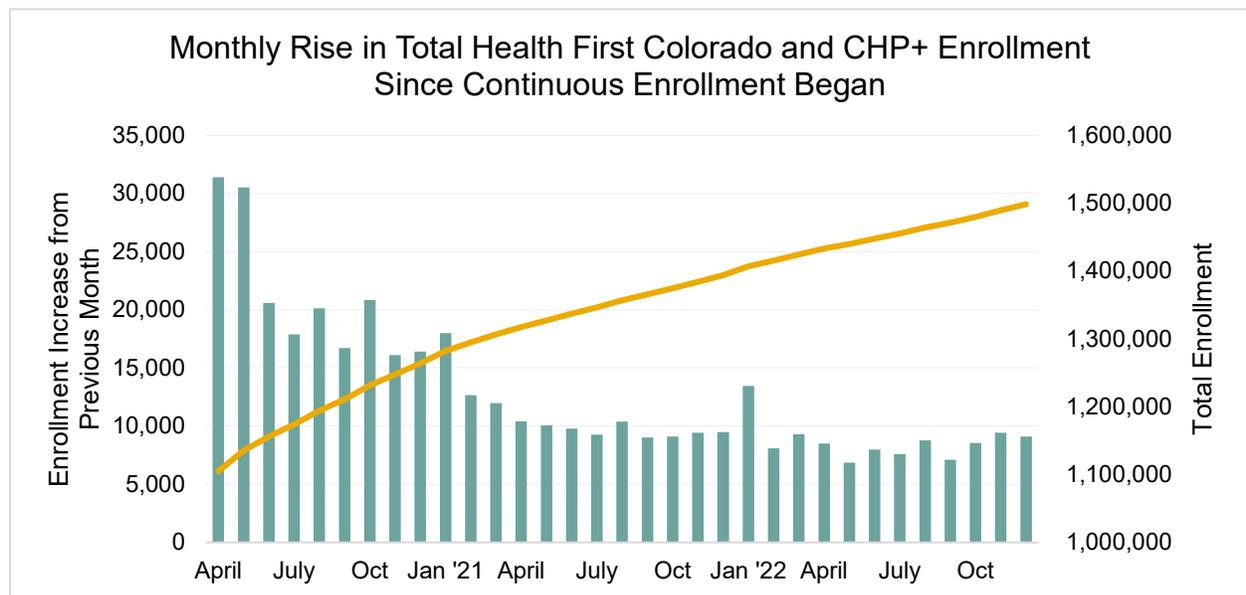


This series of reports analyzes enrollment changes in Health First Colorado (Colorado’s Medicaid program) and Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) and identifies factors that may have contributed to an increase or decrease in enrollment. The data source used is the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing’s [Premiums, Expenditures and Caseload Reports](#) in which monthly data represents caseload numbers at the end of that respective month. Previous enrollment analyses can be found [here](#).

Continued Increase in Enrollment Throughout 2022

The 2022 calendar year saw continued increases among Health First Colorado (Colorado’s Medicaid program) enrollment along with steady decreases in Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+). The following report outlines and analyzes enrollment changes, focusing on CHP+ and Health First Colorado’s non-disability programs (i.e. Modified Adjusted Gross Income, or MAGI programs).

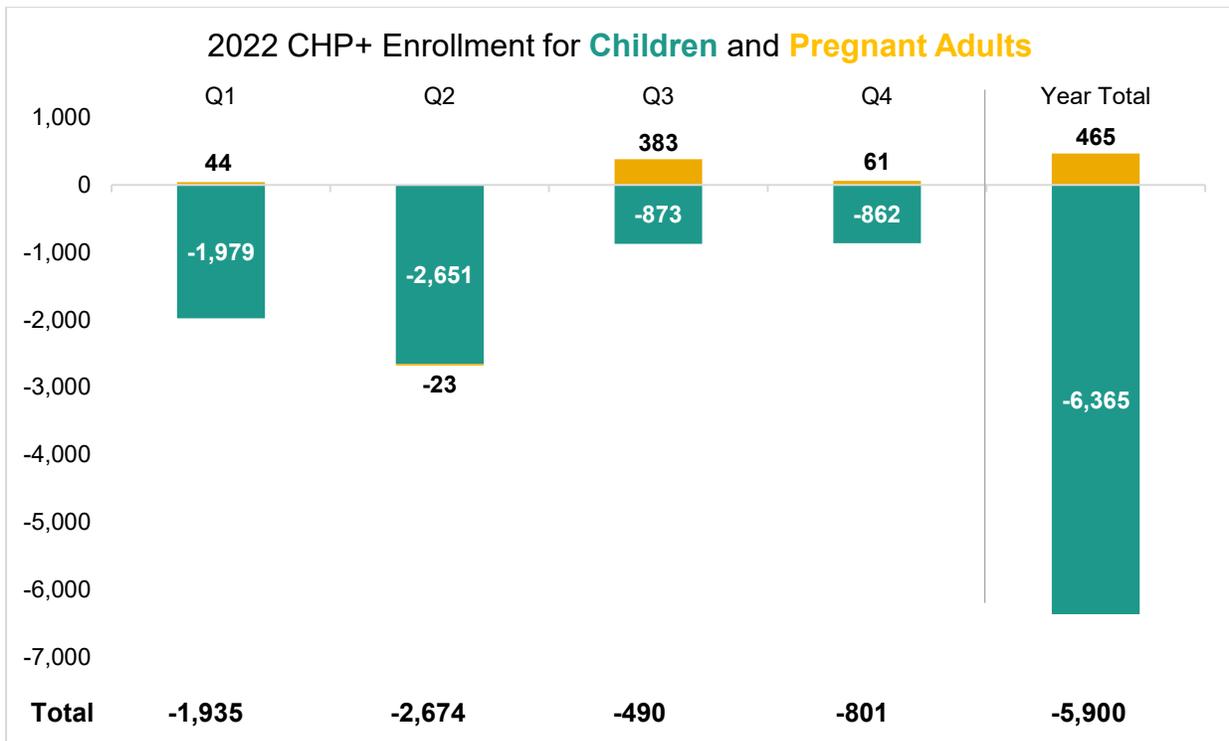
The total number of people enrolled in Health First Colorado MAGI programs and CHP+ programs **increased by 104,739 or 7.5%** from the beginning of January to the end of December 2022.



