

Challenges of Providing Health Coverage for Children and Parents in a Recession:

A 50 State Update on Eligibility, Enrollment, Renewal and Cost-Sharing Practices in Medicaid and SCHIP

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About the Survey

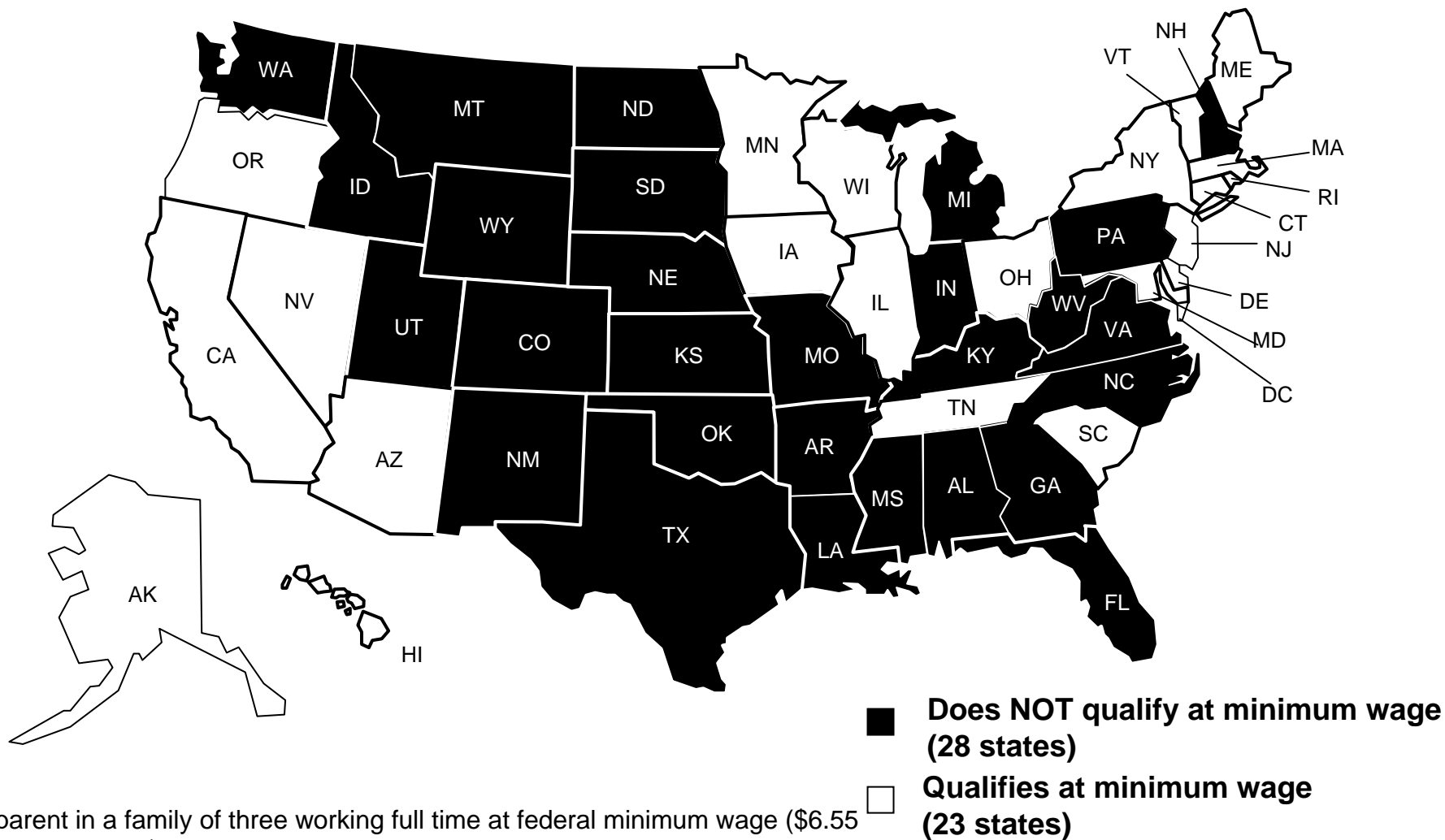
- 8th annual survey covering trends in 50 states and D.C.
- Covers eligibility rules, enrollment and renewal procedures, and cost-sharing practices for children and parents in Medicaid and SCHIP
- Telephone interviews with Medicaid and SCHIP program administrators
- Reflects changes during 2008 as well as policies and procedures in effect or authorized in January 2009

