



Covering Kids & Families

Wisconsin

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2008 Back to School Campaign

As part of an active effort to inform families about and enroll them in health care coverage available through BadgerCare Plus, CKF is looking to again join forces with existing organizations that have proven to be effective in reaching and motivating the public.

One of our hallmark efforts is our Back to School campaign. As Wisconsin children return to school, we want to make sure families don't forget to set aside a few minutes to explore BadgerCare Plus—comprehensive, affordable health insurance for kids, parents and pregnant women, www.badgercareplus.org.

CKF would like to encourage you to get involved in your community. We make it easy for you to distribute BadgerCare Plus brochures, submit an opinion column to your local newspaper, coordinate a local news conference, or provide ACCESS application assistance to families in your area. For a list of back to school resources please visit www.ckfwi.org/outreach.cfm.

Also, many schools and organizations throughout the state are already planning back to school events; these events are a fantastic way to reach those who may be in need of health care coverage.

CKF is gathering a list of planned events. If there are back to school events in your area, please email Jeni Bingen, jlbingen@wisc.edu, the following information:

- County in which event is taking place
- Date and time of event
- Event name
- Event location
- CKF Coalition Member to serve as primary contact

Covering Kids & Families appreciates your time and looks forward to uniting our efforts this summer and fall!



DHS Modifies Policy for BC+ Emergency Services

A recently posted policy for BC+ Emergency Services segments eligibility for the benefit by age and income. The revised policy, updated on June 20th, appears in the most recent version of the Medicaid Handbook produced by Wisconsin's DHS.

The previous policy stated that, in addition to meeting all other eligibility requirements, an undocumented immigrant is eligible for BC+ emergency services coverage if she or he has household income under 300% of FPL.

The new policy further categorizes eligibility by age, income, and family status, with the net result being more limited coverage for most groups.

Group	Income
Pregnant Women	Up to 250% FPL
Newborns to age 1	Up to 250% FPL
Children ages 1 - 5	Up to 185% FPL
Children ages 6 - 18	Up to 150% FPL
Youths Exiting Out of Home Care	Any FPL Level
Parents and Caretakers	Up to 130% FPL

Co-Chair Corner | Opportunity for More Coverage



By Andy Heidt & Kathy Kaelin, CKF co-chairs



Next year (March 1, 2009) BadgerCare Plus for Childless Adults is slated to begin, providing some coverage for low-income single adults. In keeping with our mission of covering all people in Wisconsin, this is a big step in the right direction and we applaud it wholeheartedly. There are some elements that will need improving in order to really make this an accessible program, but the politics of approving the waiver through the Center for Medicaid Services is key to moving Childless Adult coverage forward.

As proposed under the Childless Adult Core Plan there will be an annual \$60 fee to apply for the program. A waiver of this fee for people at or below 100% of the federal poverty level will make this more palatable. Also as proposed, benefits will not start until the date an application is approved, not the date of application, if successful. This will generate costs for providers and recipients.

Regardless, we applaud the intent of this program. Once it is funded and up and running we can work on the operational improvements to really make this work for people in Wisconsin!

Secretary Karen Timberlake



Karen Timberlake was appointed by Governor Jim Doyle as Secretary of the Department of Health Services (formerly the Department of Health and Family Services) in April 2008. Karen has been with the Department since March 2007, serving first as Executive Assistant and

then as Deputy Secretary.

Prior to joining DHS, Karen served in Governor Doyle's cabinet as the Director of the Office of State Employment Relations (OSER) from 2003 to 2007, where she was responsible for setting human resources policy for Wisconsin state government's civil service employees. She also handled collective bargaining with the 19 labor unions representing state employees and led the state's affirmative action program. Prior to her OSER appointment, Karen was an assistant attorney general from 1995 - 2000 with the Wisconsin Department of Justice, where she specialized in employment litigation and in the defense of state statutes and state agency programs. Karen was the deputy administrator of the Department of Justice Division of Legal Services from 2000 through 2002. Karen chaired the Governor's Task Force on Autism in 2004 and served on the state Group Insurance Board from 2000 through March 2007.

School Health Initiatives Midwestern Regional Conference



Covering Kids & Families' staff will present the Connecting Health Insurance to Lunch Data (CHILD) Project at the first-ever School Health Initiatives Conference. The conference is in Indianapolis, July 23-24, with the theme Health Care + Education = Healthy Communities: Why Schools Fit the Equation. CKF staff will present

CHILD during two sessions. The first is *School-Based Outreach and Enrollment in Health Coverage*. Participants will gain information on the importance of establishing partnerships between schools and community organizations and explore opportunities to identify and reach students through specific school-based outreach strategies. The other is *School Health and School Lunch: A Perfect Match*. This session will explore opportunities and challenges to conduct targeted health care outreach and enrollment activities to potentially uninsured students and families through the use of school lunch data.

