

Fulfilling Pennsylvania's Promise to Cover All Kids

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

More Than 1,500 Montgomery 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 1,521 of them live in Montgomery 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 Montgomery 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 11 parents in Montgomery County. We extrapolated the results of the 53 interviews to calculate the projections for Montgomery County.

Tony - Age 16



A True Story: The agony of dealing with the health issues of an uninsured child is written all over Ana, a petite, wiry woman whose face is a mask of exhaustion and concern. It takes her a long time to loosen up and talk about her anguish and then the tears start to flow and it all pours out: how inept she feels that she cannot get health care for her son Tony, an overweight 16 year old with a bad case of acne; how bad she feels not being a fit mother who takes proper care of her child; how after missing 15 days on her job, she had to cut back from full-time to half-time work to have more time at home to deal with Tony's emotional eruptions and his physical problems; how her other three children cringe at his angry outbursts; how Tony has withdrawn from his friends and how he acts out and gets in trouble at school over and over; how frustrated she feels not being able to afford to get him an x-ray to find out why his back hurts or to see a specialist about his persistent nose-bleeds; how Tony was calmer for a while after she somehow wrangled him a year of free therapy at a social service agency-but that's used up now and he's always in a bad mood, either mad or sad at something and she never knows why; how she looks at her seven-year-old who is documented and has access to health care and then looks at Tony who really needs it, and wishes it were that easy for him. "If something terrible happened to Tony, I think I could take him to the hospital," she muses aloud. "But they'd charge me a lot for that wouldn't they? Maybe I could get him some private health insurance, like car insurance you pay for every month. That would be really expensive though. I've even thought about sending him back to Mexico. He'd be seen by a doctor there for free. But no, I am keeping my child here with me, with his mother and his brothers and sister. Hopefully with the grace of God we can move forward."

These are not their real names. The family lives in Montgomery County.
The image in this story is not Tony because he 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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