2020

SOUTH DAKOTA

BLUEPRINT FOR CHILDREN

Priorities and recommendations to optimize lifespan outcomes, foster child health and well-being, strengthen families, support our communities, and enhance the position of South Dakota as a leading state for children.
ACCESS TO CARE/MEDICAID/CHIP
In South Dakota, Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provide health insurance for more than 78,000 children, or 68% of state residents. Medicaid and CHIP policies and procedures have a direct influence on the health of the state’s children. Recent trends have seen the number of uninsured children increase in the last several years. In South Dakota, the percent of uninsured children under the age of 19 increased from 4.3 percent in 2016 to 5.9 percent in 2018. Children enrolled in Medicaid are less likely to miss school, and more likely attend and graduate college, become healthier adults, earn higher wages, and pay more in taxes. South Dakota pediatricians are committed to working with policymakers to:

- Improve access to Medicaid and CHIP for eligible children and their families through increased outreach and enrollment,
- Ensure children receive necessary mental health services, and
- Expand access to pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists to ensure children get the care they need.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
In our state more than 42,000 children have experienced at least 2 adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), which can include economic hardship, family violence, neighborhood violence, family substance abuse use, and others. Ensuring that young children are protected from these experiences, and providing safe, stable, and nurturing relationships helps promote healthy brains by decreasing toxic stress and encouraging foundational mental skills. South Dakota pediatricians are committed to working with policymakers to:

- Improve the screening and identification of adverse childhood experiences.

INFANT MORTALITY
The infant mortality rate in South Dakota is 6.3 per 1,000 live births and almost 400 infants tragically passed away before reaching the age of 1 between 2014 and 2018. The first year is the most fragile of a child’s life and ensuring that infants and their parents have access to the services they need to thrive during this first year is paramount. South Dakota pediatricians are committed to working with policymakers to:

- Improve maternal and child health,
- Improve prenatal and perinatal education,
- Expand access to home visiting services, and
- Improve safe sleep practices.

Leadership
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