

Fulfilling Pennsylvania's Promise to Cover All Kids

DELAWARE COUNTY

More Than 1,000 Delaware County Children Are Uninsured.

Most Delay or Forego Critical Health Care Services.

An estimated 24,000 PA children are both undocumented and uninsured and approximately 1,050 of them live in Delaware County. They do not qualify for CHIP, Medicaid or ACA Marketplace coverage.

Pennsylvania's 'Cover All Kids' Does Not Cover All Kids. PCCY interviewed a sample of parents and applied the aggregate interview results to Delaware County. PCCY found that¹:

Nearly 9 Out Of 10 Children Received Delayed Or No Care At All For A Medical Concern. Among These Children:

100% Of Parents

Did not seek health care for their child because they could not afford it.

91% Of Children

Received delayed or no care for a serious medical condition requiring the expertise of a specialist.

67% Of Children

Were harmed by delaying or foregoing health care according to their parents.

42% Of Children

Were absent, earned lower grades or had behavioral problems in school because of an unmet health problem.

28% Of Children

Required emergency room care because a neglected health problem worsened.

Pennsylvania Is Losing Its National Standing For Children. Pennsylvania is the birthplace of the federal CHIP program. Five states – California (36 counties), Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, Washington and the District of Columbia – have adopted reforms to make undocumented immigrant children eligible for public health insurance. Collectively, at least 202,000 children have gained access to health care in these states by enrolling in public health insurance.

Pennsylvania Can Afford to Expand CHIP Coverage. Based on the experience of other states, PCCY estimates that the cost for the first full year to operate expanded coverage would be \$15.4 million. This amount is equivalent to 10% of the state FY2014 CHIP budget.

1. PCCY interviewed 53 parents of undocumented and uninsured children living in southeast Pennsylvania including 8 parents in Delaware County. We extrapolated the results of the 53 interviews to calculate the projections for Delaware County.

Gloria - Age 15



A True Story: Mercedes, a pleasant woman with a long brown pony tail, was thrilled when her daughter who lived with her parents for over a decade in Honduras finally came to live with her family in America. But Mercedes barely recognized the 15 year old girl who stepped off the plane. Gloria was painfully thin with the bloated, distended belly of a starvation victim. She did the best she could on her own to nourish Gloria with good home cooking, and eventually the skinny teenager gained some weight. She finally began to menstruate at age 16. Unfortunately, malnourishment was only one of many issues on the list of Gloria's unaddressed health problems.

Dental care is another. Gloria is so embarrassed by her badly discolored front teeth that she covers her mouth with her hand when she speaks and almost never says anything in school. "I tell her when I finish paying for her trip here from Honduras I will get her teeth fixed," Mercedes says, "but there is no dentist I can take her to now because she's uninsured." Gloria's medical and emotional needs must be paid out of pocket—and the family's pockets are empty.

What worries Mercedes even more than Gloria's depression is her obsession with cleanliness. "She is always looking for something to clean," her mother says. "I have to hide the broom and mop so I can relax in my own home and get a break from her constant scrubbing and making neat. She always has a sponge in her hand, wiping this, sweeping that. It's endless. She can't have a speck of dirt on her clothes or she goes crazy. I know there is something wrong with her and she needs help. I am upset all the time from this."

These are not their real names. The family lives in Delaware County.
The image in this story is not Gloria because she is undocumented.

See PCCY's true stories and facts in our report,
"Fulfilling Pennsylvania's Promise to Cover All Kids"

Download the full report at: www.pccy.org/fulfillingthepromise



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