August 17th Directive and Uncertainty over SCHIP Reauthorization Impede Children's Coverage Expansions

- States that scaled back expansions:
Louisiana and Indiana
- States that used state-only funds to go forward with expansions:
Wisconsin and New York
- States that have temporarily put expansions on hold: North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Washington and West Virginia

Figure 5

Medicaid Eligibility for Working Parents by State Minimum Wage, Jan 2009



*A parent in a family of three working full time at federal minimum wage (\$6.55 per hour) earns \$1,092 per month. In 27 states, the state minimum wage is higher than the federal level.

SOURCE: Based on a national survey conducted by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities for KCMU, 2009.

Figure 6

Median Medicaid/SCHIP Income Eligibility Thresholds for Children, Pregnant Women and Parents, January 2009

Percent of Poverty

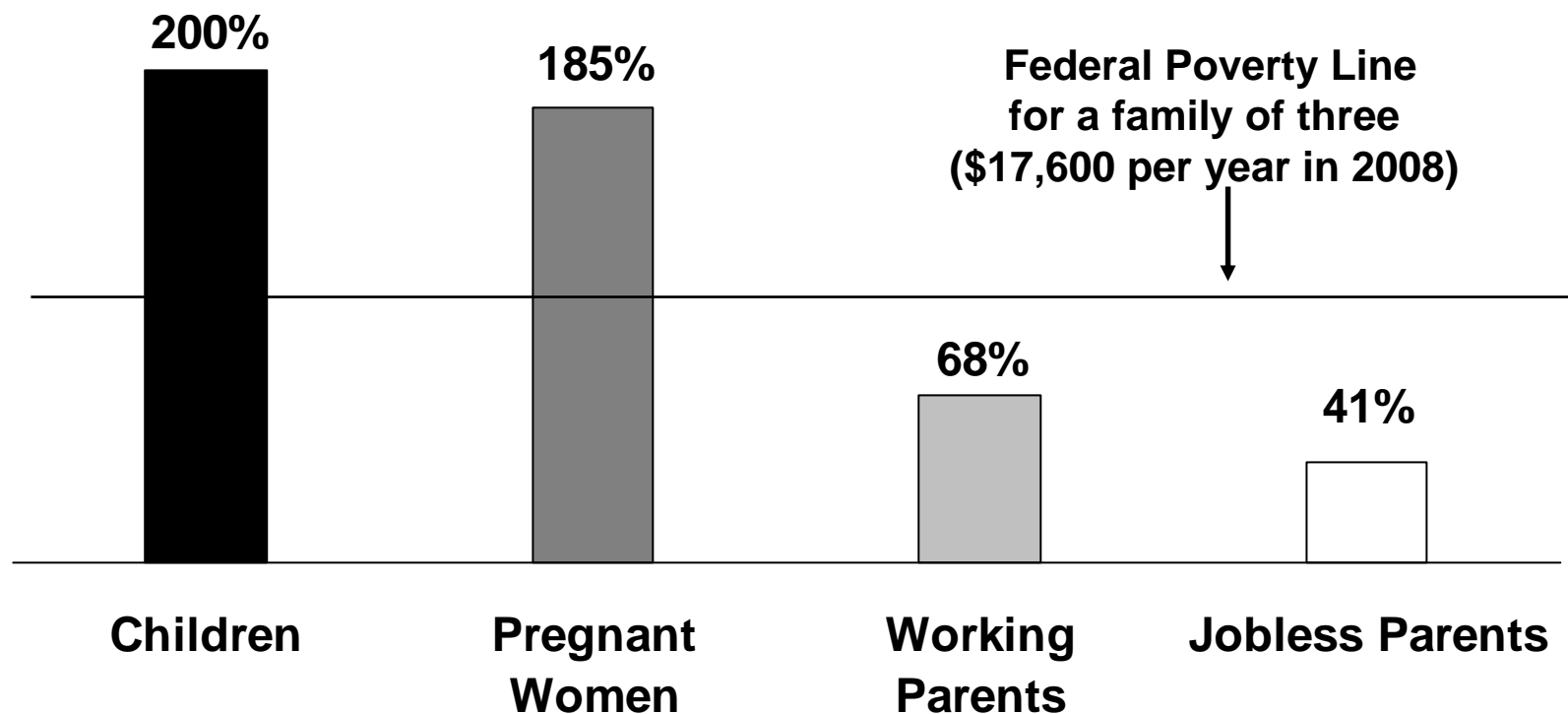
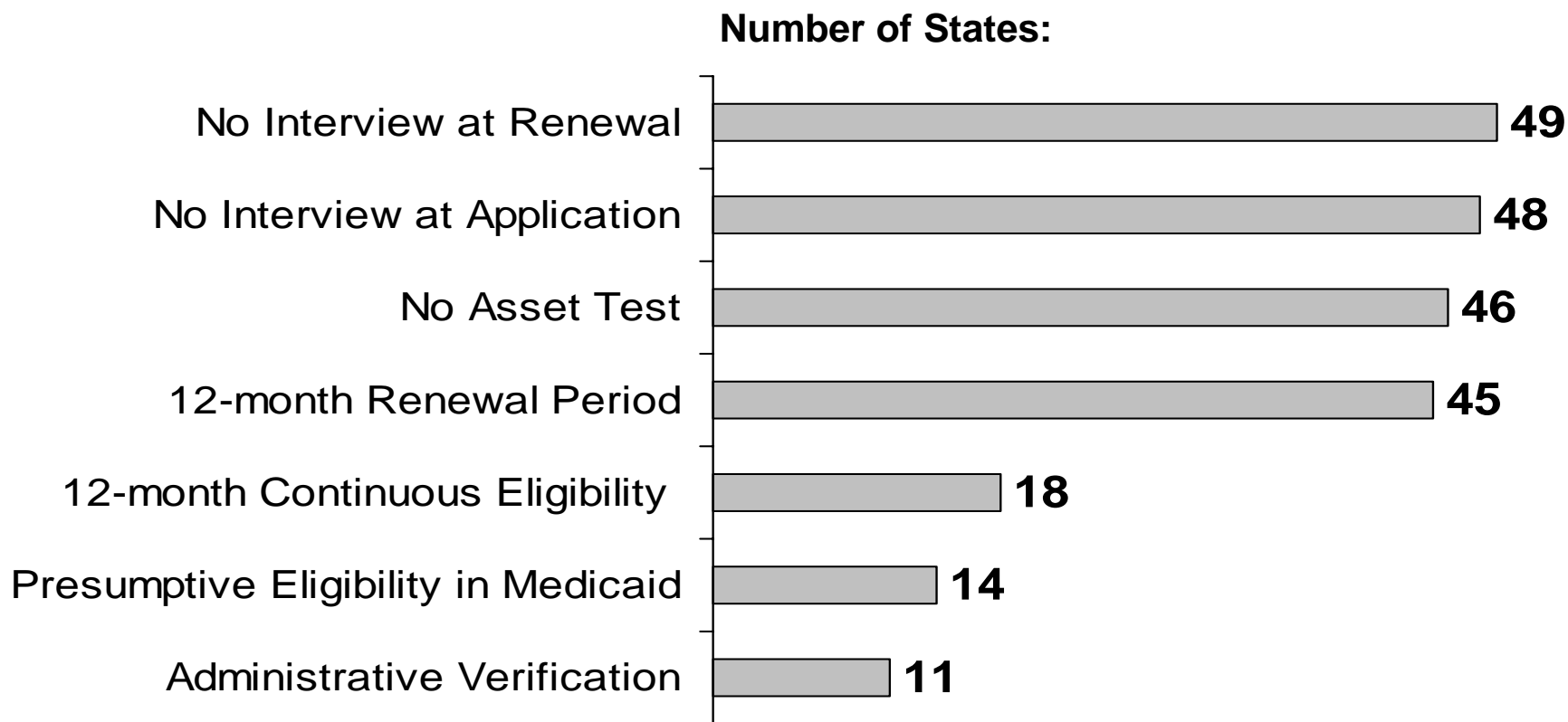


Figure 7

Simplifying Enrollment and Renewal: Strategies States are Using in Children's Health Coverage Programs, Jan 09



SOURCE: Based on a national survey conducted by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities for KCMU, 2009.

