The health of a community begins with its children. If we want to predict the health and prosperity of any community – and our state – we might simply begin by asking, “How are the children?” The health and well-being of Delaware’s children have shown progress over the past 25 years, but there is still progress to be made. Every child in Delaware should have the opportunity to begin life with a strong foundation of good health, with access to quality care and health food, and on a path to success.
In 2017-2019, Delaware’s uninsured rate for kids 0-17 hit a record low of 4.9%. Increasing the number of kids with health insurance is one of Delaware’s great achievements of the past several years. However, recent reports indicate the rate is again increasing.

Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) play a crucial role in providing coverage for uninsured youth. CHIP is a program that provides insurance coverage to children from lower- and middle-income families who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid. Additionally, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) increased the number of children covered by both Medicaid and CHIP by increasing eligibility for those living in families with incomes at a higher percentage of poverty.

CHIP faced extreme adversity nationally in 2017. Congressional inaction when the program was due to be renewed led to a federal funding lapse. States – Delaware included – were faced with the fact that they might have to pull coverage from thousands of children. In December 2017, Congress passed a short-term funding measure to provide states who were critically low in funds with money to last through January 2018. Delaware was one of these states. Finally, in early 2018, the final verdict on CHIP came through: it was granted funding for 10 years with increases in funding for several areas, including community health centers, opioid prevention programs and more.

Why Does it Matter?
Children with health insurance are more likely to have a regular source of health care they can access for preventive care services and developmental screenings, to treat acute and chronic conditions or to address injuries when they occur. Not only do insured kids have better access to the physical, mental and oral health care they need to be healthy, but they are also less likely to drop out of high school, more likely to graduate from college and have higher incomes as adults.

Next Steps
Delaware must ensure eligible families know that CHIP is available and that it provides invaluable health resources for their children. Ensuring coverage for each child in Delaware is key to maintaining and improving the state’s health.
HEALTH AND HEALTH BEHAVIORS
25 Years of Delaware Data: Health Coverage

MEDICAID/CHIP CLAIMS
Delaware children with Medicaid/CHIP Claims by County 2011-17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calendar Year</th>
<th>New Castle</th>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>40,000</td>
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Number of Delaware Children with Medicaid/CHIP Claims 2011-2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calendar Year</th>
<th>All Children With Claims</th>
<th>Children With Well Visits</th>
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</table>

Source: Center for Community Research & Service, University of Delaware, 2020. Compiled with data provided by the Delaware Division of Medicaid & Medical Assistance through a partnership with the University’s Colleges of Health Sciences and Arts & Sciences.

HEALTH COVERAGE TIMELINE

MEDICAID
Title XIX of the Social Security Act establishes Medicaid, ensuring low-income families with children are insured

1965

CHIP
The State Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is initiated as part of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, expanding coverage to children in low-income families who do not qualify for Medicaid

1997

ACA
The Affordable Care Act (ACA) passes, providing states the authority to expand Medicaid eligibility and standardizing the rules for determining eligibility and providing benefits through Medicaid, CHIP and the health insurance Marketplace; Delaware Insurance Code made compliant with ACA in 2013; major provisions of the ACA went into effect in 2014

2010

FUNDING
CHIP funding lapses for 114 days during a federal Congressional standoff before the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 passes, funding CHIP for 10 additional years

2017

ACA IN DELAWARE
Legislation passes to codify various ACA consumer protections into Delaware state law, ensuring that if the ACA is ever repealed or changed, its consumer protections will remain in effect in Delaware

2019

GOALS
Health coverage for 100% of Delaware’s children
This research was funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the State of Delaware, and the University of Delaware. We thank them for their support but acknowledge that the findings and conclusions presented in this report are those of the author(s) alone, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of these organizations.

The photographs in this data snapshot do not necessarily represent the situations described.

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