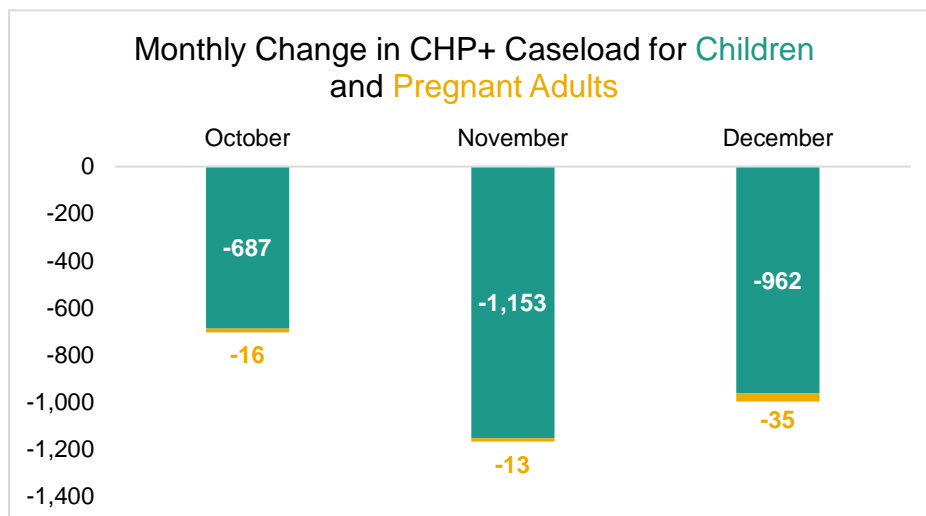
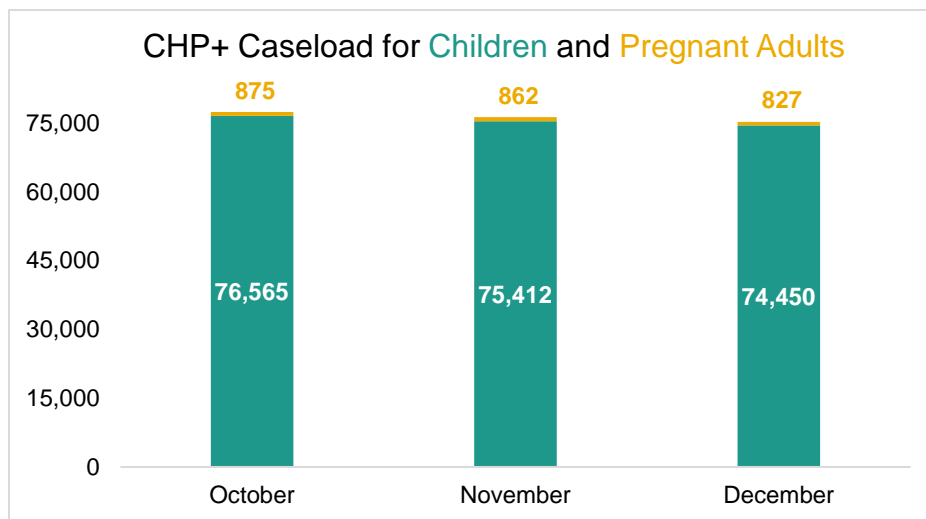


This series of reports analyzes enrollment changes in Health First Colorado (Colorado’s Medicaid Program) and Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) and identifies factors that may have contributed to an increase or decrease in enrollment. The data source used is the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy 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](#).

CHP+ Enrollment Data

The total number of children and pregnant adults enrolled in CHP+ **decreased by 2,866 or 3.7 percent** from the beginning of October to the end of December 2019.