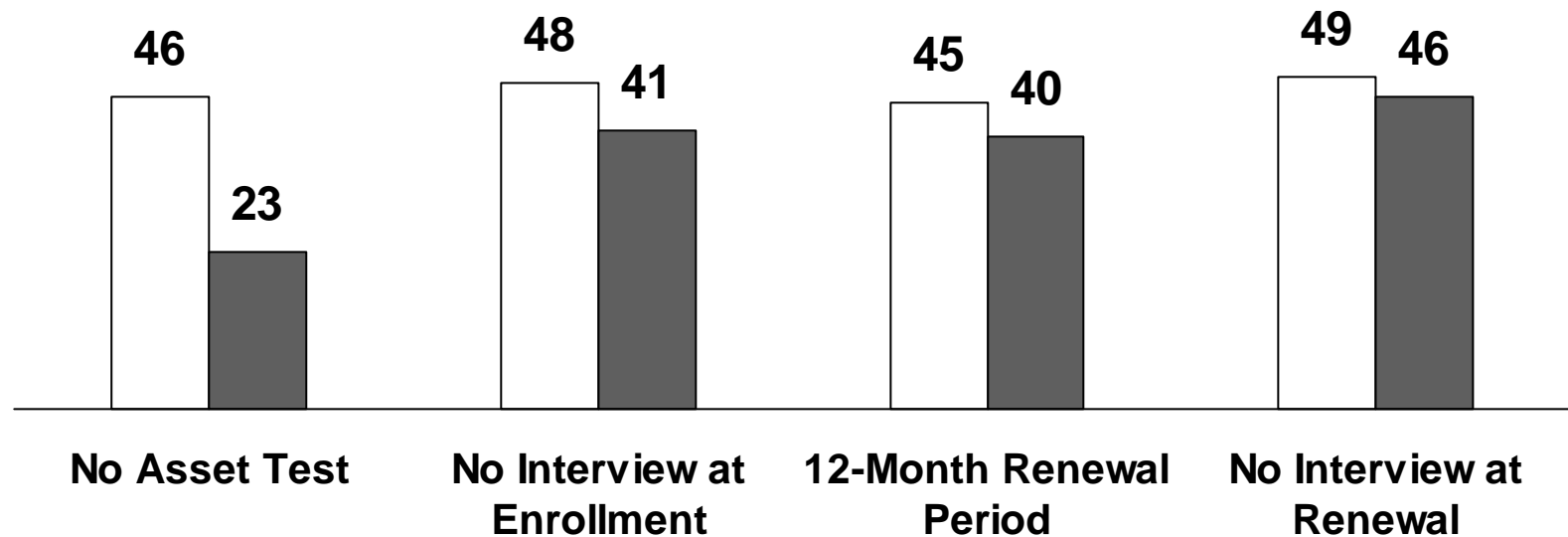
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Figure 8

States Have Not Simplified Health Coverage for Parents to the Extent They Have for Children, January 2009

