

What about Child Health in Medicaid is Keeping us up at Night?

Opportunities for Philanthropy

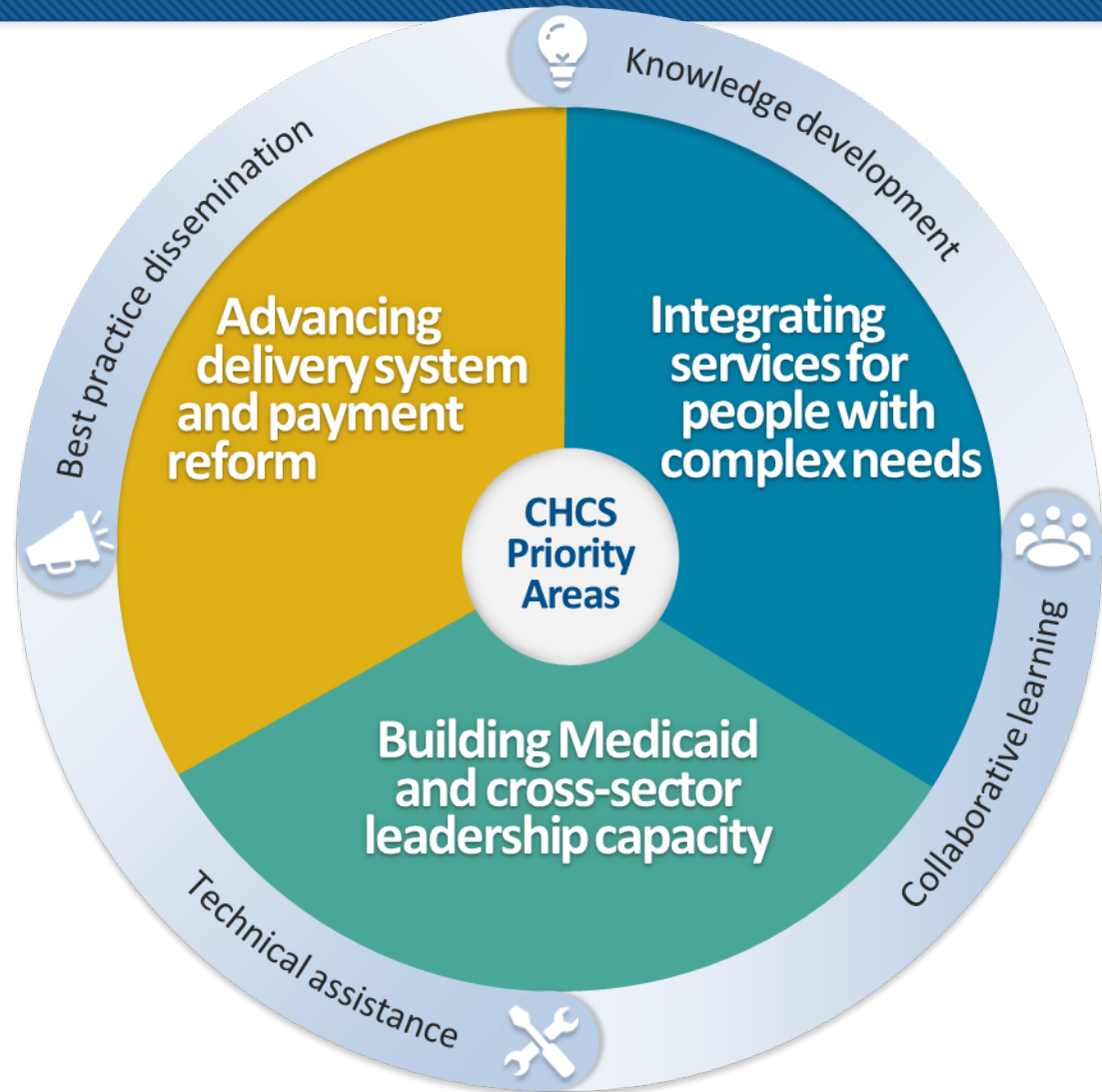
Grantmakers in Health Pre-Conference
“Access and Coverage for Children and Families”

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June 2, 2021

About the Center for Health Care Strategies

A nonprofit policy center dedicated to improving the health of low-income Americans



Child Health Program

■ Areas of Focus:



Health care quality



Early childhood development



Child and adolescent behavioral health



Adverse childhood experiences prevention



Special populations: Child Welfare/Foster Care










The Takeaway

- COVID has illuminated significant health-related concerns for children, and disparities persist.
- Innovation is borne of necessity, so opportunity abounds.
- Progress is being made and there is still much to be done.
- Strategic philanthropic efforts are crucial in a COVID/post-COVID financial context.



