

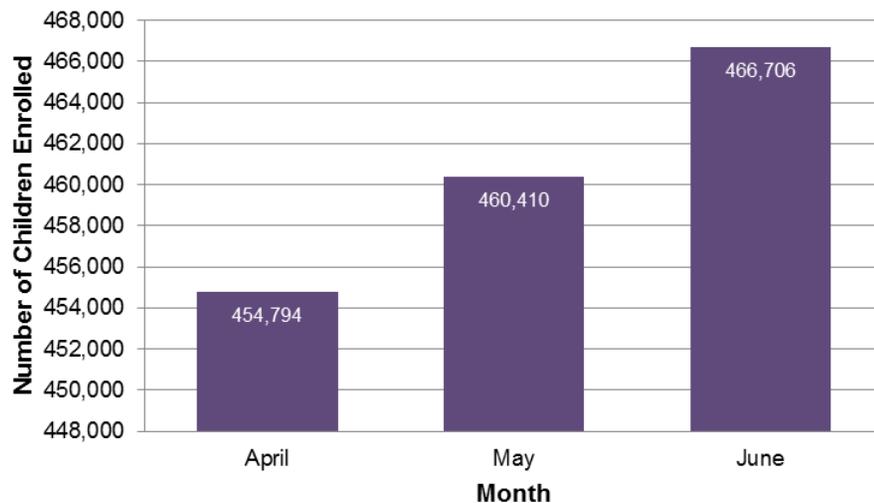
Colorado Children’s Medicaid and CHP+ Enrollment – 2014 Quarter Two

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 second quarter (April, May, and June) 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

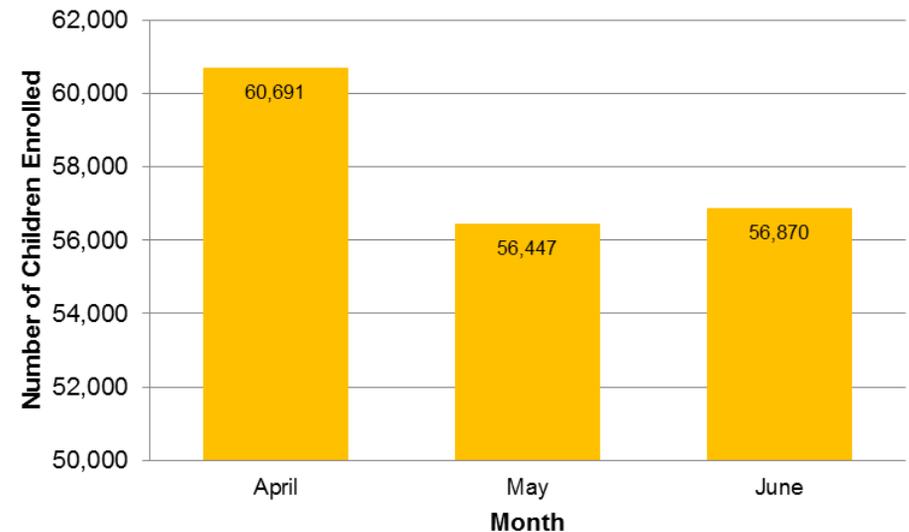
2014 Quarter Two

In the second quarter of 2014, total children’s enrollment in Colorado Medicaid and CHP+ increased at a rate of 1.6 percent, an addition of more than 8,000 new enrollees over three months. Medicaid enrollment increased steadily at a rate of 2.6 percent, with more than 11,900 additional enrollees between April and June. Enrollment in CHP+, however, fell at a rate of 6.3 percent, with a total loss of 3,821 enrollees between April and June. The majority of this loss was experienced in May with a decrease of more than 4,200 enrollees.

**Number of Children Enrolled in Medicaid - 2014
Quarter 2**
(excluding foster care)



**Number of Children Enrolled in CHP+ - 2014
Quarter 2**



¹ The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. (2014). *Premiums, Expenditures and Caseload Reports*. Retrieved July 23, 2014, from <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/premiums-expenditures-and-caseload-reports>