CHP+ Enrollment Data

The total number of children and pregnant adults enrolled in CHP+ **decreased by 5,900 or 11%** from the beginning of January to the end of December 2022. Children's enrollment decreased in every quarter while pregnant adults' enrollment increased in all quarters except for a small decrease in quarter two.

- Children's enrollment **decreased by 6,365 or 12%** to 46,701 from 53,066.
- Pregnant adult enrollment **increased by 465 or 89.1%** to 987 from 522.

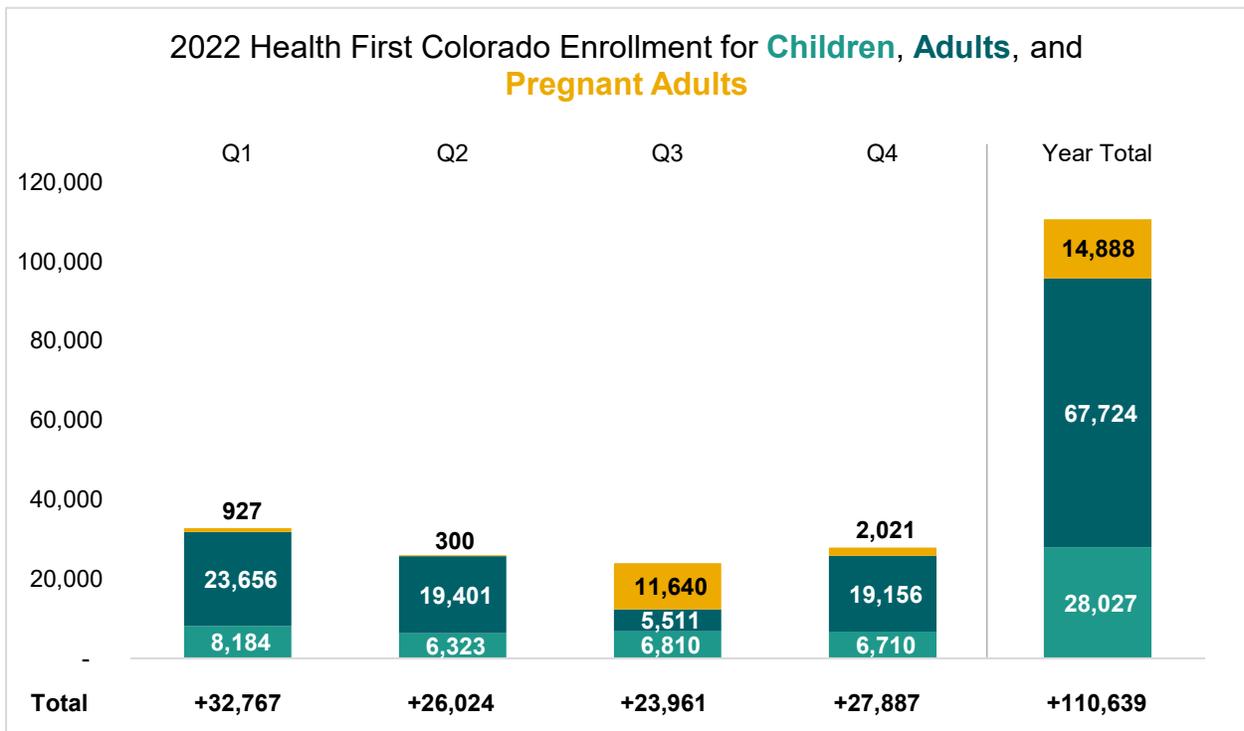


Health First Colorado Enrollment Data

The total number of people enrolled in all Health First Colorado programs **increased by 171,978 or 11.1%** from the beginning of January to the end of December 2022.