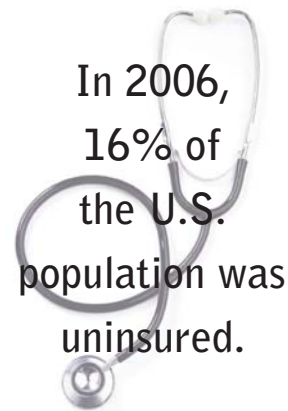
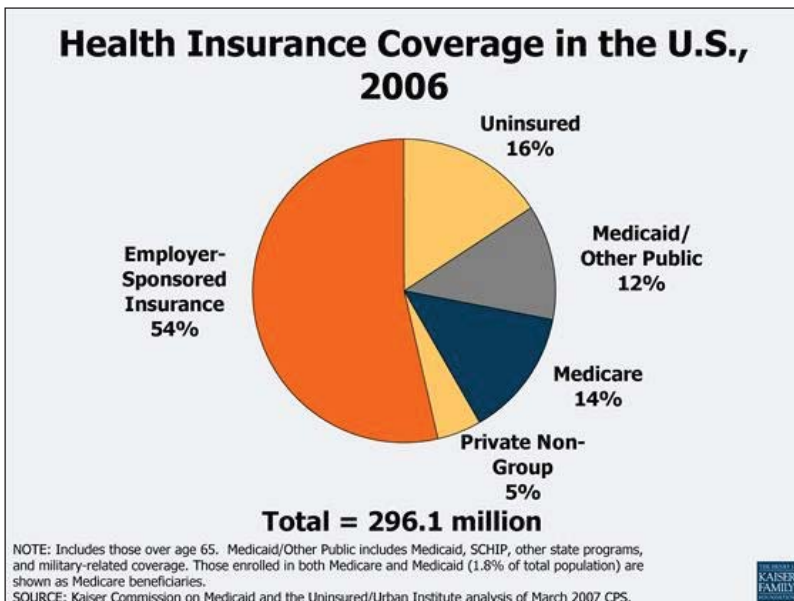
The conference will be great opportunity to network and learn from others about various school health initiatives from across the region. More information is available online at www.ckfindiana.org.

New Health Insurance Coverage Online Tool

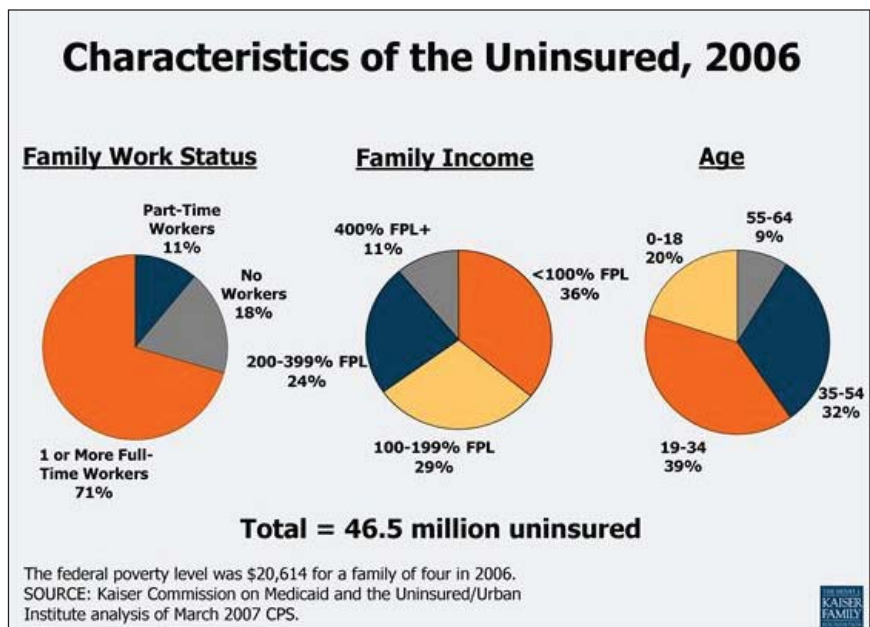
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The Kaiser Family Foundation's Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured (KCMU) has been producing annual chartbooks on the uninsured population and health coverage for nearly a decade, examining how many Americans lack coverage, who the uninsured are and how health insurance coverage is changing. This year, the Health Insurance Coverage in America chartbook (<http://facts.kff.org/chartbook.aspx?cb=50>), has been reformatted as a web-based information resource including charts and tables to provide a more comprehensive profile of the uninsured population and health insurance coverage more generally.

The chartbook is part of Kaiser Fast Facts, <http://facts.kff.org>, a new component of the kff.org website, featuring QuickTakes, an inventory of facts-at-a-glance on our health system and a variety of health policy topics, and Kaiser Slides, a tool which allows users to view, download, save or print charts and tables for use in individual presentations or at meetings. The charts below on health insurance coverage and the uninsured are examples of the type of information that can be found online.



