



Children's Medicaid and CHIP- Fact Sheet

Why are Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) important?

- Over 77 million people in the U.S. use Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to pay for their health care, including:
 - Nearly half of all U.S. children (more than 36 million).
 - Approximately 7 million children with special health care needs.

How do these programs help children with special health care needs?

- **They pay for preventive and specialty health care, dental care, mental health care and therapies** to help children reach their fullest potential.
- **They fund specialized medical equipment** such as wheelchairs, walkers and communication devices.
- **Medicaid also covers services to help families** including:
 - Personal care attendants so caregivers can work.
 - Home and community-based services to prevent institutionalization.

Potential impacts of funding cuts:

- Fewer health care providers and services.
- Reduced access to care (particularly in rural communities) and longer wait times.
- Delays in early intervention.
- Increased utilization of costly emergency care.

Research Support and More Information:
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