

Colorado Children’s Medicaid and CHP+ Enrollment – 2014 Quarter Three

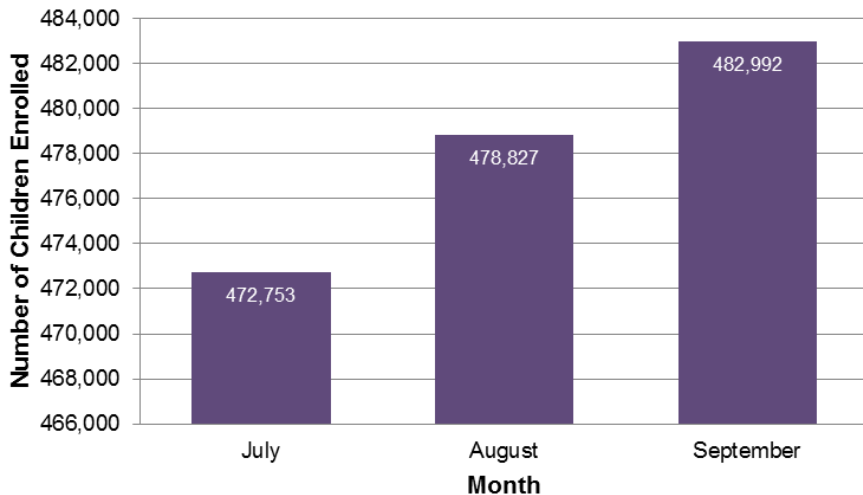
The purpose of this report is to illustrate children’s enrollment changes in Colorado’s Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) programs and identify corresponding legislation, rule changes, and other factors that may have contributed to an increase or decrease in enrollment. This brief report provides a snapshot of the third quarter of 2014. The enrollment data used for this report is from the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing’s (HCPF) Medical Services Premiums, Expenditures, and Medicaid Caseload Reports.¹

2014 Quarter Three

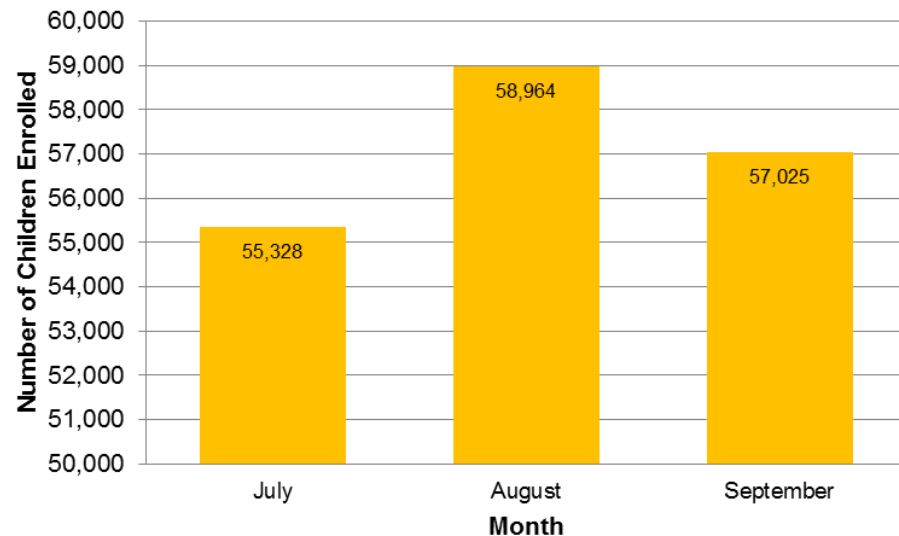
As in previous quarters of 2014, children’s combined enrollment in Medicaid and CHP+ continued to increase. Between July and September, overall caseload for children grew by nearly 12,000 enrollments, or 2.3 percent.

Medicaid enrollments made up the bulk of the increased caseload with a total of 10,239 additional children enrolled over the quarter. CHP+ enrollment also increased with an increase in caseload of nearly 1,700 children between July and September. Although this represents a three percent increase within the quarter, CHP+ enrollment continues to show large monthly variation. As can be seen in the chart below at right and on the second page, CHP+ enrollment peaked in August with an increase of about 3,600 new enrollments from July, followed by a decrease of nearly 2,000 between August and September 2014.

**Number of Children Enrolled in Medicaid - 2014
Quarter 3**
(excluding foster care)



**Number of Children Enrolled in CHP+ - 2014
Quarter 3**



¹ Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. (2014). *Premiums, Expenditures and Caseload Reports*. Retrieved Oct. 28, 2014, from <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/premiums-expenditures-and-caseload-reports>

What impacted Medicaid enrollment in the third quarter of 2014?

Medicaid enrollment increased in the third quarter of 2014, much like it has in previous quarters of 2014. The rate of increase in the third quarter is the smallest rate of increase so far this year at just over two percent growth, compared to over four percent in the first quarter. The continuing upward trend of Medicaid enrollment is likely attributable to continued outreach and education about Medicaid coverage from community-based organizations, state agencies, and Connect for Health Colorado. The requirement to purchase health insurance under the Affordable Care Act may also be a driving force. Indeed, Medicaid enrollment also continues to rise at a steady pace for the eligible adult population. During the third quarter, caseload for non-disabled, non-elderly adults (i.e. those considered for Modified Adjusted Gross Income, or MAGI Medicaid categories) increased by more than 16,500.

Medicaid enrollment may also have been influenced by additional outreach related to the new Medicaid adult dental benefit, which was fully implemented in July 2014. The data available cannot establish a connection between enrollment data and dental outreach though.

Continued variation in CHP+ enrollments

CHP+ enrollment continued to show monthly variations throughout quarter three. As previously discussed in CKF's [2014 Quarter Two](#) enrollment report, the chart at right shows the change in enrollment per month for Medicaid and CHP+ throughout 2014. The monthly variations in CHP+ enrollment are shown in contrast to the relatively steady enrollments in Medicaid each month.

Because the policy of 12-month continuous eligibility for children was implemented as of March 2014, children should no longer lose CHP+ coverage at any time of the year as a result of changes to family income or size. Children should only lose coverage or move to Medicaid if they are determined at their 12-month renewal date to no longer qualify for CHP+. The variations in enrollment per month are too large to be explained only by movement out of CHP+ at children's renewal dates. CKF continues to monitor this issue.

Looking Forward

During the fourth quarter of 2014, the second open enrollment period for private health insurance will begin on November 15. As families renew existing Medicaid, CHP+, or private coverage, or sign-up for health insurance for the first time, children's Medicaid enrollment is expected to continue on an upward trend. CHP+ enrollments should also theoretically increase as parents enroll in marketplace coverage, and enroll their children in CHP+. However, the variation in CHP+ enrollment seen so far in 2014 may continue, making it difficult to predict CHP+ enrollment in quarter four.

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