



Colorado Children’s Medicaid and CHP+ Enrollment Report – 2015 Quarter Three

Colorado Covering Kids and Families’ (CKF) quarterly enrollment reports 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. The enrollment data used for this report comes from the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing’s (HCPF) Premiums, Expenditures and Caseload Reports.¹ Previous quarterly enrollment reports can be found on the CKF website at cchn.org/ckf/quarterly-enrollment-reports.

2015 Quarter Three Enrollment

In the third quarter of 2015, **children’s enrollment in Medicaid and CHP+ increased by 6,049**, or 1.1 percent.

The overall enrollment gain in the third quarter can be attributed to a total of **8,431 Medicaid enrollments** (+1.6 percent). Meanwhile, **CHP+ enrollment decreased by 2,382** over the quarter (-4.7 percent).

Although Medicaid enrollment over the quarter increased overall, enrollment decreased by 3,698 between June and July. This was the first decrease in children’s Medicaid enrollment since October 2013.

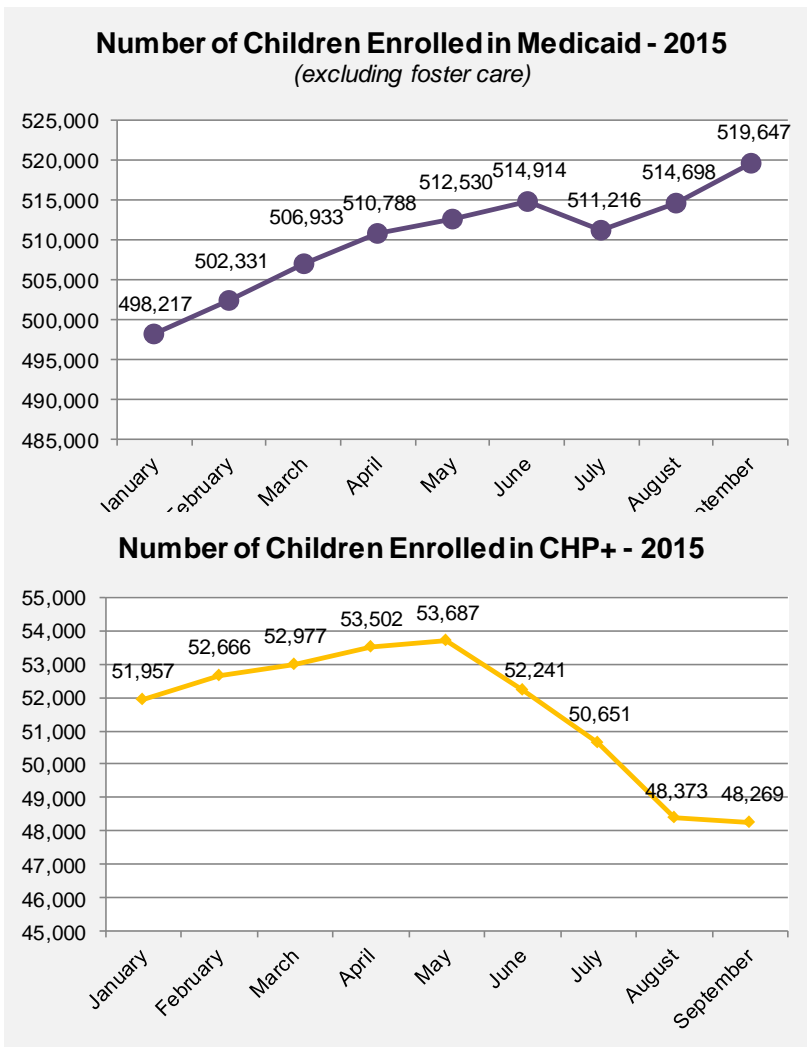
CHP+ enrollment decreased every month in the third quarter, resulting in a **decrease in CHP+ enrollment for four consecutive months**.

Between January and September, Medicaid enrollment increased by 21,430 children, and CHP+ enrollment decreased by 3,688 children, for a **total increase of 17,742** children enrolled in both programs over the first three quarters of 2015.

At the end of September, there were a **total of 567,916** children enrolled in Medicaid and CHP+.

What Impacted Kids’ Medicaid and CHP+ Enrollment in the Third Quarter of 2015?

For the first time since October 2013, children’s Medicaid enrollment experienced a dip in caseload in the month of July.



The online Colorado Program Eligibility and Application Kit (PEAK) Mail Center was not available to clients between July 9 and July 28, and clients were unable to view client correspondence requesting eligibility verifications during this time. It is possible that some clients were terminated during this time period incorrectly, and this was captured in the caseload report for July, although impacted clients should have had their enrollment reinstated in the next month.

Several updates were also made to the Colorado Benefits Management System and PEAK at the end of June, which could have impacted the eligibility system; however other eligibility categories (e.g. Modified Adjusted Gross Income Medicaid adult) did not have similar decreases in enrollment in July. The one-time decrease in Medicaid enrollment in July is child-specific.

The reason for CHP+ enrollment reductions each month in the third quarter continues to confound and concern CKF. Although the decreases may be due to some families becoming ineligible at their renewal date due to Colorado's recovering economy and higher incomes, it is unclear if the loss in caseload each month corresponds with denials at renewal. CKF continues to work with HCPF to access more data and information about CHP+ caseload and the functionality of 12-month continuous eligibility.

Looking Forward

The next open enrollment period for private health insurance begins on November 1, 2015, and ends on January 31, 2016. Although Medicaid and CHP+ do not have open enrollment periods, trends in past years indicate that children's Medicaid enrollment is likely to increase during the private health insurance open enrollment period. CKF will continue to monitor CHP+ enrollment and work with HCPF to identify the cause of the continued decrease in enrollment.

For more information, contact Stephanie Brooks, CKF Policy Analyst, at sbrooks@cchn.org.

¹ Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. (2015). *Premiums, Expenditures and Caseload Reports*. <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/premiums-expenditures-and-caseload-reports>