

# Medicaid



*Medicaid's investment in children's health produces benefits that persist long into adulthood. Children who have health insurance are healthier, live longer and work more according to the National Bureau of Economic Research.*

**Children's hospitals** are vitally important to children covered by Medicaid. They account for less than 5% of the nation's hospitals, but they typically devote more than half of their inpatient days to children enrolled in Medicaid. The majority of care for children with special health care needs and/or medical complexities occurs at children's hospitals. Both are true at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.

## **Children on Medicaid need our support**

Supporting children's health is a smart investment, cost effective and sustainable. While children represent a large proportion of the Medicaid population, they are responsible for only a fraction of Medicaid spending. Providing kids with access to health care keeps kids healthy and keeps their cost of health care low. We know that investing in the health and safety of young children produces tremendous returns in their future lives and benefits our society.

It is critical that federal and state policy makers maintain their commitment to Medicaid for children and ensure the program is structured to address the health and well-being of children in order to position them to thrive into adulthood.

**Medicaid** is the single largest health insurer for children, covering more than 30 million children nationwide. While children represent over 40% of all Medicaid enrollees nationally, they only account for 20% of Medicaid spending. Over 60% of children receiving federal health care benefits live in households where at least one parent is working.

Medicaid's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit is an especially important component of the health care safety net for children. EPSDT ensures that children receive all medically necessary care, including physician and hospital visits, well-child visits and treatments, immunizations and dental services.

## **Wisconsin Medicaid - BadgerCare Plus and Supplemental Security Income**

Wisconsin provides health coverage to children up to 300% of the federal poverty level using a combination of federal Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program funds and state match.

- Almost 500,000 children are enrolled in Medicaid each year.
- Children represent almost 50% of Wisconsin's Medicaid population, but account for approximately 15% of the state's Medicaid spending.
- The annual Medicaid spending per child in Wisconsin is approximately \$1,762, one of the lowest amounts in the country (national average \$2,577).
- Approximately 3.6% of children in Wisconsin are uninsured, the majority of which are eligible for, but not enrolled in, Medicaid.
- Medicaid reimburses Wisconsin hospitals only 65% of the cost of care provided, including Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments.

At Children's Hospital of Wisconsin,  
we believe **kids deserve the best.**



**Our Vision:** Wisconsin kids will be the healthiest in the nation.

## Children's Hospital of Wisconsin

- Children's Hospital of Wisconsin is one of the largest providers for kids on Medicaid in the state.
- 53% of Children's Hospital patients are covered by Medicaid.
- Children's Community Health Plan covers more than 125,000 adults and children in 28 counties in eastern Wisconsin, making it the second largest BadgerCare health plan in the state.
- In 2017, Children's provided nearly \$64 million in uncompensated Medicaid care.

## Investing in the health of children

Children's Hospital is committed to redesigning systems of care to improve health outcomes, patient and family experience and reducing total costs of care. We are partnering with the state and other stakeholders to bring innovative systems of care to our most vulnerable children, including:

- Care4Kids: medical home for over 3,200 children in foster care in southeastern Wisconsin that provides comprehensive and coordinated care to meet the unique needs of this population
- Special Needs Program: coordinates the medical and non-medical services of children with complex medical conditions whose care crosses many specialties and face challenges navigating care and supports
- School Health Initiative: school-based mental health services throughout the state and school nurse programs in 10+ partner schools in Milwaukee to improve child health and coordination with community and clinical resources
- Dental health care services: provide pediatric dental services for over 15,000 children in the Milwaukee area, with 40 percent of patients having special health care needs, including 500 adult patients. More than 90 percent of dental patients are covered by Medicaid.