

Status of Children's Coverage: An Update

Jocelyn Guyer

Georgetown University Health Policy Institute

Center for Children and Families

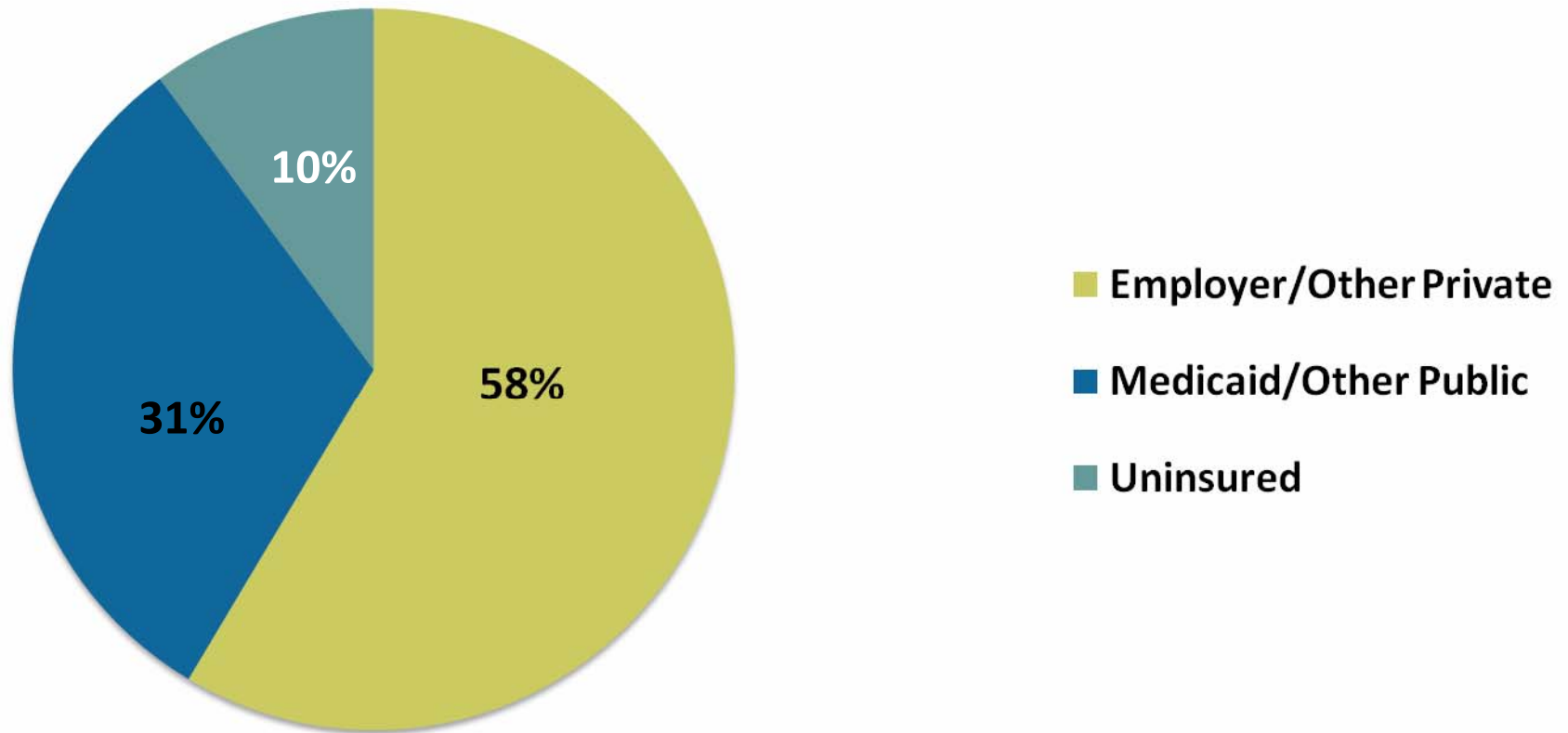
Washington, D.C.

