

Covering Iowa Children Better

The Increasing Role — and Success — of Public Health Coverage

By Charles Bruner and Carrie Fitzgerald

Since 2007, Iowa's state government and the federal government have taken significant steps to expand public health coverage programs for children.

At the federal level, the Child Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA) gave both options and incentives for states to streamline their eligibility procedures, to cover children up to 300 percent of poverty without a federal waiver, and to cover lawfully residing immigrant children without a five-year waiting period.

At the state level, Iowa lawmakers and Governor Culver took advantage of nearly all federal options under CHIPRA for Iowa's CHIP program, *hawk-i* (*Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa*). In Medicaid they established the Family Opportunity Act for children with disabilities to stay covered up to 300 percent of poverty and streamlined eligibility for both Medicaid and *hawk-i*. With the federal government paying the major share for children's health coverage under these programs, Iowa lawmakers appropriated the needed matching state funds to provide for these expansions through state fiscal year 2011.

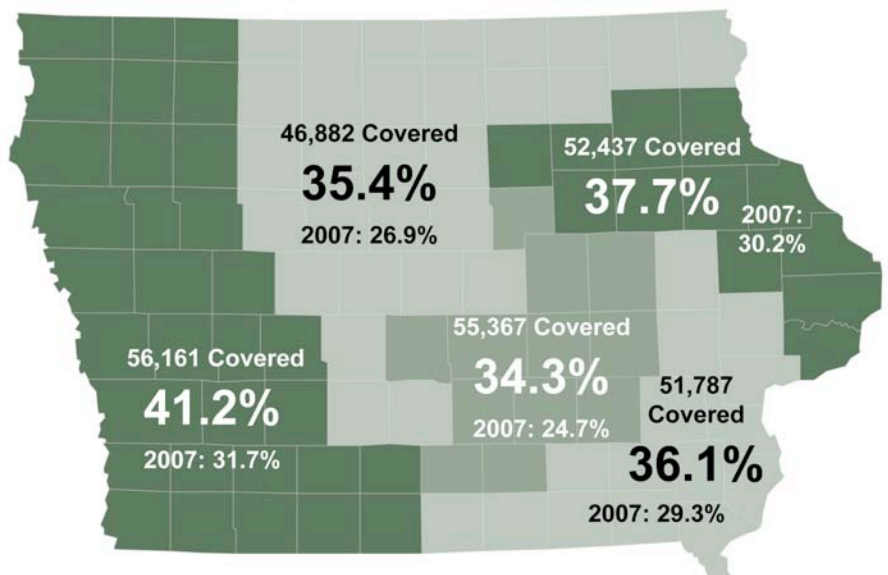
Since 2007, 60,000 more children now are covered in either Medicaid or *hawk-i*.

- In April 2007, 202,741 children in Iowa were covered by Medicaid or *hawk-i*.
- Three years later, in April 2010, 262,634 children in Iowa were covered.
- The percentage of children under 18 covered in Iowa under Medicaid or *hawk-i* grew from 28.5 percent to 36.9 percent of all children.

Information on the growth in coverage of Iowa children by U.S. congressional district is at right. The Fifth District, in western Iowa, has the highest proportion of children covered by these programs, 41.2 percent of all children.

Growth in children's coverage occurred across the state. All counties experienced growth in the number and proportion of children covered under Medicaid and *hawk-i*. The number of children served in an Iowa House district from 2007 to 2010 grew on average by 599 children overall, with 126 of those covered by *hawk-i* — with double those amounts in Iowa Senate districts.

Medicaid, *hawk-i* Covering More Iowa Kids By Congressional District, April 2010



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This growth in coverage cannot all be attributed to program changes. The recession and loss of employment and health coverage increased the need for these programs. Plus, rising private health insurance costs, particularly for family coverage, may have reduced the availability or affordability of private health plans covering children. From 2006 to 2008, an estimated 40,000 Iowa children were uninsured at any one time (most recent federal figures), with a higher figure uninsured at some time during the year. Recent state and federal actions provide much greater health coverage options for uninsured children in Iowa. The increase in public coverage may not cover all uninsured children, but has gone a long way to ensuring that children have access to care. The increase in children covered under Medicaid and *hawk-i* shows parents value and use these programs for their children.

