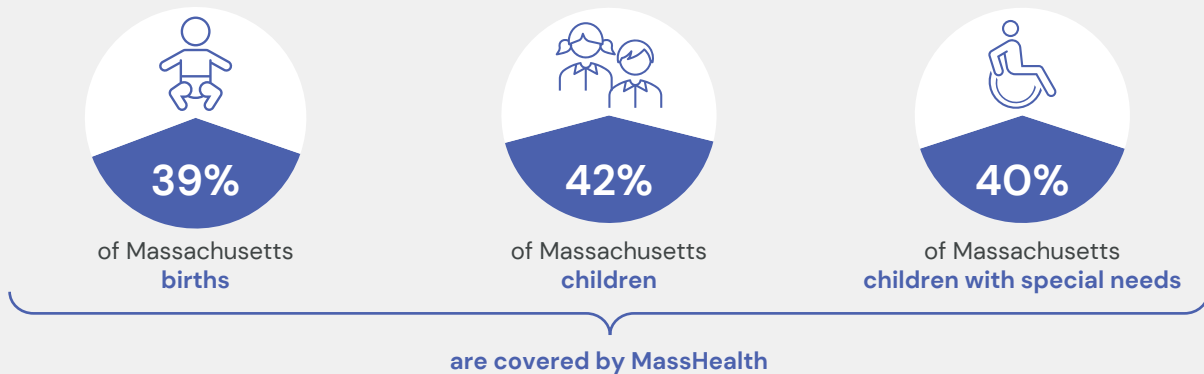


## The Importance of MassHealth for Children



As the source of health coverage for more than four in 10 children, MassHealth plays a particularly important role in ensuring the health and well-being of low-income children in Massachusetts.

### INCREASES HEALTH CARE COVERAGE AND ACCESS TO CHILD-SPECIFIC SERVICES NEEDED FOR HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT



- MassHealth covers **many parents**, which **improves health outcomes and well-being for children**.
- Children enrolled in Medicaid are **more likely to have routine check-ups** and **less likely to forgo needed medical care** than children covered by employer-sponsored insurance.
- Unlike typical commercial health coverage, MassHealth provides children of all ages with **broad access to services**, including child-specific services (such as speech or occupational therapy), **without fixed limits** if the services are needed to correct or improve a health condition that can affect growth or development.

### IMPROVES LIFELONG LEARNING AND WELL-BEING

- On average, children with Medicaid coverage have **better health** in adulthood—including **fewer hospitalizations** and **lower rates of chronic disease**—than those without insurance coverage.
- Expanding Medicaid eligibility for children is associated with **better academic test scores** and **less likelihood of dropping out of school**.



### OFFSETS COSTS FOR SERVICES PROVIDED IN SCHOOLS

- Children who receive health care services in school **miss fewer school days** and are **better equipped to learn**.
- For **every \$1 invested in school health services, Massachusetts saves \$2.20** from avoided medical procedures, increased teacher productivity, and decreased parent loss of work time.
- Through its School-Based Medicaid Program in state fiscal year 2019, the Commonwealth received **nearly \$97 million in federal reimbursement** to help offset the costs of providing Medicaid-covered services to children and adolescents in school.



For more information on the Importance of MassHealth for Children, see the full issue brief at [https://www.bluecrossmafoundation.org/sites/g/files/cspkws2101/files/2021-06/MH\\_Impact\\_Children\\_brief\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.bluecrossmafoundation.org/sites/g/files/cspkws2101/files/2021-06/MH_Impact_Children_brief_FINAL.pdf).