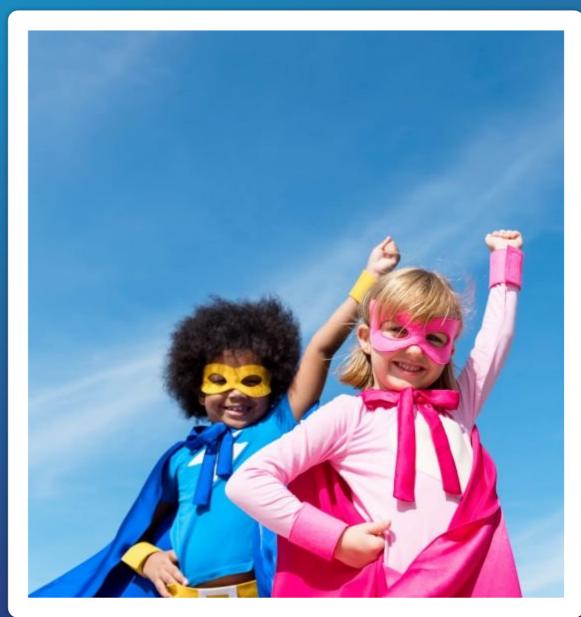
AAP Leading for Children and Pediatricians

Sue Kressly, MD, FAAP President-elect





Disclosure

Dr. Kressly has no relevant financial relationships with the manufacturer(s) of any commercial product(s) and/or provider(s) of commercial services discussed in this CME activity. I do not intend to discuss an unapproved/investigative use of a commercial product/device in our presentation.

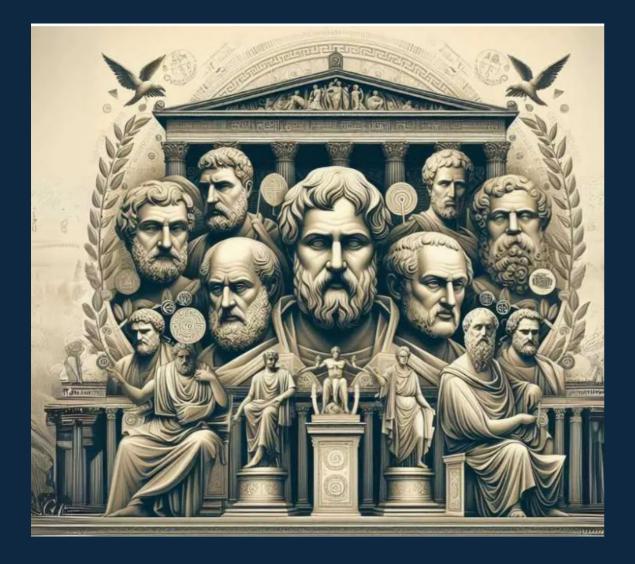


Learning Objectives

After this presentation attendees will be able to:

- Describe current challenges for pediatrics
- Identify the Academy's initiatives to address the challenges
- Outline a plan on how we can mutually support each other's work and spread the word!





KITSIS (kree'– sis) NOUN

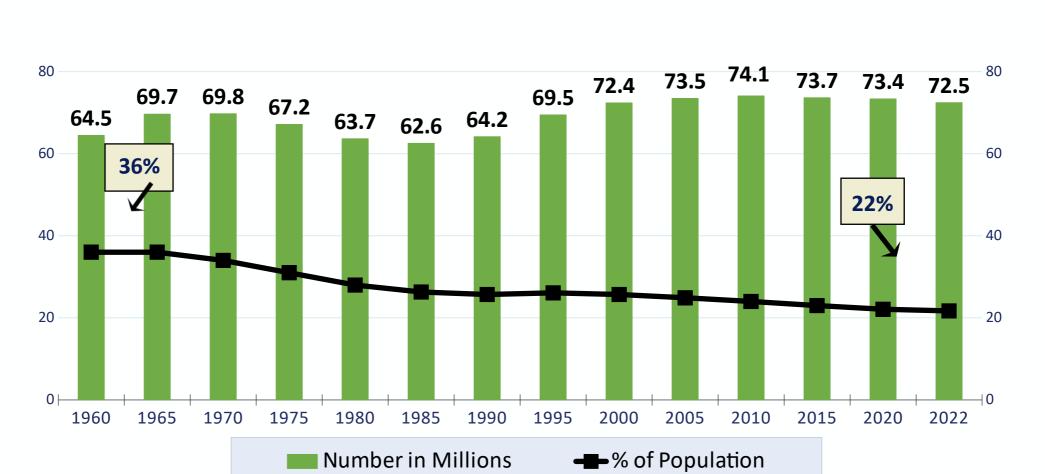
A medical or political moment of opportunity that bifurcates into life or death, victory or defeat

Who are US Children?



- Highly diverse
- Declining portion of population
- Large geographic variability
 - Substantial child population shift
 - Notable growth in South, shrinkage in Northeast
- Interconnections: income, race and ethnicity, the Health of All Children, and in the contract of the Health of All Children, and the contract of the contrac

US Child (under 18) Population: Number and % of Overall Population, 1960-2022



American Academy of Pediatrics

100

% of Population

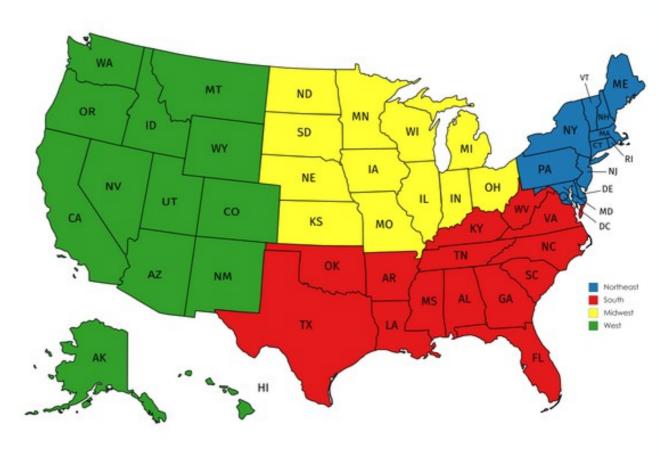
Source: US Census Bureau, Current Population Reports (http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/tables/pop1.asp and http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/tables/pop2.asp)

100

Number (in Millions)

Where Do US Children Live?

