

Food Insecurity Linked to Risk of Hospitalization

A May report from the Children's Sentinel Nutrition Assessment Program (C-SNAP) concludes that household food insecurity is linked to the frequency of hospitalization among young children. The study showed that when young children live in food insecure households, their need for hospital visits increases. The children's likelihood of fair or poor quality health also increases. To read the full report, go to <http://dcc2.bumc.bu.edu/csnappublic/Child%20Food%20Insecurity.htm>.

This finding demonstrates the flawed logic of Governor Rendell's recommendation that the State Food Purchase Program be cut in order to pay rising Medicaid costs. Such an approach will lead to more hospitalizations of young children, which will be paid for by Medicaid.

A second C-SNAP report issued in May describes the results of a 5-year study of child hunger and diet in three U.S. cities (Boston, Minneapolis and Little Rock). The study concludes that child hunger and/or poor diet in children increased along with household food insecurity between the years 2000 and 2004. This occurred even though at the same time and within the same population, levels of employment increased and the numbers of uninsured children decreased. To read the full report, go to <http://dcc2.bumc.bu.edu/csnappublic/Time%20Trends%202005.htm>.