Barriers to Medicaid and CHIP Coverage for Eligible Latinx Children: A Texas Case Study

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Progress in Children’s Health Insurance Coverage

• The number of uninsured children in the US has steadily decreased in the past couple of decades

• This reduction was not equitable

• Uninsured Rates for Latinx youths is particularly high, currently double the national average

• Maximizing Medicaid and CHIP enrollment is key to reducing coverage inequities
37 million children are covered under Medicaid and CHIP nationwide.
Barriers to Medicaid Coverage for Latinx Children

- Lack of access to resources in languages other than English
- Concerns around how public benefits use could affect immigration status
- Limited contact and familiarity with health care system
Research Question and Methods

- **What are the barriers to gaining Medicaid coverage for Latinx children?**

- Texas Case Study: Large Latinx population and one of the highest uninsured rates for Latinx children

- Simulate Medicaid eligibility for Latinx children ages 5 to 16 in Texas using data from the American Community Survey

- 41 local areas based on counties or county groups
Over Half of Uninsured Latinx Children are eligible for Public Health Insurance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Uninsured Latinx</th>
<th>All other Uninsured</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thousands of children</td>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uninsured</td>
<td>330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eligible uninsured</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noncitizen parent(s)</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEP parent(s)</td>
<td>228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet access in the household</td>
<td>274</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 in 3 have a parent who has limited English proficiency

2 in 3 have at least one noncitizen parent
Evidence for alternative outreach strategies

Rates of Uninsured Latinx Children Ages 5 to 16 in Texas, and Counties Where More than 60 Percent Who Are Eligible for Medicaid/CHIP Are Uninsured, 2014-2018
Policy Recommendations

- **Low Hanging Fruit:** strategies to enroll and retain Medicaid eligible children who are uninsured
  - Making resources available in multiple languages
  - Engaging trusted messengers and messaging consistently
  - Reducing administrative barriers to enrollment and retention

- **Uninsured and Not Eligible**
  - Expand Medicaid and CHIP eligibility

- Funding efforts to develop data on health quality and access measures at the local level