jag99@georgetown.edu

ccf.georgetown.edu – www.theccfblog.org

November 2009

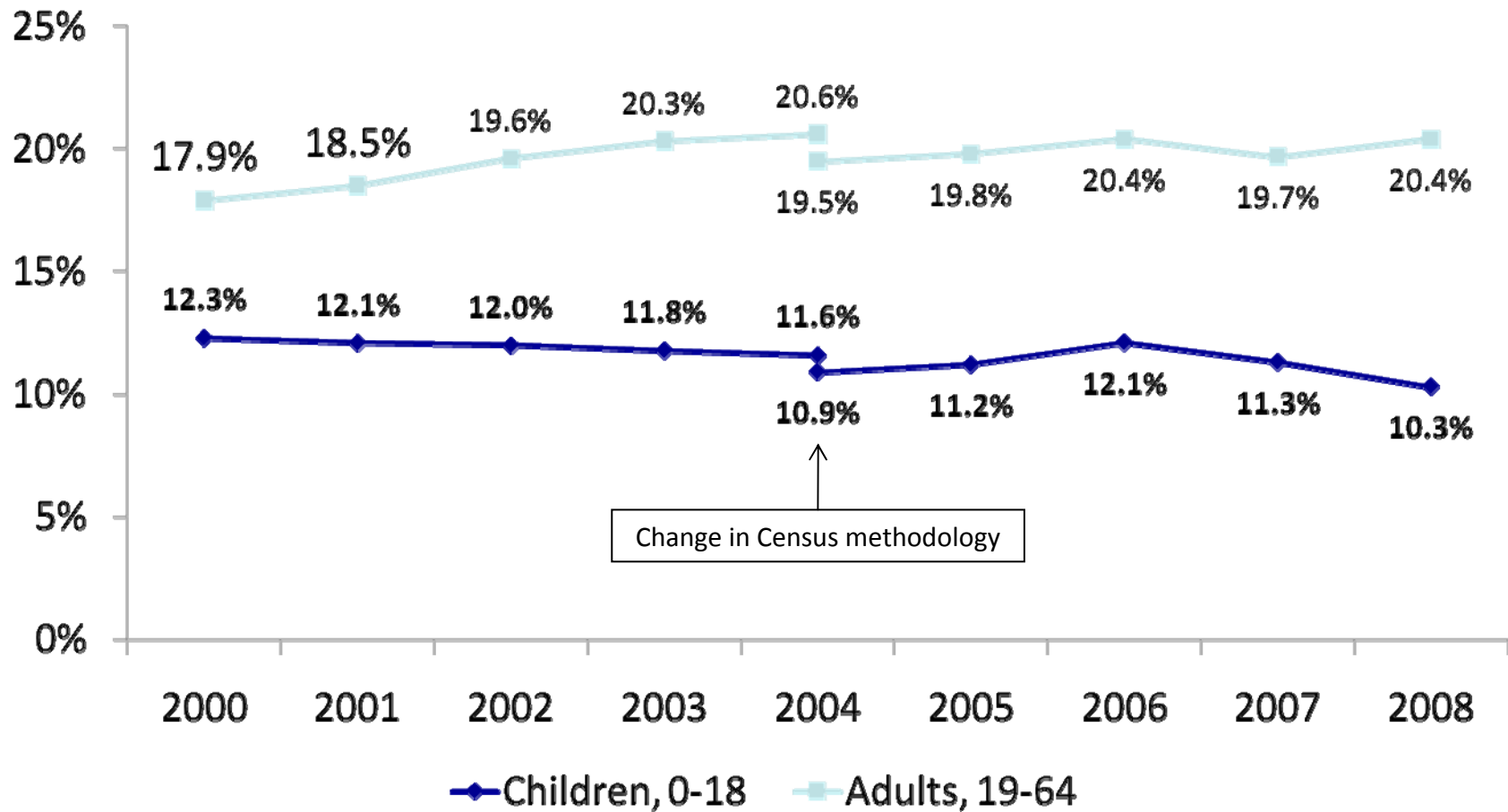
How are Children Covered?



