

# Reforming Louisiana's Healthcare System: Strategies for Change

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# Overall system performance

- Consistently ranked as “least healthy state”
- Worst access to primary care in U.S.
- Highest mortality rates
- 40% uninsured or Medicaid
- Lack of coverage for low-income adults

# LA System of Care for Uninsured

- Long history of charity hospitals
- 10 locations to access care
- Growing reliance on subsidies
- Most states provide care for uninsured at county or community level

# LA System of Care for Uninsured

- Uninsured have poor access to care in the charity hospital system
  - Long travel times from rural areas
  - Long waiting times for appointments
  - Some services not available
- Federally qualified health centers (clinics for low-income population) in short supply in Louisiana compared to other states

# PAR: Expand coverage for low-income adults

- Long-range goal: cover adults below 200% FPL
- 6-year phase-in period
- Emphasize primary care and medical homes
- Aggressive reduction of excess use of emergency departments and hospitalization

# The Size of the Problem

## ESTIMATED NON-ELDERLY UNINSURED LOUISIANA - JANUARY 2008

|                 | <b>Uninsured<br/>total</b> | <b>Low-income</b> |
|-----------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Adults</b>   | <b>546,000</b>             | <b>369,000</b>    |
| <b>Children</b> | <b>64,000</b>              | <b>42,000</b>     |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>610,000</b>             | <b>411,000</b>    |

*Louisiana Health Insurance Survey, January 2008*

# Prescription for better health care

- Studies show insurance coverage provides better health outcomes than safety net care
- LaCHIP has been successful covering children – LA above U.S. average for percent insured
- 750,000 Medicaid eligibles linked to medical homes for primary care including 650,000 children (Medicaid CommunityCARE)

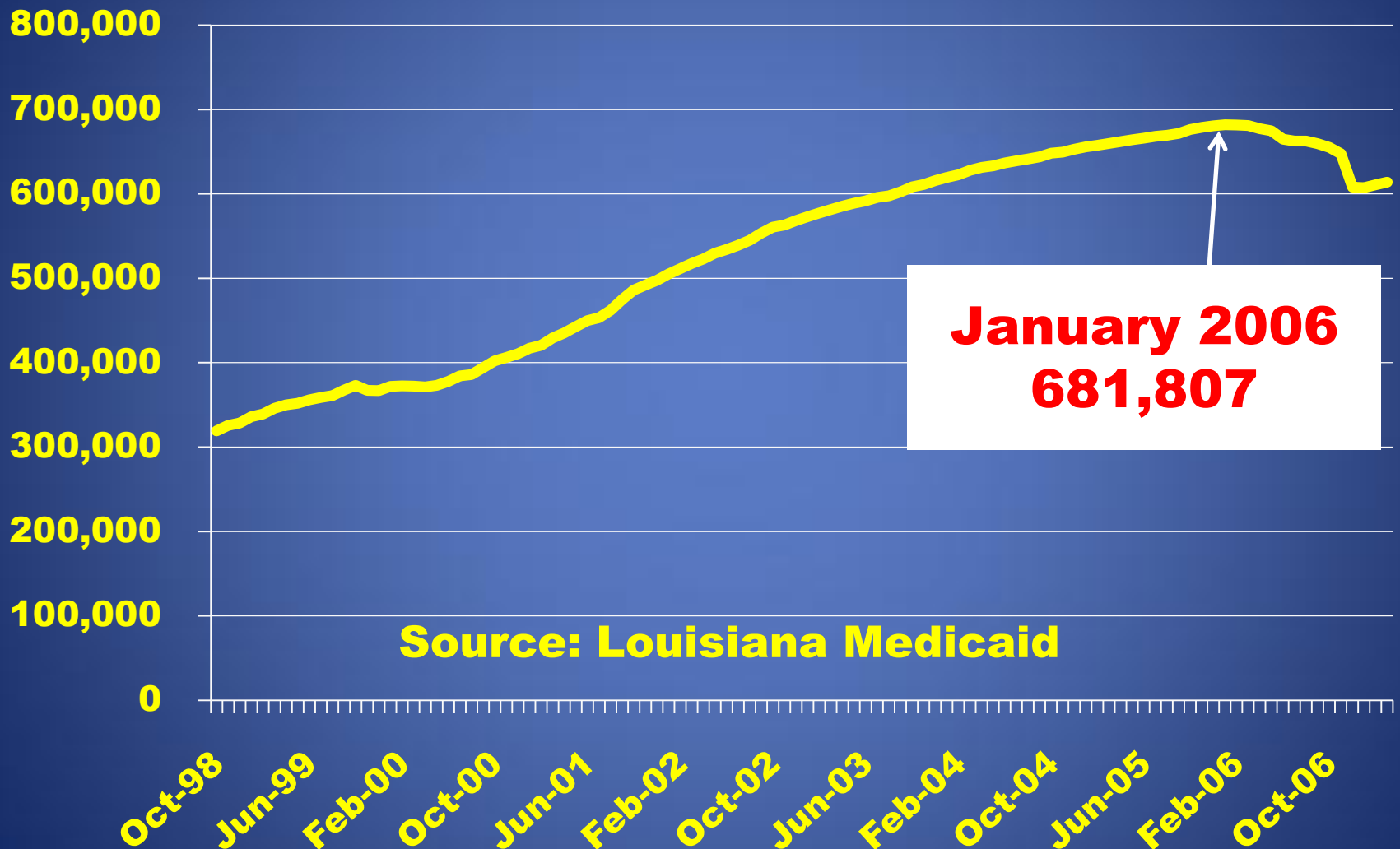
# Progress Made Covering Children

## PERCENTAGE OF UNINSURED CHILDREN UNDER 19

|                   | U.S.  | LA    | RANK |
|-------------------|-------|-------|------|
| All children      | 11%   | 8%    | 21   |
| Near poor         | 17%   | 8%    | 9    |
| Below poverty     | 21%   | 15%   | 15   |
| Reduction 2000-04 | -0.7% | -7.2% | 1    |

Source: Kaiser statehealthfacts.org, March 2007

# Medicaid/LaCHIP Coverage of Children



# Scant Progress Covering Adults

## PERCENTAGE OF UNINSURED ADULTS AGE 19-64

|                             | <b>U.S.</b> | <b>LA</b>  | <b>RANK</b> |
|-----------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| <b>All adults</b>           | <b>20%</b>  | <b>24%</b> | <b>47</b>   |
| <b>Adults below poverty</b> | <b>44%</b>  | <b>52%</b> | <b>47</b>   |

*Source: Kaiser statehealthfacts.org, March 2007*