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BadgerCare Plus improved health care access, report says

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The BadgerCare Plus program improved access to health insurance for children and the enrollment of low-income children in the program, according to the preliminary findings from an evaluation done by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

The program, introduced in late 2007, simplified the state's existing health programs, eased enrollment and expanded coverage for children.

The study's findings include:

- Total enrollment increased 34%, to 590,000 in September 2008 from 440,000 in December 2007.
- The increase included more than 57,000 adults and more than 92,000 children.
- Children in families earning less than 150% of the federal poverty level - \$27,465 for a family of three - accounted for almost two-thirds of the additional children enrolled in the program.



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