



Teachers for Healthy Kids

A Project of the California Teachers Association & the California Association of Health Plans

What Do You Know About The Uninsured?

- T F 1. 85% of uninsured children have at least one person in the workplace.
- T F 2. A family of 4 with an annual income of \$45,000 is eligible for publicly supported health insurance.
- T F 3. Most uninsured students receive their health care from primary care physicians such as family practitioners and pediatricians.
- T F 4. The Healthy Families program provides coverage for parents and children.
- T F 5. Children in families who sign up for and qualify for the free and reduced lunch program can be automatically eligible for Medi-Cal.
- T F 6. Latino children are four times as likely as non-Latino whites to be uninsured.
- T F 7. Parents must be citizens or have legally entered the country in order for their children to receive publicly sponsored health coverage.
- T F 8. Two-thirds of California's uninsured children live in Southern California.
- T F 9. Most parents know about their children's eligibility for Medi-Cal and Healthy Families, but do not apply due to the stigma of being on welfare.
- T F 10. Medi-Cal is only available for families on welfare or public assistance.

See answers on the back

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ANSWERS

TRUE 1. 85% of uninsured children have at least one parent in the workplace.

51% of uninsured families are headed by at least one full time employee. Despite employment, these families require subsidies to make health insurance affordable. (2002 UCLA Center for Health Policy Study)

TRUE 2. A family of 4 with an annual income of \$45,250 is eligible for publicly-supported health coverage.

A family of four with this income would be eligible for the Healthy Families program. A family can own a house or car and still qualify if they meet eligibility requirements.

FALSE 3. Most uninsured students receive their health care from primary care physicians such as family practitioners and pediatricians.

Uninsured children are five times more likely than their uninsured counterparts to rely on the emergency room for their regular source of care. They are three times as likely to lack dental care, and twice as likely to go without needed prescriptions and eyeglasses. (Children's Defense Fund Report, 2001)

FALSE 4. The Healthy Families program includes coverage for parents and children.

Currently, the Healthy Families program only covers children. California has been granted a waiver to cover parents, but current budget problems have led the state to delay implementation. 2/3 of the funding for Healthy Families is federal but requires a 1/3 state match.

TRUE 5. Children in families who sign up for and qualify for the free and reduced School Lunch Program can be automatically eligible for Medi-Cal.

A program called Express Lane Eligibility is being piloted that cuts through bureaucratic barriers facing families. It allows information in the School Lunch Program application to be shared by other public programs. Children determined income eligible for Medi-Cal through the School Lunch application will immediately receive benefits. Families of children eligible for Healthy Families will be contacted for additional information.

TRUE 6. Latino children are 4 times as likely as non-Latino whites to be uninsured.

Latino children are less likely to be covered by job-based insurance than other ethnic groups. 82% of low-income uninsured children in families enrolled in the School Lunch Program are Latino. (Children's Partnership, 2002)

FALSE 7. Parents must be citizens or have legally entered the country in order for their children to receive publicly-sponsored health coverage.

The citizenship status of parents has no bearing on the child's eligibility for Healthy Families or Medi-Cal. This information is confidential and not shared with immigration officials.

TRUE 8. Two-thirds of California's uninsured children live in Southern California.

2/3 of eligible children live in Southern California. 1/3 of these children live in Los Angeles. 1 in 8 lives in the San Joaquin Valley, 1 in 10 lives in the Bay Area and Sacramento, and 1 in 12 lives in Central Coast counties.

FALSE 9. Most parents know about their children's eligibility for Medi-Cal and Healthy Families, but do not apply due to the stigma of being on welfare.

Most parents do not apply because they are unaware of the programs or do not know their children are eligible. 7 out of 10 parents of eligible but uninsured children said they would enroll in free or low-cost programs if they knew their children were eligible. (RW Johnson Covering Kids Report. UCLA Center for Health Policy, 2002 study.)

FALSE 10. Medi-Cal is only available for families on welfare or public assistance.

People in many different situations qualify for Medi-Cal. This includes the aged, blind and disabled, CalWORKS recipients (California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids, previously called AFDC) and pregnant women and children. More than 50% of Medi-Cal enrollees are members of working families.