



# Why Do School Aged Children Need Health Insurance?

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## Did you know . . .

- that children without insurance are less likely to get care for such things as ear infections which can lead to lifelong consequences like loss of hearing?
- that children with insurance are more likely to be healthy and that healthy kids do better in school?
- that children with insurance miss fewer days from school and because of this their parents also miss less time from work?
- that healthy children still need check-ups, shots and regular dental care so they can stay healthy?

## Health insurance helps parents know that their child will get the medical care they need—when they need it—no matter what the cost! <sup>1</sup>

A great deal of public attention has been given to the gains in children's health insurance coverage made in recent years. But while public program expansions have driven a significant increase in the number of children who are insured, more than 9 million still lack health insurance—that's one out of every eight children.<sup>2,3</sup>

## Six Good Reasons Why Children Should Have Health Insurance

1. Children with insurance are more likely to have a usual source of care.
2. Children with insurance are more likely to have access to preventive care.
3. Children with insurance get health care services they need.
4. Insuring children will help close the racial disparities gap.
5. Health insurance helps improve social and emotional development.
6. Insured children are better equipped to do well in school.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Why Is Child Health Insurance Important?, SignUpNow Tool Kit, c/o VA Health Care Foundation, 1001 E. Broad Street, Suite 445, Richmond, VA 23219.

<sup>2</sup>Why Health Insurance Matter for Children (Washington: Campaign for Children's Health Care, June 2006), p.1.

<sup>3</sup>2002-2004 U.S. Census data merge of children under age 19, conducted in March 2006 by Mark Merlis for Families USA. Available on file at Families USA.

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