78.7 million children in 2008

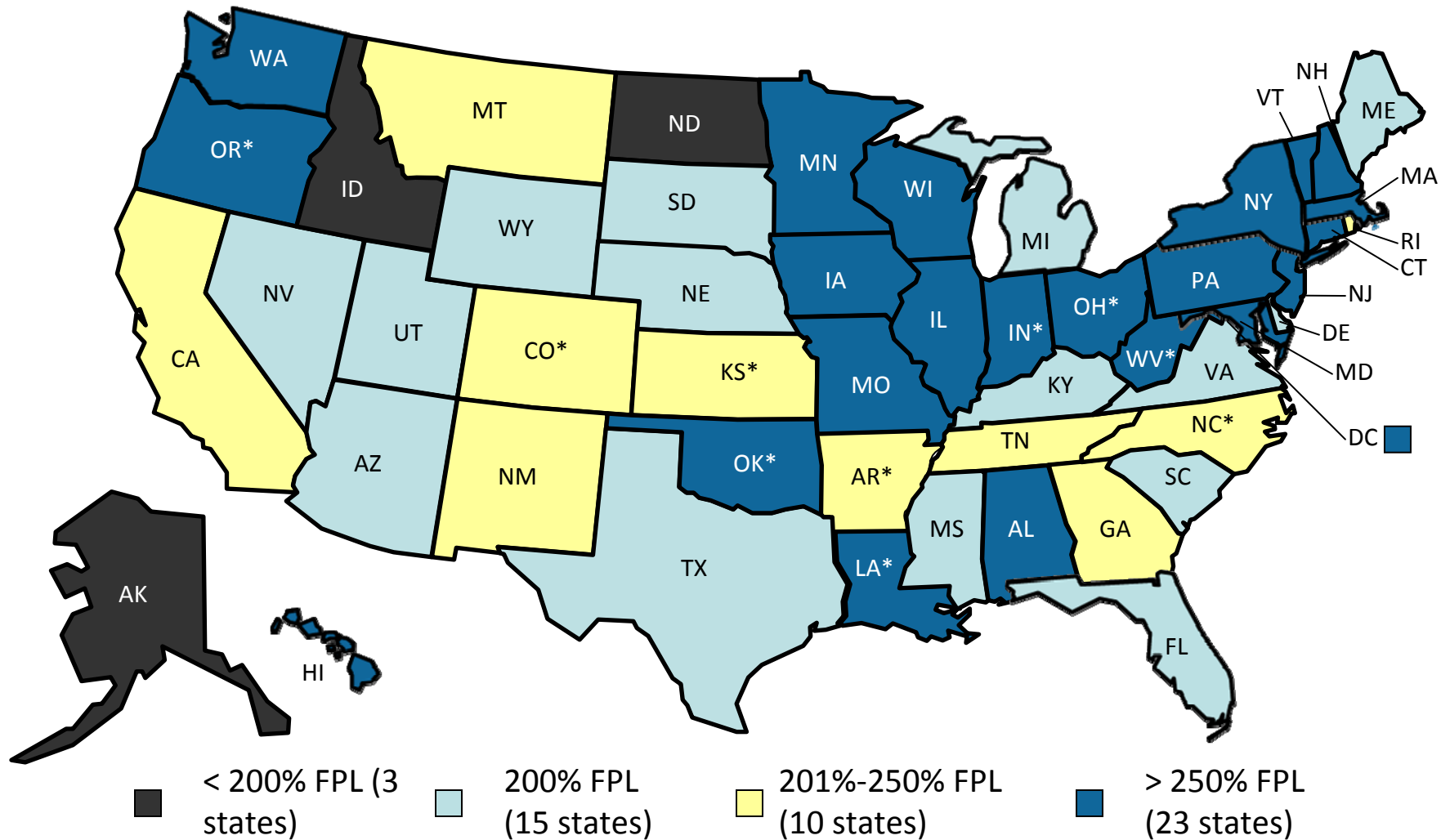
Source: Urban Institute and Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured estimates based on the Census Bureau's 2009 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Trends in the Uninsured Rate of Adults Under 65 and Children, 2000-2008



Source: Holahan and Cook. "Changes in Health Insurance Coverage, 2007-2008: Early Impact of the Recession." Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured.

