

Promoting Healthy Child Development in California

Briefing: Early Childhood Screenings Ensure a Healthy Start in Life

Russell Senate Office Building, Capitol Hill

Washington, DC

July 23, 2015

About Children Now

Children Now is California's leading, nonpartisan, multi-issue research, policy development, and advocacy organization dedicated to promoting children's health and education in California



Children Now finds common ground among influential opinion leaders, interest groups and policymakers, who together can develop and drive socially innovative, “win-win” approaches to helping all children achieve their full potential.

Our Goal for Child Development

Ensure all California infants & toddlers reach their developmental potential through a universal system of screenings coordinated with a strong system of early intervention services & supports.

Why Focus on Child Development?



Identifying concerns and intervening early
· **boosts child success and reduces health
and education system costs**

Universal Developmental Screenings: Policy & Practice

Pediatricians recommend all children
be screened routinely between
birth and age three



Universal Developmental Screenings: California can do better!

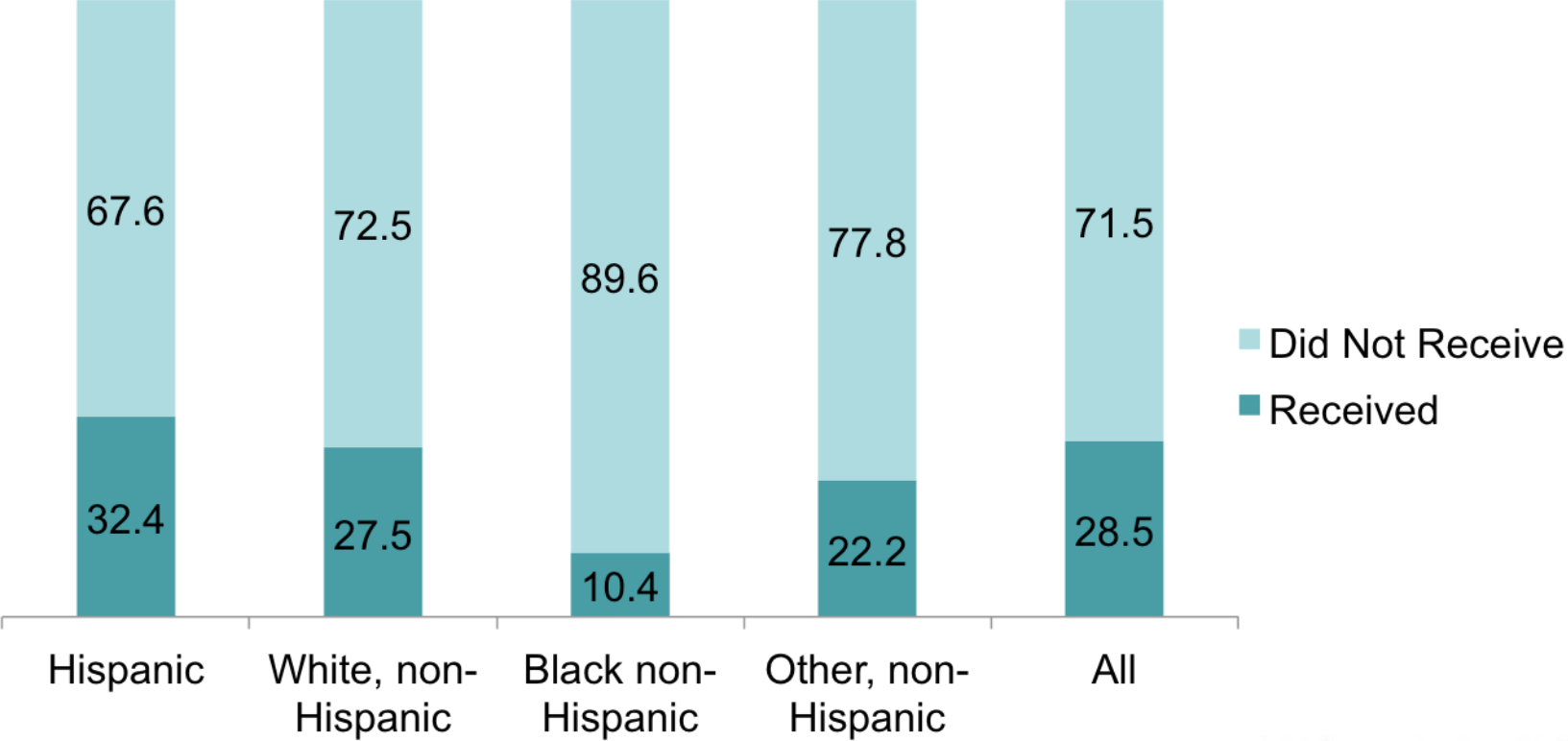


Fewer than 1 in 3

young children in
California receive timely
developmental screenings

Universal Developmental Screenings: Addressing Inequities and Disparities

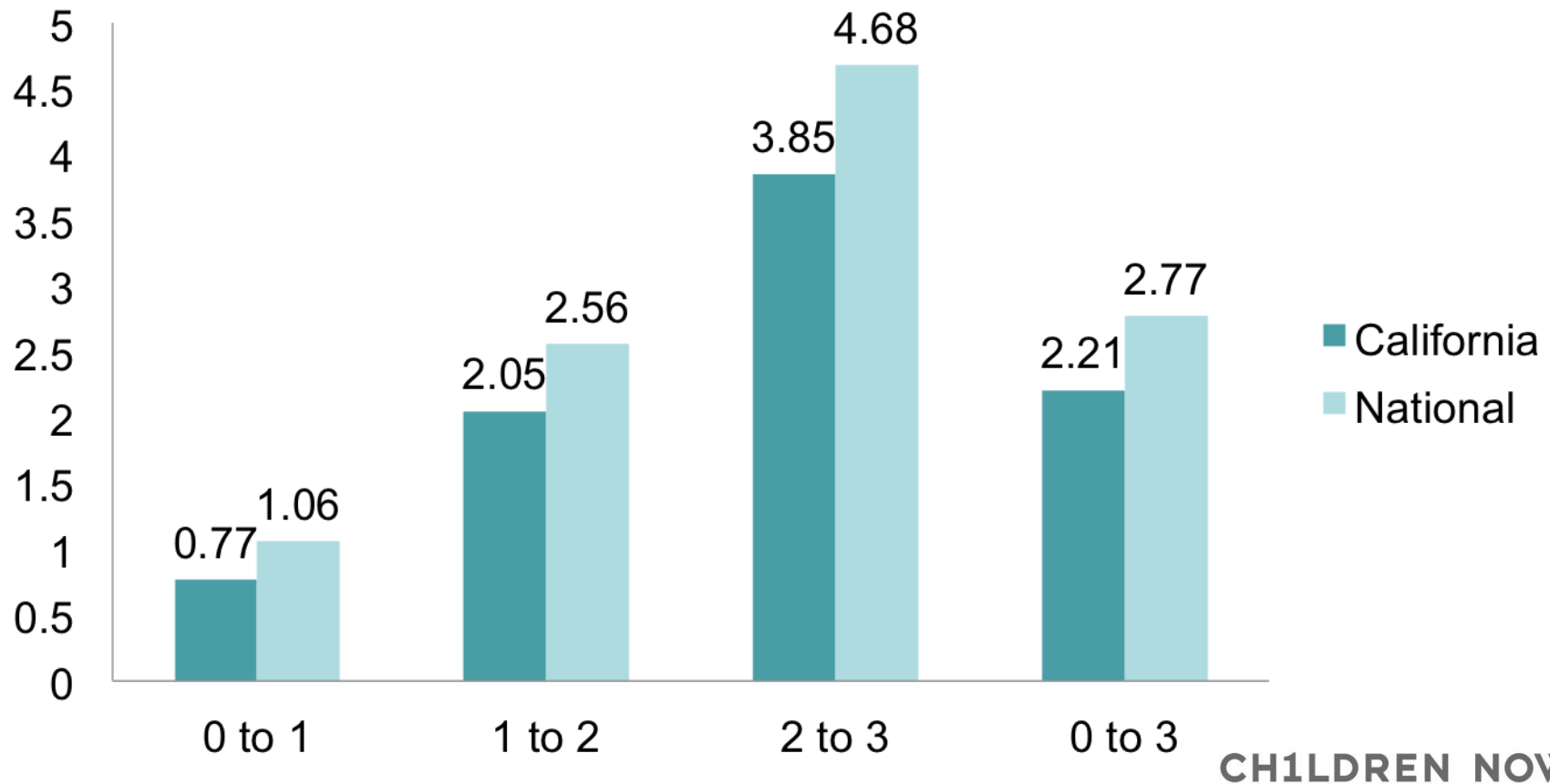
Percent of young California children receiving a developmental screening during health visit, by race/ethnicity



