



FACT SHEET

Medical Home

April 2009

What is a Medical Home?

A Medical Home is an approach to delivering primary health care through a team partnership that ensures health care services are provided in a high quality and comprehensive manner.¹

Why is a Medical Home Important?

Children with special health care needs in a medical home are more likely to have:

- Less delayed care.
- Less problems getting care.
- Fewer unmet health care needs.
- Fewer unmet needs for family support services.²

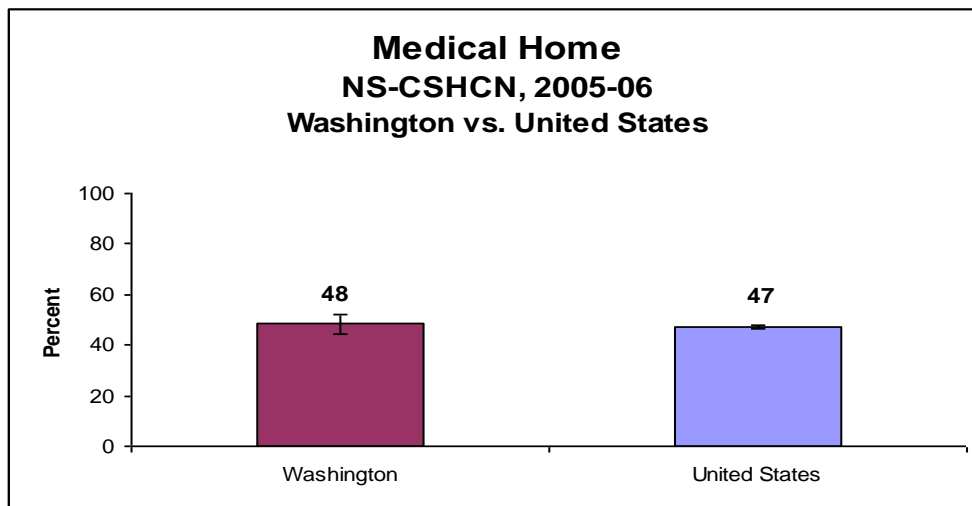
What is the Goal for a Medical Home?

Children and youth with special health care needs in Washington receive coordinated, ongoing, comprehensive care within a medical home. A medical home for all children and youth with special needs is one of the six performance measures identified by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau and its partners.

How is Washington State doing to achieve Goal?

According to the 2005-06 National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs, **48 percent** of families of children with special needs in Washington reported they received coordinated, ongoing, and comprehensive care within a medical home. The United States rate was **47 percent**.

Washington and United States rates for Medical Home performance measure were similar in the 2005-06 survey.³



What is Washington State Doing to Achieve Goal?

The Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Program works to promote partnerships among families, health care providers, other professionals, and the communities to help families know about and access medical and other services for their children with special needs. Activities include:

- **Epilepsy/Autism Projects**
 - Promoting medical homes through care coordination and co-management strategies, education, use of care notebooks and care plan tools, and other resources through these two federal grants.
- **Partnerships**
 - Supporting contracts such as the University of Washington's Medical Home and Adolescent Health Transition Projects, the Center for Children with Special Needs at Seattle Children's, parent support organization, and other partners to develop and maintain websites and resources related to medical homes.
- **Local Health Departments**
 - Promoting the Coordinators' involvement in medical homes in their local communities.
- **Legislation**
 - Supporting broader agency legislation to promote medical homes for all kids and improving reimbursement for components of care within a medical home.

Data Sources

1. Washington State Department of Health, CSHCN Program *Medical Home Key Messages Document* (definition developed through a collaborative effort by the Washington State Department of Health and other statewide medical home partners.)
2. Strickland, B., et al. (2004). Access to the Medical Home: Results of the National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs. *Pediatrics*. 113:5 (1485-1992).
3. Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative. *2005/06 National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs*, Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health website. Retrieved 12/23/08 from www.cshcndata.org

Endnotes

The Medical Home National Performance Measure was created by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), together with its partners, (MCHB; <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/cshcn05/>). The measure uses a series of questions from the NS-CSHCN, 2005-06. In order to meet this measure, the parent must report that their family receives primary health care through a team partnership that ensures health care services are provided in a high quality and comprehensive manner.

Other Resources:

Adolescent Health Transition Project <http://depts.washington.edu/healthtr/>
Medical Home Leadership Network <http://depts.washington.edu/medhome>
Maternal and Child Health Bureau <http://mchb.hrsa.gov>
Washington State Parent to Parent www.arcwa.org/parent2parent.htm
Washington State Fathers Network www.fathersnetwork.org
Washington State Family to Family Network www.familyvoices.org
The Center for Children with Special Needs at Seattle Children's www.cshcn.org
American Academy of Pediatrics National Center of Medical Home Initiatives for Children with Special Needs www.medicalhomeinfo.org and www.aap.org

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