



Maternal and Child Health National Performance Measure

Early and Continuous Screening

FACT SHEET

July 2014

Early and continuous screening, a national performance measure, helps ensure an improved quality of life and well-being for children and families. It may result in cost savings for health and educational systems. Early detection and intervention have significant academic, social and economic benefits. As children grow, ongoing and continuous surveillance is essential to promote healthy development and to identify emerging issues. In Washington State, 81% of children with special health care needs are screened early and continuously for special health care needs (Figure 1).

The Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Program, along with a variety of partners, works to help families of children with special health care needs get screened early and continuously. Examples of strategies used to promote full implementation of this goal are presented below:

Partnerships

- Hosting a quarterly forum to exchange information among state agencies, health plans, and other entities that serve children with special health care needs and their families and facilitate opportunities to learn more about statewide policies, programs and issues critical to this population.
- Supporting 16 Neurodevelopmental Centers to provide evaluation, diagnosis, coordinated treatment planning, and specialized therapy to children.
- Working with Washington's Early Support for Infants and Toddlers program and Children's Administration's Foster Care Program to ensure cross-program information and referral.
- Promoting Medicaid's Early, Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) among families and providers.

Community Asset Mapping

Facilitating linkages between community service providers to coordinate screening, access to results, referrals, and early initiation of interventions.

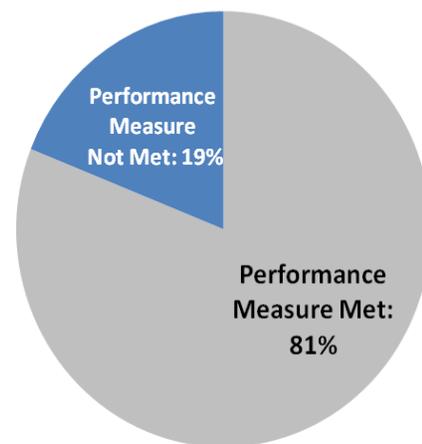
Universal Developmental Screening

Collaborating with the DOH Developmental Screening Partnership Committee and the Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics to develop, promote, and implement routine developmental screening for all children.

Local Health Departments

Funding CSHCN Coordinators to link families to appropriate information and referral services in their local communities for early and continuous screening.

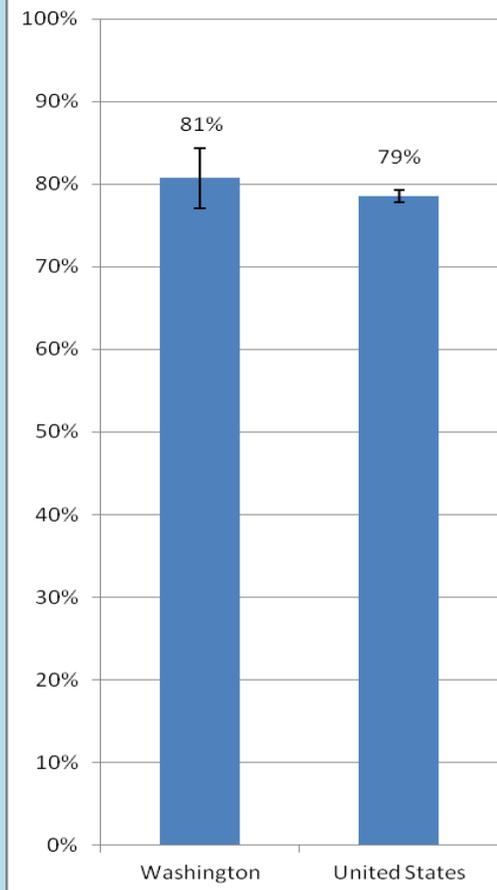
**Figure 1: Early and Continuous Screening
NS-CSHCN, 2009-2010¹
Washington State**



National Performance Measure

Figure 2 below shows how Washington State measures up to the U.S. This was measured using the responses of parents of children special health care needs. In the survey they reported having at least one preventative medical visit and at least one preventative dental visit in the twelve months prior to the date of the survey. This item was changed from the 2005-2006 survey to align with a similar item in the 2007 National Survey of Children's Health.

Figure 2: Early and Continuous Screening
NS-CSHCN, 2009-10¹
WA and US



Early and Continuous Screening

Early and continuous screening uses validated screening tools to identify children with special health care needs as early as possible so families can receive appropriate services to address those needs. Medical providers and families can then consult about ongoing treatment and progress. Continuous screenings also help identify and prevent secondary conditions that interfere with a child's development and well-being.

Screening compliments the surveillance process and is integrated to help detect specific conditions or diseases through the regular use of professionally administered tools. In terms of ensuring a community-based system of services, screening and surveillance help ensure overall health, development and well being through:

- ▶ Early access to services and treatment.
- ▶ Cost savings for the health and educational system.
- ▶ Potential for improved quality of life for children and families.²

Screening within a medical home is a flexible, continuous process. It includes pre-natal screening, monitoring of at risk infants, and age-appropriate well-child checks of metabolism, vision, hearing, development, behavior and mental health. The medical home plays an essential role in ensuring comprehensive, continuous screening in all areas as well as follow-up diagnostic evaluation and services provided by appropriate professionals.

Data Sources

1. National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs. NS-CSHCN 2009/10. Data query from the Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health website. Retrieved 6/12/12 from www.childhealthdata.org.
2. Integrating Surveillance and Screening with the Medical Home, American Academy of Pediatrics <http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org/downloads/pdfs/IntegSurveil.pdf>

Endnotes

The Children are Screened Early and Continuously for Special Health Care Needs National Performance Measure was created by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) and The Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative (CAHMI), together with their partners. In order to meet this measure, the parent must report that their child with special health care needs received routine preventive medical and dental care in the past year.

Other Resources

National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs, 2005-2006
Washington State Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics www.wcaap.org/
Medical Home Partnerships Project www.medicalhome.org/
Maternal and Child Health Bureau mchb.hrsa.gov
Washington State Parent to Parent [arcwa.org/getsupport/parent to parent p2p programs/](http://arcwa.org/getsupport/parent_to_parent_p2p_programs/)
Washington State Fathers Network www.fathersnetwork.org
The Center for Children with Special Needs at Seattle Children's www.cshcn.org
CSHCN, Washington State Department of Health www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/InfantsChildrenandTeens/HealthandSafety/ChildrenwithSpecialHealthCareNeeds.aspx