

Fulfilling Pennsylvania's Promise to Cover All Kids

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

Almost 3,000 Philadelphia 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 2,908 of them live in Philadelphia 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 Philadelphia 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 16 parents in Philadelphia County. We extrapolated the results of the 53 interviews to calculate the projections for Philadelphia County.

Santiago - Age 15



A True Story: As might be expected from a 15 year old boy who was born and raised in Mexico (until he came to the US eight years ago), soccer was always Santiago's favorite sport. Not any more. He's had to give up his passion since he hurt his ankle and his knee on the playing field. His mother knew she should have the injuries x-rayed. But that was not an option because Santiago

is undocumented and has no health insurance – and she has no money for unbudgeted expenses. Now, Santiago hangs around the house because it hurts too much for him to kick the ball.

Worse than the leg pain are his constant earaches. Usually, when the pain gets so unbearable that Santiago can't go school, his mom takes him to a pharmacy clinic, knowing full well that what he really needs is an ENT specialist, but that is beyond her means. The medication prescribed by the clinic is, at best, palliative and doesn't address his underlying ear problem. It's also expensive – more than \$200 a month – and he often skips doses because the family till is empty. Now he has hearing loss in one ear that could easily progress.

All I do is worry about his health care," says his mother despondently. "Sometimes I can't pay attention at my job, and I've already missed five days this year because I need to take care of him.

Santiago is not his real name. He lives in Philadelphia County.
The image in this story is not Santiago 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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