Medicaid and CHIP *Authorized* Eligibility Levels for Children, October 1, 2009

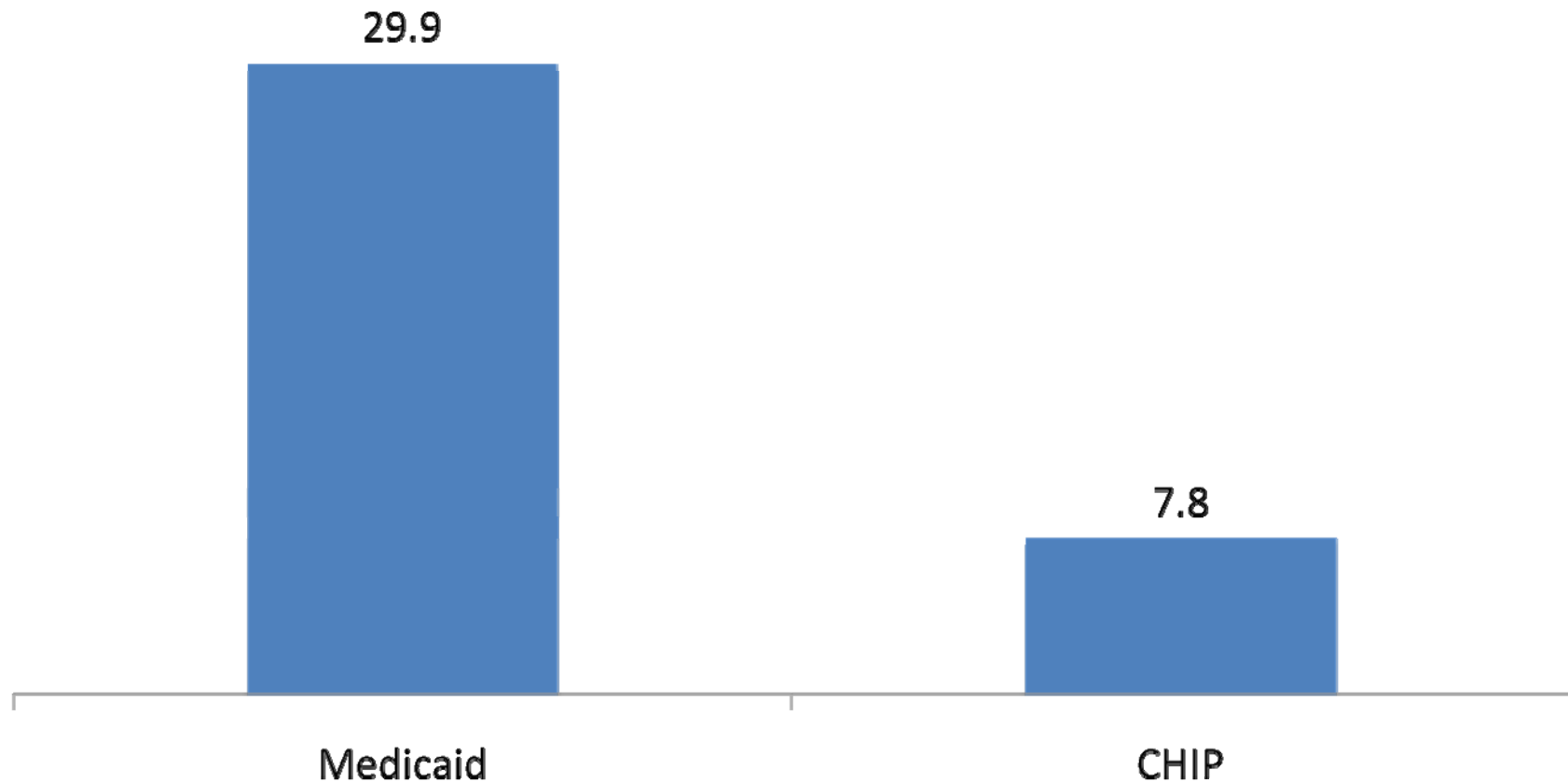


Source: D. Cohen Ross & C. Marks, "Health Coverage for Children and Families in Medicaid and SCHIP: State Efforts Face New Hurdles," Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured (January 2008); updated by the Center for Children and Families.

Note: States with asterisks (*) have enacted, but not yet implemented to the levels shown.

Children Enrolled in CHIP and Medicaid

Number of Children in Medicaid/CHIP (in millions)



Source: CMS, "FY 2008 Number of Children Ever Enrolled Year - SCHIP by Program Type" (January 20, 2009); and CMS, "Medicaid Children, Title XIX SEDS Report" (April 6, 2009).

Medicaid and CHIP: Basic Background

Medicaid

- States and the federal government share responsibility for financing care
- States must guarantee coverage, including EPSDT, to children up to federally-mandated minimum eligibility levels and can adopt additional expansions

CHIP

- Enacted in 1997 to encourage states to expand coverage for children; renewed in 2009
- Provides capped funding at enhanced rates to states to expand Medicaid or cover children in a separate CHIP program



CHIP Reauthorization 2009

- Extended CHIP through Sept 13, 2013 with significant new federal funding
- Major new initiatives to reach already eligible but uninsured children
- Estimated to cover an additional 4.1 million otherwise uninsured children