The total number of adults, pregnant adults, and children enrolled in Health First Colorado MAGI programs **increased by 110,639 or 8.3%** from the beginning of January to the end of December 2022.

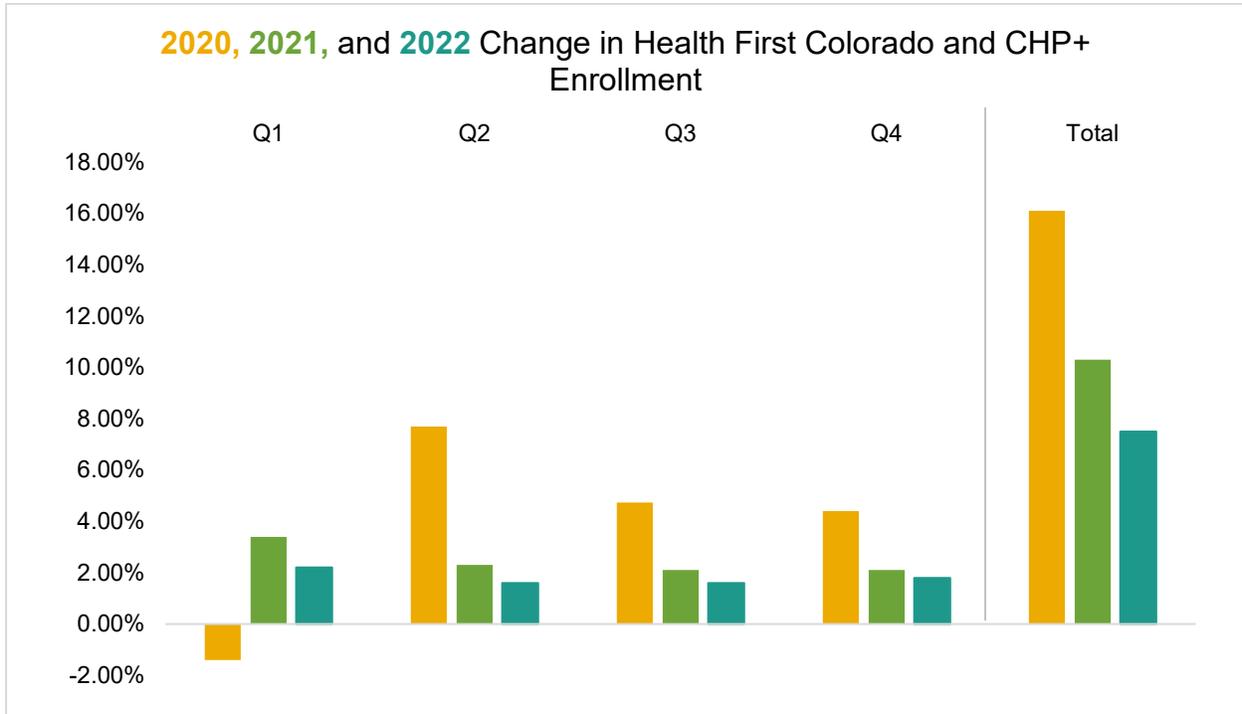
- Adult enrollment **increased by 67,724 or 8.8%** to 834,104 from 766,380.
- Pregnant adult enrollment **increased by 14,888 or 81.9%** to 33,063 from 18,175.
- Children's enrollment **increased by 28,027 or 5%** to 583,597 from 555,570.



Comparison to Previous Years

Enrollment in Health First Colorado MAGI programs and CHP+ programs continued to increase in 2022, though at a slower rate than in 2021. The following section explains why 2022 enrollment trends differed from previous years and the similarities to 2021.

See Appendix A for complete comparison of 2020, 2021, and 2022 trends.



What Impacted Enrollment in 2022?

With the onset of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) in March 2020, Health First Colorado and CHP+ enrollment trends changed significantly. Enrollment in 2022 was again predominantly impacted by PHE specific policies and events, as well as existing federal and state policies.

