

A Pediatrician's Quick Guide to Foster Care

Timeline of Child Welfare in the U.S.

1830s: A large population of homeless children emerged in big cities in the Northeast due to parental death from epidemics or neglect associated with poverty.

Early 1900s: The U.S. government gave states authority to step in and remove a child if they were a victim of abuse or neglect in the home. This established the role of the government in child welfare.

1980: The Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act was established to solidify the federal funding structure for child welfare systems and services and involved the courts to oversee this system.

1997: The Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) was established to add stricter limits to the amount of time a child could remain in foster care before adoption or reunification.

2008: The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act was signed in effort to improve outcomes for children in foster care

Health Oversight and Coordination Recommendations Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act

- Medical and developmental screening within 72 hours of entering the child welfare system
- A comprehensive assessment, including review of physical, mental, developmental, and dental health within 30 days after entering the child welfare system.
- Additional visits as needed to reassess child's needs and coping with transition process.
- Ensure continuity of health care services by establishing medical home.
- Enhanced schedule of well-child visits, immunizations, and related care.

Understanding the System in Colorado



The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act Section 205 of the law requires states to develop a plan for the ongoing oversight and coordination of health care services for any child in a foster care placement. This would be done in coordination and collaboration with the state Medicaid and child welfare agencies, and in consultation with pediatricians, other experts in health care, and experts in and recipients of child welfare services.

Resources:

Healthy Foster Care America www.aap.org/fostercare

AFCARS report Children's Bureau <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb>

Colorado Department of Human Services <https://cdhs.colorado.gov/our-services/child-and-family-services>