

# Working to Improve Early Identification of Children with Developmental Delay

## 2021 Executive Summary—Colorado



EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING  
AND REFERRAL POLICY COUNCIL

### OVERVIEW

The Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) partnered with the Colorado Early Childhood Screening and Referral Policy Council (Policy Council), Assuring Better Child Health and Development (ABCD), and the University of Colorado to:

- 1) Conduct an assessment of Colorado’s developmental monitoring, screening, referral, and service utilization patterns for Colorado’s birth to three population
- 2) Disseminate findings to key stakeholder groups
- 3) Prioritize barriers and opportunities across early childhood systems to support the early identification of children with developmental concerns

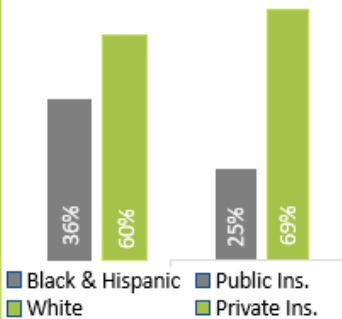
### KEY FINDINGS

Primary sources of developmental information:

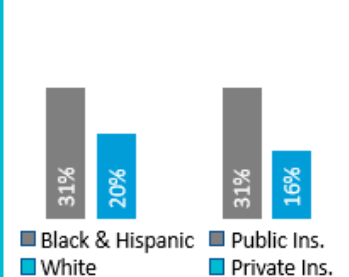
- Pediatrician 67%
- Child Care Provider 17%
- All Others ≤5%

20% of respondents reported not receiving any information about child’s growth or development

45% of caregivers recall a screener being completed in the last year:



40-80% of infants and toddlers with concerning screeners referred to EI  
Difficulty getting support:



Referral Outcome



- Wrong Service Area
- Not Eligible
- Family Declined
- Contact Unsuccessful
- In Progress, Active, or Enrolled

### PRIORITY SETTING

One third of referrals to EI close secondary to families declining services or children and families being lost to follow-up. Current local and state data indicate Black and Indigenous children of color (BIPOC children) and families with limited financial resources are most likely to fall through our state’s service cracks.

