



Because kids will be kids.

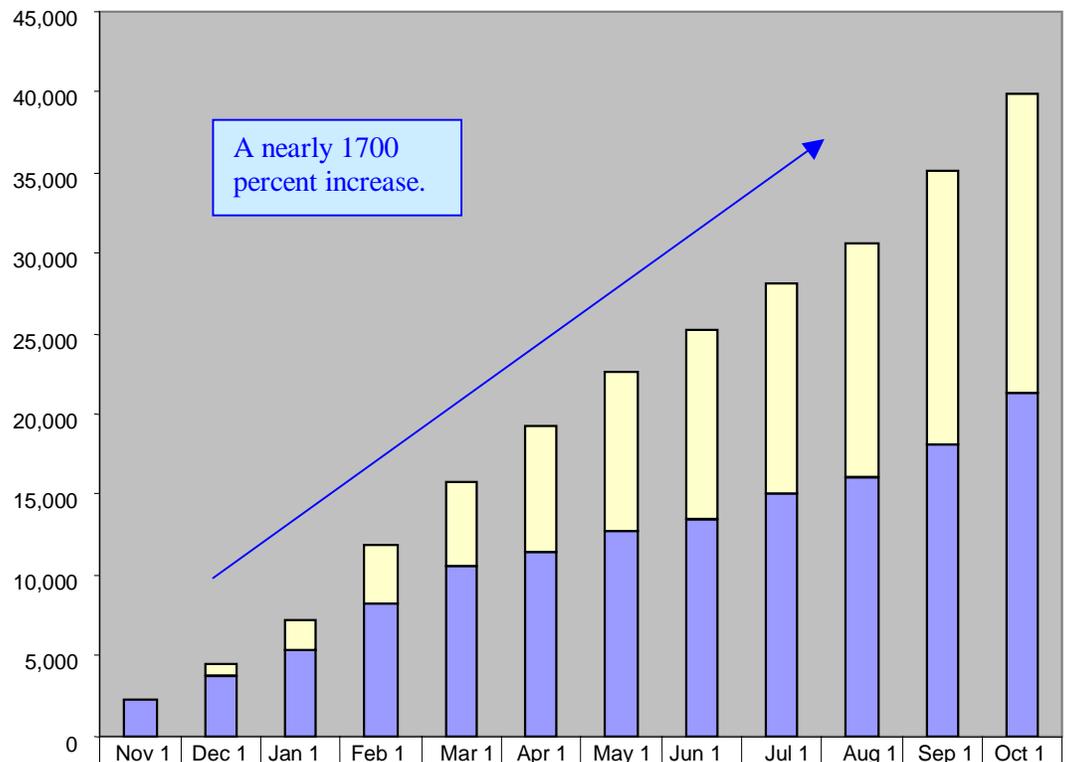
ANNUAL REPORT JANUARY 1, 2000

The AHCCCS Administration provides this Annual KidsCare Report to the Governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Secretary of State, and the Director of the Department of Library Archives and Public Records in accordance with Laws 1998, Ch. 4 § 9. The reporting period is from October 1, 1998 to September 30, 1999.

KidsCare began its inaugural year on November 1, 1998. As of October 1, 1999, KidsCare has enabled 40,000 additional children who had been previously uninsured to gain access to health insurance. This is nearly a 1700 percent increase from a total enrollment of 2252 in November 1998. The KidsCare Administration, in partnership with many community organizations, has made a difference.

Enrollment For KidsCare

Figure 1 shows the total number of children with health insurance because of KidsCare. Children were either enrolled in KidsCare or Medicaid due to the KidsCare outreach efforts. As of October 1, 1999, 39,949 children now have health insurance as a result of these efforts. This figure represents a 1674 percent increase from the total enrollment since November 1998.



