

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



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.

2016 Quarter Two Enrollment



A total of **2,772** more children enrolled in Health First Colorado and CHP+ during the second quarter of 2016 (April through June), a **growth of 0.5 percent** overall. This is the same overall growth rate as the second quarter of 2015.

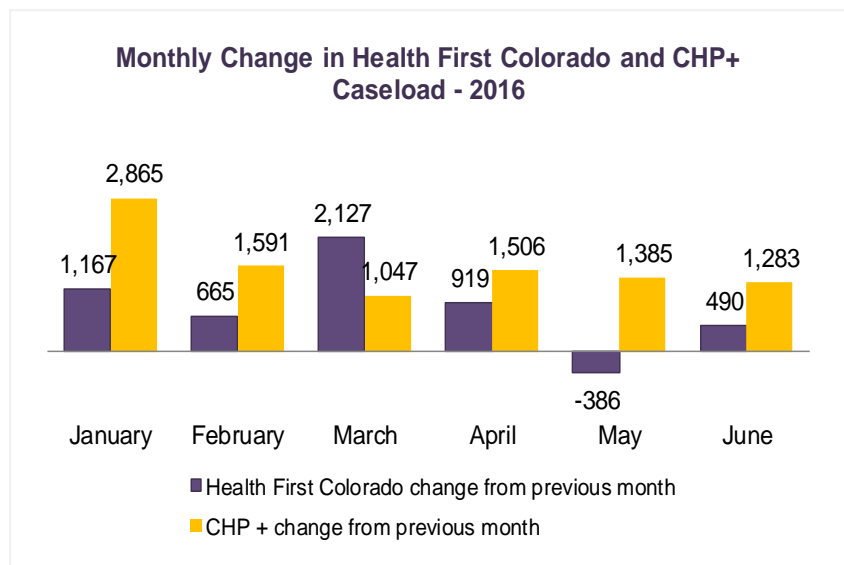
In contrast to last year, the **enrollment growth so far this year is primarily due to increasing CHP+ caseload**. CHP+ caseload grew by 2,668 in the quarter, a growth rate of 4.87 percent, while Health First Colorado caseload increased by just 104 over the quarter, or 0.02 percent.

CHP+ enrollment has increased every month since December 2015, but caseload in Health First Colorado fluctuated over the quarter with small gains in April and June, and a small decline in May. This was the first instance of children’s Health First Colorado caseload decreasing since July 2015.

What Impacted Enrollment in Quarter Two?

The steady rate of growth in CHP+ may be the result of a systems fix implemented in the Colorado Benefits Management System in December 2015. The fix was made to improve the functionality of 12-month continuous eligibility in the CHP+ program, allowing children to stay enrolled in the program for 12 months regardless of changes to household size and/or family income. This enhancement appears to be working as planned.

Reasons behind fluctuations in children’s Health First Colorado



enrollment are unclear. Colorado Covering Kids and Families (CKF) is aware of a systems change implemented on May 22 that fixed programming that had incorrectly kept children enrolled in Health First Colorado longer than 12 months of continuous eligibility even after the child became eligible for CHP+.¹ In May, the programming was fixed, and eligibility for impacted clients was rerun. As a result, some children who technically were no longer eligible for Health First Colorado could have moved to CHP+ coverage in May.

Looking Forward

Since November 2015, enrollment in CHP+ has increased by 11,473 cases. The systems enhancement implemented in December 2015 to fix continuous eligibility in CHP+ appears to have made a significant impact on increasing children's CHP+ enrollment. The Colorado Health Institute estimates that the eligible but not enrolled rate for children eligible for CHP+ was nearly 30,000 in 2014.² The increase in CHP+ enrollment over the last seven months is approximately 38 percent of the 30,000. CKF anticipates that CHP+ enrollment will continue to climb in the third quarter of 2016. Health First Colorado enrollment appears to be leveling, and CKF anticipates that the program will continue to grow, but at a very modest pace.

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

¹ Colorado Benefits Management System. (2016, June 3). Help Desk Ticket Release Notes May 2016 – Project 9026.

² 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>