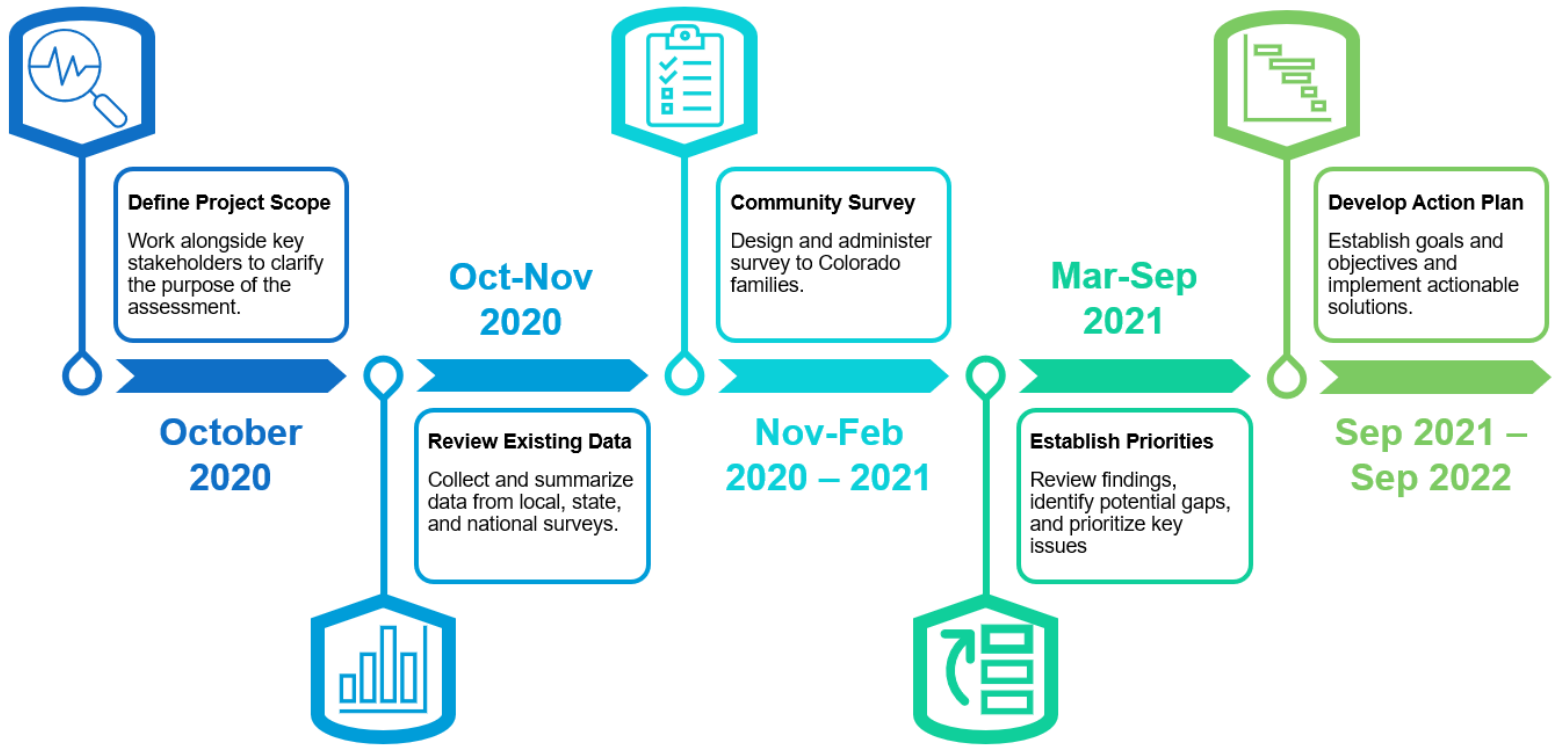
- ◇ **GOAL #1:** Increase caregiver/community awareness about the importance of early developmental milestones and the caregiver’s critical role in developmental monitoring
- ◇ **GOAL #2:** Foster meaningful conversations and shared decision-making between caregivers of children with developmental concerns and early childhood professionals.
- ◇ **Goal #3:** Reduce disparities in developmental screening, referral, and service use.

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National Center on Disability in Public Health  
*Public health is for everyone.*

## TIMELINE



## DATA SOURCES

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>National</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Survey of Children’s Health (2016-17 and 2018-19)</li> </ul>  |
| <b>State</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CO Medicaid Billing Data (Screening Codes) 2018-20</li> <li>CO EI Referral Data 2018-20</li> <li>CO EI Data Jan 2018-Oct 2020</li> </ul> |
| <b>ABCD</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parent Voice Survey</li> </ul>   |

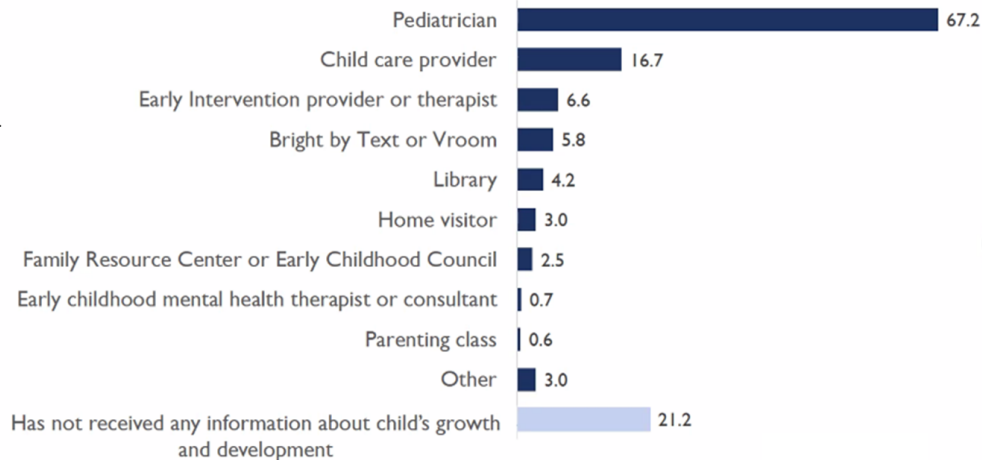
### Additional Data Sources:

