

HEALTH

Many Families Lack Health Insurance

Now impacts millions of people of all colors

(AP) — For every child who lacks health insurance, another has gaps in coverage and is just as likely to miss out on seeing a doctor or getting a prescription refilled, suggests a new comprehensive study of federal data.

The research also reveals some surprises: About four out of five children with insurance coverage gaps have parents who work; two-thirds of them live with both parents; and more than half are white.

At least 9 million U.S. children, or about 12 percent, lack health insurance, based on a federal survey in 2003. Researchers who produced the latest study say that number is likely higher because many kids who lack health insurance during part of their childhood aren't included in that number.

Many studies have documented the health barriers faced by uninsured children, such as missing regular checkups and visiting hospital emergency rooms for routine care. But this is one of the few analyses of what happens to children when their families have intermittent coverage.

Marian Blackmon, a telephone



"I can't afford to add on the additional medical and dental insurance it takes to take care of my children," laments Marian Blackmon of Jackson, Miss. A telephone operator, she said her children lost health coverage when her husband retired last year. (AP photo)

operator in Jackson, Miss., said that when her husband retired last year, her three sons were dropped from his health plan.

Blackmon recalled how she avoided taking one of her 6-year-old twins to the pediatrician when he became feverish because she did not want to pay out-of-pocket for the visit. But when 12-year-old Nicholas fell off a horse last year and was

rushed to the emergency room, Blackmon had no choice, but to pay the medical bill.

"It's very stressful," said the 43-year-old mother, who recently applied to enroll her kids in a public health insurance program for poor children.

The researchers found that the children with intermittent coverage were more likely to postpone medical care than uninsured kids.

About 58 percent of children with coverage gaps were white, while 46 percent of those with no insurance were Hispanic. Thirteen percent of children who were insured only part of the time missed doctor appointments and one in 10 did not get prescriptions refilled because of the cost - percentages virtually equal to those for uninsured children.

REVIVAL REVIVAL REVIVAL

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH
1237 NE FAILING ST (corner of 13th)
PORTLAND, OREGON 97212
503-284-7594

August 7, 2005 - 11:30 AM & 7:30 PM

No Service Monday, August 8, 2005

Service will continue
August 9 - August 11, 2005
7:30 PM NIGHTLY



CONDUCTED BY
EVANGELIST DEBBIE JONES
LIVELY HOPE CHURCH
SPANAWAY, WASHINGTON

ELDER LEON BREWER JR. - HOST PASTOR

COME EXPECTING A BLESSING!



Lydig Construction is an equal opportunity employer and supports diversity in the workplace.
www.lydig.com

Class Helps Local Caregivers Improve Skills

Mt. Hood Community College will offer a unique class this fall designed especially for those who support people who cannot care for themselves.

"Powerful Tools for

Caregivers" is designed to help caregivers take care of themselves while caring for another. Persons providing for the needs of a parent, spouse, friend or client will benefit from this class, whether

the patient is at home, in an assisted living or nursing facility, or half way across the country.

The free class will be offered on Wednesday evenings from 6

to 8:30 p.m. in Room 220 at the MHCC Maywood Park campus, located at 10100 N.E. Prescott St. Registration is required by calling the college at 503-491-7571.

HIV POSITIVE
Womens Support Group

EVERY TUESDAY 5:00-6:30 p.m.
BEGINNING AUGUST 2, 2005
Meal & Child Care Provided
Undisclosed Site
For More Information Contact: Cherrell @ 503.273.7770
Peer Lead Sponsored By: Collective Care Services

You
are the understanding.

Putting people first - that's what sets us apart. At Providence Health System, we serve people from many cultures and backgrounds. In fact, we have a standing commitment to honor the worth and dignity of every patient. You can see those values reflected in the diversity of people who work here, too. In the respect and encouragement they extend to one another. We believe in bringing out the best in everyone. And that's what healthcare is meant to be.

Careers at Providence

From medicine to hospitality, administration to research, whatever you do at Providence is a rewarding work experience. We take care of our employees, offering competitive salaries, a comprehensive benefits package and a caring, team environment. No matter which facility or career path you choose, excellent opportunities await you at Providence Health System.

Apply Today

View current job openings and apply online at:
www.providence.org

Or visit our Employment Center at:
1235 NE 47th Avenue, Suite 200, Portland

A caring difference you can feel

EMPIRE BUILDER

Follow in the
FOOTSTEPS OF LEWIS AND CLARK
without getting blisters.

The newly enhanced Empire Builder[®] lets you truly enjoy the breathtaking view from the Pacific Northwest through the Rockies. Relax in a freshly updated Sleeping Car that includes wine and cheese tastings and nightly fresh-baked treats. Add on personalized service and featured regional cuisine, and go west or east in style.

Call 1-800-USA-RAIL, your travel agent or visit Amtrak.com to book today.

CHICAGO TO SEATTLE / PORTLAND • SENIOR DISCOUNTS FOR 62+ • KIDS 2-15 HALF PRICE