

We All Win When Kids are Covered

American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) believes that all children, adolescents, and young adults should be covered by an affordable, quality health insurance plan that allows access to comprehensive, necessary care.

Pediatricians see the difference that access to care makes every day:

Gaps in Coverage Hurt Children

- Children who experience gaps in coverage are **more likely to have delayed medical care**, unmet medical and mental health needs, and unfilled prescriptions. Even short periods of coverage loss can impact access to care.
- Moving on and off coverage – also known as “churning” – can mean moving to a different health plan once coverage is regained, which can have different provider networks, different coverage rules, and different drug formularies— **all disrupting access to or continuity of care.**¹
- For many families, even temporary gaps can be financially devastating. Due to the steep costs of medications for chronic diseases like asthma or diabetes, families without insurance are forced to choose to pay for these treatments or their rent and groceries.



Uninterrupted Coverage Creates the Best Health Outcomes for Kids

- **Coverage has countless benefits to child health**, including timely access to care, early identification of issues that allow for more effective intervention, and emergency care that can help avoid hospitalizations and preventable deaths.
- **Children with coverage also see improvements** in school readiness and social and emotional learning, and parents are equipped to understand and meet their child’s needs.
- As a result, **increased coverage has positive lifelong impacts** such as less chronic disease in adulthood, lower rates of teenage pregnancy, higher rates of high school graduation, increased college enrollment, and higher future wages.²
- **It is clear that investing in coverage for children has ripple effects on families, communities, and the economy.**



The AAP supports policies that help kids get and keep health care coverage. Connect with us at kids1st@aap.org to learn more.

1. <https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/private/pdf/265366/medicaid-churning-ib.pdf>
2. <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/medicaid-a-primer>