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**KidsCare Doesn't Disappear Today Thanks to Health Reform,  
But Enrollment Freeze Turns Thousands of Kids Away**  
*Enrollment Down Nearly a Third Since January 1*

(Phoenix, AZ) – 30,000 Arizona children were scheduled to lose health insurance today (June 15) after Arizona became the first state in the country to eliminate its highly successful Children's Health Insurance Program, known in our state as KidsCare. However, thanks to national health reform, Arizona lawmakers reversed their decision and the more than 30,000 children currently enrolled are able to keep their affordable health insurance. Eliminating KidsCare would have put Arizona out of compliance with health reform, and cost the state over \$7 billion annually in federal Medicaid funds.

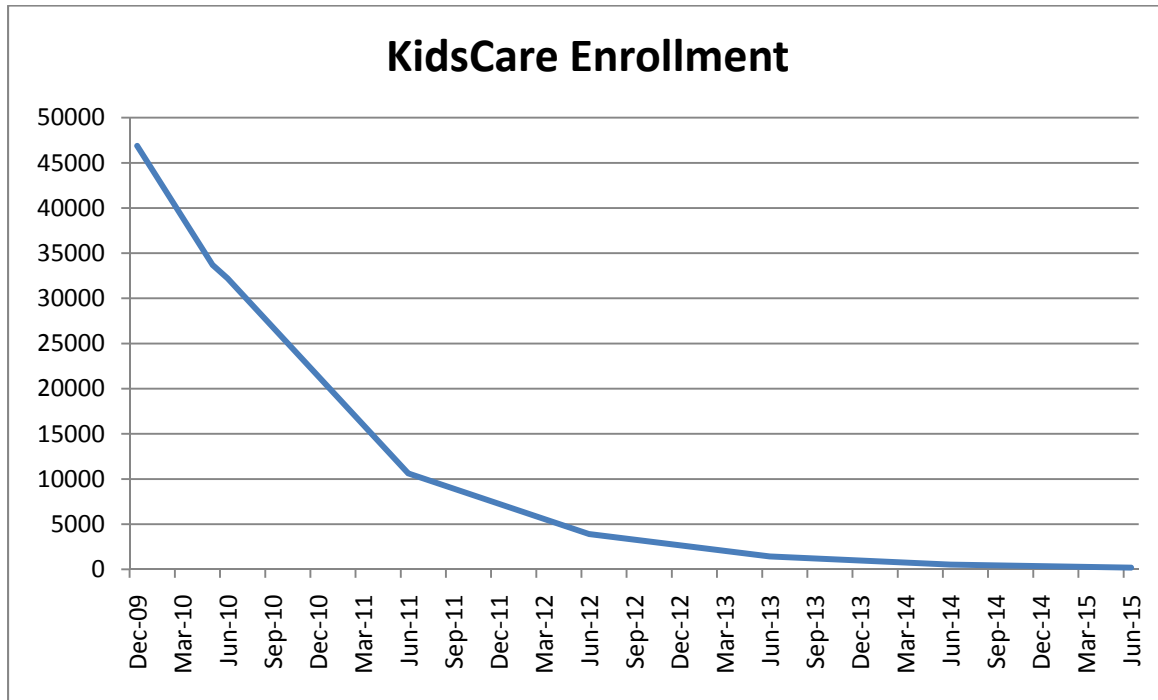
More than 100 uninsured kids are being turned away from KidsCare every day, however, due to an enrollment freeze established by Governor Brewer on January 1, 2010. The legislature declined to lift the freeze when they passed the law to maintain KidsCare.

Through June 2, 46,966 children have been frozen out of KidsCare due to the freeze, according to statistics made available last week by AHCCCS, the state agency that oversees KidsCare. Enrollment has fallen by 31% since December 2009, meaning 14,665 fewer Arizona children now have KidsCare to provide access to the affordable care they need. Children fall off KidsCare if their family income goes up or down, their parents fall behind on premiums, or their parents don't complete required paperwork.

"KidsCare has been extremely important to my children, and I am grateful that my kids are not losing their health insurance today," said Caly Mueller, a Phoenix mother. "KidsCare allows them to get the care they need to stay well and grow up strong, and allows me to go to work instead of staying home with a sick child. I hope the legislature will soon allow other parents and children the same opportunity."

"The enrollment freeze creates horrendous circumstances that cost Arizona big time," said Dana Wolfe Naimark, President and CEO of Children's Action Alliance. "Parents with newborn babies with medical conditions can't get them covered with their other children. If a dad loses his second job and his income goes down, his kids might move from KidsCare to AHCCCS Medicaid coverage. But if he finds a new second job and his income goes back up, his kids can't get back on KidsCare and they will be uninsured."

KidsCare has been an Arizona success story since it was enacted in 1998. The rate of children with health insurance in our state has increased from 74% to 84% since that time. The federal government picks up more than three-quarters of the cost of KidsCare, and families also pay affordable monthly premiums. KidsCare provides health insurance to children in working families who earn too much to qualify for AHCCCS-Medicaid, but cannot find or afford health insurance on their own. Children must be U.S. citizens or have resided in the United States legally for at least five years.



*KidsCare enrollment through June 2010 is provided by AHCCCS. Future enrollment projections are from the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) of the Arizona Legislature.*

*Children’s Action Alliance is an independent voice for Arizona children at the state capitol and in the community. CAA ([www.azchildren.org](http://www.azchildren.org)) is a non-profit, non-partisan research, education and advocacy organization dedicated to promoting the well-being of Arizona’s children and families.*

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