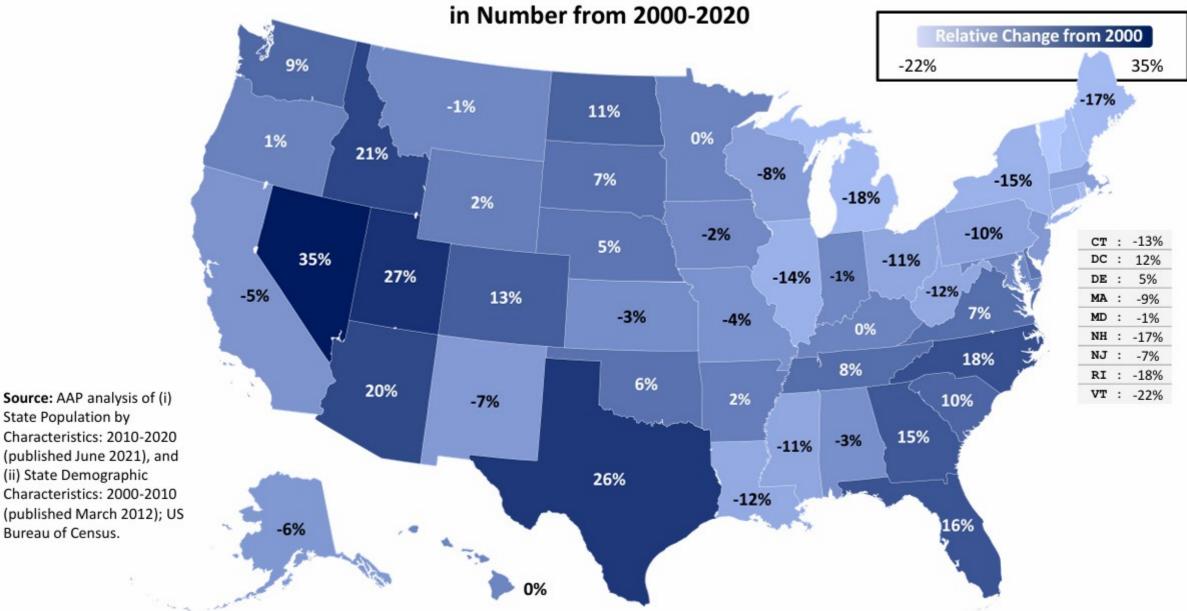
% of All US Children					
Northeast	16%				
Midwest	21%				
South	39%				
West	24%				



Created with mapchart.net 0

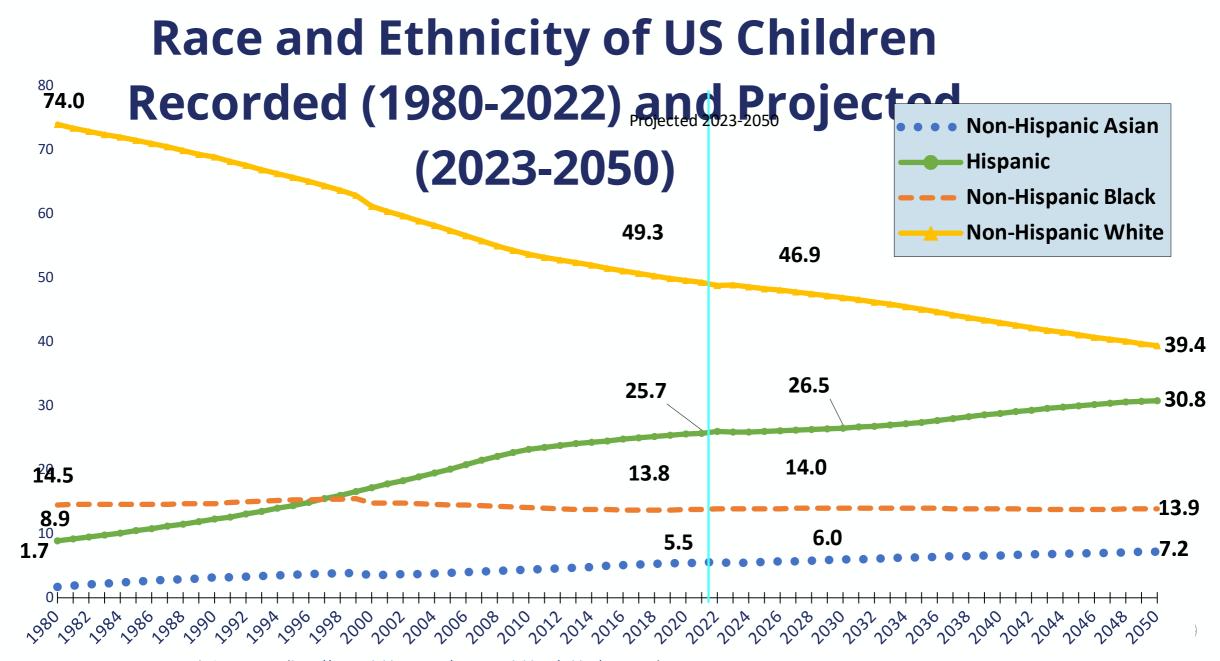


Source: US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement (https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/time-series/demo/cps/cps-asec.html)

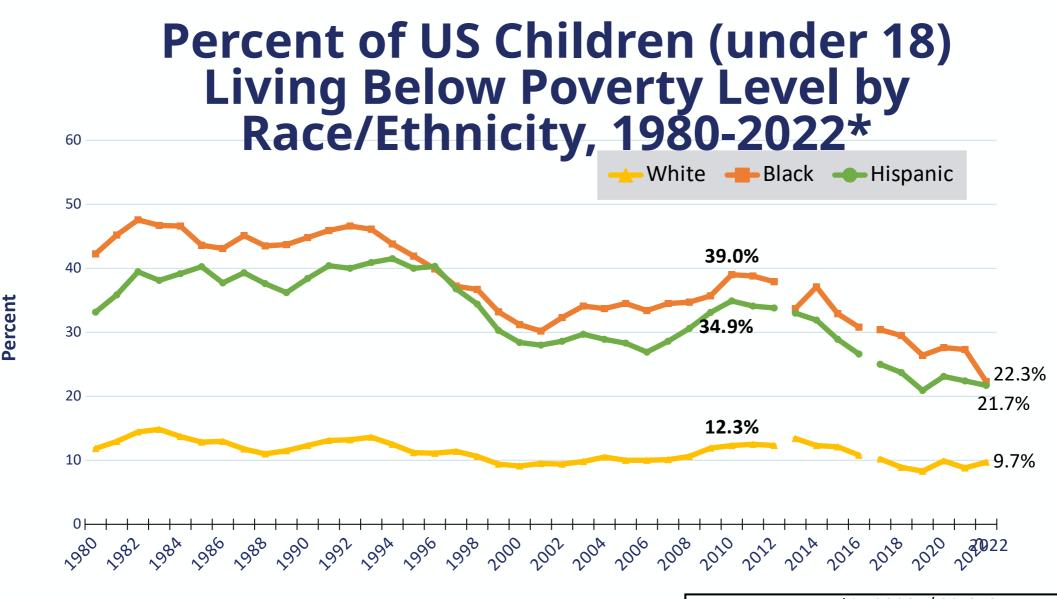


Child Population through Age 18: Within State Increase or Decrease

State Population by Characteristics: 2010-2020 (published June 2021), and (ii) State Demographic Characteristics: 2000-2010 (published March 2012); US Bureau of Census.



Source: US Census Bureau, Population Division (http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/tables/pop3.asp)



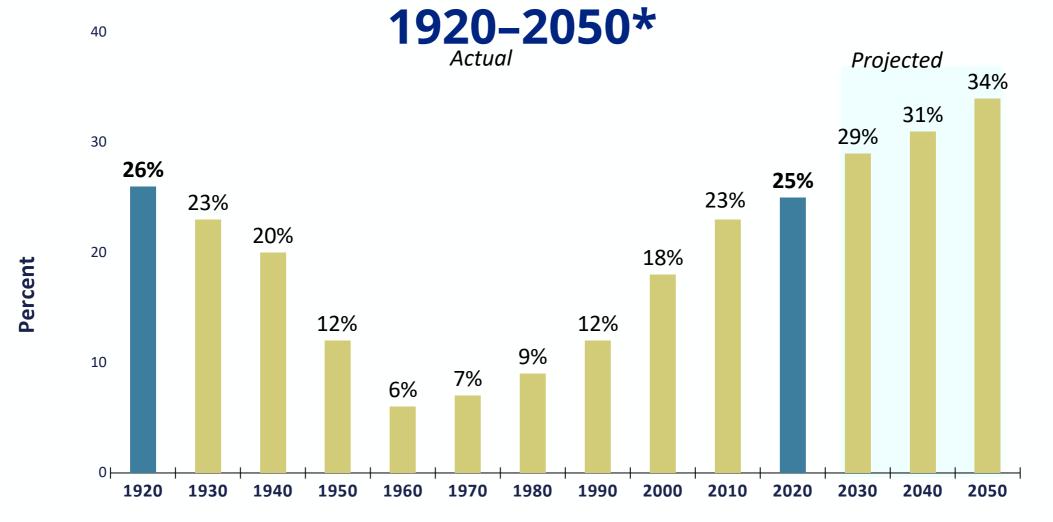
*Estimates for 2013 and beyond are not directly comparable to previous years due to a re-design of the income questions. Estimates for 2017 and beyond are not directly comparable to previous years due to the implementation of an updated CPS ASEC processing system.

