Working to Improve Early Identification of Children with Developmental Delay

2021 Executive Summary—Colorado

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%

45% of caregivers recall a screener being completed in the last year:
- Black & Hispanic: 38%
- Public Ins.: 25%
- Private Ins.: 25%

40-80% of infants and toddlers with concerning screeners referred to EI

Difficulty getting support:
- Black & Hispanic: 51%
- Public Ins.: 42%
- Private Ins.: 18%

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.

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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TIMELINE

- **October 2020**
  - Define Project Scope
    - Work alongside key stakeholders to clarify the purpose of the assessment.

- **Oct-Nov 2020**
  - Review Existing Data
    - Collect and summarize data from local, state, and national surveys.

- **Nov-Feb 2020 – 2021**
  - Community Survey
    - Design and administer survey to Colorado families.

- **Mar-Sep 2021**
  - Establish Priorities
    - Review findings, identify potential gaps, and prioritize key issues.

- **Sep 2021 – Sep 2022**
  - Develop Action Plan
    - Establish goals and objectives and implement actionable solutions.

DATA SOURCES

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<tr>
<th>National</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>ABCD</th>
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<tr>
<td>• National Survey of Children’s Health (2016-17 and 2018-19)</td>
<td>• CO Medicaid Billing Data (Screening Codes) 2018-20</td>
<td>• Parent Voice Survey</td>
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<td>• CO EI Referral Data 2018-20</td>
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<td>• CO EI Data Jan 2018-Oct 2020</td>
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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.

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%.