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SCHIP Research Available From UNH Carsey Institute

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SCHIP Research Available From UNH Carsey Institute

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DURHAM, N.H. -- As the U.S. Senate debates the reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), the Carsey Institute at the University of New Hampshire offers two research reports about the federal program and its impact on health insurance coverage for children.

In addition, Sally Ward, Carsey Institute senior fellow, UNH professor of sociology and co-author of "Children's Health Insurance in New Hampshire: An Analysis of New Hampshire Healthy Kids," is available for interviews. She can be reached at sally.ward@unh.edu.

In "Rural Children Increasingly Rely on Medicaid and State Child Health Insurance Programs for Medical Care," researchers find that the increasing number of American children with health insurance coverage over the past 10 years has been driven by increased coverage for children in low-income families, which is the result of expanded coverage by Medicaid and SCHIP. For children living in rural areas, Medicaid and SCHIP are even more critical -- more than one-third of all rural children rely on these programs for healthcare. These programs are particularly critical to children whose parents are seasonal and cyclical workers, jobs that are more prevalent in rural areas. Fifty-four percent of uninsured children in rural areas live in families where at least one parent works full-time. Given the economic changes and deteriorating job situation in many parts of rural America, the availability of public-sector health insurance through programs such as SCHIP is even more important in rural areas than in other parts of the country.

News release: http://www.unh.edu/news/cj_nr/2007/may/as10schip.cfm

Report: http://carseyinstitute.unh.edu/documents/RuralChildHealth_final.pdf.

In "Children's Health Insurance in New Hampshire: An Analysis of New Hampshire Healthy Kids," researchers find that the New Hampshire Healthy Kids nonprofit corporation is in part responsible for enabling New Hampshire to boast the nation's third-highest insurance rate for children from 2003 to 2005. More than 70,000 children are covered by Healthy Kids programs. Yet despite the state's high insurance rate, the state faces significant challenges to provide coverage for the estimated 17,000 uninsured New Hampshire children, 6 percent of all children. Since the Healthy Kids programs depend upon SCHIP funds, reauthorization by Congress will have a significant impact on the ability of Healthy Kids to continue to provide health insurance to children in low and moderate income families and to identify and enroll the remaining children who do not currently have health insurance. Any reduction in SCHIP

funds will result in more uninsured children in New Hampshire.

News release: http://www.unh.edu/news/cj_nr/2007/mar/as20insurance.cfm

Report: http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/documents/NHHealthyKids_final.pdf.

The Carsey Institute at the University of New Hampshire conducts research and analysis on the challenges facing rural families and communities in New Hampshire, New England, and the nation. The Carsey Institute sponsors independent, interdisciplinary research that documents trends and conditions affecting families and communities, providing valuable information and analysis to policymakers, practitioners, the media, and the general public. Through this work, the Carsey Institute contributes to public dialogue on policies that encourage social mobility and sustain healthy, equitable communities. The Carsey Institute was established in May 2002 with a generous gift from UNH alumna and noted television producer Marcy Carsey.