Poverty Level in 2022: \$29,678 (Family of 4 with 2 children)



American Academy of Pediatrics

Immigrant Children as Share of All US Children,



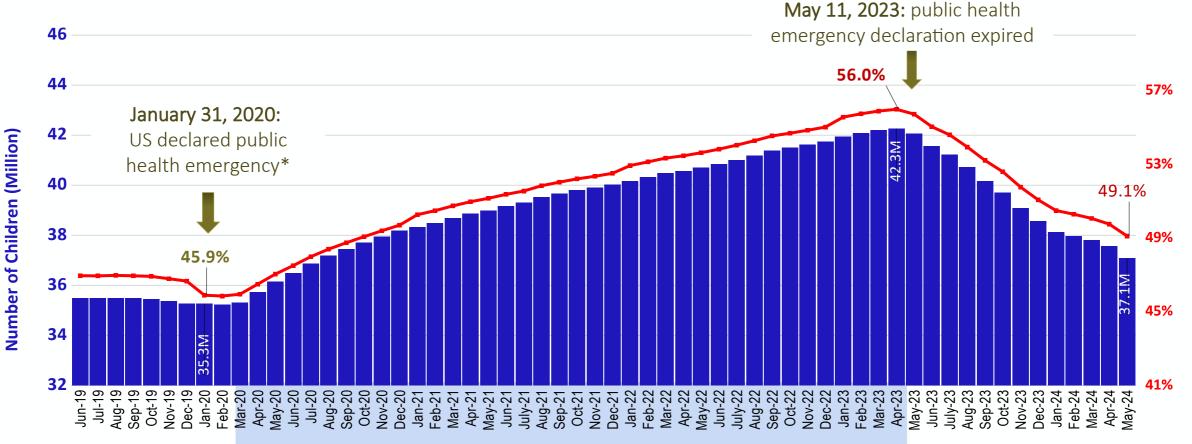
*"Immigrant children" defined as children under age eighteen who are either foreign-born or U.S.-born to immigrant parents; gray shaded region (2030-2050) refers to population projections.

Source: 1920-2000 and 2030-2050 population projections: Passel, Jeffrey. "Demography of Immigrant Youth: Past, Present, and Future." The Future of Children, 2011; 2010-2020: US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement (https://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/tables/fam4.asp)

American Academy of Pediatrics

Number and Percent of US Children Enrolled in Medicaid/CHIP

Before and Since the COVID-19 Pandemic, June 2019- May 2024



Medicaid Continuous Enrollment Requirement in effect

*The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) enacted in March 2020 required continuous enrollment and made available a temporary 6.2 percentage point increase to each state or territory's federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) during the national Public Health Emergency. **Notes:** Arizona did not submit any child data throughout the reporting period and is not included in this report. ^ May 2024 data, for all sates, are preliminary . Numbers may not sum up precisely due to rounding. **Source:** AAP analysis of data submitted by states to CMS released through the Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Performance Indicator Projects.

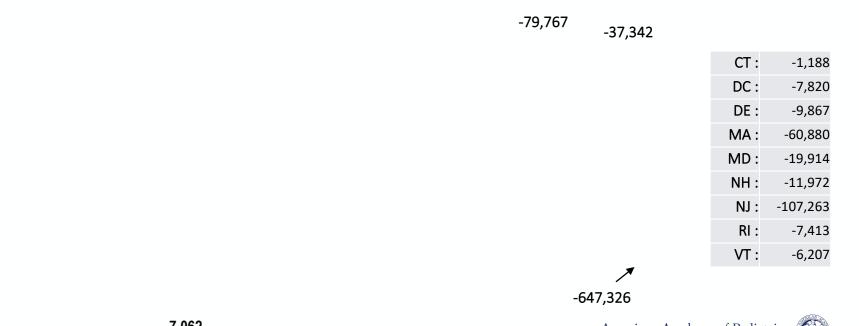
American Academy of Pediatrics

Change in Number of State Children Enrolled in Medicaid/CHIP, April 2023 - May 2024



-1.1M	6,700		
Data una	Data unavailable (AZ)		

-187,131

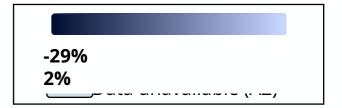


Source: AAP analysis of data submitted by states to CMS released through the Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Performance Indicator Projects. The available CMS data does not provide information from US Territories or the State of Arizona.

Child population estimates are based on "Annual State Resident Population Estimates for 6 Race Groups: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2023 (SC-EST2023-ALLDATA6). US Census Bureau." [State Population by Characteristics: 2020-2023 (censu s.gov)



Relative Change in State Children Enrolled in Medicaid/CHIP, April 2023 - May 2024



Source: AAP analysis of data submitted by states to CMS released through the Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Performance Indicator Projects.

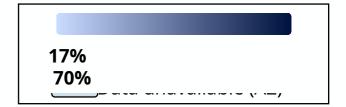
Notes: CMS reports of Medicaid/CHIP enrollment based on state administrative data has been generally higher than estimated by national surveys.

CT : -0.3% DC : -7.7% DE : -7.9% MA: -7.9% MD : -2.7% NH: -11.9% NJ: -10.8% RI: -5.7% VT: -9.5%



-20.9%

Percentage of State Children Enrolled in Medicaid/CHIP as of May 2024



CT: 47.7% DC: 69.5% DE : 51.1% MA: 49.1% MD: 49.8% NH: 33.0% 41.6% NJ: 56.0% RI: VT : 48.0%

Source: AAP analysis of data submitted by states to CMS released through the Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Performance Indicator Projects

Notes: CMS reports of Medicaid/CHIP enrollment based on state administrative data has been generally higher than estimated by national surveys.



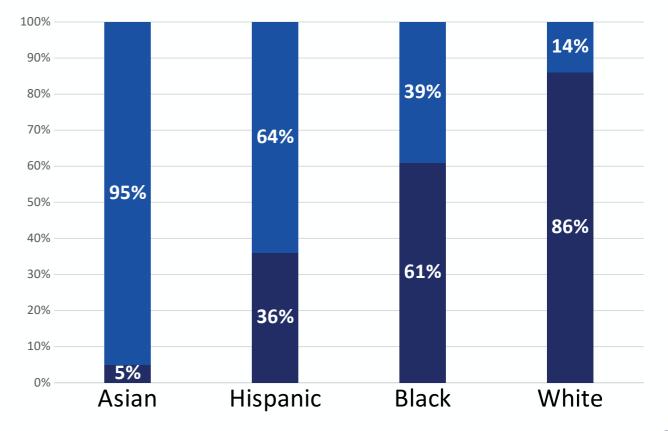


Who Are Pediatricians?



