



## **MONTHLY MEDICAID ENROLLMENT REPORT**

Voices for Children is pleased to present this new resource, the “Monthly Medicaid Enrollment Report”. We developed this report, in consultation with colleagues, to provide timely, accurate information on Medicaid enrollment trends throughout Ohio.

Reports will be updated monthly and will be available at our website, [www.vfc-oh.org](http://www.vfc-oh.org). For more information or to let us know what you think and if/how this report is helpful for you, contact Mary Wachtel, Director of Public Policy, 614.225.9073, [mary.wachtel@voicesforclevelandschildren.org](mailto:mary.wachtel@voicesforclevelandschildren.org).

## **USING THIS DATA**

### **What We Have**

This table provides a snapshot of each county’s Medicaid population in the month identified, broken out by age group and eligibility type as well as by delivery model (fee for service/managed care). These numbers are provided by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Office of Ohio Health Plans. We have calculated the percentages of persons within the eligibility categories who receive Medicaid through the fee for service or managed care model. We have calculated the percentage of all children and adults who receive Medicaid during the month in question, using the Census 2000 county figures as a population base. We have also included for comparison the percentage of children and adults who are uninsured in the county, using figures from the Ohio Family Health Survey, 2004.

### **Here is what the data can provide for you**

- Point in time baseline data for any county to measure enrollment change;
- Easy to see distribution of Medicaid recipients by broad eligibility categories (Covered Families and Children (CFC), and Aged, Blind and Disabled (ABD));
- Comparative Medicaid enrollment data for infants, young children and all other children through age 18 in “Covered Families and Children” Medicaid;
- Medicaid enrollment attributed to the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP);
- The monthly fee for service/managed care split of CFC eligibles and ABD eligibles;
- Percentage of children covered by Medicaid in each county, contrasted with the percentage of uninsured children in each county, as reported in the 2004 Family Health Survey.



### **How this data can be useful**

We believe this data will be useful to you in these ways, among others:

- For organizations engaged in outreach to potential Medicaid clients, this up-to-date enrollment data will help you track your efforts and refine your strategies. For example, advocates seeing a high rate of uninsured children in a county (5.4 percent is the state average for children) can watch the Medicaid enrollment of children from month to month to see if their outreach efforts are successful.
- For persons seeking grants it will enable you to talk authoritatively about the number and percentage of families and persons with disabilities who are enrolled in Medicaid and how that relates to the population living in poverty and the uninsured population.
- As the state responds to recent legislative requirements to expand managed care throughout the state, this data will allow the reader to track the expansion by county.
- This will offer legislators and other policymakers the ability to monitor Medicaid growth or reduction by eligibility category (children, parents) and service delivery (managed care vs. fee for service).
- This data is a resource for those who report the important role that Medicaid plays in the health care safety net.

We wish to express our appreciation to the Office of Health Plan Policy of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services for not only providing the enrollment data, but for preparing several version as we worked to provide a concise but thorough picture of Medicaid enrollment.

The Medicaid population is subject to churning. That is, while the numbers from month to month may look much the same, the people making up that number are changing. This results from income changes among very low income families, redetermination requirements, children being born and children “aging out” of the system, and people meeting a “spenddown” in one month, but not other months. Thus the total number of reported Medicaid eligibles (see note below) in a year will be significantly larger than the reported number of Medicaid eligibles in any one month. For these reasons, these figures should be read in conjunction with the yearly statistical summary posted by the Ohio Office of Health Plans at:  
<http://jfs.ohio.gov/ohp/reports/ohMedRpts.stm>.

Finally, special thanks to Kathleen Gmeiner, independent consultant, who managed the development of this report on behalf of Voices for Children of Greater Cleveland.

**Note:** ODJFS uses the term “Medicaid eligibles” to refer to persons who are enrolled in Medicaid.

## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

**Covered Families and Children:** A broad eligibility category within the Ohio Medicaid program. Participants include:

- **Parents** (of children under age 19), with incomes <90% of FPL (\$14,481 annually for family of 3)\*\*
- **Pregnant women** with incomes < 150% of FPL (\$24,135 annually for family of 3)
- **Children** under age 19 with incomes < 200% of FPL (\$32,180 annually for family of 3)

(\*\*As of January 2006, parent's eligibility is reduced from 100% of FPL to 90%)

**Medicaid:** A federal/state program that provides health coverage to low income families, children, aged, blind and disabled people. Ohio's Medicaid program covers over 1.7 million people per month. Medicaid is administered by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services; eligibility is determined by county departments of job and family services.

**Office of Ohio Health Plans:** The unit with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services which oversees the Medicaid program.