

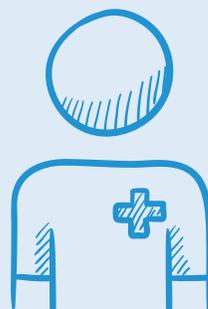
Health

In order for all DC children to meet their full potential, health services must be high-quality, well-coordinated and child-centered.

HEALTH INSURANCE HAS MADE THE DIFFERENCE FOR DC CHILDREN

DC's insurance rate is one of the **HIGHEST** in the country:

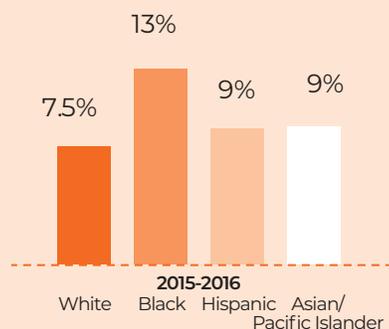
98%
of all DC children are covered by health insurance



70%
of all DC children are covered by Medicaid/CHIP

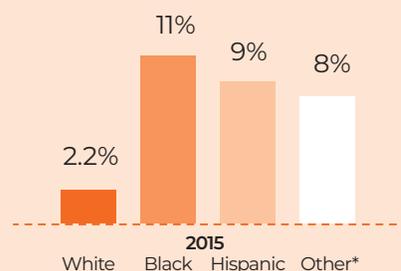
DESPITE HIGH RATES OF INSURANCE, DC CHILDREN CONTINUE TO FACE DISPARITIES IN HEALTH OUTCOMES

In DC, disparities by race start at birth:



Preterm births in DC by race

Chronic diseases such as asthma occur at higher rates for DC's children of color:



% of children with asthma by race

DC CHILDREN NEED AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM OF CARE THAT MAKES IT EASY TO CONNECT TO AND ACCESS HEALTH SERVICES

Government agencies, health care providers, and community partners must collaborate and coordinate services so that every DC child can reach their full potential



QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

Health

Health services must be high-quality, well-coordinated and child-centered in order for all DC children to meet their full potential.

1. 98% of DC children are covered by health insurance; however, disparities in health outcomes are vast, and widen based on the child's race/ethnicity and zip code. What steps should the District take to achieve health equity for DC children and families of color?
2. The link between student health and academic achievement is strong: when students are healthy they are better learners. What challenges do you see with the current school-based health and mental health services and how would you approach addressing them?
3. Both before and after birth, mothers and babies need high-quality health care and other types of supports to ensure a healthy start. How will you ensure that these services and supports are connected and easy to access, regardless of the mother's race/ethnicity or zip code?
4. Research indicates that when parents are insured and healthy, their children are more likely to access primary care. How will you ensure that children not only have health coverage but access care?
5. Even low levels of exposure to environmental toxins such as lead are dangerous for young children; exposure to toxins can negatively affect a child's physical, mental and behavioral development. Given that exposure to environmental toxins disproportionately affects children of color, how will you promote health equity by implementing policies and programs that proactively work to ensure healthy development and quality of life for all District children?