

# Seattle Post-Intelligencer

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## Health Care: A basics gap

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For those who think the pricey health care in the U.S. is working just fine, a new study in the New England Journal of Medicine should be a heartbreaking wake-up call.

The study, which was conducted in part in [Seattle](#), finds that in most instances, insured children in the U.S. aren't getting proper health care. And we're talking about the basics here, folks: Getting screened for common childhood diseases, getting weighed and measured, etc. So forget about the preventive care our kids need, the sort of care that could save lives, misery and massive medical expenses down the line. Even children suffering severe and/or chronic illnesses aren't always getting the recommended care, in part because they're simply not getting enough time with their physicians.

Even more terrifying: Researchers call this study a "best-case scenario" because it deals only with insured, middle-class, predominately white, urban kids. Just think of what minority children, the uninsured or those living in rural areas must contend with. "There can be dire consequences for the children, for their families and for society as a whole," which could include dying from easily treatable ailments, Julia Paradise of the Kaiser Family Foundation told The [Associated Press](#). She added that the SCHIP program would have included "the first major initiative to measure and find ways to improve quality of care for children covered by that program and by Medicaid."

Too bad President Bush doesn't agree, but we're still hoping for a miracle that is a congressional veto override.