

Nearly 1 million more kids have health coverage after Obamacare

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(HealthDay)—Nearly 1 million U.S. children gained health insurance the

first year after the Affordable Care Act—also called Obamacare—was fully implemented, a new report shows.

The number of uninsured [children](#) fell from 5.4 million in 2013 to 4.5 million one year later, according to the study funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

"The importance of coverage for all kids is perhaps the single most widely accepted position in the highly politicized world of health reform," said Kathy Hempstead, who directs work on coverage issues at the foundation.

"We should be proud of the progress that we have made in recent years, and redouble our efforts to extend these protections to the several million children who are still without them," Hempstead said in a news release from the nonprofit organization.

Health care reform increased the percentage of kids eligible for the Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), the study found.

Across the country, 91 percent of kids eligible for Medicaid/CHIP were enrolled as of 2014. In 2013, 88.7 percent of eligible youngsters were enrolled. In 2008, enrollment was at 81.7 percent, the report showed.

Today, more than half of [states](#) have Medicaid/CHIP participation rates of more than 90 percent. States that expanded Medicaid for adults had the largest gains in Medicaid/CHIP participation, the researchers noted. The researchers suggested that parents who received new coverage under Medicaid may have learned more about the options available to their children.

Of the remaining 4.5 million [uninsured children](#) in the United States, more than 60 percent were eligible for Medicaid/CHIP in 2014, the

researchers said.

In states that expanded Medicaid, about 5 percent of eligible children were uninsured in 2014. In states that didn't expand coverage, about 8 percent of children were uninsured.

More information: The U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services provides more information on the [Children's Health Insurance Program](#).

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