Table 1. Public Health Insurance for Children Has Grown in Every Iowa County Since 2007

	Change Total CHIP	Change, All Medicaid Children	% Served 2007	% Served 2010
First Congressional District				
Black Hawk	423	2131	35.0%	42.4%
Bremer	74	143	19.3%	22.1%
Buchanan	78	285	24.4%	29.7%
Butler	65	318	26.2%	36.2%
Clayton	43	279	23.9%	31.1%
Clinton	208	868	35.1%	42.7%
Delaware	90	357	21.8%	30.4%
Dubuque	331	1660	25.3%	32.8%
Fayette	108	427	36.8%	46.5%
Jackson	48	262	32.0%	38.0%
Jones	56	366	25.1%	33.6%
Scott	634	3254	31.7%	39.5%
TOTALS	2158	10350	30.2%	37.7%
Second Congressional District				
Appanoose	45	181	44.7%	51.0%
Cedar	81	363	19.3%	28.3%
Davis	53	111	23.3%	28.3%
Des Moines	250	816	41.8%	50.3%
Henry	87	507	37.1%	48.6%
Jefferson	5	200	40.4%	47.1%
Johnson	260	1379	18.8%	23.9%
Lee	-33	578	41.3%	48.7%
Linn	721	2996	25.8%	31.5%
Louisa	27	107	37.1%	40.7%
Muscatine	250	1340	31.7%	43.9%
Van Buren	32	150	31.3%	40.0%
Wapello	87	585	47.6%	54.7%
Washington	119	473	24.9%	33.8%
Wayne	-1	41	38.1%	41.0%
TOTALS	1983	9827	29.3%	36.1%
Third Congressional District				
Benton	40	283	22.4%	26.9%
Grundy	81	171	15.9%	22.5%
Iowa	82	251	19.3%	26.0%
Jasper	170	795	25.9%	35.5%
Keokuk	48	175	31.8%	39.0%
Lucas	4	159	37.1%	44.3%
Mahaska	129	429	31.1%	39.2%
Marion	167	520	22.6%	29.4%
Monroe	-9	106	35.6%	41.8%
Polk	2057	11771	24.4%	34.8%
Poweshiek	86	340	26.4%	35.6%
Tama	87	491	24.6%	35.7%
TOTALS	2942	15491	24.7%	34.3%
Fourth Congressional District				
Allamakee	123	314	32.9%	42.2%
Boone	-1	329	26.6%	32.2%
Calhoun	63	179	31.7%	41.3%
Cerro Gordo	214	732	33.1%	40.9%
Chickasaw	83	255	23.8%	32.9%
Dallas	370	1230	14.7%	22.4%
Emmet	42	228	33.1%	42.7%
Floyd	75	386	31.8%	42.2%
Franklin	32	221	36.2%	45.4%
Fourth Congressional District, cont'd.				
Greene	51	154	34.3%	42.0%
Hamilton	90	368	28.9%	39.5%
Hancock	84	246	26.6%	36.5%
Hardin	68	335	31.1%	39.7%
Howard	84	252	29.0%	40.5%
Humboldt	75	183	32.2%	41.2%
Kossuth	30	197	28.1%	34.2%
Madison	139	300	21.1%	29.0%
Marshall	283	1312	39.2%	52.4%
Mitchell	29	104	20.4%	24.5%
Palo Alto	14	134	28.9%	35.7%
Pocahontas	29	161	31.1%	41.8%
Story	205	1185	19.5%	27.0%
Warren	218	862	18.3%	26.6%
Webster	195	546	39.6%	45.9%
Winnebago	60	260	27.0%	38.5%
Winneshiek	83	292	24.8%	32.3%
Worth	21	149	20.8%	29.9%
Wright	57	311	35.7%	46.3%
TOTALS	2816	11225	26.9%	35.4%
Fifth Congressional District				
Adair	1	57	32.4%	36.2%
Adams	9	53	35.8%	42.0%
Audubon	0	31	27.4%	29.7%
Buena Vista	210	801	35.1%	51.4%
Carroll	105	385	23.0%	31.0%
Cass	135	433	35.6%	50.4%
Cherokee	52	186	32.4%	40.5%
Clarke	92	358	32.4%	48.6%
Clay	119	431	31.7%	43.5%
Crawford	139	413	37.9%	47.8%
Decatur	40	234	41.6%	54.9%
Dickinson	35	204	23.0%	29.2%
Fremont	24	96	32.5%	38.3%
Guthrie	60	178	25.7%	33.0%
Harrison	56	199	31.1%	36.8%
Ida	29	144	32.0%	41.8%
Lyon	82	201	18.6%	25.6%
Mills	31	175	26.3%	31.0%
Monona	46	135	41.8%	48.9%
Montgomery	28	182	44.3%	51.7%
O'Brien	101	334	27.9%	39.0%
Osceola	20	93	23.6%	30.1%
Page	29	246	38.2%	45.6%
Plymouth	135	466	18.5%	26.2%
Pottawattamie	265	2390	34.5%	45.3%
Ringgold	33	105	28.5%	38.1%
Sac	47	66	30.4%	33.4%
Shelby	19	118	30.4%	34.9%
Sioux	153	628	20.1%	27.8%
Taylor	3	130	31.5%	40.9%
Union	19	243	37.1%	46.4%
Woodbury	647	3336	36.0%	47.8%
TOTAL	2764	13051	31.7%	41.2%