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.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Did Not Receive</th>
<th>Received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>32.4</td>
<td>67.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White, non-Hispanic</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>72.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black non-Hispanic</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>89.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other, non-Hispanic</td>
<td>22.2</td>
<td>77.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>28.5</td>
<td>71.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

![Bar chart showing the percent of children ages 0-3 with disabilities served by IDEA in California and US, with data for 0 to 1, 1 to 2, 2 to 3, and 0 to 3 years old. The chart compares California and national averages.](source: IDEA Part C Annual Performance Report, Part C and Part B 619 Data Display: California 2012-2013)
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.
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