New Coverage Expansions

12-Months Postpartum Continuous Eligibility, Reproductive Health Care, and Family Planning Benefits

There were a few coverage expansions implemented in 2022 that may have increased enrollment among pregnant people and other adults. Effective July 1, 2022, postpartum coverage for pregnant people who are enrolled in Health First Colorado or CHP+ programs was expanded to 12 months. This change allows members to receive 12 months of continuous postpartum coverage, regardless of any changes in circumstances. Family planning and family planning-related health benefits were also expanded to individuals who otherwise would not have been eligible for Health First Colorado coverage effective July 1, 2022. The family planning benefit expansion includes Emergency Medicaid Services (EMS) and the Family Planning Limited Benefit Plan (FAMPL) for people with incomes between 133% to 260% Federal Poverty Limit (FPL). These coverage expansions along with outreach conducted by the state to promote these changes may have increased awareness of these programs and therefore increased applications and enrollment.

Impacts of Federal COVID-19 Legislation and Rules

Throughout the PHE, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) directed states to maintain eligibility for anyone enrolled in Medicaid on or after March 18, 2020. Unless a member voluntarily terminates their benefits, moves out of state, becomes incarcerated, dies, or is a pregnant adult after 60-days postpartum or a child turning 19 years-old enrolled in CHP+, they will maintain coverage through the end of the PHE. This is called continuous eligibility or lock-in of coverage. Apart from the exceptions above, all Health First Colorado and CHP+ members have maintained coverage since March 2020. This coverage will continue until the end of the month when the PHE expires.

Due to the continuous eligibility requirement, very few Health First Colorado members have lost coverage. Since members can be moved to coverage with more expansive benefits, it is likely that some CHP+ members transitioned to Health First Colorado as their family's income decreased. This churn likely accounts for the decrease in children's CHP+ enrollment throughout the year.

Return to In-Person Schooling

The continued return to in-person schooling and school related events in 2022 may have increased enrollment through school-based outreach programs. Parents and adult caretakers also often sign up for coverage when they are enrolling their children or dependents in school. In 2022, 12.66% of children across the state were enrolled in Individual Education Plans (IEPs)

for learning disabilities. As part of the IEP process, many families are screened for Health First Colorado and CHP+ eligibility.

Looking Forward

The PHE has been renewed several times since March 2020, and is still in effect. When the PHE ends, the Urban Institute projects that overall Medicaid enrollment in the U.S. will decline by 14 million, with half in the first six months after the PHE ends and the other half in the second six months that states are allotted to unwind the PHE.¹

¹ Matthew Buettgens, Andrew Green, Urban Institute. What Will Happen to Unprecedented High Medicaid Enrollment after the Public Health Emergency?, September 2021, https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/104785/what-will-happen-to-unprecedented-high-medicaid-enrollment-after-the-public-health-emergency_0.pdf

Appendix A

CHP+			2020	2021	2022
			Q1	Kids	1.4%
	Pregnant Adults	8.5%	-5.4%	8.4%	
	Total	1.5%	-5.5%	-3.6%	
Q2	Kids	-0.3%	-5.0%	-5.2%	
	Pregnant Adults	-1.7%	-12.0%	-4.1%	
	Total	-0.3%	-5.0%	-5.2%	
Q3	Kids	-6.5%	-5.1%	-1.8%	
	Pregnant Adults	-10.8%	-13.5%	70.5%	
	Total	-6.6%	-5.2%	-1.0%	
Q4	Kids	-7.5%	-4.4%	-1.8	
	Pregnant Adults	-8.4%	0.6%	6.6%	
	Total	-7.5%	-4.4%	-1.7%	
Total Year	Kids	-12.5%	-18.5%	-12.0%	
	Pregnant Adults	-12.8%	-27.6%	89.1%	
	Total	-12.5%	-18.6%	-11.0%	
Health First Colorado	Q1	Kids	-1.4%	2.5%	1.5%
		Pregnant Adults	2.4%	5.5%	5.1%
		Adults	-1.9%	4.9%	3.1%
		Total	-1.6%	3.9%	2.4%
	Q2	Kids	5.5%	1.7%	1.1%
		Pregnant Adults	13.4%	-2.4%	1.6%
		Adults	10.6%	3.6%	2.5%
		Total	8.3%	2.7%	1.9%
	Q3	Kids	4.4%	1.6%	1.2%
		Pregnant Adults	7.2%	3.2%	60.0%
		Adults	6.4%	3.1%	0.7%
		Total	5.5%	2.5%	1.7%
	Q4	Kids	3.5%	1.3%	1.2%
		Pregnant Adults	6.4%	-0.6%	2.4%
		Adults	6.4%	3.2%	6.5%
		Total	5.5%	2.3%	2.0%
	Total Year	Kids	12.4%	7.2%	5.0%
		Pregnant Adults	32.6%	5.7%	81.9%
		Adults	22.8%	15.6%	8.8%

		Total	18.2%	11.8%	8.3%
CHP+ and Health First Colorado	Q1		-1.4%	3.4%	2.2%
	Q2		7.7%	2.3%	1.6%
	Q3		4.7%	2.1%	1.6%
	Q4		4.4%	2.1%	1.8%
	Year Total		16.1%	10.3%	7.5%