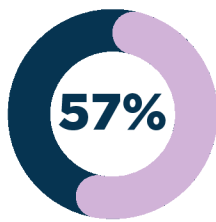
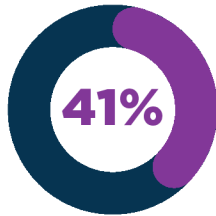


EARLY CHILDHOOD MEDICAID



OF ALASKA CHILDREN
0-19 WERE **ENROLLED**
IN **MEDICAID** FOR ALL
OR PART OF FY23



OF ALASKA'S MEDICAID
ENROLLEES ARE
CHILDREN AGES 0-19



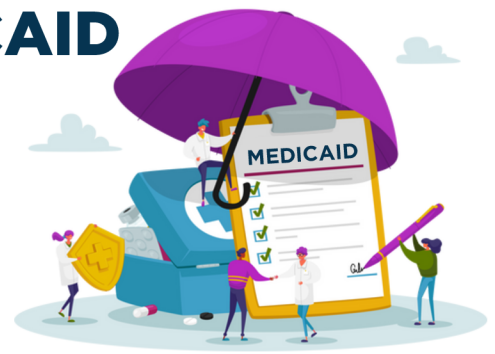
OF ALASKA **BIRTHS**
ARE **COVERED BY**
MEDICAID



OF **ELIGIBLE ALASKA**
CHILDREN PARTICIPATE
IN **MEDICAID OR CHIP**



OF **ALASKANS**
UNDER 6 ARE
UNINSURED



MEDICAID UNWINDING

Data indicates that during the Medicaid unwinding process hundreds of eligible Alaska children lost coverage. Many of these families arrived for appointments with community or school providers unaware they did not have Medicaid coverage. While Alaska's Department of Health has worked to ensure eligible children regain coverage lost during unwinding, **any period of lost coverage creates barriers for families seeking care** for small health issues before they turn into expensive problems.

DID YOU KNOW?

90% OF BRAIN DEVELOPMENT
HAPPENS BEFORE AGE 5



Medicaid is health insurance for low-income Alaskans, providing essential medical, dental, and mental health services including—prenatal checkups for pregnant women and infant and toddler wellness exams.

Young children need consistent access to services that support their healthy development and long-term wellbeing.

POLICY OPPORTUNITIES FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD MEDICAID

CONTINUOUS ELIGIBILITY FOR CHILDREN 0-6 YEARS

Modest fluctuations in family income caused by changing work hours, which is common for parents working in retail, service, and seasonal jobs, may result in their children being temporarily ineligible for Medicaid. This “churn” in Medicaid disrupts access to preventative care for kids and add up in costly administrative expenses for the state.

Providing continuous Medicaid eligibility for children 0-6 supports parents seeking care for their children and reduces administrative burden. Research also shows that children with health insurance are more likely to do better in school, graduate at higher rates, and earn higher incomes, demonstrating significant long-term benefits as well.

REIMBURSEMENT FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

Screenings during routine early childhood medical visits help identify potential developmental delays and other needs. Providing early intervention services and supports for young children when these needs are identified results in improved outcomes for children and families. However, waitlists and limited funding are common for many early childhood services.

Ensuring critical early childhood services, including home visiting and services provided through the infant learning program, are eligible for Medicaid reimbursement helps support providers, expands services to more eligible children and families, and reduces waitlists.

While children under 19 account for a large percentage of Medicaid enrollees, they account for a much smaller percentage of the total Medicaid expenditure. Investing in the health and wellbeing of young children NOW will result in improved outcomes, and reduced financial expense, in the future.

**LEARN
MORE**



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