



Reducing Children’s Health Insurance (CHIP) Premiums Will Help Missouri Kids and Families Thrive

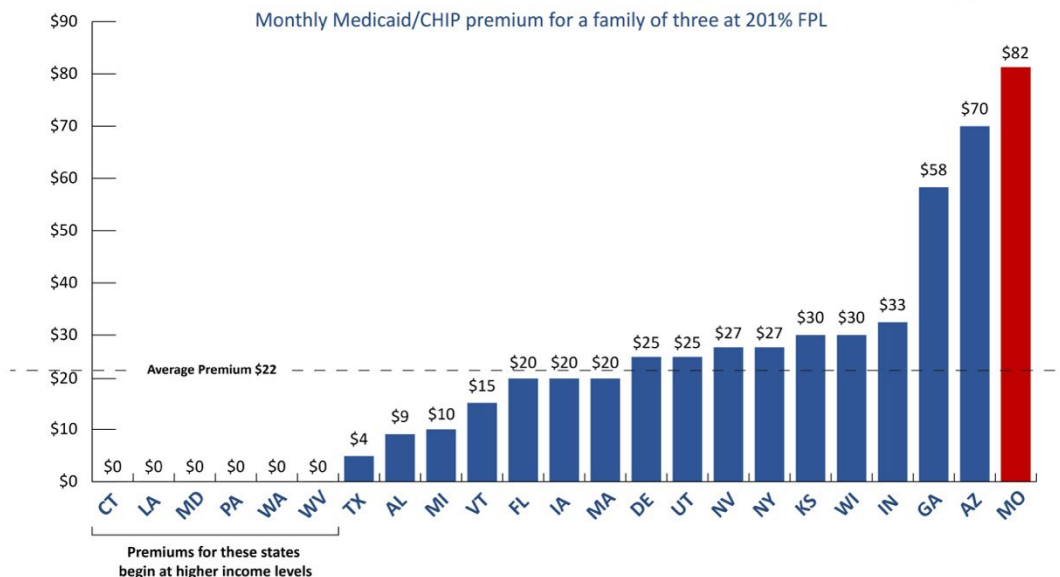
When kids have consistent access to health coverage, they can get the care they need to be healthy and succeed in school and beyond. In Missouri, ensuring access to coverage is particularly important for the nearly 30,000 kids in low-income families who rely on the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for health insurance.¹ Research shows that kids with Medicaid or CHIP have better health, increased levels of educational attainment, lower teen mortality rates, and earn more as adults than their peers without coverage.²

High premiums are a significant barrier to keeping Missouri kids covered.³

Unlike most states, Missouri requires low-income families to pay premiums for children’s health coverage in CHIP. Missouri’s CHIP premium rates are much higher than almost any other state – which contributes to unnecessary gaps in coverage and threatens the well-being of Missouri’s kids.

- 27 states do not require any premiums for children’s health coverage in Medicaid or CHIP.⁴
- Of the states that do require a premium, Missouri’s are far higher than the norm. **The average premium for a family of three earning 201% of the federal poverty level (FPL) is \$22 per month. In Missouri, it’s \$82.**⁵
- Even states with income eligibility levels equal to Missouri’s (300% of the federal poverty level) have lower premiums than Missouri’s.