- ◆ 2019 Colorado Shines Brighter Needs Assessment
- ◆ 2020 CDPHE Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) COVID-19 Survey
- ◆ State MCH Policy Briefs

# FINDINGS

## Monitoring

- ◇ Sources of information about children’s growth and development (%)
- ◇ Data = Health eMoms Survey, 2018 Cohort

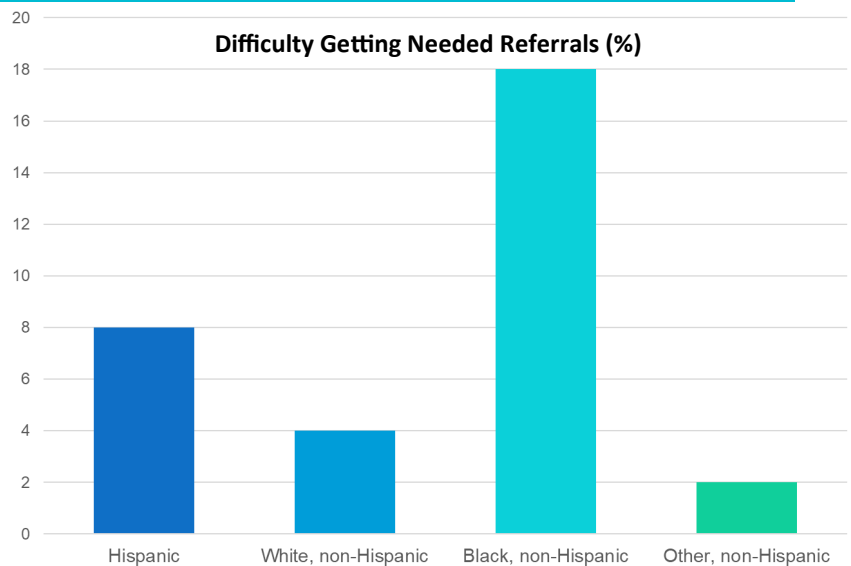


## Screening

- ◇ 45% of caregivers in Colorado reported completing a developmental screener in the last 12 months
  - ◆ Hispanic = 43%
  - ◆ White, non-Hispanic = 60%
  - ◆ Publicly Insured = 25%
  - ◆ Privately Insured = 69%
- ◇ Data = National Survey of Children’s Health

## Referral

- ◇ In Colorado, caregivers of Hispanic and Black children reported difficulty getting needed referrals (Data = National Survey of Children’s Health)
- ◇ Referrals Closed (Data = Colorado Office of Early Childhood)
  - ◆ 16% of referrals were closed because the family declined participation
  - ◆ 19% of referrals were closed because attempts to contact the family were unsuccessful



## Service Utilization

- ◇ 1/3 of children did not enroll in services because their family declined participation or attempts to contact them were unsuccessful
- ◇ BIPOC children whose families have limited resources are least likely to use Part C EI services
- ◇ Families who tried to enroll experienced long wait times and had difficulty navigating the system. Families who chose not to enroll cited cost, limited service availability, and missed work days as potential barriers (Data = ABCD Survey).

## ACTION PLAN

### Goal #1 (Knowledge and Awareness)

Increase caregiver/community awareness about the importance of early developmental milestones and the caregiver's critical role in developmental monitoring.

Summarize Existing Initiatives

Coordinate Messaging

Launch Communication Plan

### Goal #2 (Behaviors)



Decision Support Intervention



Family Navigation Programs



Referral Tracking System



Universal Screening

Foster meaningful conversations and shared decision-making between caregivers of children with developmental concerns and early childhood professionals.

### Goal #3 (Conditions)

Reduce disparities in developmental screening, referral, and service use by 20%.