Immigrant Backgrounds Common in Meaning and Gevenhnicity: Percent from immigrant families*

36% of Early to Mid-career US Pediatricians come from Immigrant Families (They or their parent born outside the US)



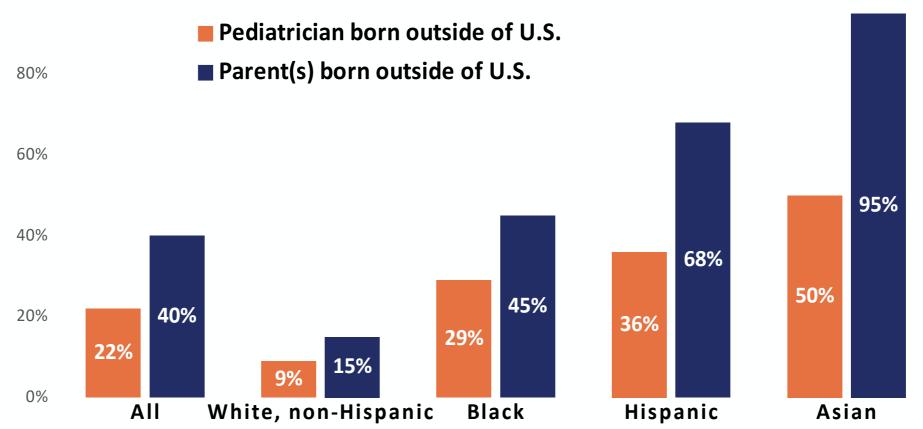
American Academy of Pediatrics

*Pediatrician or a parent was born outside the U.S.

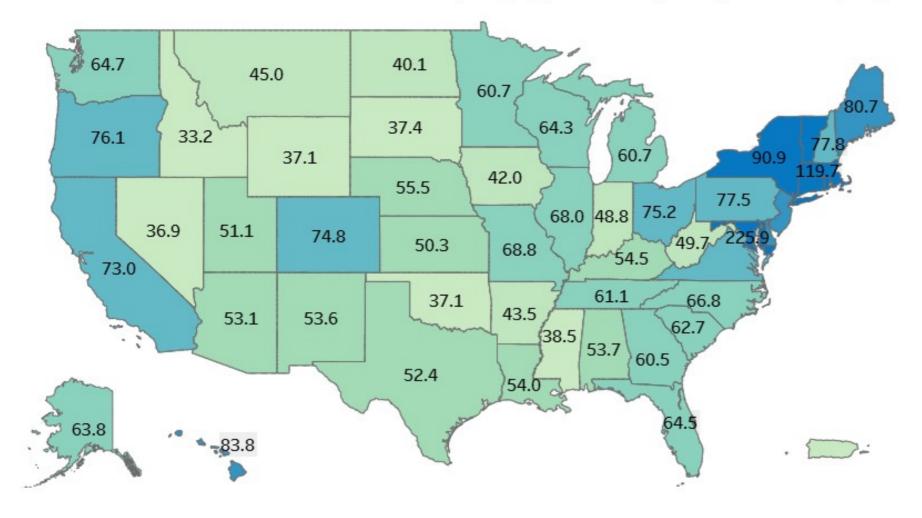
Source: AAP PLACES, 2013 and 2021 (2002-04, 2009-11 and 2016-18 Residency Graduates Cohorts)

% of PLACES Pediatricians Reporting They or a Parent Was Born Outside the US, by Race and Ethnicity

100%

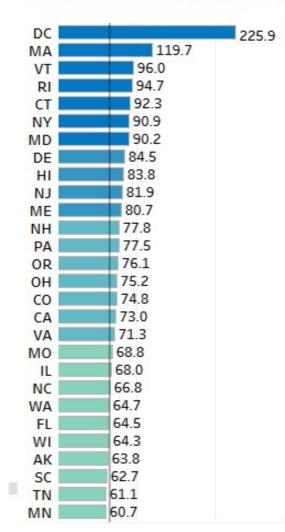






Distribution of those certified in General Pediatrics (alone) by pediatricians per 100,000 Children (0-17)

State rank, per 100,000 children



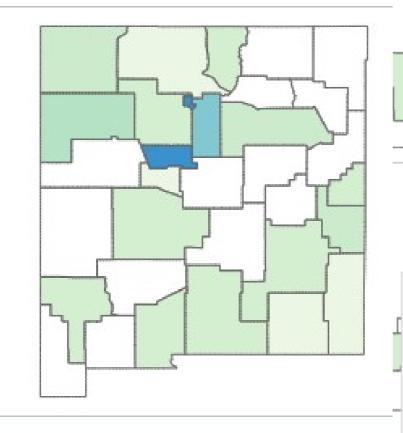


Source:

<u>General Pediatricians U.S. State and County Maps | The American Board of Ped</u> <u>iatrics (abp.org)</u>

State Selection (or select the state in map above)

New Mexico



New Mexico | Bernalillo County

w.

Certification Combination:Certified in General Pediatrics (alone)Pediatrician Count:146.0Population Total Under 18:133,049Per 100,000 Children:109.70Children per pediatrician:911

New Mexico | Valencia County

Certification Combination: Certified in General Pediatrics (alone)Pediatrician Count:1.0Population Total Under 18: 18,054Per 100,000 Children:5.50Children per pediatrician:18,054



2024 Match: 249 Unfilled Positions; 60 Unfilled Residency Programs

- match rate 97.1%
- Highlights workforce issues needed to recruit more to field
- AMSPDC, AAP, APPD, ABP reviewing short- and long-term priorities related to the Workforce Initiative



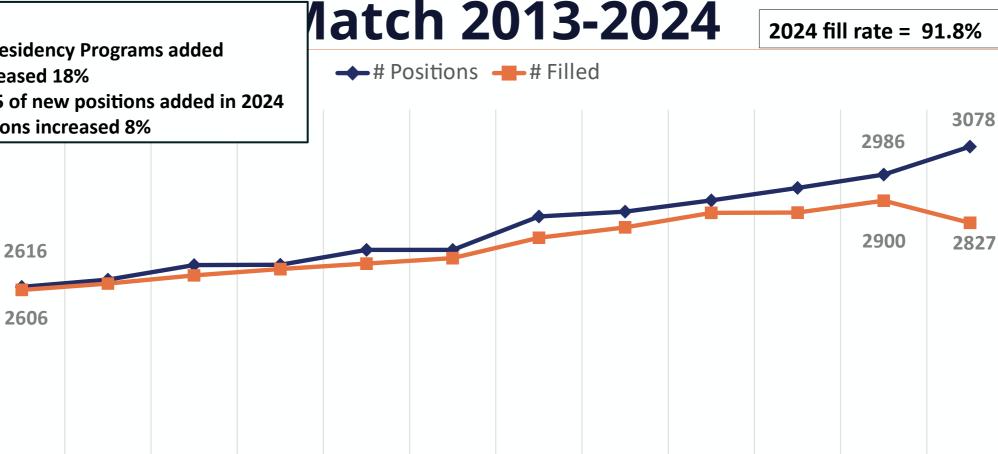


Trends in # of Categorical Pediatrics Resident Positions and Number Filled in the

