

# VOTE

## for OHIO KIDS



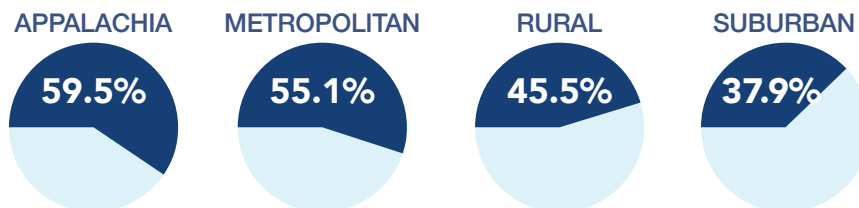
## Ensuring Access to High-Quality Healthcare

*Access to essential healthcare services for all Ohio kids helps to ensure they grow up as healthy, productive adults. Adequate, stable, predictable funding for children covered by Ohio Medicaid is critical to the health of our children, our future workforce and the long-term vitality of our state.*

Medicaid is the single most important public policy issue affecting the stability of children's healthcare access and coverage in Ohio.

- Medicaid provides healthcare coverage for nearly HALF of Ohio's 2.5 million children—or 1.2 million kids.<sup>i</sup>
- More than half of the patients in children's hospitals rely on Medicaid for health care coverage – 53% of all patients who receive care in children's hospitals have Medicaid for insurance.<sup>ii</sup>
- Children make up more than 40% of enrollees in Ohio's Medicaid program, and yet account for less than 20% of the overall cost of the Medicaid program.<sup>iii</sup>
- According to the Ohio Office of Health Transformation, the annual costs for children enrolled in the Ohio Medicaid program are 22% below the national average.<sup>iv</sup>
- Medicaid covers all youth in foster care – many of whom are displaced due to the opioid epidemic.<sup>v</sup>

### PERCENTAGES OF OHIO CHILDREN ENROLLED IN MEDICAID: (BY COUNTY TYPE)<sup>vi</sup>



By enrolling eligible children in Medicaid early in childhood, Ohio can help them have better lives in youth and adulthood. Consider that children who are enrolled in Medicaid early in life:

- Do better in school: better reading test scores in the 4th and 8th grades, better attendance rates, and decreased high school dropout and increased college attendance and completion.
- Grow up to be healthier as adults: lower rates of high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, heart disease or heart attack, and obesity.
- Grow up to be adults who earn higher wages and pay more in taxes.

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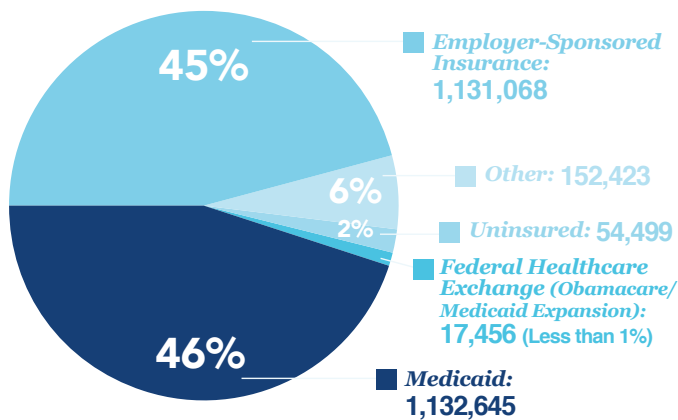


## THE FACTS

### Children's Healthcare Coverage in Ohio:




**2,488,091 CHILDREN**

#### HEALTHCARE COVERAGE: (BY PROVIDER) <sup>vii</sup>



## Ohio's Next Governor Should:

*Take steps to ensure children have access to adequate healthcare coverage so they can continue to receive the comprehensive and preventive healthcare services needed to grow into healthy and productive adults. Addressing health problems before they become advanced illnesses and before treatment becomes more difficult and costly benefits children, families and taxpayers.*

-  Ensure the state budget includes stable, predictable, adequate Medicaid funding for Ohio's children.
-  Ensure that Medicaid coverage for children provides comprehensive care that includes physical (including dental and vision) and mental health services.
-  Recognize that when it comes to healthcare, children are not simply "little adults," and that quality and cost measures included in public policy and regulations must reflect the uniqueness of pediatric care.

The research is clear, healthy children are more successful in school and grow up to become healthy productive adults, and stable, predictable, adequate Medicaid coverage helps Ohio's children reach their full potential.

### Sources:

- <http://grcapps.osu.edu/dashboards/OMAS/child>
- Average of hospital figures self-reported based on patient caseload
- Ohio Office of Health Transformation
- Ohio Office of Health Transformation
- Ohio Medicaid
- 2014, Ohio Kids Count, Children's Defense Fund — Ohio
- <http://ccf.georgetown.edu/2017/04/19/snapshot-source-2>

Presented by:



#Vote4OhioKids