

## Medicaid Matters: Hearing from Families

A new video

Here are a few of the families you will meet on the video

The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured's video **Medicaid Matters: Hearing From Families** profiles five families who have children covered by Medicaid. This eight-minute video introduces the viewer to families from East Hartford, CT; Emmitsburg, MD; Atlanta, GA; Española, NM and Washington, D.C. The video highlights the important role Medicaid plays in each of their lives. Medicaid provides affordable, comprehensive health care coverage to over 47 million low-income people, including over 24 million children in 2002. Medicaid helps assure that children receive preventive care, regular check-ups, vision and dental services and are able to see a specialist or go to the hospital if needed. Studies have shown that Medicaid coverage improves access to health care services and helps assure healthier children.

The five families in **Medicaid Matters: Hearing From Families** reflect the diversity of those helped by Medicaid—families from all over the country of varying races/ethnicities, ages and sizes. Despite all the hard work of their parents, these children would not have health insurance if it were not for Medicaid. Each family in the video illustrates a particular health care need: assuring a healthy birth, accessing physical and speech therapies, and monitoring chronic conditions such as asthma and allergies.

We hope **Medicaid Matters: Hearing From Families** is useful to you.

—The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured

### Insuring a Healthy Birth: Prenatal Care



The Diaz Family, Washington, DC

Before becoming enrolled in Medicaid, Natalia was uninsured and relied on neighborhood clinics to get health care. She was unhappy with this experience and delayed seeking care for her pregnancy because of fear of the medical bills that she would receive from the hospital. After receiving Medicaid coverage, Natalia was able to obtain regular check-ups for her pregnancy. When Natalia went into premature labor, Medicaid provided her the care and medicine needed to carry her baby to full term. Natalia attributes Fernando being born a healthy baby to her excellent prenatal care. Today Fernando is an active two-year-old, and Natalia is working full-time and pursuing a degree in nursing.

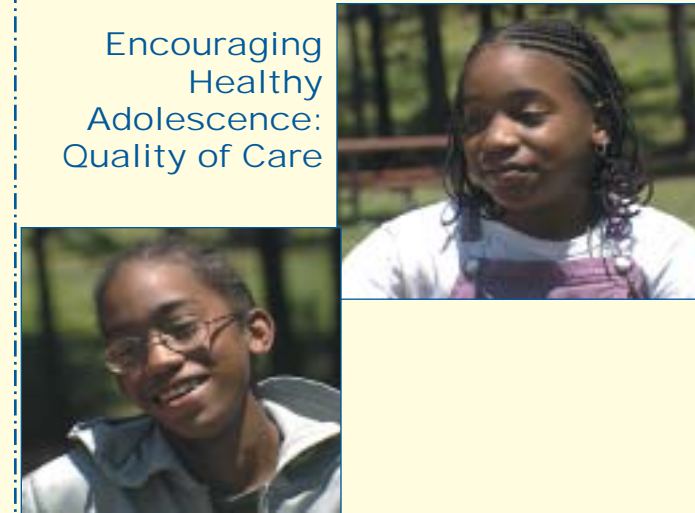
### Growing and Active: Covering the Unexpected



The Prisk Family, East Hartford, CT

Sandy is a certified nurse assistant and Rob is a self-employed carpet layer in East Hartford, Connecticut. They have three children—Matthew 5, Jessica 8, Katie 10. Sandy and Rob Prisk know the importance of health coverage, but neither of them receives health insurance through work. Fortunately, their children qualified for Medicaid, which covers sudden expenses such as emergency dental work or antibiotics for a throat infection. Living on a tight family budget, the Prisks find Medicaid very affordable and say that it provides them with peace of mind.

### Encouraging Healthy Adolescence: Quality of Care



The Dessayau Family, Atlanta, GA

Twana Dessayau is raising her two adolescent children on her own after her recent divorce, holding down two part-time jobs—being a nanny and a certified personal trainer. Juggling many responsibilities as a working mom, Twanna does not worry about her children's ability to get care if they need it. She says that Medicaid assures that her children get the best of care, whether it's emergency care for her accident-prone daughter Kyrie, or on-going care for her son Jalair's allergies. The children like their family doctor and Twana appreciates his advice and guidance. Because of Medicaid, Twana feels safe and secure about her children's health—even with rambunctious teenagers.

# MEDICAID MATTERS

## HEARING FROM FAMILIES



The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured serves as a policy institute and forum for analyzing health care coverage and access for the low-income population and assessing options for reform. The Commission, begun in 1991, strives to bring increased public awareness and expanded analytic effort to the policy debate over health coverage and access, with a special focus on Medicaid and uninsured. The Commission is a major initiative of The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and is based at the Foundation's Washington, D.C. office.

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