- Children’s enrollment **decreased by 2,802 or 3.6 percent**
- Pregnant adults’ enrollment **decreased by 64 or 7.2 percent**

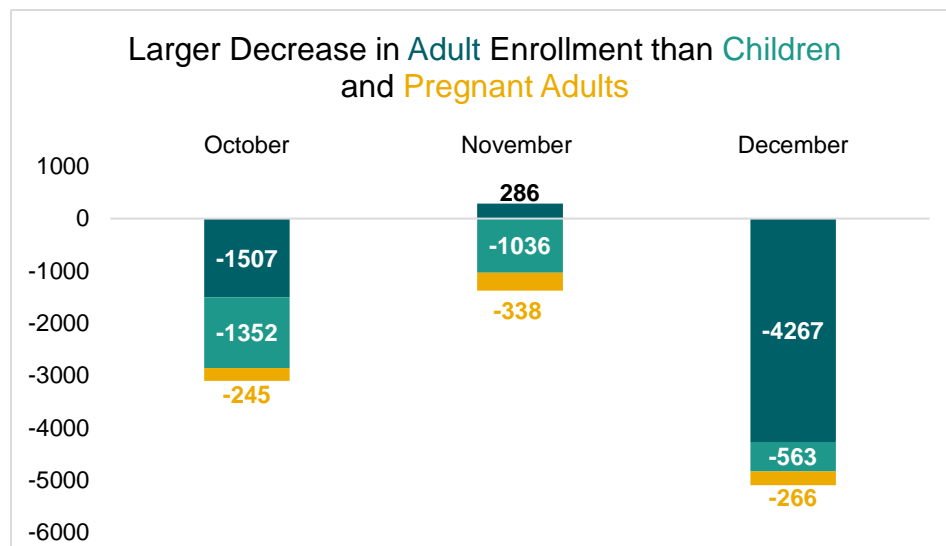
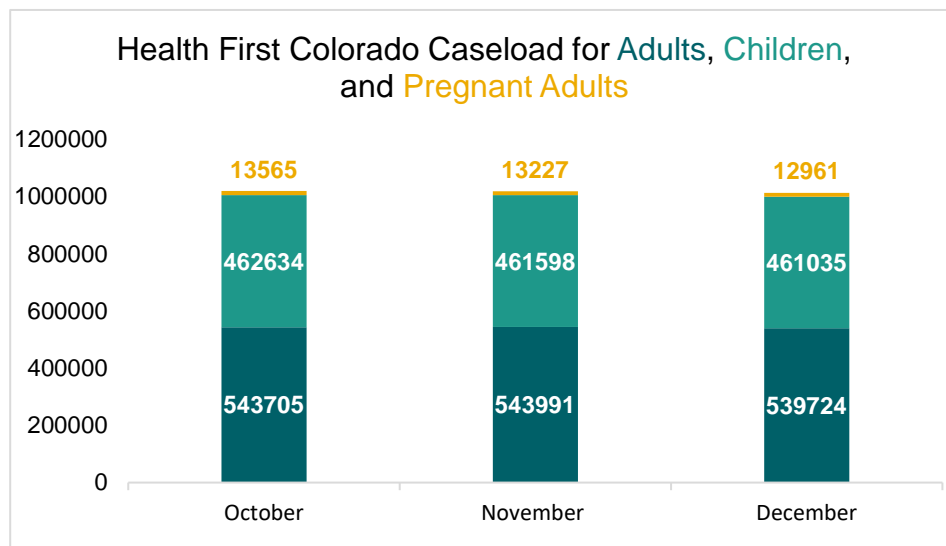


Health First Colorado Enrollment Data

The total number of people enrolled in all Health First Colorado programs **decreased by 11,863 or 1.0 percent** from the beginning of October to the end of December 2019.

