

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 12, 2011

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New survey results show Oregon has reduced by half the number of uninsured children

Oregon Healthy Kids Program has added 94,000 children to care in past two years

A state program that offers no-cost and low-cost health insurance to Oregon children has helped cut the number of uninsured children by half since 2009, a new survey released by the Oregon Health Authority confirms. The biannual Oregon Health Insurance Survey gathers detailed health insurance and health-related information from more than 10,000 Oregonians.

Oregon's Healthy Kids has brought affordable coverage to more than 90,000 Oregon children in the past two years. Healthy Kids administrator Cathy Kaufmann says the program's success translates into better health for Oregon children and real savings for families.

(Kaufmann)

INSURANCE MATTERS FOR KIDS AND TEENS BECAUSE WHEN KIDS HAVE HEALTH COVERAGE THEY'RE MORE LIKELY TO GET THE HEALTH CARE THEY NEED WHEN THEY NEED IT. AS THE MOTHER OF TWO YOUNG KIDS MYSELF, I KNOW THAT EVEN THE HEALTHIEST KIDS NEED REGULAR CHECKUPS AND PREVENTIVE CARE. AND INSURANCE FOR CHILDREN MATTERS BECAUSE IT HELPS PROTECT THE FINANCIAL STABILITY OF FAMILIES. WHEN KIDS AREN'T COVERED, A FAMILY CAN JUST BE ONE ACCIDENT ON THE PLAYGROUND AWAY FROM FINANCIAL RUIN.

(more)

Oregon's Healthy Kids program was created in 2009 to address skyrocketing health care costs by bringing affordable, high-quality health insurance to all Oregon children. The program offers no-cost and low-cost health coverage for uninsured Oregon children and teens 0-18, providing them with all the care they need, including preventive care such as regular check-ups, vision and dental care, prescriptions, and more.

Kaufmann says the program is the first of several efforts by the Oregon Health Authority to bring Oregonians better health care at lower costs.

(Kaufmann)

HEALTHY KIDS IS THE OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY'S FIRST STEP AT IMPROVING HEALTH CARE FOR ALL OREGONIANS. WE'VE MADE SURE THAT KIDS IN OUR STATE HAVE THE COVERAGE THAT THEY NEED, BUT OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF YEARS WE'LL BE WORKING HARD TO MAKE SURE THAT THEIR PARENTS AND OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS ARE ABLE TO ACCESS CARE, TOO.

Oregon families with uninsured children can apply for Healthy Kids today by calling 1-877-314-5678 or by visiting www.OregonHealthyKids.gov.

To learn more about Oregon's efforts to improve health care for everyone, go to www.health.oregon.gov

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