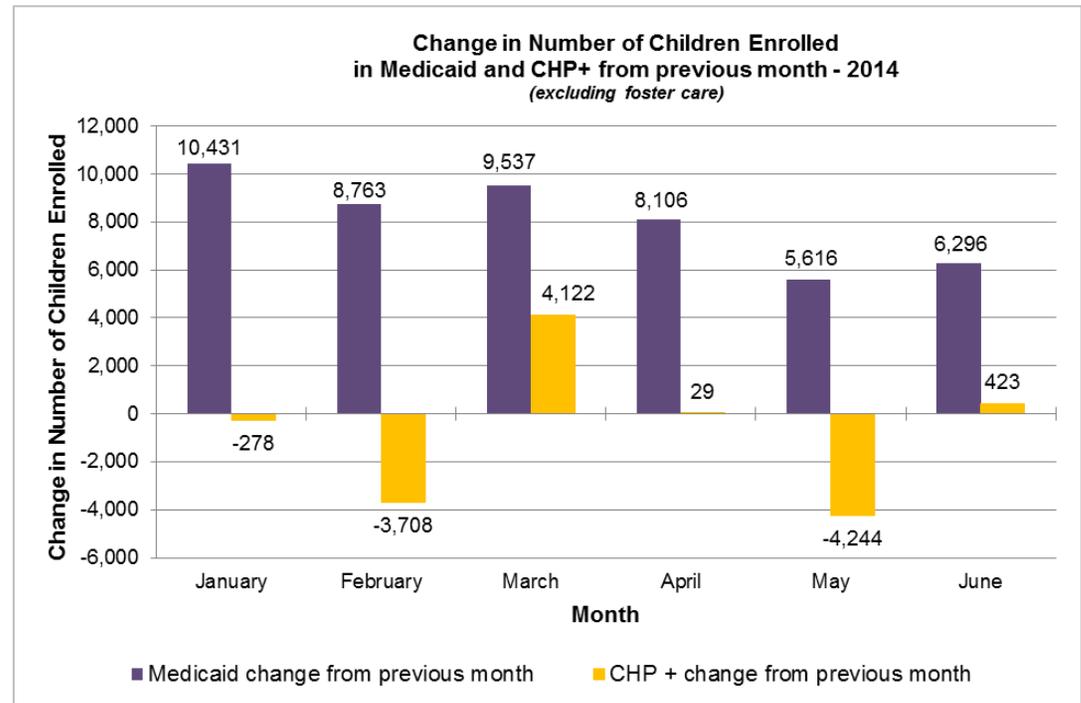
What impacted Medicaid enrollment in the second quarter of 2014?

Although exact causes for enrollment changes are difficult to discern with the data available, CKF hypothesizes that Colorado Medicaid enrollment for children is a reflection of heavy outreach and enrollment activities from schools, community-based organizations, and other local organizations as a result of the Affordable Care Act. Although open enrollment for private health insurance ended in March 2014, enrollment in Colorado Medicaid and CHP+ is open all year. Increased media attention and the new federal requirement for most U.S. residents to have health insurance may both be motivating factors for families to enroll in coverage. Indeed, Colorado Medicaid enrollment increased in nearly every coverage category: from April to June 2014, modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) adult enrollments also increased, with an addition of more than 14,800 individuals.

Variation in CHP+ enrollments in 2014

CHP+ enrollment fluctuated in the first two quarters of 2014 for unknown reasons. The variation in CHP+ enrollment is concerning for several reasons:

1. Continuous eligibility for children was implemented in March 2014. After this policy was implemented, children's enrollment in CHP+ should only end if they are found to be no longer eligible for the program upon their 12-month renewal and redetermination date. Redeterminations are unlikely to account for the swings of more than 4,000 individuals in a given month.
2. The fluctuation in CHP+ enrollment is not mirrored by fluctuations in Medicaid enrollment. Instead, Medicaid enrollment has steadily increased each month of 2014. The chart at right shows the change in monthly enrollment in Medicaid and CHP+ from the previous month for 2014.
3. Issues with CHP+ enrollment in the Medicaid Management Information System continue to exist. Known issues include suppressed letters that inform families of passive enrollment into a CHP+ Health Maintenance Organization, however the noted fluctuations in enrollment indicate that additional problems may exist.



CKF continues to monitor CHP+ enrollment fluctuation and is seeking more information from HCPF to answer questions related to CHP+ enrollment.

Looking Forward

In the third quarter of 2014, continued increases in Medicaid enrollment are expected, but the rate of increase is expected to slow. Because CHP+ enrollment continues to confound, it is hard to predict what will happen with CHP+ enrollment at this time. CKF will continue to monitor CHP+ enrollment closely, and will seek additional feedback from stakeholders and HCPF to determine the cause of the enrollment fluctuations.

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