<input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid Enrollment due to KidsCare Applications <input type="checkbox"/> Actual KidsCare Only Totals	Nov 1	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1	Jun 1	Jul 1	Aug 1	Sep 1	Oct 1
		741	1878	3706	5217	7812	9884	11792	13107	14531	16938	18693
	2252	3710	5283	8194	10578	11458	12766	13444	14985	16066	18167	21256
	2252	4451	7161	11900	15795	19270	22650	25236	28092	30597	35105	39949

FIGURE 1 shows the dramatic increase in KidsCare enrollment from its inception in November 1998 through September 1999.

FamiliesSpeak

KidsCare touches the lives of many Arizonans. Everyday, outreach staff see many people without insurance for their children. It is exciting and encouraging to know that this program can make such an impact on a family by providing health care for children. Many people are extremely grateful that the state has recognized a need for supplying their children with the care they need. These are their voices:

“This program is a godsend.”

“We really needed this program.”

“I love being able to call if there is a problem, they direct me where to go. I love KidsCare and I am so grateful that someone thought of this program.”

“KidsCare is a blessing.”

“I love the security of knowing I can take my sick daughter to the doctor...”

“I love this program.... They have been a lifesaver.”

Source: Quotes are from Arizona families, who applied to KidsCare through outreach efforts. Riester-Robb received these quotes while working with outreach staff.

BUDGET

For State Fiscal Year 1999, actual total expenditures were \$10,083,774 for KidsCare. In State Fiscal Year 2000, total expenditures are projected to be \$36,031,284. Based on current enrollment numbers, federal and state funding percentages are sufficient for the upcoming year. Therefore, an enrollment cap is not necessary at this time.

Outreach Updates

The AHCCCS Administration is pleased with the support KidsCare has received from the business community. Sponsorships by major corporations and companies include: Osco Drugs, Bashas, Hickman’s Eggs, Video Update, Domino’s Pizza, Diamondbacks, and Arizona Thunder. In addition, the KidsCare logo has been placed on neighborhood ice cream carts (paletas) in Hispanic neighborhoods.

St. Luke’s Charitable Health Trust has awarded seven grants to community groups for outreach, while the Children’s Action Alliance under their Robert Wood Johnson Foundation “Covering Kids” grant has awarded three grants to community groups.

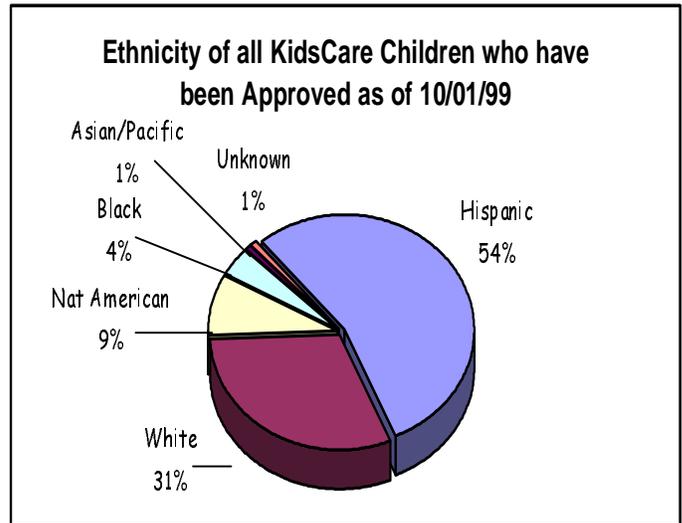


FIGURE 2 shows the ethnicity of KidsCare children as reported by the applicant.

COORDINATION & INNOVATION

AHCCCS has streamlined the application process by developing a simplified two-page application, which can be used for an eligibility determination for both KidsCare and Medicaid. Applications are in both Spanish and English, while interpreter services are available upon request. The application process has been simplified with a mail-in application, thus eliminating an applicant’s need to make an office visit. An applicant may also call a toll free number 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for assistance.

In addition, AHCCCS has developed a universal application form that will allow applicants to file an application for all AHCCCS programs using one application form. The application will be screened and referred to the appropriate eligibility unit or agency for an eligibility determination. Programs to be included are Medicaid, KidsCare and State-funded programs.