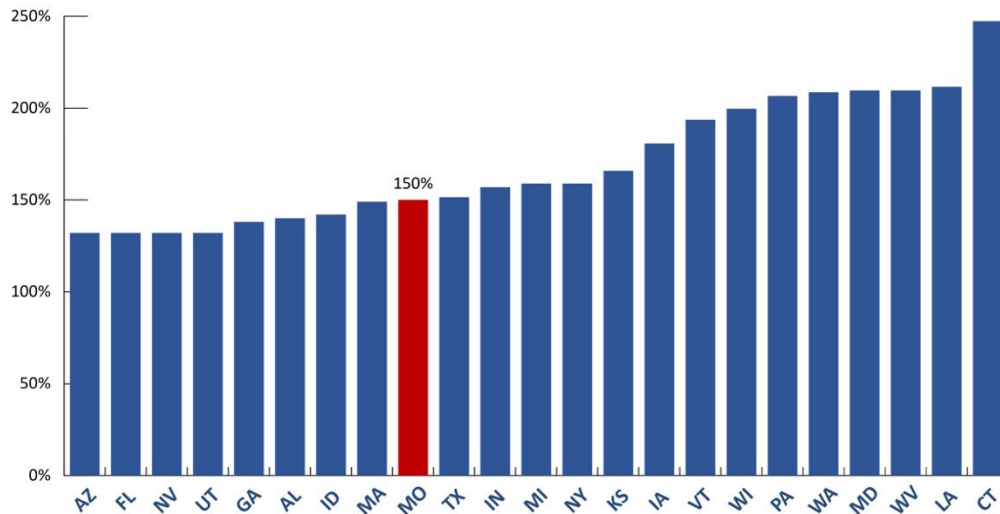
Missouri’s Premium Rates Are Among The Highest In The Country



Missouri also requires premiums at much lower income levels than most other states. In Missouri, premiums for children’s health coverage begin at 150% of the federal poverty level. Only eight other states require premiums at this income level.

Missouri Begins Assessing Premiums at a Lower Income Level than Most States

Only eight states other than Missouri require Medicaid/CHIP premiums at or below 150% FPL



It would cost Missouri very little to eliminate coverage premiums for all kids. Like Medicaid, CHIP is a federal and state partnership, and in Missouri the federal government pays 75% of the cost of the coverage. However, premiums do not count as part of the “state match” to leverage federal funds, which means that while Missouri collected \$12.8 million in premiums from families in Fiscal Year 2022,⁶ none of that amount drew down a federal match. If Missouri were to eliminate premiums for children in CHIP, more than 75% of the cost would be paid for through federal funds — **which means it would only cost Missouri about \$3 million annually to realize the enormous benefits of getting and keeping more kids covered.**

¹ Missouri Department of Social Services “Caseload Counter,” data from August 2023
² Thompson, Owen, “The long-term Health Impacts of Medicaid and CHIP,” Journal of Health Economics, Volume 51, January 2017, Pages 26-40.
³ Samantha Artiga, Petry Ubri, and Julia Zur, “The Effects of Premiums and Cost Sharing on Low-Income Populations: Updated Review of Research Findings,” Kaiser Family Foundation, 2017
⁴ *Note: Although premiums were not required during the public health emergency, Missouri continued to collect them. Six states that suspended collections (California, Colorado, Illinois, Maine, New Jersey, and North Carolina) do not plan to resume premiums after the public health emergency. These states are included in this fact sheet among the states that do not assess premiums. Alabama, Nevada, Utah and Texas charge premiums quarterly or annually. Figures have been adjusted in graphs to a monthly amount. Comparison data on premiums are taken from the following reports: Tricia Brooks, Lauren Roygardner, Samantha Artiga, Olivia Pham and Rachel Dolan, “Medicaid and CHIP Eligibility, Enrollment, Renewal, and Cost Sharing Policies as of January 2020: Findings from a 50-State Survey”, March 26, 2020. Based on a national survey conducted by the Kaiser Program on Medicaid and the Uninsured with the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families, 2020. and Tricia Brooks, Allegra Gardner, Peyton Yee, Jennifer Tolbert, Bradley Corallo, Sophia Moreno and Meghana “Medicaid and CHIP Eligibility, Enrollment, and Renewal Policies as States Prepare for the Unwinding of the Pandemic-Era Continuous Enrollment Provision”, April 4, 2023, Kaiser Family Foundation and Georgetown University Center for Children and Families*
⁵ 201% of the federal poverty level is the equivalent of \$4,143 per month in 2023; Data on Missouri premiums from the Missouri Department of Social Services., “MO HealthNet for Kids Premium Chart, Effective July 1, 2023”.
⁶ Data from the Missouri Department of Social Services