From 2013-2024

- > 50 Pediatric Residency Programs added
- **#** Positions increased 18%

- Nearly 1/5 of new positions added in 2024
- # of filled positions increased 8%

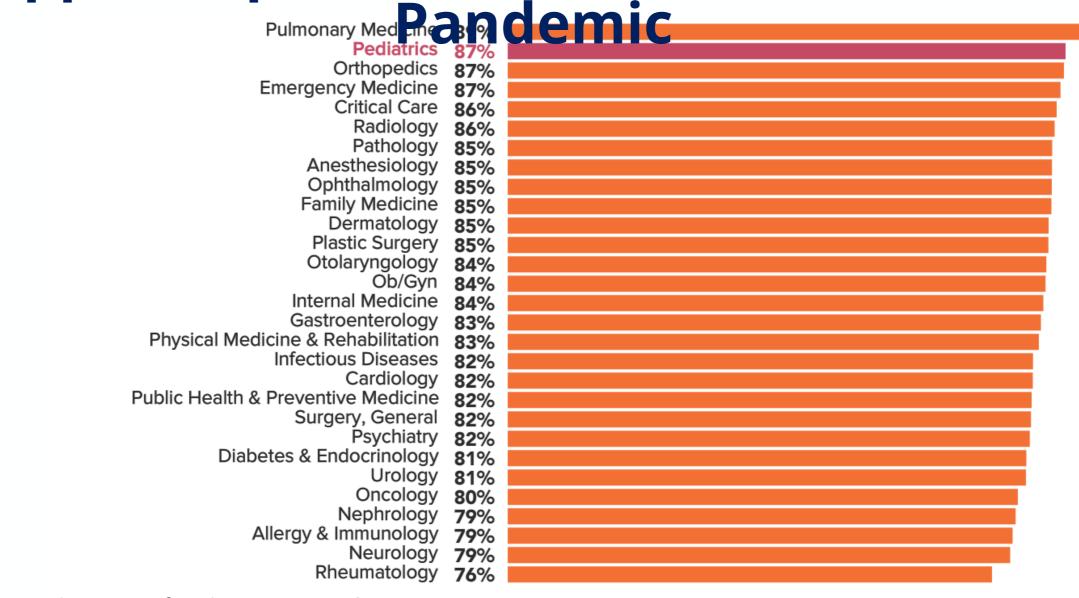


Source NRMP Results and Data 2023 Main Residency Match

https://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2023-Main-Match-Results-and-Data-Book-FINAL.pdf and 2024 Advanced Data Tables https://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Advance-Data-Tables-2024.pdf



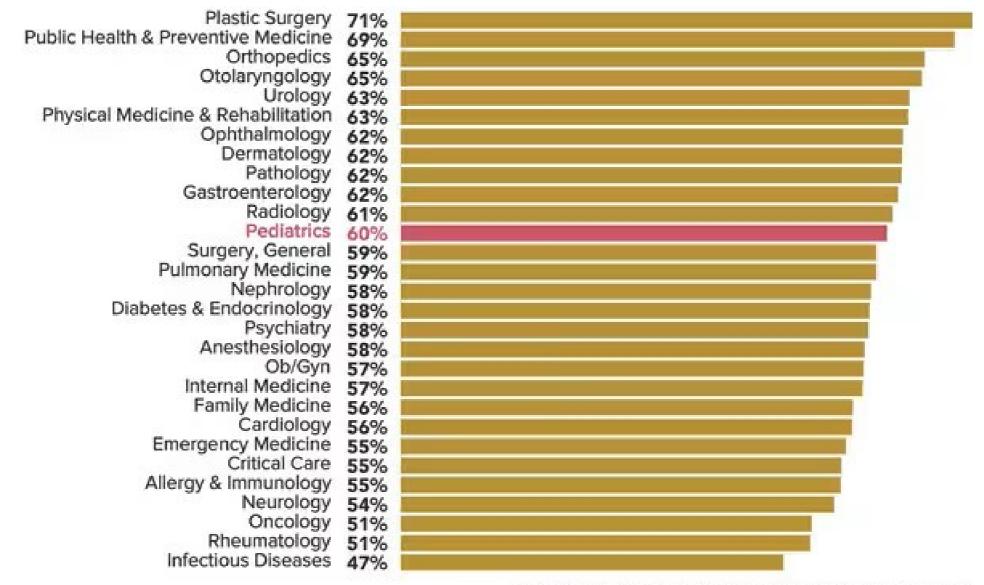
Happiest Specialties Outside of Work Pre-



Medscape Pediatrician Lifestyle, Happiness, & Burnout, 2023

Respondents described themselves as "very happy" or "happy"

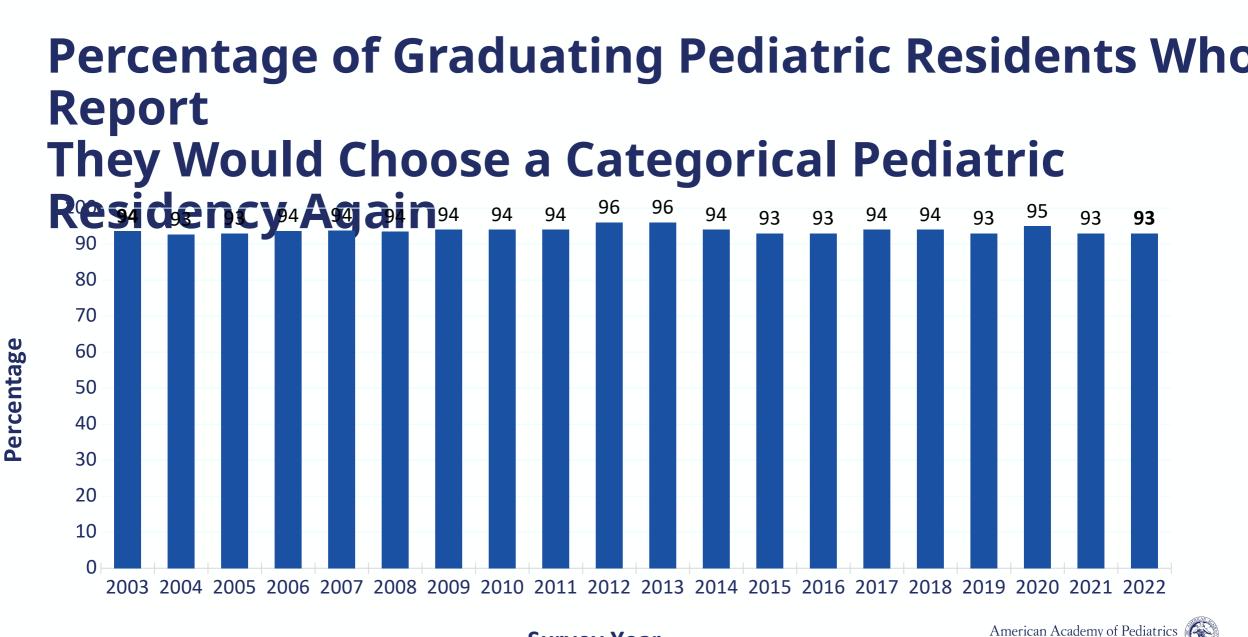
Happiest Specialties Outside of Work Now



Medscape Pediatrician Lifestyle, Happiness, & Burnout, 2023

Respondents described themselves as "very happy" or "happy"

trics



Survey Year

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN

Rough Waters Ahead...