□ Children ■ Parents

Number of States

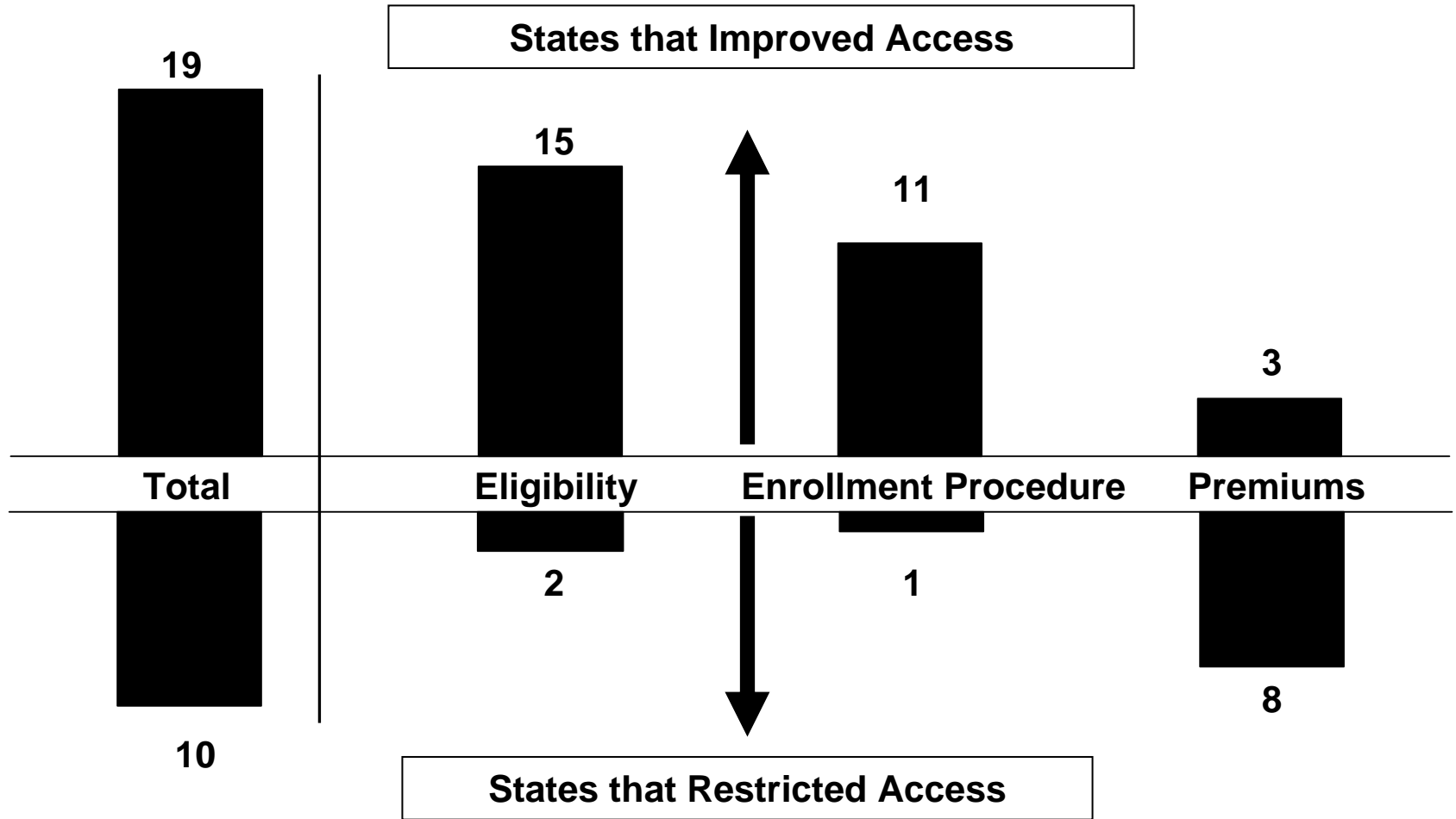


SOURCE: Based on a national survey conducted by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities for KCMU, 2009.

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Figure 9

Number of States Taking Action Affecting Access to Health Care Coverage, Jan 08 – Jan 09



