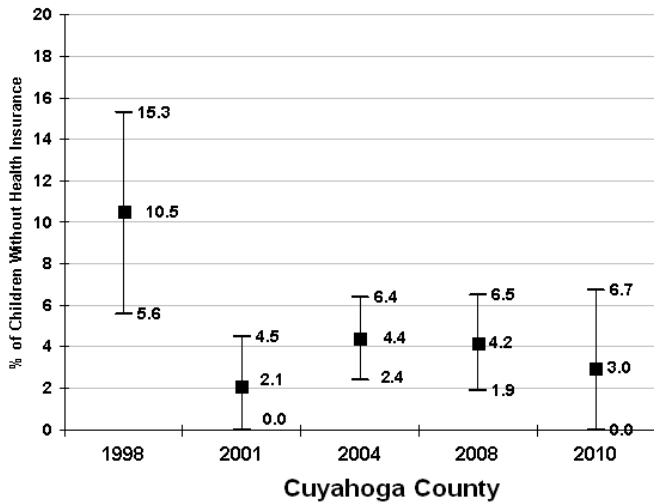


**Children Under Age Six with No Health Insurance Coverage (with 90% Confidence Intervals)**



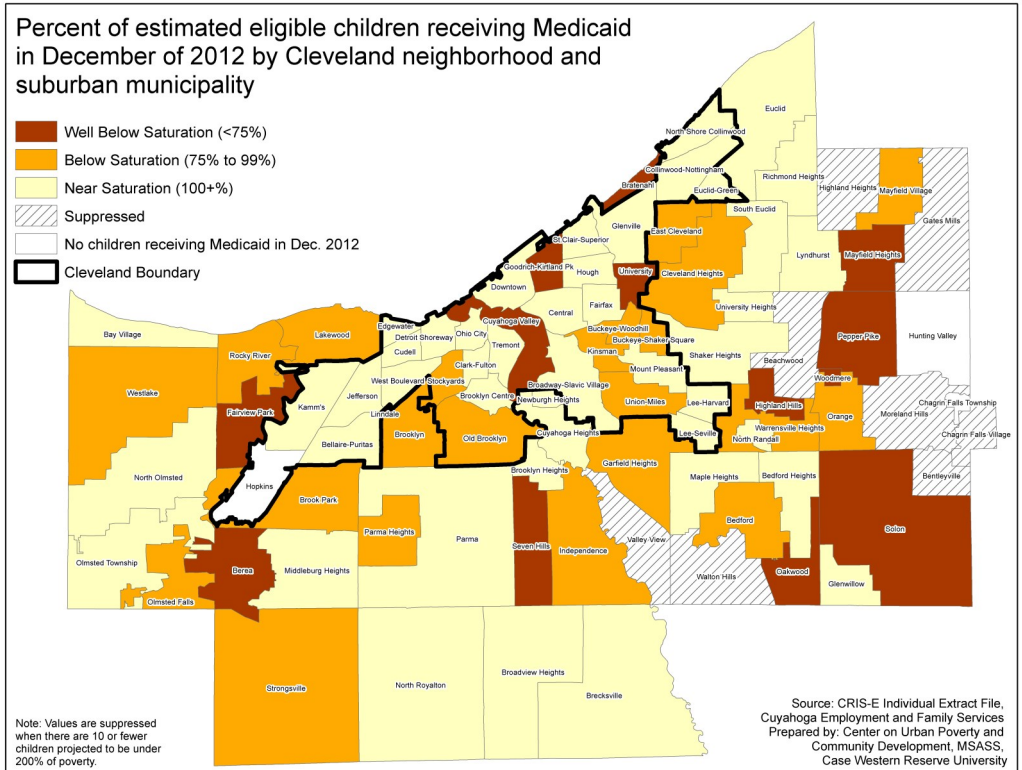
Access to health care is fundamental to the health of young children. Children without health insurance often do not have access to regular care. Research has shown that children without health insurance differ from their insured counterparts in a number of ways. Uninsured children have lower immunization rates, are less likely to have common conditions and emergencies attended to, and have more unmet mental health and chronic health conditions<sup>1</sup>.

This data brief data presents (1) estimates of the number of uninsured children in Cuyahoga County over time, and (2) the number of children enrolled in Medicaid versus the total number of children eligible.

The Ohio Family Health Survey measures health insurance coverage of young children as reported by their adult caregivers. In 2010, approximately 97% of

children under the age of six living in Cuyahoga County were covered by some form of health insurance (see graph above). This rate has been relatively stable over the last decade, but is markedly higher than the insured rate in 1998. In fact, the decline in uninsured children from 1998 to 2001 represents an unprecedented expansion of health insurance access that is attributed in part to the expansion of Healthy Start/Medicaid.

Children living in poverty are particularly at-risk for not receiving adequate medical care; however, they are eligible for health care coverage through Medicaid's Healthy Start program. Healthy Start is a federally-provided health insurance program for children living below 200% of the federal poverty line (FPL). To measure the extent to which eligible children are covered in Cuyahoga County, the number of children enrolled in Medicaid Healthy Start in 2012 was compared to the number of children living below 200% of the FPL.





# Health Insurance

Parent reported data for child under age 6 in household	Cuyahoga County	Ohio
Children’s health status rated as Excellent or Very Good by parent	82.40%	86.80%
Child currently using a medicine prescribed by a doctor	23.20%	17.10%
Child has a special health care need	21.50%	14.00%
Child has emotional, developmental, or behavioral problem for which he/she needs treatment or counseling	11.70%	5.80%
Child is limited or prevented in his/her ability to do things most children same age can do	10.20%	6.50%
Child has a usual source of health care	93.80%	97.80%
Have someone parent thinks of as the child’s personal doctor	86.00%	90.00%
Received a well-child visit in the last 12 months	82.40%	90.10%

Data source: Ohio Family Health Survey, 2010

Across the county, 64,053 children under the age of six were enrolled in Medicaid for at least one month in December 2012, approximately 72% of all children in the county. The map on page 1 highlights pockets of eligible children not being reached by Medicaid. Most of these areas are in the suburbs (e.g., Fairview Park, Berea, Mayfield Heights, Solon), perhaps indicative of a lack of knowledge regarding public assistance given the surrounding demography. Contrast this with the City of Cleveland where, while need is more prevalent, so too is access to care.

Data were gathered and analyzed using the Ohio Family Health Survey on health care needs and health care access. As shown in the table above, the majority of children under the age of six in Cuyahoga County have a regular source of health care and have received a well-child visit in the last year; however, these percentages still lag behind state-wide rates. In addition, the percentages of children in Cuyahoga County with special health care needs, emotional, developmental, or behavioral problems, and other limitations are greater than rates in the State of Ohio as a whole.

Lastly, health care coverage does not necessarily imply utilization. While currently unavailable at the county-level, national data suggest many children covered by Medicaid may not be receiving the recommended amount of health care. For example, in 2012 the proportion of children receiving well-child visits was generally below recommended guidelines; approximately 61% of children had six or more well-child visits in the first 15 months of life<sup>2</sup>. While Invest in Children programming has made great strides in fostering healthier communities through healthier children, there is still unmet need.

<sup>1</sup>Bernstein, Chollet, and Peterson (2011) How does insurance coverage improve health outcomes?  
[http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/pdfs/health/reformhealthcare\\_IB1.pdf](http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/pdfs/health/reformhealthcare_IB1.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2012). *Annual report on the quality of care for children in Medicaid and CHIP*. Retrieved from <http://www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Quality-of-Care/Downloads/2012-Ann-Sec-Rept.pdf>