



Talking Points – March 4, 2008 First 5 San Mateo County

HEALTH CARE: F5 CALIFORNIA

- The objective of Health Access is to ensure that all children in participating counties are insured and have access to quality medical, dental, and vision care services. First 5 California provides funds to assist with the insurance premiums for Healthy Kids, an expanded health insurance program administered by county coalitions known as the Children's Health Initiatives (CHI's).
- A December 2007 research study examined preventable hospitalization rate pre- and –post insurance for nine CHIs. This study found that the presence of insurance contributed to a reduction of 1,050 preventable hospitalizations per year, over six years. With an estimated average hospital cost of \$7,000 per child, the study estimates total savings at \$7.35 million per year.
- First 5 California is the largest and most stable funding source of health coverage for children up to age 5 in our state. We work to assure that no child will lose access to health care because of a family's lost employment or increased health care premiums.
 - Statewide, last year F5 California spent more than \$48 million on children's health care.
 - Statewide, last month F5 California offered an additional \$16.7 million to the Healthy Families program, safeguarding more than 65,000 young children from waiting lists for health coverage due to the budget crisis.

HEALTH CARE: F5 BAY AREA

- Research shows that a child's brain develops most dramatically during the early years of life. This is why the Bay Area First 5 Commissions invest in effective local programs in health, education, family and community programs for children prenatal through age 5.
- Children with health insurance receive regular medical check-ups while uninsured children are 5 times more likely to use the Emergency Room for their medical care. The cost of insuring a child averages \$100 per month, but it costs \$435 for just one emergency room visit.
 - Annually, First 5 helps 201,590 parents obtain health insurance for the Bay Area's most vulnerable children.
 - As a result of state budget cuts, Bay Area First 5s recently allocated \$2.1 million to the state- and federally-funded Healthy Families insurance program, guaranteeing that no child 0 through 5 in the Bay Area will end up on their waiting list.
 - Dental disease is the number one chronic disease affecting young children and in California, untreated dental decay in children greatly exceeds the national averages.
 - First 5 provides dental screenings for an average of 14,000 children annually and needed follow-up treatment for one-third of these children.

FIRST 5 SAN MATEO COUNTY: CHILDREN'S HEALTH INITIATIVE EXPANDING ACCESS TO PEDIATRIC CARE

- Healthy Kids provides health insurance to children with families earning up to 400% of the Federal Poverty Level who are not eligible for other insurance products such as Medi-Cal and Healthy Families (including undocumented children).
- Over 2,300 children were enrolled in Healthy Kids due to F5SMC participation in the Children's Health Initiative (CHI) in FY 06-07.
 - Of these enrollments, 749 children aged 0-5 were newly served and 1,582 children aged 0-5 were re-enrolled in the Healthy Kids program.
 - Evaluation data shows that 80% of Healthy Kids enrollees utilize medical and/or dental services in the first nine months of enrollment.
 - CHI also conducts utilization and navigation assistance for Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, and Healthy Kids