Of the uninsured, 71% have one or more full-time workers in the family.



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- ### What's Inside
- ✓ 2008 Back to School Campaign
 - ✓ DHS Modifies Policy
 - ✓ Co-Chair Corner: Opportunity for More Coverage
 - ✓ Bio: DHS Secretary Karen Timberlake
 - ✓ Midwestern Regional Conference
 - ✓ New Health Insurance Coverage Online Tool

CKF Benefits Brochure Available!

We have finalized the CKF Benefits Brochure. This brochure is specific to each of Wisconsin's 72 counties and provides quick reference for benefit programs, including BadgerCare Plus, Free/Low Cost School Meals, Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance, Wisconsin Shares, FoodShare, Wisconsin Works, and WIC. The 2008 brochures will soon be available for download and printing on your own at www.ckfwi.org/countybrochures.cfm. We are also able to provide a limited number of brochures to CKF partners at no cost. If you would like to receive brochures from CKF, please email the following information to Jeni Bingen, jlbingen@wisc.edu, 1) Name 2) Organization 3) Address 4) Phone number 5) Email 6) Number of brochures and for which county 7) Whether you would like the brochures in English and/or Spanish. Please allow 4-6 weeks for printing and delivery.

Dane County Benefit programs for Wisconsin kids and families

- BadgerCare Plus (Health Insurance)
- Free/Low Cost School Meals
- Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance
- Wisconsin Shares (Childcare)
- FoodShare (Food Stamps)
- Wisconsin Works (W-2)
- WIC

BadgerCare Plus (Health Insurance)
 Health insurance coverage for:
 • All children (birth to age 19) regardless of income
 • Pregnant women with family income up to Category F (see table)
 • Parents and relatives who care for a child with family income up to Category E
 • Parents whose children are in foster care with family income up to Category E
 • Farmers and self-employed parents with family income (minus depreciation) up to Category E
 • Young adults (ages 18-20) who are leaving foster care regardless of income
 There may be deductibles, premiums and copayments.
 Contact the Dane County Human Services Office at: 608-242-7400.

Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance
 Pays a portion of household energy bills. You may qualify with family income up to Category C.
 Contact Energy Services Inc at: 608-267-8601.

Wisconsin Shares (Childcare)
 Pays for some of the childcare costs for families with limited incomes. You may qualify if you have a child under 13 or a child with special needs under 18. You need to be either working, in school or in job training. Your family income may be up to Category D.
 Contact the Dane County Human Services Office at: 608-242-7400.

FoodShare (Food Stamps)
 Provides a QUEST card for families to use at grocery stores to buy healthy food. FoodShare helps people of all ages who have a job but have low incomes, are living on small or fixed income, have lost their job, are retired, or have disabilities and cannot work. You may qualify for FoodShare with family income up to Category B.
 Contact the Dane County Human Services Office at: 608-242-7400.

Free/Low Cost School Meals
 Free or reduced price meals for children. Private school and many private day care centers may also provide meals at school. For free meals with reduced price meals up to Category D.
 Contact the Dane County Human Services Office at: 608-242-7400.

Wisconsin Works (W-2)
 Cash assistance for people who have children under age 19 living in the home, have lost their job, and do not qualify for Unemployment Insurance. You may qualify with family income up to Category A.
 Contact the Dane County Human Services Office at: 608-242-7400.

WIC
 Women, Infants and Children Program provides healthy foods and referrals to health care for pregnant women, new mothers, infants and children up to age five. You and your children may qualify with family income up to Category D.
 Contact Dane County WIC Office at: 608-947-9375.

Monthly Family Income Levels
 These numbers are for 2008 and will go up in 2009.

Group Size	Category A 115% FPL*	Category B 130% FPL*	Category C 150% FPL*	Category D 185% FPL*	Category E 200% FPL*	Category F 300% FPL*
2	\$1,342	\$1,517	\$1,750	\$2,158	\$2,333	\$3,500
3	\$1,687	\$1,907	\$2,200	\$2,713	\$2,933	\$4,400
4	\$2,032	\$2,297	\$2,650	\$3,268	\$3,533	\$5,300
5	\$2,377	\$2,687	\$3,100	\$3,823	\$4,133	\$6,200
For each additional person add:	\$345	\$390	\$450	\$555	\$600	\$900

*FPL = Federal Poverty Level, this level is determined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Federal Poverty Levels for all family sizes can be found at <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/fpl/fpl.htm>.

One key indicates that you can find out if you are eligible for the program at access.wi.gov.
 Two keys indicate that you can find out if you are eligible for the program and apply for the program at access.wi.gov.