

First 5 San Joaquin

Making a Difference...

Improving Health Systems



2008 Results Recognition Event

Health Insurance

What are we measuring and why it is important

Because it is difficult for most families in America today to pay all of their children's health care costs without insurance, the lack of affordable health insurance may prevent access to adequate health care.¹ It is estimated that one third of uninsured children in California do not qualify for federal and state health insurance programs.² To address this gap in coverage, 25 counties in California, including San Joaquin County, have formed a Children's Health Initiative (CHI). These initiatives work in two ways to improve access to care for children. They seek to increase enrollment in state and federal insurance (Medi-Cal and Healthy Families) for those who are eligible for such programs, while also expanding locally funded health insurance programs (known as Healthy Kids) for those children who are not eligible, due to family income level or undocumented immigrant status.

A recent study assessing Children's Health Initiatives in nine counties, including San Joaquin County, found positive impacts with regards to children's access to primary care.³ The study found that: Healthy Kids increases low-income children's access to primary care, therefore decreasing their chance of hospitalizations for preventable illnesses and manageable conditions. Further, Healthy Kids helped prevent over 1,000 hospitalizations each year from 2000 to 2005. This reduction saves the State of California and the federal government up to \$7.3 million annually in hospital costs.

First 5 San Joaquin investment

To address this gap in health insurance coverage and health access, First 5 San Joaquin has invested approximately \$700,000 per year since July 2003 to improve access to health care. First 5 San Joaquin serves as one of the few sources of funding for uninsured children who do not qualify for federal and state health insurance programs, providing prevention and early intervention, improving children's health, and helping to avoid costly problems in later life.

Additionally, First 5 provides for partial funding of the One-e-App system. With this system, families are able to determine eligibility status and submit a health insurance application at one convenient location. Offered at various sites throughout San Joaquin County, this web-based system has the ability to simplify the insurance application process.

Who are the funded partners

Since July 2003, First 5 San Joaquin has supported the county's Children's Health Initiative. Administered by the Health Plan of San Joaquin, the Healthy Kids program focuses funding on increasing outreach, enrollment, retention and utilization among children ages 0-5. First 5 San Joaquin's investment in Healthy Kids has also enabled the program to leverage funds from the state, the California Endowment, and Blue Shield, resulting in more health insurance money for San Joaquin County to support the local Healthy Kids program.

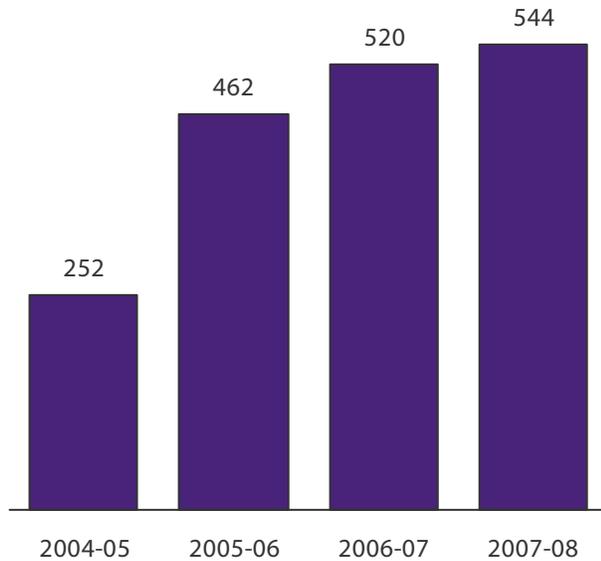
¹ National Commission on Children (1991) Beyond Rhetoric: A New American Agenda for Children and Families. Washington, DC

² Outcomes from Children's Health Initiatives in California, Center for Community Health Studies, USC, March 2007

³ Covering California's Kids Evaluation, Center for Community Health Studies at USC, December 2007

Evaluation Highlights

+ Over 500 Children Ages 0-5 Enrolled in Healthy Kids in FY 07-08



- In 2007-08, 544 children 0-5 enrolled in Healthy Kids.
- The number of children ages 0-5 enrolled in Healthy Kids has increased each year, for a total increase of 54 percent in the last four years.
- In an effort to increase enrollment, San Joaquin Healthy Kids, along with community agency and school staff throughout the county, use the One-e-App eligibility determination tool.

First 5 San Joaquin contractors screened over 20,000 children ages 0-5 for health insurance. Of those who were screened, 14% did not have health insurance and were referred to Healthy Kids, Medi-Cal or Healthy Families.

+ Trend Data Show an Increase in the Percentage of Children Utilizing Health Insurance

Utilization Rates for Children 0-5 Enrolled in Healthy Kids , 2004-05 -2007-08

	2004-05 (n=353)	2005-06 (n=462)	2006-07 (n=520)	2007-08 (n=544)	Percentage point change 2004-05 to 2007-08
Initial health assessment within 90 days (child taken to doctor for a health assessment within 90 days of enrollment)	37%	38%	43%	42%	+5
Primary care provider visit (child taken to doctor)	58%	65%	68%	70%	+12
Developmental assessment* (child's doctor conducted a developmental assessment)	44%	50%	56%	58%	+14
Dental care (child taken to dentist)	28%	29%	30%	43%	+15
Emergency room (child taken to ER)	**	13%	14%	12%	-1

- Utilization of a number of health services by Healthy Kids recipients increased in the last four years, with the largest increases seen in the proportion of children receiving dental care and developmental assessments.