Warning Signs of Tough Times Ahead

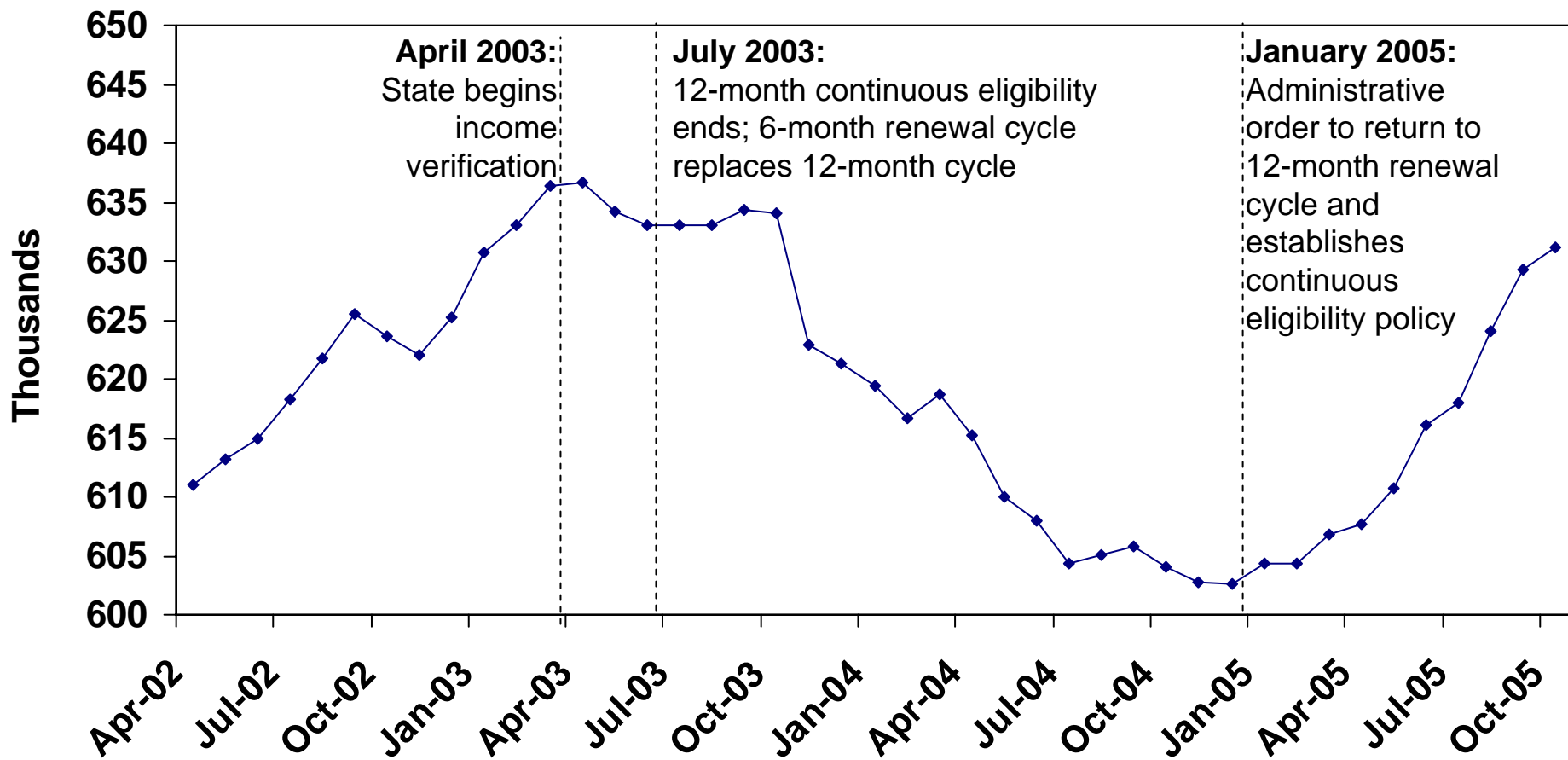
- **Eligibility** — Rhode Island reduced eligibility for parents.
- **Simplified procedures** — California now requires children and parents to renew coverage more frequently.
- **Financial barriers** — Several states increased premiums.
- **Outreach** — Some states beginning to curtail outreach spending.

What We Learned From the Last Economic Downturn

- Federal fiscal relief, with conditions that states maintain eligibility, was successful in staving off deeper cuts
- However, nearly half the states implemented procedural barriers or froze enrollment — budget-driven decisions
- Dramatic enrollment declines as a result

Figure 12

Washington: Children's Enrollment Responds to Simplification, April 2002-October 2005



Key Strategies During a Recession

- Keep eligibility rules and enrollment procedures simple.
- Ensure premium payment policies do not pose extra barriers.
- Maintain outreach (especially application assistance) and refocus on newly eligible individuals.
- Provide federal support for health coverage.