

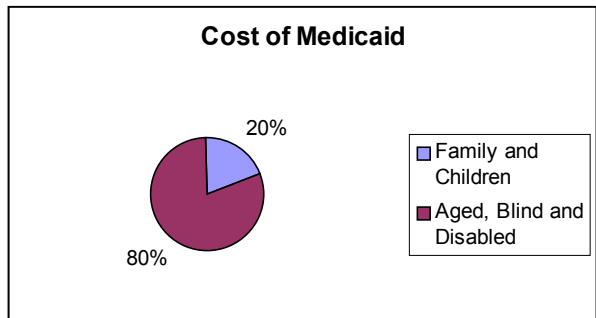
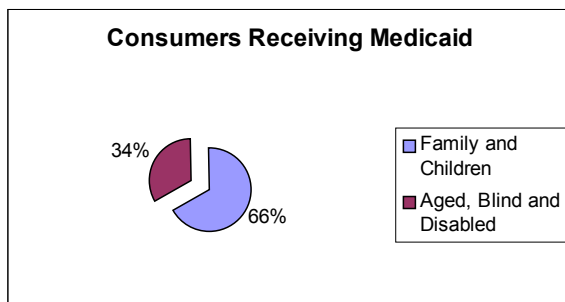


Greater Cleveland  
for Greater Kids

## Children and Family Medicaid Fact Sheet

### Quick Facts:

- Families and children represent 2/3 of Medicaid consumers but account for only 20% of the total Medicaid budget.<sup>1</sup>
- 80% of costs are incurred by persons covered by Medicaid's Aged, Blind and Disabled program who comprise approximately 1/3 of Medicaid consumers. <sup>1</sup>
- 75% of families and children covered by Medicaid live in working families.<sup>1</sup>



- About 75% of Medicaid spending occurs in three categories: long term care (nursing homes and institutions), hospitals and prescription drugs.<sup>1</sup>
- In 1999 Healthy Start spent an average of \$1060 for each non-disabled child. Because the federal government pays most of the cost, Ohio's annual cost per child was between \$307 and \$445.<sup>2</sup>

### Explaining Rising Medicaid Costs:

- The increase in Medicaid cost is due to several factors; medical inflation and increases in case load size.
- There was a monthly average of 10,000 net increase in the number of individuals on Medicaid for FY2001. The bulk of this increase was in the Family and Children program. This sustained growth is higher and longer than ODJFS had projected, yet shows the need among working families and the success of outreach efforts at the county level.

### Areas of Concern:

- Advocates hear that there are a number of counties still not processing applications in a timely manner.
- Eligibility should be maintained at current levels. Families count on these programs for their health insurance so a sudden change in eligibility would be dramatic for many working families.
- There is growing recognition among many that Ohio needs to simplify the reapplication process. Many states have implemented effective reapplication policies such as a passive reapplication and self declared income. ODJFS should work with advocates and counties to address this issue.
- There is no state directed outreach; outreach contracts have been postponed.

<sup>1</sup> ODJFS Barb Edwards Budget Testimony

<sup>2</sup> Children's Defense Fund Ohio