



## Children’s Health First Colorado and CHP+ Enrollment Report – 2016 Quarter One

*This series of quarterly reports analyzes children’s enrollment changes in Health First Colorado (Colorado’s Medicaid program) and Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) and identifies factors that may have contributed to an increase or decrease in enrollment. The data source used is the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing’s [Premiums, Expenditures and Caseload Reports](#). Previous quarterly enrollment reports can be found at [ckf.cchn.org/quarterly-enrollment-reports](http://ckf.cchn.org/quarterly-enrollment-reports).*

### 2016 Quarter One Enrollment

In the first quarter of 2016 (January through March), children’s enrollment in Health First Colorado and CHP+ both increased, resulting in **5,430 more children enrolled at the end of March**, a growth of **0.9 percent overall**. This is the same overall growth rate as the last quarter of 2015.

#### Children’s Health First Colorado Enrollment



Total enrolled at the end of March:  
**532,835**

#### Children’s CHP+ Enrollment



Total enrolled at the end of March:  
**53,332**

The number of children who became enrolled in each program over the course of the quarter was roughly even; **2,792 children were added to the Health First Colorado caseload**, and **2,638 children were added to the CHP+ caseload**.

Although the number of children joining both programs was similar, Health First Colorado caseload is growing at a much slower rate of **0.5 percent** compared to the more robust growth in the CHP+ program of **5.2 percent**. The slower rate of Health First Colorado growth may indicate that the number of eligible but not enrolled (EBNE) is growing smaller. Likewise, the higher rate of CHP+ growth may reflect improvements made to the Colorado Benefits Management System (CBMS) in December 2015, which may have improved the functionality of 12-month continuous eligibility, helping eligible children stay enrolled in CHP+ regardless of changes to family income and/or household size.

### Looking Forward

If changes made to CBMS last year are having a positive impact on CHP+ enrollment, Colorado Covering Kids and Families (CKF) anticipates that CHP+ caseload will continue to increase in 2016 quarter two. The Colorado Health Institute estimates that the EBNE rate for children eligible for CHP+ was 34 percent, or nearly 30,000 kids, in 2014 so there is room for CHP+ enrollment to continue to increase if systems problems had been negatively impacting enrollment.<sup>1</sup> Likewise, the EBNE rate for children eligible for Health First Colorado is just five percent, or approximately 24,000 kids. As a result, CKF expects Health First Colorado’s caseload to grow modestly in 2016 quarter two.

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<sup>1</sup> Colorado Health Institute. (2016, February). Higher rate of eligible Coloradans are getting health coverage. Retrieved from <http://www.allkidscoveredcolorado.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/CHI-EBNE-02.05.16-AKC-Meeting.pdf>