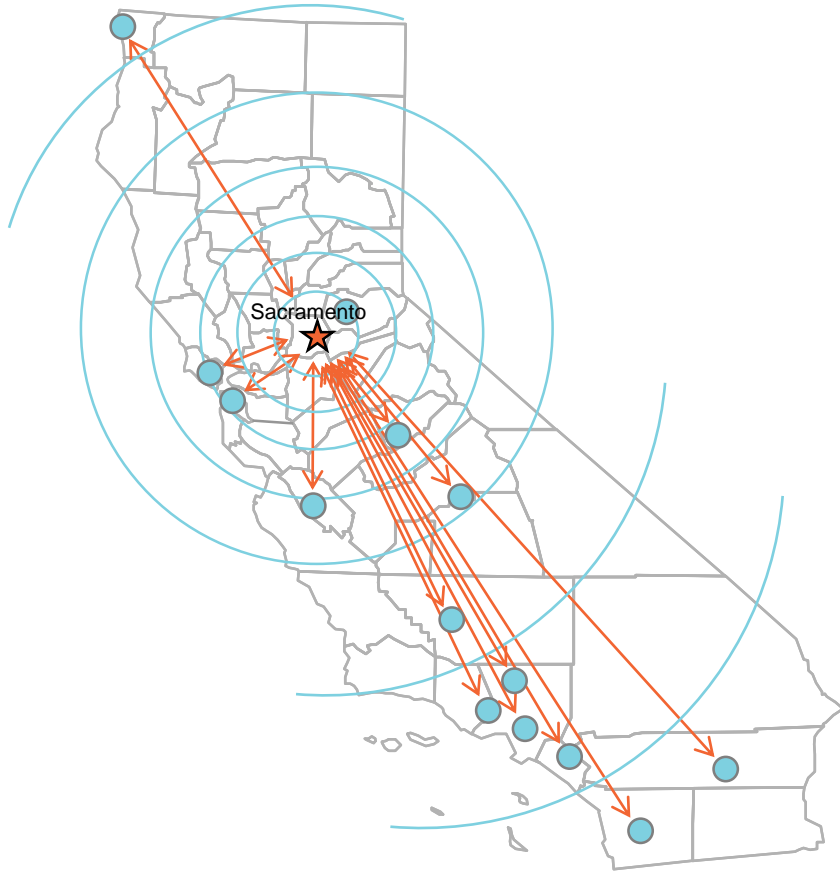
Source: National Survey of Children's Health, indicator 4.16

Early Intervention Services: Is California Underserving Children?

Percent of children ages 0-3 with disabilities served by IDEA in California and US

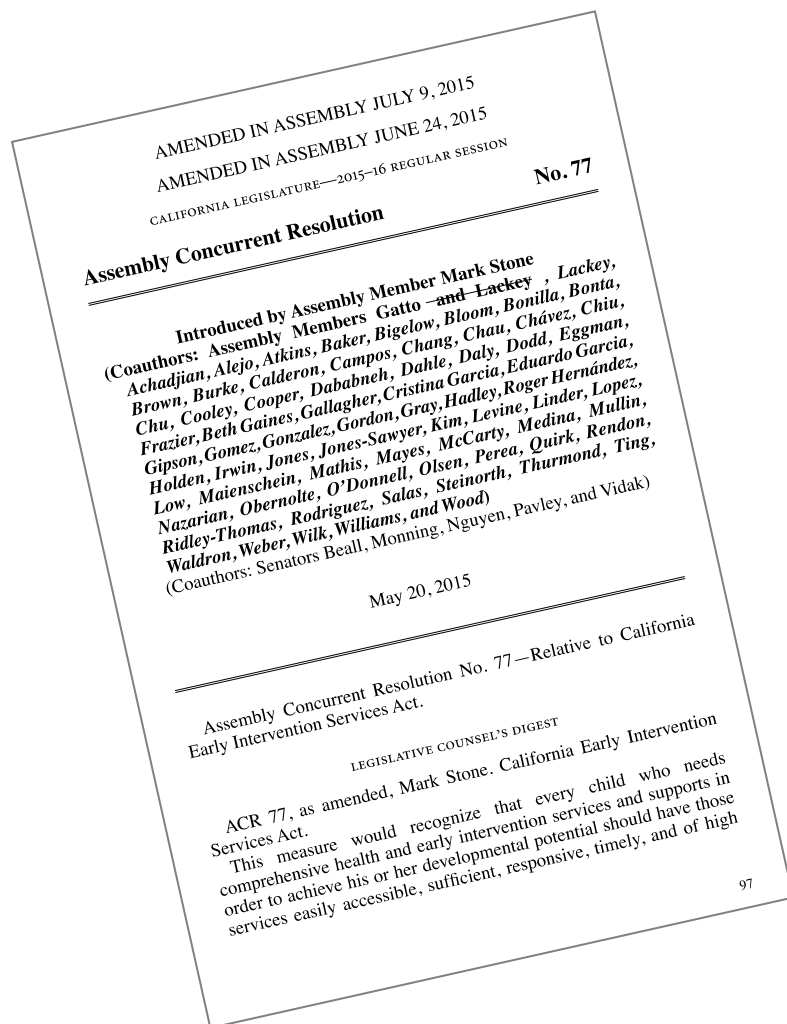


Promoting Healthy Child Development: Aligning Policy and Reality



What's needed is to better align the health care, public health, education, and other systems, programs, and resources that have a shared responsibility to promote healthy child development for all children in California.

Promoting Healthy Child Development: Growing Policymaker Interest



Policy efforts to promote healthy child development:

- ✦ Result in better outcomes for children;
- ✦ Assist parents in best utilizing resources that support their child's development;
- ✦ Encourage system efficiencies across sectors;
- ✦ Increase accountability and ensure better value for public investments; and
- ✦ Is non-partisan and family-friendly.

Thank you!

Mike Odeh, MPP
Associate Director of Health Policy

modeh@childrennow.org

510-763-2444 x122



CHILDREN NOW