Arizona KidsCare-avan: Getting the Word Out

KidsCare has taken its outreach efforts out on the road. Working with Riester-Robb, a contracted advertising/PR firm, the KidsCare-avan travels across the state, particularly to rural areas to promote and raise public awareness of the program. Through media contacts, interviews, community and sporting events, the KidsCare outreach efforts are making a difference. The KidsCare-avan is staffed with 2 bilingual and energetic people, who have an inflatable party bouncer. These efforts have been particularly successful in reaching smaller communities.

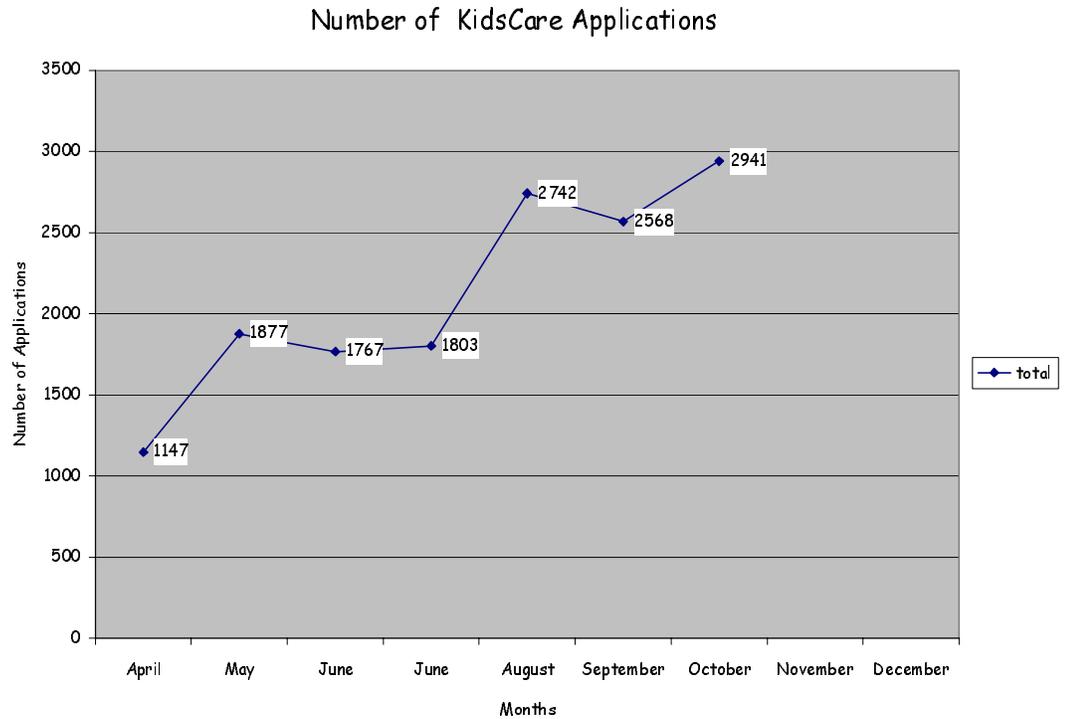


FIGURE 3 shows that the word is getting out on KidsCare. For the month of October 1999, KidsCare received nearly 3000 applications to its program. The KidsCare hotline alone has received 5932 calls in the month of October, up from 3585 calls in the month of September.

Looking Ahead.....Program Recommendations

- While the KidsCare Administration is not recommending program changes for the upcoming fiscal year, it has been busy with incorporating recent changes to Federal Poverty Levels (FPL) and working toward accomplishing major outreach goals. Initially, and during this reporting period of October 1, 1998 through September 30, 1999, income thresholds were set at 150% of FPL. Beginning October 1, 1999 income levels have been raised to 200% of the FPL. KidsCare continues to extend health care coverage statewide for children up to age 19.
- The KidsCare Administration is excited about the upcoming year and the prospect of becoming more involved with the community.
- The KidsCare Administration is also looking forward to focusing on outreach opportunities within the community.