- Economic uncertainty
- Political uncertainty
- Geopolitical uncertainty
- Immigration
- Mental health
- Health care financing
- Workforce
- Access to Medicaid/CHIP







Is there any HOPE?





2024 AAP Strategic Initiatives

Healthy Mental and Emotional Development

- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- Safety and Wellbeing within the Pediatric Profession
- Environmental Health and Disastor Readings

AAP Healthy Mental Development Initiatic education and workforce



development

- Training and technical assistance
- Systems change, practice change, and quality improvement
- Cross-sectoral partnerships
- Research
- Advocacy for policy change at the national, state, and payor level
- Public awareness and communications campaigns



Recent Youth Mental Health Initiatives

Supporting healthy mental development

- \$2 million from HRSA for Year 2 of technical assistance grant to help providers address mental health/build connections with PMHCA programs
 - Small grants to AAP, AAFP, NAPNAP chapters

Integrating Blueprint for Youth Suicide Prevention into clinics and communities

- Project Echo
- Parent/family education
- New clinical report
- TEAMS QI Learning Collaboration project
- FOC chapter grants (FL, HI, MT, TN, PA)

Trauma-informed care initiatives: \$3.2 million from CDC to build National Center for





AAP Social Media Summit: Building a Healthy Digital Ecosystem

- Representatives from SAMHSA, NTIA, Office of the Surgeon General
- Researchers from Harvard, Stanford, NIH, Common Sense Media
- Representatives from Meta, TikTok, Apple Health, Snapchat, Pinterest
- Pediatricians and psychologists
- Coalition partners from mental health and child health-focused organizations







2024 AAP Strategic Initiatives

Healthy Mental and Emotional Development

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Safety and Wellbeing within the Pediatric Profession

Environmental Health and American Academy of Pediatrics Disaster Readiness

A Race-Conscious Approach to Clinical Guidance, Policy and Research

Establishing a Race-Conscious Approach to Clinical Guidance in

Pediatric Garet From Doris Duke Foundation –Identifying and correcting race-normed clinical

- algorithms
- -Test revised algorithm in an ED setting
- -Reviewing AAP clinical practice guidelines and
- Building a Race-Conscious Approach to **Pediatric Policy and Research**
- **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation** awarded AAP \$1.7 million to establish Pediatric Health **Equity Scholars Network**
 - Support research addressing health care disparities
 - Build evidence-base to establish race-conscious approach to developing equitable child health







2024 AAP Strategic Initiatives

Healthy Mental and Emotional Development

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Safety and Wellbeing within the Pediatric Profession

Environmental Health and American Academy of Pediatrics Disaster Readiness

c Force on Safety and Well-being Within t Profession of Pediatrics Initial Domains

Perso Hea			k/Life ance			ss and liency
Life a Care Satisfa	eer	Financial Health			Institution/ Administrativ e	
	Healthcare Delivery System			Workforce and Culture		



ask Force on Safety and Wellbeing withir the Pediatric Profession



MD, FAAP





М́D, FAAP

Lisa Gwynn DO, MBA, MSPH



Dr. Kajal Khanna MĎ, FAAP



Oriaku Adaure Kas-Osa



MD, MSE, FAAP

Maya Moody DO, FAAP



Warren Seigel M.D., MBA, FAAP

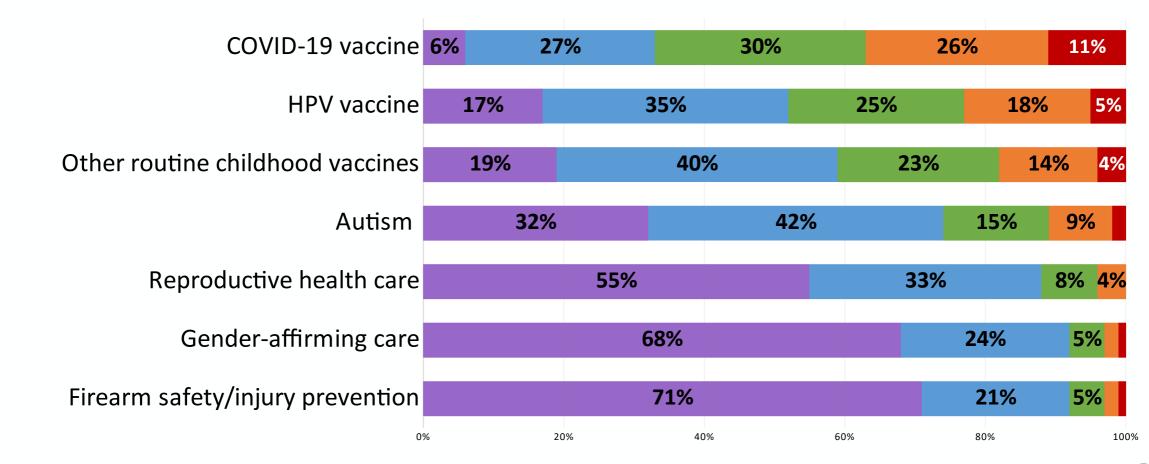




Gina Marie Sequeira Amy Vinson MD, MS, FAAP MĎ, FAAP

PLACES Primary Care Pediatricians' Reported Frequency of Encountering Misinformation from Patients/Families Regarding Various Health Topics During Patient Visits,

Never or a few times a year About once a mont 2023 ut once a week A few times a week Every day





Personal Attacks and Sexual Harassment on Social Media

FREE

JAMA Internal Medicine

Research Letter

January 4, 2021

Prevalence of Personal Attacks and Sexual Harassment of Physicians on Social Media

Tricia R. Pendergrast, BA¹; Shikha Jain, MD²; N. Seth Trueger, MD, MPH^{3,4}; <u>et al</u>

» Author Affiliations | Article Information

JAMA Intern Med. 2021;181(4):550-552. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2020.7235

- 1 in 4 American physicians report being attacked on social media
- 1 in 6 female physicians report they had been sexually harassed online, including receiving rape threats, compared to one in 50 of their male colleagues
- Both men and women attacked based on religion race and medical actions



AAP Agenda for Payment Transformation Medicaid, CHIP, Commercial Insurance

- **Payment** Amounts, **Eligibility**, Enrollment, **Benefits**, **Access**
- Value-Based Care/**Alternative** Payments Methodologies (APMs)
- Pediatric primary care, pediatric medical subspecialists, and pediatric surgical specialists



Unique Value Proposition of Pediatric Primary and Pediatric Subspecialty

- Short-term ROI is **not** the foc
- Upstream prevention produces value in savings to society
 Education, Justice, Labor/Economy,
 - Medicare
- Shared savings is *not* the opportunity 5% of children account for 50% of Medicaid •
 - spending (Berry et al, 2014)
- Partnerships among health care providers, health care systems, state and community agencies
- Integrate behavioral health and social services in primary and subspecialty care

POLICY STATEMENT Organizational Principles to Guide and Define the Child Health Care System and/or Improve the Health of all Children



The Unique Value Proposition of Pediatric Health Care

James M. Perrin, MD, FMP? Patricia Flanagan, MD, FMP? Jule Kathin, MD, FMP? Greg Ranabell, MD, FMP? Anathan Price, MD, FAAP* and the Committee on Child Reath Financing

This document provides a framework for the value proposition of pediatric health care. It is intended to provide a succinct set of principles for establishing this proposition that demonstrates the shortand long-term value to the child and family, the health care system, and society as a whole

Washington Kapital for Children Parvard Medical School Box Resourcester, ** # Apert Medical School of Brown University/Redex wis Aspital Separtment of Redictrics. Providence, Roote Island primant of Paulishrins, Raylor College of Medicing, Assalisty Essen r-fait functions. Displacition, Joseff Constant "Description" districts. The Data State dresswal's College of Middle

VALUE IN PEDIATRIC CARE

The health and well-being of children and yo health and well-being as adults. Health early many interests across society, where the bas of families and individuals. Value (in health c relative to costs." Outcomes for children indu current health status, but these connections well-being clarify the need to address long-te of healthy children becoming healthy adults high-quality pediatric care.

