

*Adolescent Health Insurance Status:  
Analyses of Trends in Coverage and  
Preliminary Estimates of the Effects of an  
Employer Mandate and Medicaid  
Expansion on the Uninsured*

June 1989

NTIS order #PB90-116666



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July 1989

Background Paper for the Office of Technology Assessment's  
Project on Adolescent Health

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OTA appreciates the assistance of Carnegie Corporation and  
Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development in supporting the work  
of Richard Kronick for this background paper

The views expressed in this paper do not  
necessarily represent those of the Technology  
Assessment Board, the Technology Assessment  
Advisory Council, or their individual members.

*Recommended citation:*

U. S. Congress, Office of Technology Assessment, "Adolescent Health Insurance Status: Analyses of Trends in Coverage and Preliminary Estimates of the Effects of An Employer Mandate and Medicaid Expansion on the Uninsured-- Background Paper" (Washington, DC: U. S. Congress, Office of Technology Assessment, July 1989).

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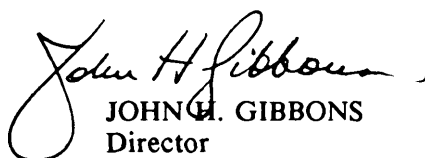
## FOREWORD

One need only read today's headlines to know that many of our Nation's adolescents often need health care and don't get it. This Background Paper addresses one important barrier to access to care--lack of health insurance coverage. This is OTA's first publication in response to a request for an assessment of adolescent health. Numerous members of Congress requested the assessment, including the Chair and/or Ranking Minority Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, the Senate Small Business Committee, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, the House Agriculture Committee, the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, and 7 members of OTA's Technology Assessment Board, including the Chairman.<sup>1</sup> The principal requesters were Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Chairman of the Select Committee on Indian Affairs, and Senator Nancy Landon Kassebaum, Ranking Minority Member of the Education, Arts and Humanities Subcommittee of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee. A letter of support was received from the House Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families. The main report of the assessment will be released in 1990.

It is important to note that certain of the analyses in this background paper are preliminary, because certain data are not yet available from the U.S. Census Bureau. Therefore, estimates have been made of the numbers of adolescents who are currently uninsured and of the potential impact of the two proposed legislative changes to expand coverage. An updated report will be released by OTA soon after the necessary data become available.

A special report associated with OTA's adolescent health project will be released later this summer on the mental health of American Indian and Alaska Native adolescents.

OTA would like to thank Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development for supporting the work of Richard Kronick of the University of California, San Diego. OTA is, however, responsible for the paper and its conclusions, as well as any omissions or errors therein.



JOHN H. GIBBONS  
Director

<sup>1</sup> An additional four Senators requested the assessment (in 1988), but are no longer members of the Senate.

**OTA Background Paper--**

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