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CHIP Enrollment Snapshot: December 2013

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In December 2013, nearly 5.8 mi

(CHIP.) Enrollment in December 2013 increased on net by 175,020 or by 3.1 percent, compared to one year earlier. Since 2011, annual rates of growth have remained fairly steady, hovering around 3 percent. In contrast, during the height of the Recession, enrollment increased annually by 6.9 to 8.1 percent. (Figure 1, Appendix Tables 1 and 2)

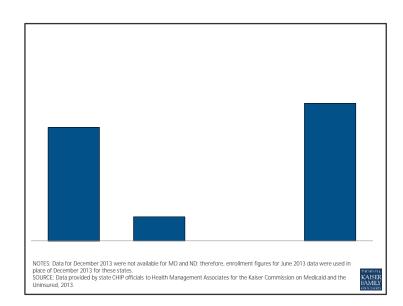
ACA ELIGIBILITY CHANGES FOR CHILDREN

The ACA requires that Medicaid cover children
with incomes up to 133 percent of the federal
poverty level (FPL) as of January 2014. Before this
change, states were required to cover children
under the age of six in families with income of at
least 133 percent FPL and school-age children and
teens with incomes up to 100 percent FPL in
Medicaid. Many states already covered children
with incomes up to 133 percent FPL in Medicaid,
but due to the change in law, 21 states needed to
transition some children, mostly school-age
children with incomes between 100 and 133 (a.k.a.
Stairstep children) from their CHIP state plans to
their Medicaid state plans.² (Figure 2) These children remain eligible for the Title XXI Federal CHIP match,

Continued improvement in economic conditions likely resulted in both some growth as children shifted from Medicaid to CHIP and some declines as family incomes continued to increase above CHIP eligibility levels. CHIP offers coverage to low-income children in families who do not have access to affordable coverage but whose incomes are above Medicaid eligibility levels. Therefore, economic pressures provide both upward and downward pressure on enrollment. As the economy continues to improve, as it did during 2013, family income rises, which results in some children shifting from Medicaid to CHIP coverage. However, economic conditions improving can also result in some children leaving the program as income increases above CHIP eligibility levels for higher income families.

Successful outreach and enrollment efforts for new Marketplaces likely pushed enrollment up in some states. Implementation of the major coverage provisions of the ACA had begun but had not been completed. Broad outreach efforts to encourage individuals to apply for coverage (through CHIP, Medicaid, or the Marketplaces) were well underway; such efforts in the past have been noted to apply upward pressure on CHIP enrollment. CHIP programs also face the same ACA requirements in terms of enrollment simplifications, coordination with Medicaid and the new Marketplaces, as well as the use of Modified Adjust Gross Income beginning in 2014. The full effect of these changes would occur just after this data collection period.

Problems implementing new enrollment systems for the Federally Facilitated Marketplace (FFM) and State Based Marketplaces (SBM) likely put downward pressure on CHIP enrollment growth. States and the Federal Government faced IT systems challenges, particularly early on in the open enrollment period, which may have applied some downward pressure on CHIP enrollment during this period.



CONCLUSION

Overall, CHIP enrollment growth remained on track with previous trends, despite much slower growth seen in the second half of this period (June 2013 to December 2013.) Economic improvements apply both upward and downward pressure on CHIP enrollment; as income increases some children shift from Medicaid to CHIP while others transition off the program as their income rises above CHIP eligibility levels. Like Medicaid, CHIP programs also saw some upward (through increased outreach) and downward pressure (from enrollment

Methodology					

- 3. Retroactive Eligibles. Medicaid expansion CHIP programs allow for up to three months of retroactive eligibility. Because of the timeliness of the data collection process, the CMS data do not generally reflect retroactive enrollment. For this report, we ask states to include retroactive enrollment whenever possible.
- 4. Trend. This data sources goes back to 2000, showing enrollment trends in monthly enrollment for December and June between 2000 and 2014. The CMS data captures monthly enrollment before open enrollment for the Marketplaces began (average of enrollment between June and September 2013) and enrollment for January, February and March 2014.

Table A-1: Total CHIP Enrollment by State (Monthly Enrollment), December 2006 - 2013								
State	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Alabama	65,739	70,078	70,858	72,206	75,246	83,865	85,762	84,431
Alaska	8,598	7,121	8,831	9,714	10,420	11,075	10,823	10,199