



Children's Advocacy

A L L I A N C E

an independent voice
for Nevada's children

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Data Finds Number of Uninsured Children Increasing at Alarming Rate

Analysis shows 16% increase in the number of uninsured Nevada children between 2016-2019

Las Vegas, NV - An estimated 58,000 Nevada children were uninsured last year, a number that has increased about 16% since 2016, according to a [new report](#) released by the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families. Nevada's experience is part of a national trend that left an estimated 726,000 additional children without health coverage nationwide after previously achieving a historically low uninsured rate. Much of the coverage gains of the Affordable Care Act for children have now been eliminated. Coverage losses have been concentrated in the west and south, and have been largest for Latinx and Caucasian children.

"For decades, children's health coverage had been a national success story that we could point to with pride, but the data shows the trend is now going in the wrong direction," said Georgetown University Center for Children and Families Executive Director Joan Alker. "What's worse, the number of children losing coverage accelerated from 2018 to 2019 during a time when unemployment was very low. The situation is likely worse today."

The increase in the number and rate of uninsured children occurred prior to the pandemic and associated economic downturn, and is attributable to losses of public coverage – primarily Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. The situation has most likely deteriorated in 2020 for children as parents lost their jobs and health coverage this year, but there is presently no reliable data to estimate the extent of these coverage losses.

"We are currently seeing a growing number of Nevadan children without health coverage, which is disheartening after successfully reducing the child uninsured rate in our state in previous years," said Dr. Kelly Bumgarner, Health Policy Manager at the Children's Advocacy Alliance. "This damaging trend will have long-term consequences for kids and families across Nevada because, without health coverage, children cannot access services needed to grow and thrive."

Research shows children with health coverage are more likely to graduate from high school, attend college, and grow up to be healthier and more productive adults.

According to Dr. Bumgarner, “This data proves it’s currently more important than ever to expand access to Medicaid and CHIP. We must implement streamlined efforts to enroll children and families in health coverage presumptive eligibility to make it easier to get and stay covered.”

The report analyzes single-year estimates of summary data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS) from 2016 through 2019.

This is the 10th annual report on uninsured children published by the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families, an independent, nonpartisan policy and research center founded in 2005 with a mission to expand and improve high-quality, affordable coverage for America’s children and families. The report analyzes single-year estimates of summary data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS) from 2016 through 2019. For more information about the report, visit ccf.georgetown.edu

The Children’s Advocacy Alliance (CAA) is a community-based nonprofit organization that advocates for policy changes that benefit Nevada’s children and families by researching and utilizing current data and promoting evidence-based policies to ensure that every child has a chance to thrive. CAA engages the community by bringing people together to address challenges and opportunities around children’s issues in order to leverage that collective strength toward improving the systems that support the well-being of Nevada’s children. For more information, visit www.caanv.org.

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