On February 15, the Center for Children and Families (CCF) at the Georgetown University Health Policy Institute released a report which revealed that children represent close to half of the TennCare and CoverKids enrollment growth during the pandemic. As redeterminations begin in Tennessee and across the country, children are at particularly high risk of losing coverage. CCF estimates that 72% of children who are disenrolled from Medicaid programs nationwide will in fact still be eligible. This error, known as administrative churn, threatens to more than double the uninsured rate for children, which would be a major step back from the progress seen during the pandemic.

In Tennessee, 130,663 children newly obtained coverage through the TennCare and CoverKids programs from 2020 to 2022. Today, nearly 60% of the children in our state depend on these programs for health insurance. As the unwinding process ensues, state leaders must center children in their efforts to minimize coverage gaps. The stakes are especially high for Black and Latino children who, nationally, depend on public coverage at greater rates than other racial groups.

On March 1, TJC will be hosting a free webinar to provide an overview of the renewal process as well as review TennCare’s redetermination plan. Register now to learn more about how to mitigate coverage losses for children.
Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare and BlueCross BlueShield recently resolved their contract dispute, meaning BlueCare and TennCare Select enrollees can again receive covered care at Methodist facilities! Many West Tennessee children with complex medical needs can only receive care at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital, so this resolution was critical in ensuring children have access to the care they need. Thank you to the West Tennessee families who fought for their children’s health needs. Additionally, thank you to our partners who amplified this issue and signed TJC’s petition.

**Partner with Insure Our Kids!**

Insure Our Kids is a coalition bringing together the medical community and non-profit organizations to discuss policy and healthcare issues. Please join us! We need your voice! Take our partner survey here.

Follow Insure Our Kids on Facebook and e-mail Shana Watkins to learn more about the Insure Our Kids coalition.

**TJC in the News**

- In Tennessee, a Medicaid Mix-Up Might Land You on a ‘Most Wanted’ List
- TennCare uses scare tactics and aggressive enforcement to root out fraud. With millions spent, the agency has little to show for it.
- TennCare would cover more pregnancies and diapers under proposal from Gov. Bill Lee

**FEDERAL UPDATES**

Biden calls for Medicaid expansion in State of the Union address

Source: AP News
On February 7, President Biden delivered the State of the Union address in which he called for policy solutions to issues such as unaffordable health costs. Specifically, he urged legislators to expand Medicaid and make subsidies under the Affordable Care Act permanent -- they are currently due to expire in 2025. Additionally, he proposed an insulin cap of $35 per month, which would expand a policy already in effect for Medicare enrollees. Click here to read President Biden’s full State of the Union address.

**TN UPDATES**

**Update TennCare if Your Address Has Changed!**

TennCare redeterminations will begin in the spring and continue for the next year. During the last redetermination period, 128,000 children lost coverage despite the overwhelming majority remaining eligible. To avoid disenrollment for eligible children, it is important that TennCare has enrollees’ current address information. If your address has changed, call TennCare at 1-855-259-0701 or make a change through the TennCare Connect portal.

**PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

**Help Tennesseans Keep Their Health Coverage!**

Tennessee will soon start a year-long process to decide which people can keep their health coverage under the TennCare or CoverKids programs. Over a million Tennesseans face a threat to their health care. Without help, hundreds of thousands – most of whom are children or adults with disabilities – will lose access to care. Individuals, organizations and businesses are needed to help fellow Tennesseans get through this process.

**Partner Call to Action**

Organizations like schools, health care providers, and community groups whose clientele include many TennCare members, need to develop plans for helping them understand the process and what they must do to keep their coverage. We are hosting a Call to Action to level set and connect with partners across the state.

Please join us on March 1, 2023. Click here to register.

**Call for Volunteers**

Volunteers are needed to help individuals who cannot complete the process on their own. In the best traditions of the Volunteer State, all are invited to collaborate in a coordinated effort to help our neighbors. Please feel free to join
If you are interested in providing direct volunteer work with our organization, please sign up here.

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### Ways to Keep Your Health Coverage!

If you are on TennCare, you may get a packet from TennCare saying they need updated information. This packet will probably be sent to you this year by mail. *If you don't respond you might lose your TennCare or CoverKids health insurance.*

**What should you do right now?**
Make sure TennCare has your correct address. You can do this online through your TennCare Connect portal ([https://tenncareconnect.tn.gov/](https://tenncareconnect.tn.gov/)) or by calling TennCare Connect at 855-259-0701.

**What should you do when you get the packet?**
Fill it out and send it to TennCare as soon as you get it. Directions on where to send it will be in the packet. It is a good idea to keep proof that you sent it. For example, if you fax it, keep the fax receipt. If you need help filling out the packet, call us at (615) 255-0331.

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### UPCOMING WEBINARS

**TennCare Redetermination: A Call to Collaborate**

Wednesday, March 1st
11 AM CST

REGISTER
TennCare Redetermination: Advanced Training for Advocates

Wednesday, March 8
11 AM CST

REGISTER

KEEP UP WITH TJC ON SOCIAL MEDIA

{{Disclaimer}}

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