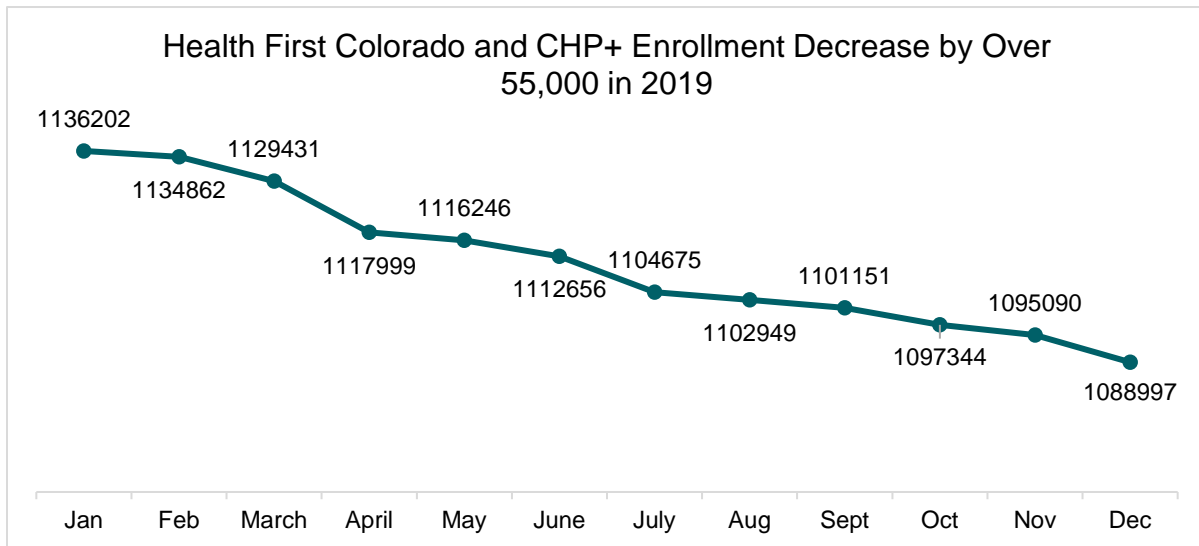
The total number of adults, pregnant adults, and children enrolled in non-disability programs (i.e. Modified Adjusted Gross Income, or MAGI programs) for Health First Colorado **decreased by 9,288 or 0.9 percent** from the beginning of October to the end of December 2019.

- Adult enrollment **decreased by 5,488 or 1.0 percent**. The decrease was particularly acute among parents/caretakers earning up to 69 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), with a 6,073 decrease. This was offset by a 1,486 increase among parents/caretakers in the 69 to 133 percent FPL category. Enrollment among MAGI adults decreased as well by 901.
- Pregnant adult enrollment **decreased by 849 or 6.1 percent** with a similar decrease in each month.
- Children's enrollment **decreased by 2951 or 0.6 percent** with a decrease in every month.



2019 Trends

The total number of people enrolled in Health First Colorado MAGI programs and CHP+ programs **decreased by 56,382 or 4.9 percent in 2019**. Enrollment decreased by **12,154 or 1.1 percent** from the beginning of October to end of December 2109.



What Impacted Enrollment in Q4?

Enrollment in both CHP+ and Health First Colorado decreased in the fourth quarter. The majority of the decrease in enrollment for CHP+ occurred in November, while it was most pronounced in December for Health First Colorado. While it remains unclear what is driving these changes, it is concerning that the decreases seem to be occurring at higher rates for parents/caretaker relatives earning up to 69 percent FPL.

There are several possible factors that may be impacting these changes and CKF is interested in exploring more:

- The Open Enrollment period began on November 1 and ran throughout the end of Q4, ending on January 15, 2020. In past years, this often resulted in an increase in Health First Colorado and CHP+ enrollments. This year, however, enrollment continued to decline in both programs.
- The Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing continued to work to mitigate resulting backlogs from the Colorado Benefit Management System Transformation project, which went live in August 2019. Assisters reported that real-time eligibility determinations through the online PEAK application decreased after this project. Along with a sustained backlog for processing at county human services offices, this could account for reports from assisters that some clients have been losing

coverage on Health First Colorado or CHP+ due to verifications not being processed in a timely manner.

- The final rule by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on public charge, which would include Medicaid as a factor of declaring a lawful immigrant a 'public charge,' and decrease their ability to get a green card, was blocked from going into effect on October 15, 2019, by several federal injunctions. During Q4 several cases were litigated, and, in December, two of the three nationwide injunctions were lifted. The rule's pending implementation has created a 'chilling effect' on enrollment likely persuading many lawful immigrants and their families to not enroll or disenroll in Health First Colorado.
- Colorado's economy is strong, and more members may be losing eligibility due to increasing family incomes. However, CHP+ enrollment would likely rise or stay steady if this were the case from families moving from Health First Colorado to CHP+ or off of CHP+. Since enrollment in both programs is decreasing, this is likely not the main factor.

Looking Forward

In the future, we anticipate further decline in enrollment in CHP+ and Health First Colorado. On January 30, 2020, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced that the final public charge rule would be implemented on February 24, 2020. Due to this, we will likely see an increase in the chilling effect, resulting in a further decrease in enrollment among families with an immigrant family member.