Health is more than the absence of disease. that all children, including those with chronic grow and develop in safe, loving families and help them achieve their greatest potential. Er and children's health and well-being partly r physical health

Pediatrics, at its core, is about prevention of problems, and provision of care based on ind context of a patient- and family-centered, cos delivery system. Its aim is to promote childre social-emotional, and nutritional health and t early enough to mitigate lifelong effects. High health issues call for addressing these condit including upstream prevention. Adversity in

A Bold Vision for Medicaid/CHIP Program

POLICY STATEMENT Organizational Principles to Guide and Define the Child Health Care System and/or Improve the Health of all Children



Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program: Optimization to Promote Equity in Child and Young Adult Health

Jennifer D. Kusma, MD, MS, FAAP,^a Jean L. Raphael, MD, MPH, FAAP,^b James M. Perrin, MD, FAAP,^a Mark L. Hudak, MD, FAAP,^d COMMITTEE ON CHILD HEALTH FINANCING

The American Academy of Pediatrics envisions a child and adolescent health care system that provides individualized, family-centered, equitable, and comprehensive care that integrates with community resources to help each child and family achieve optimal growth, development, and well-being. All infants, children, adolescents, and young adults should have access to this system. Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provide critical support and foundation for this vision. Together, the programs currently serve about half of all children, many of whom are members of racial and ethnic minoritized populations or have complex medical conditions. Medicaid and CHIP have greatly improved the health and well-being of US infants, children, adolescents, and young adults. This statement reviews key program aspects and proposes both program reforms and enhancements to support a higher-quality, more comprehensive, family-oriented, and equitable system of care that increases access to services, reduces disparities, and improves health outcomes into adulthood. This statement recommends foundational changes in Medicaid and CHIP that can improve child health, achieve greater equity in health and health care, further dismantle structural racism within the programs, and reduce major state-by-state variations. The recommendations focus on (1) eligibility and duration of coverage; (2) standardization of covered services and quality of care; and (3) program financing and payment. In addition to proposed foundational changes in the Medicaid and CHIP program structure, the statement indicates stepwise, coordinated actions that regulation from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services or federal legislation can accomplish in the shorter term. A separate technical report will address the origins and intents of the Medicaid and CHIP programs; the current state of the program including variations across states and payment structures; Medicaid for special populations; program innovations and waivers; and special Medicaid coverage and initiatives.

⁸Department al Pediatrics, Lurie Children's Hospital, Northwestern University School of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois,[®] Department of Pediatrics, Baylar College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, [®]Department of Pediatrics, Mass General Hospital for Children, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, and [®]Department of Pediatrics.

University of Florida College of Medicine, Jacksonville, Florida

Dr Hudak wrote the initial draft of the revision of this policy statement; Drs Kusma, Raphaei, and Pernin substantially revised that draft and incorporates valuable input from other members of the Committee on Child Health Financing, and revised the statement based on a broad review by other Sections, Committees, Councils, and Task Forces within the AMP.

This document is copyrighted and is property of the American Academy of Polaristics and its Board of Directors, All authors have filed conflict of interest statements with the American Academy of Pediatrics, Any conflicts have been resolved through a process approved by the Board of Directors. The American Academy of Pediatrics has neither solicited nor accepted any commercial involvement in the development of the content of the publication.

Policy statements from the American Academy of Pediatrics benefit from expertise and resources of liaisons and internal (VAP) and external reviewers. However, policy statements from the American Academy of Pediatrics may not reflect the views of the liaisons or the organizations or government agencies that they represent.

The guidance in this statement does not indicate an exclusive course of treatment or serve as a standard of medical care. Variations, taking into account individual circumstances, may be appropriate.

All policy statements from the American Academy of Pediatrics automatically expire 5 years after publication unless reaffirmed, revised, or retired at or before that time.

D01: https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2023-064088

To cite: Kusma JD, Raphael JL, Perrin JM, Hudak ML; American Academy of Pediatrics, Committee on Child Health Financing. Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program: Optimization to Promote Equity in Child and Young Adult Health. *Rediatrics*. 2023;152(5):e2023064088

FROM THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

Recommends foundational changes t

Improve child health



- Achieve greater equity in health and he Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program: Optimization to Promote
- Dismantle structure in Child and Young Adult Health.

programs

Reduce major state-by-state variations

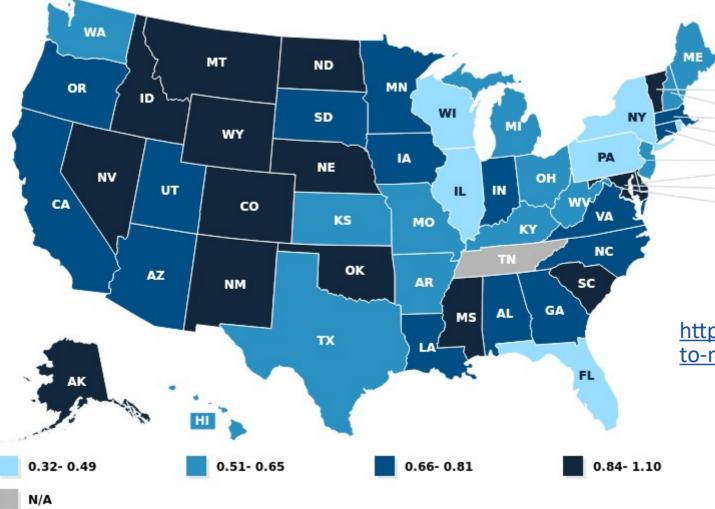
Recommendations focus on

- **Eligibility** and duration of coverage
 - Standardization of covered services and quality of care American Academy of Pediatrics



Medicaid to Medicare Fee Index

Medicaid-to-Medicare Fee Index: Primary Care, 2019



 New Mexico: 0.91

 STATEMENT Organizational Principles to Guide and Define the Child Health Care System and/or Improve the Health of all Children

 STATEMENT Organizational Principles to Guide and Define the Child Health Care System and/or Improve the Health of all Children

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 USA: 0.67

 Licaid and the Children's Health

rance Program: Optimization to Promote ity in Child and Young Adult Health

NH

M/A RI

CT NJ

DE MD

DC

Kusma, MD, MS, FAAP,ª Jean L. Raphael, MD, MPH, FAAP,⁶ James M. Perrin, MD, FAAP,^e Mark L. Hudak, MD, FAAP,^a ON CHILD HEALTH FINANCING

https://www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/medicate-fee-index





The Pediatric Outcome Problem

- Difficulty measuring "whole child" outcomes
- Long time frame to demonstrate improved outcomes
- Pediatric outcomes highly dependent on Social Drivers of Health of caregivers
- Chronic underinvestment in other avenues of children's well-being
- Determining who should be accountable
 - -Unlike Medicare, children change insurance plans/types frequently
 - –Pediatric care is a "team" sport
- Inadequate **risk adjustment** schema



