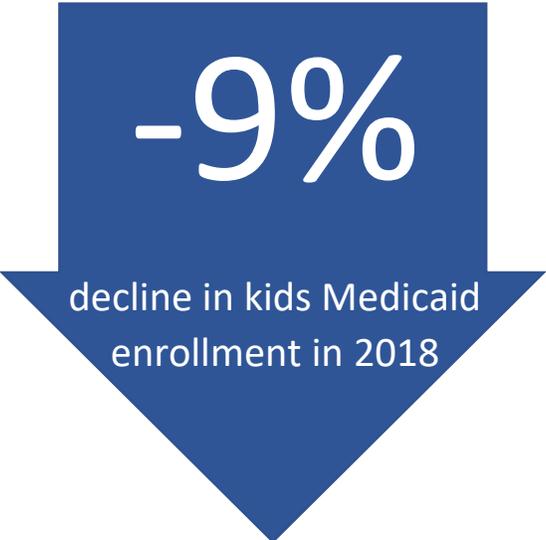


# Medicaid Fact Sheet: Historic Loss of Medicaid & CHIP for Missouri's Kids

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This is **nine times** the national average.



Missouri has the highest percentage decline of child Medicaid & CHIP enrollment.

Missouri children rely on Medicaid and CHIP for health insurance. Medicaid and CHIP coverage is beneficial to children's health and has positive economic impacts. Healthy kids are more likely to graduate from high school and find the kind of jobs that contribute to the economy. Recently, Missouri has seen a significant drop in child enrollment in Medicaid. 56,716 children lost coverage from January to December 2018.



In July 2018, 16,564 children lost coverage, one of the largest monthly declines in Missouri Medicaid history.

## Loss of Coverage: One Child's Story

A five year old with special health needs recently lost coverage due to problems during her annual review. Her family never received annual review forms in the mail. Her grandmother was unable to fill her prescriptions and the child was unable to attend her therapy appointments due to the loss of coverage. The child was still *eligible* for Medicaid. Legal Services of Eastern Missouri contacted the Family Support Division and supplied the missing form and coverage was restored.

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## System failures likely caused the decline

Missouri's children are hurt by the Medicaid system's red tape, computer system problems, and staffing issues. The significant decline started after annual reviews resumed in the State's new Medicaid computer system. The annual review process is lengthy and difficult for families to navigate, causing many eligible children to lose coverage. Federal law says the state should only require a family to complete a paper review form when the state is unable to get the information through electronic databases. Following federal law, many other states have been able to electronically verify information for more than half of their families and avoid the need for long complicated paper forms.

Missouri has required more than eighty percent of families to return a paper form. Children are losing coverage when the form is sent to an old address, the Family Support Division loses the form, the form is sent in English to a parent with limited English proficiency, or the parent is otherwise unable to understand the eight page form. When families have questions, the call center for the Family Support Division drops half of its calls and the families that get through average more than 20 minutes on hold.

Missouri legal aid offices are able to successfully assist these families in regaining coverage for their children who are almost always still eligible for health insurance. This success, however, does not resolve problems for the thousands of families without such assistance. Families losing health insurance coverage can reach out to legal aid and other organizations that are able to provide assistance.

**Data Sources:** Missouri children enrollment declined from 621,535 in January to 564,819 in December of 2018, a 9% decline. See Data from Missouri Department of Social Services *available at* <https://dss.mo.gov/mis/clcounter/history.htm>. Nationally, Medicaid enrollment for children declined from 35,714,311 in January 2018 to 35,230,350 in October 2018, a 1% decline. CMS data *available at* <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/program-information/medicaid-and-chip-enrollment-data/monthly-reports/index.html>. Federal data is not yet available for November and December 2018. Information on renewal process in other states from *Medicaid and CHIP Eligibility, Enrollment, Renewal, and Cost Sharing Policies as of January 2018: Findings from a 50-State Survey*, Kaiser Family Foundation <http://files.kff.org/attachment/Report-Medicaid-and-CHIP-Eligibility-Enrollment-Renewal-and-Cost-Sharing-Policies-as-of-January-2018>.