



children's defense fund new york

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For More Information Contact:

Ben Anderson

banderson@childrensdefense.org

(212) 697-0942

More than 100,000 Children in New York Still Uninsured, Ranking New York Tenth in Highest Number of Uninsured

New York, N.Y. – Children's Defense Fund-New York Executive Director Naomi Post issued the following statement today in response to the U.S. Census Bureau's release of state data showing that in 2018 there were 107,381 children in New York without health coverage. While the uninsured rate in New York dropped from 2.7 percent to 2.5 percent from 2017 to 2018, the number of children without health coverage remains staggeringly high.

"While today's health coverage numbers show progress, it remains unacceptable that over 100,000 children in New York lack health coverage. Attacks on the ACA and federal threats to immigrant children and families have been destabilizing, making it harder to maintain and improve coverage rates. While New York State has been effective in weathering the storm, uninsured rates continue to hover around 2.5 percent.

Enrolling all children in health coverage will require New York State to do more. New York's health insurance navigators have not received a cost of living adjustment over the past 6 years, making it difficult to retain well-trained and experienced staff. The program should also be enhanced by providing additional funding for targeted assistance in communities with high numbers of uninsured children and families. This would be the best and most efficient way to increase the number of children with health coverage in New York, and will pay dividends for these children and all New Yorkers. Children with access to health coverage do better in school, are more likely to graduate, and are healthier and earn more as adults."

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The Children's Defense Fund-New York Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a *Healthy Start*, a *Head Start*, a *Fair Start*, a *Safe Start* and a *Moral Start* in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.