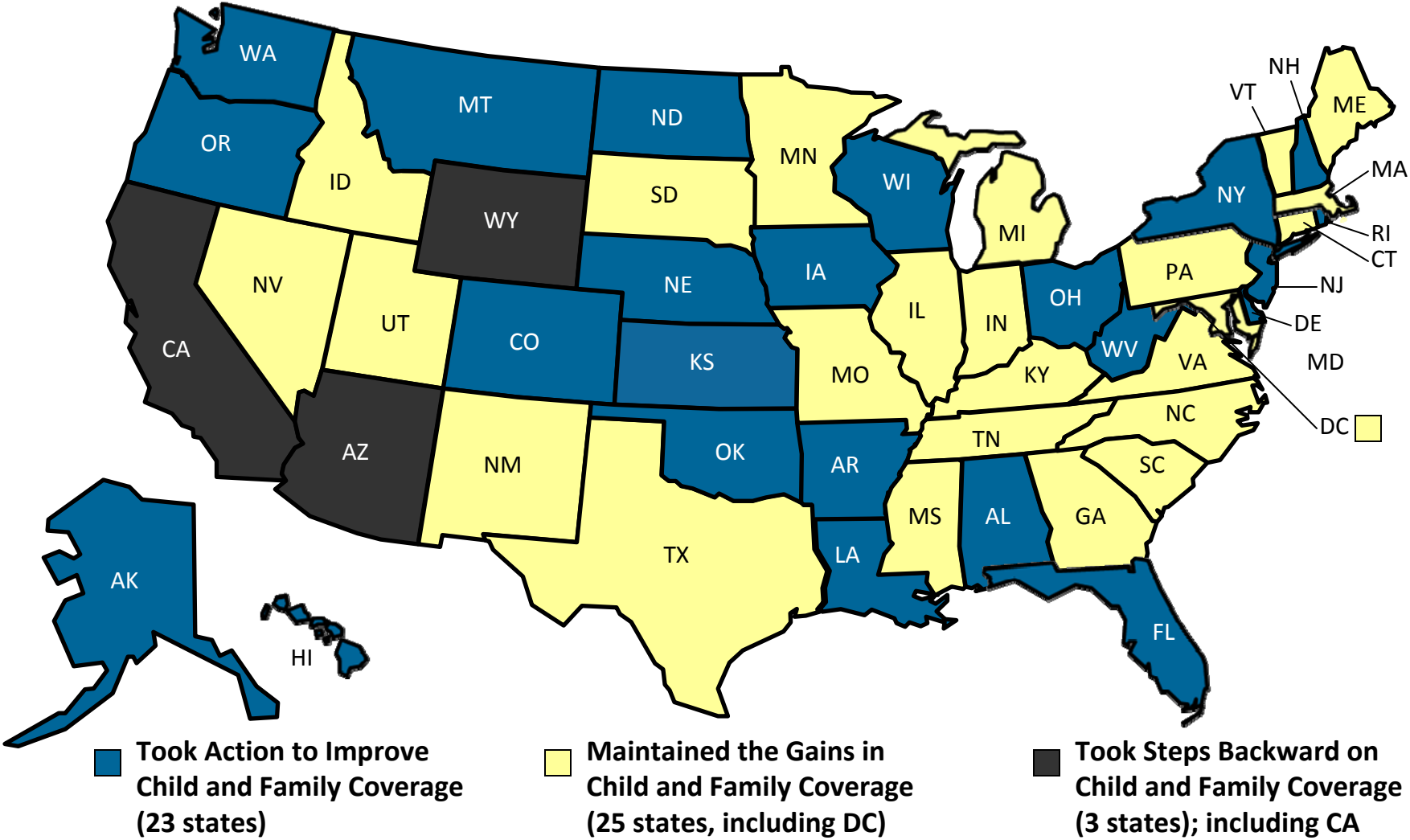


State Choices on Medicaid and CHIP

- Coverage Levels: 48 states at 200% FPL or above
- Premiums and Cost-sharing:
 - Median premium for a family of 3 at 200% of the FPL is \$20 (0.65% of income) and average cost-sharing is nominal
 - Studies have shown the actuarial value in Medicaid to be 100% and in the median state's CHIP program to be 98% (based on CHIP coverage for families at 225% FPL)
- Benefits: 22 states use the Medicaid benefits package in their CHIP programs and others cover child-specific benefits often left out of private plans
- Use of Waiting Lists: Very rare, but exceptions in economic downturns



48 States, including DC, Maintained Gains or Improved Coverage for Children and Families in 2009



Source: Center for Children and Families, as of September 1, 2009.

Took Steps Backward on Child and Family Coverage (3 states); including CA which subsequently reversed its cuts

Key Ingredients of the Medicaid and CHIP Success Story

- Medicaid and CHIP work together with CHIP standing on the shoulders of Medicaid
- Strong affordability protections
- Child-specific benefits
- Family-friendly enrollment procedures

