



Idaho KIDS COUNT: Small Faces in a BIG Recession Project Qualitative Report (2009)

Focus Group Research Question: *How is the recession affecting children's education, health, safety and employment opportunities and what is most needed from civic leaders to protect children and build better support systems?*

Health/Healthcare Focus Group Responses

"My mom was sick, and so now I don't have any money and no insurance, either". (College student)

"I've never been a fan of the health system here. It's complicated and costs too much money."(College student)

"I don't have health insurance anymore- neither does my family. We need an overhaul."(College student)

"We are not abnormal people-we care, we are responsible, and have gotten sick in normal amounts. Why can't we afford basic medical? I haven't been to the dentist in years, even though I need to. My friends are all in the same boat. If you get sick, you stick it out or go to CDHD."(College student)

"I need eye contacts, but can't pay for new ones. I also need a yearly OBGYN exam, but can't get one. Businesses don't provide benefits anymore, especially for students." (College student)

"I'm feeling bad about healthcare. Costs are way too high."(College student)

"Health is a big issue-people can't afford health care anymore, like my grandparents." (Secondary student)

"The nutrition in the fridge isn't as high as it used to be."(Secondary student)

"Sometimes there's not enough money to get a doctor when we need one."(Primary student)

"My friend's parents are in debt and they don't have a dentist or insurance so they have to be really careful." (Primary student)

"I know for my baby's shots, it's at least a two week wait. (Parent)

“Medicaid is so hard to get. They pretend you didn’t apply. I’ve applied twice. They say they didn’t get your paper work.” (Parent)

“We need cheap vaccinations. They recently passed a law that they are not going to have vaccination clinics and they didn’t give enough notice to the health care providers for them to cover, so we are going to go about a year without vaccinations for children.” (Parent)

“Terry Riley used to come on sites twice a month and do wellness checks and check the children, and then they lost that funding stream. They no longer come on site which is a barrier for our clients who can’t get out there. It’s really impacting our clients in a negative way.” (Provider)