsured. Data shows little or no meaningful decline in the number of uninsured children in Texas, and points to government programs like CHIP "crowding out" private sector coverage. The publication also considers the impact of policy decisions implemented in Texas since 2003 and the impact of the improved economy contributing to the overall decline in CHIP enrollment statewide.

See Back For Study Information

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A Look at CHIP Policy and Program Trends

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