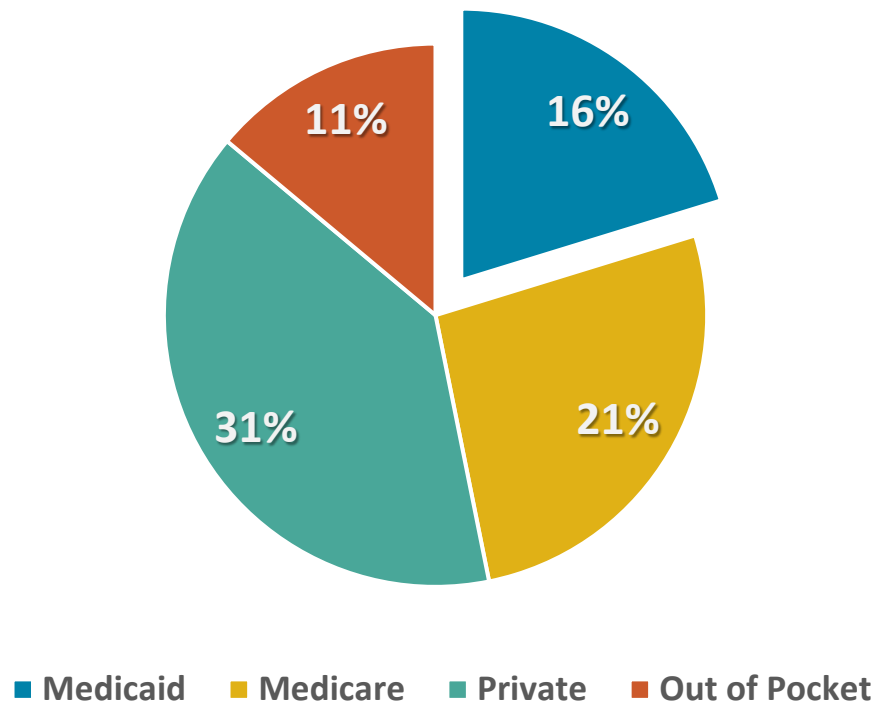
Medicaid Fast Facts



 78.9 million	People in the U.S. with Medicaid coverage. ¹
 \$604 billion	State and federal Medicaid spending for FY 2019. ²
 12.5 million	Adults eligible for coverage through Medicaid expansion, FY 2019. ³
 43 percent	Births in the U.S. covered by Medicaid, FY 2019. ⁴
 27 million	Children in the U.S. covered by Medicaid. ⁵
 14-20 percent	Children estimated to have serious behavioral health needs. ⁶
 50 percent	Children with mental health needs who received no treatment. ⁷
 22 percent	Children living in poverty as of 2018. ⁸
 9.7 million	Children in the U.S. covered by CHIP. ⁹

Medicaid as a Proportion of U.S. Health Expenditures

National Health Expenditures by Type



Source: <https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/NationalHealthExpendData/NHE-Fact-Sheet#:~:text=Medicaid%20spending%20grew%202.9%25%20to,11%20percent%20of%20total%20NHE.>

My Top Five List



- Chronic health care needs, particularly in the area of behavioral health
- Trauma and adverse childhood experiences
- Early childhood and two-generation approaches
- Equity and disparities
- Social Determinants of Health

#1: Child Behavioral Health



- Common catalyst for Medicaid lawsuits brought against states for lack of access
- Significant unmet need for mental health treatment among children and youth
- Parent-reported declines in emotional well-being, behavior and physical health
- Access to tele-health has been expanded in COVID context
- Consider: *Implications of long-standing insufficient supply of child and adolescent mental health providers in the context of increased need among children and youth*

#2: Trauma and ACEs



- Increased recognition of trauma and adverse childhood experiences pre-dated COVID-19.
- COVID-19 constitutes community trauma.
- Concerns about decreased surveillance and reporting of abuse and neglect.
- Screening for trauma – should we or shouldn't we?
- Consider: *How to support trauma-informed/healing centered institutions, providers, and care for resilient communities?*

#3: Early Childhood and Two-Generation Approaches



- Early identification and intervention is evidence-based and cost-effective
- Children health care needs must be addressed in the context of their families
- Medicaid policy recognizes impact of maternal health on child well-being (eg. states can cover maternal depression screening at well-child visits)
- Consider: *What are the barriers to serving parents/caregivers to improve the health status of children?*

#4: Equity and Disparities



- Differential impact of the coronavirus pandemic on communities of color will widen existing disparities in child health and likely amplify inequities
- Structural factors in Medicaid (e.g. onerous eligibility processes, lower provider payments) also perpetuate disparities in child health
- Consider: *How can cross-sector investments be aligned to support children's health and development and to promote health equity?*

#5: Social Determinants of Health



- Addressing enrollees' SDOH is a key strategy for improving quality and outcomes, and lowering costs, especially in Medicaid expansion states
- Key Medicaid levers to address SDOH include:
 - » Managed care contracts and 1115 Waivers
 - » Housing investments
 - » Health Homes
 - » Accountable Care Organizations
 - » Accountable Communities of Health
 - » Pay for Success
- Consider: *How might approaches to decrease health disparities and improve health by addressing SDOH focus beyond short-term cost savings given that impacting children's trajectory in life requires early intervention and long-term investment?*

What Can Philanthropy Do?



- Support states to work collaboratively to implement new policy options.
- Support research and evaluation of innovative approaches.
- Temporarily “fill the gap” as state budgets recover.
- Consider multi-funder, aligned strategies.

Citations



1. <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/program-information/medicaid-and-chip-enrollment-data/report-highlights/index.html>
2. <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/federalstate-share-of-spending/?dataView=1¤tTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>
3. <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/medicaid-expansion-enrollment-and-spending-leading-up-to-the-covid-19-pandemic/>
4. <https://www.macpac.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Medicaid%E2%80%99s-Role-in-Financing-Maternity-Care.pdf>
5. <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/benefits/behavioral-health-services/children-and-youth/index.html>
6. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK32776/>
7. <https://mhanational.org/issues/2020/mental-health-america-youth-data>
8. <https://www.aecf.org/interactive/databook/?d=ec&l=502>
9. <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/eligibility/seniors-medicare-and-medicaid-enrollees/index.html#:~:text=In%20total%2C%2012%20million%20people,both%20optional%20and%20mandatory%20categories.>

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