2024 AAP Strategic Initiatives

- Healthy Mental and Emotional Development
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- Safety and Wellbeing within the Pediatric Profession

Environmental Health and American Academy of Pediatrics Disaster Readiness

Portfolio of Policy, Clinical and Technical Repoints Change

- Built Environment
- Use of GMO-Containing Food Products
- Preventing Excessive Noise Exposure
- Drinking Water From Private Wells and Risks to Children
- Ambient Air Pollution: Health Hazards to Children
- Chemical-Biological Terrorism and Its Impact on Children
- Fish, Shellfish, and Children's Health
- Pediatric Considerations in Radiological or Nuclear Emergencies
- Food Additives and Child Health
- Indoor Environmental Control Practices and Asthma Management



Home / Patient Care / Environmental Health





Disaster Preparedness

- Developing playbook to guide AAP operations in event of a local, regional, or national/global event
- CDC-funded <u>AAP Chapter Ambassadors</u> ensure needs of children and youth are incorporated into disaster preparedness, response, and recovery plans
- Created resources to support members in personal, professional, practice preparedness
- Powering up Preparedness: Supporting Student Health/Wellness During Public Health Emergencies Event at AAP HQ April 2024
 - Convened 50 partners from national organizations and local, state, tribal, federal education and health agencies
 - Developed solutions/strategies for improving school preparedness for future PHEs







Shifting the Climate Dialogue: A Call to Prioritize Children's Health in Climate AAChange, Discourse

- 1. Educate and raise awareness among families, communities, policy makers
- 2. Activate multisectoral partnerships/establish global collaborations to prioritize children's health in climate change discourse
- 3. Advocate for evidence-based policies and regulations in statehouses, federal offices, and health ministries to prioritize children's health in climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies
- 4. Support/conduct research on the specific health vulnerabilities of children to inform evidence-based interventions to buffer impacts of climate change







Pediatricians and

Point of today's hot-button issues pediatricians in the United States

- Immigration
- Reproductive health care
- Sexuality and gender

issues

- Gun violence
- Racism
- Diversity, equity and inclusion

American Academy of Pediatrics





AAP: Standing Up and Speaking Out for Children



Academy of Pediatrics

Policy Wins for Children and Families

Advocacy Making a Difference



- FY24 spending bill preserves funding for key programs
 - **Injury prevention policies** advance on safe sleep
- All states now required to provide children with 12-month continuous coverage in Medicaid and CHIP
- White House creates Office of Gun Violence Prevention and strengthens background checks
- First-ever awards issued from Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment Program
- Pediatric Mental Health Care Access
 Program expands to 46 states of the formation of the state of the formation of the state of the sta

Nutrition Advocacy

- USDA issues regulations updating WIC food packages and school nutrition standards.
 - Final rules heavily cite AAP feedback and guidance.
- Congress makes Summer EBT permanent. AAP engages state chapters in advocacy campaign to urge states to participate.
- Pediatricians urging Members of Congress to protect SNAP in the Farm Bill.



Secretary Vilsack gives plenary address at 2024 AAP Advocacy Conference



Appropriations Success Story: WIC

- Due to rising costs and increased participation, WIC faced a \$1 billion funding shortfall that could have led to 2 million parents and young children being turned away from the program.
- After sustained AAP advocacy, final FY 2024 Agriculture bill fully funded the WIC program, including an additional \$1 billion.
 - Bill rejects previously proposed cuts to WIC's expanded **fruit and vegetable benefit** and a policy



New Medicaid Access and Managed Care Rules Increases Medicaid payment rate

- Increases Medicaid payment rate transparency, access to HCBS, provider/beneficiary input into Medicaid policy
- Improves access to care via network adequacy standards
- Enhances program integrity w/r/t state-directed payments
- Specifies in lieu of services in managed care for HCBS and MCO medical loss ratio reporting requirements
- Establishes quality rating system
- **EPSDT** Review and Improvements





AAP Advocacy at the



AAP President Benjamin D. Hoffman, M.D., FAAP, and other AAP leaders traveled to the U.S.-Mexico border to better understand the conditions and treatment of migrant children.

Child-centered care needed at U.S. border facilities, AAP leaders say

April 1, 2024 Steve Schering, Staff Writer Article type: News Topic: Advocacy, Immigration, International Child Health

A recent visit to the U.S.-Mexico border with other AAP leaders provided many eye-opening experiences for AAP President Benjamin D. Hoffman, M.D., FAAP. He saw the tireless work being done by many to assist those seeking asylum in the U.S. as well as areas where improved care is needed.

"Getting to see the best of humanity in a circumstance where people were fleeing because of the worst of humanity was really affirming," Dr. Hoffman said. "We still have a tremendous amount that we need to do to support kids and families in this process."

Dr. Hoffman and AAP Executive Committee members visited several facilities in and around Tucson, Ariz, during the Jan. 29-31 trip. The region has seen a 190% increase in crossings compared to one year prior. The primary countries of origin among those arriving in Tucson include Mexico, Guatemate, Ecuador, Senegal, Guines and India.

The group visited a U.S. Customs and Border Patrol facility inside a former Air Force base in Tucson, where many adults and families are taken for processing after crossing the border.

"There's nothing child-centered or family-centered or kid-friendly about it," Dr. Hoffman said of the intake process. "The kids have all experienced phenomenal amounts of trauma. How can this be done in a more trauma-informed way and a more humane way? The thing that repeatedly hit home is these are people.

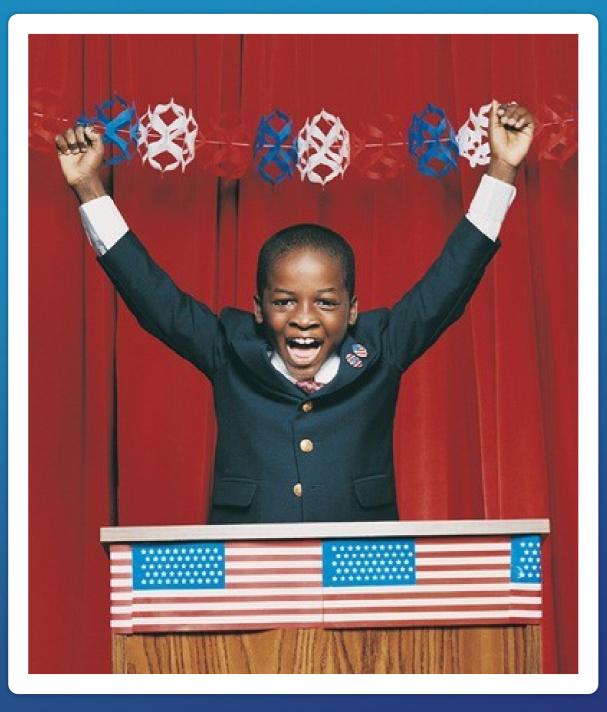




An 8-year-old died in Customs and Border Protection custody. CBP must stop failing kids.

This tragedy can and will occur again unless DHS and CBP take immediate and comprehensive actions to address the many systemic weaknesses that allowed Ana to die.

Dr. Sandy Chung Opinion contributor Published 5:01 a.m. ET June 25, 2023



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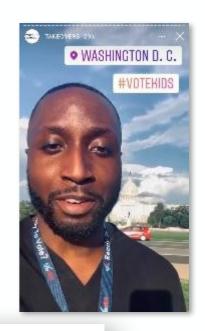
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