

## Study Shows "Healthy Kids" Closes Gap in Health Care for Children

### **Why Healthy Kids Was Created – And Why It Matters For Children in California**

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#### **Santa Clara County's Healthy Kids program fills a crucial health insurance gap for children:**

Healthy Kids provides health insurance to county children in households with income below 300 percent of the federal poverty level (\$58,000 for a family of four) who are ineligible for the two major state insurance programs for children, Medi-Cal and Healthy Families, because of their immigration status or because their family income is too high. Without Healthy Kids, most of these children would be uninsured. The study reports the on impact of Healthy Kids on children in households with incomes below 250% of the federal poverty level - children not eligible for Medi-Cal and Healthy Families due to their immigration status.

**Santa Clara started a movement toward health insurance for all kids:** Following Santa Clara County's lead, eighteen other California counties are running similar programs with more than 82,000 children enrolled. Fourteen more counties are in the process of developing their own programs.

### **The Findings - Healthy Kids is Working**

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- **Kids see a regular doctor:** Healthy Kids nearly doubles, from 50% to 89%, the proportion of children with a regular place to go for their health care.
- **Unmet needs plummet:** Healthy Kids cuts by more than half, from 22% to 10%, the proportion of children who needed physician care in the prior six months and did not get it.
- **Parents are confident:** Healthy Kids nearly doubles, from 43% to 75%, the proportion of parents who are very confident they can get care for their child when needed.
- **Dental care jumps:** Healthy Kids almost triples the proportion of children who had a cavity filled or tooth pulled (from 15% to 44%), as well as the proportion of children who had a preventive dental visit in the prior six months (from 23% to 61%).

### **Healthy Kids Enrollees are from Working Families, Rooted In The Community & Uninsured**

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- Three out of four Healthy Kids children are from two-parent working families.
- More than 90% of Healthy Kids children live in a household with a parent who is working.
- 43% come from families living in Santa Clara County for more than three years.
- 63% of Healthy Kids children had no health insurance coverage during the six months before enrolling. 45% never had health insurance coverage.

### **The Benefits for Children in Santa Clara County and the State**

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- **Better access to medical care:** Children receive needed medical care on a timely basis.
- **Improved dental health:** Children receiving regular dental care avoid deterioration in dental health, a significant source of pain, discomfort, and missed school days.
- **Increased enrollment in all programs:** Santa Clara County enrolled 28 percent more children in Medi-Cal and Healthy Families in part because of outreach for Healthy Kids.

About Healthy Kids: Since 2001, nearly 30,000 Santa Clara County children have been enrolled in Healthy Kids. Healthy Kids was launched in January 2001 by the Santa Clara County Children's Health Initiative ([www.chikids.org](http://www.chikids.org)). The study was funded by The David and Lucile Packard Foundation and conducted by Mathematica Policy Research, with subcontractors at the Urban Institute and the University of California, San Francisco. For more information on the study, see [www.mathematica-mpr.com/health/chi.asp](http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/health/chi.asp).