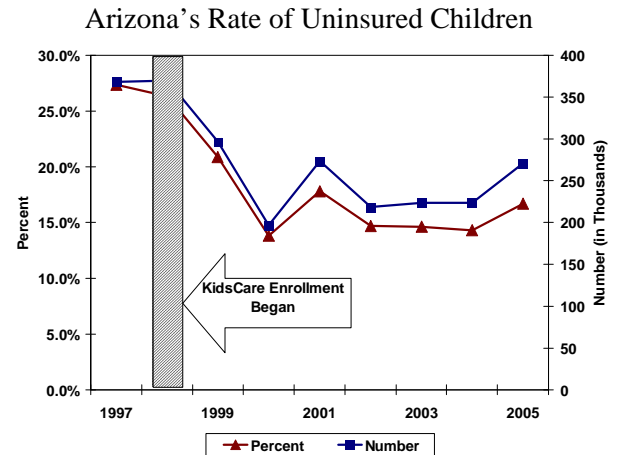


Strengthening Children's Healthcare

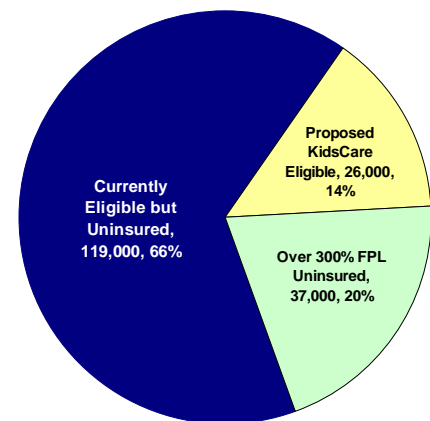
Arizona and Our Rising Rate of Uninsured Children

- 25% percent of uninsured Arizonans were children in 2004.
- Despite Arizona's progress over the last eight years, **only five states have higher rates of uninsured children.**
- The **vast majority** - more than 87% - of **Arizona's uninsured children live in working families.** As employer-based coverage declines, many are not offered health coverage or cannot afford to take it if offered.
- According to a recent Robert Wood Johnson Foundation report, **Arizona has the highest rate of uninsured children who receive no care during the year.**



Arizona Can Succeed in Reducing Our Rate of Uninsured Children

- **The Governor recommends investing in outreach to educate the 119,000 uninsured children who are already eligible for AHCCCS and KidsCare.** This proposal supports working families by partnering with community based and faith-based organizations, as well as schools to ensure that every family in Arizona knows how to access health coverage for their children. Senate Bill 1440
- **The Governor recommends strengthening KidsCare so that more working families with uninsured children can access affordable premium-based healthcare.** Extending KidsCare to families up to 300% FPL could provide health care access to another 26,000 uninsured children. This gives working families an opportunity to purchase comprehensive health coverage for their children. House Bill 2623



Covering Children is a Smart Investment for Arizona

- Children with health insurance can enter school healthy and ready to learn.
- Arizona benefits from a **federal investment of nearly three federal dollars for each state dollar** spent on health coverage for children in KidsCare.
- The Institute of Medicine notes that uninsured children are more likely to be hospitalized for preventable conditions, and for missed diagnoses of serious or life-threatening conditions. **These avoidable costs are shifted to hospitals and providers as uncompensated care, and to the public as a hidden tax through increased premiums. Reducing uncompensated care is good for Arizona.**