



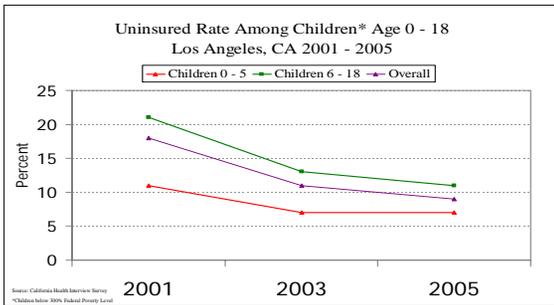
A Decade of Assistance

The highlights and challenges of working to reduce the number of uninsured children in Los Angeles County



Covering Families: Full Speed Ahead

- The uninsured rate for children ages 0 – 18 in families at less than 300% of the federal poverty level fell from 17.5% to 9.4% between 2001 and 2005.
- An estimated 202,000 children ages 0 - 18 in Los Angeles county are still uninsured.
- Most uninsured children are eligible for Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, or Healthy Kids.
- Even though the population of uninsured is smaller, contracted agencies are still completing applications.



- Children's Health Outreach Initiative (CHOI) agencies have completed applications for more than 192,413 uninsured children countywide for public and private health insurance programs since July 2003.
- Of the 32,619 applications submitted by CHOI contracted agencies in Fiscal Year (FY) 2007-2008, 83% were approved.
- Of the total applications submitted in FY 07-08, 37% were for children ages 0-5, 36% were for children ages 6-18, and 27% were for adults ages 19+ (of which 62% were pregnant women).
- CHOI agencies provide comprehensive services to children and their families and provide referral services to County safety-net programs.

Retention

- Without assistance from the CHOI contracted agencies, many children lose Medi-Cal or Healthy Families coverage at renewal time.
- 66% of clients assisted by our agencies retain some type of coverage 15 months after enrollment. For several CHOI contracted agencies, client retention rate was as high as 88%.
- Re-contacting families for future assistance is challenging; 14% could not be reached to determine current coverage.

Fiscal Impact

- 1998:** 1931b State Medi-Cal funds begins the process of DPH contracting with community-based organizations for outreach and enrollment services to the county's uninsured population.
- 2000:** SCHIP funding gives the CHOI unit the ability to start creating an on-line data collection system to capture data from each contracted agency.
- 2001:** Long Term Family Self-Sufficiency (LTFSS) funding (Project 10A) begins and then is abruptly terminated.
- July 2003:** Secured \$23 million from First 5 LA for outreach and enrollment services from July 2003 through June 2008.
- February 2007:** \$25 million from CA State Department of Health & Human Services for Outreach Enrollment, Retention, and Utilization (OERU) services from Feb 2007 through June 2009.
- August 2007:** Governor signed budget which eliminated \$20 million designated to LA County's Department of Public Health (DPH) for OERU services through 6/30/09.
- November 2007:** The CHOI program applied for and secured LA County's Productivity Investment Fund grant, which allocated approximately \$127,600 for data system, restructure, upgrade and enhancement.
- June 2008:** CHOI program worked with First 5 LA to extend outreach and enrollment services for an additional year into FY 2008-2009 utilizing unspent funds from First 5 LA and matching Medi-Cal Administrative (MAA) funds.
- June 2009:** First 5LA funding due to sunset. In January 2009, First 5 LA commission will be reviewing the Healthy Kids Program Outreach Partnership for refunding beyond June 2009.

CHOI Data System

- As a result of Public Health Information Services (PHIS) restructuring, the CHOI data system no longer has stable programming support. CHOI is working with PHIS to rectify this problem.
- Various updates continue to be made to the data system to better capture client data.
- If the Healthy Families Program establishes a waiting list for eligible children, the data system will be critical to be able to re-contact families when enrollment can be finalized.

Where There's A Program, There's A Way!

- In November 2007, Kaiser notified CHOI contracted agencies of a small "enrollment window" for the Kaiser Permanente Children's Health Plan.
- Contractors reacted immediately and utilizing the CHOI data system to locate client contact information, they were able to submit **1,633 applications in 22 days**.
- Lesson learned: CHOI contractors are well-trained and prepared to assist families **when programs are available**. Points out the need for universal health coverage for children.

Partnering with DPSS and Others

- CHOI continues to examine high-yield opportunities to link families with comprehensive health coverage
- In May 2008, in an effort to link families with comprehensive health coverage, CHOI conducted a mass mailing to 4,200 families in the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) system to offer clients the opportunity to enroll into available health coverage programs. The mailing targeted families with restricted Medi-Cal coverage only.
- This effort resulted in an immediate increase in enrollments for children 0-5. However, these efforts are not sustainable. CHOI is currently working with DPSS and LA Care to link families directly to the Healthy Kids Program.

