



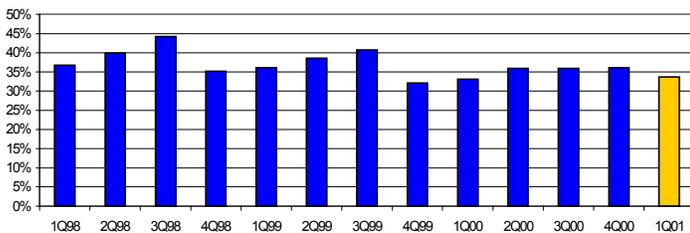
EPSDT On-Time Visit Rates: First Quarter 2001

October 2001

The Children's Health Council tracks children's health services and conducts performance monitoring aimed at increasing participation in the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) program for children enrolled in HUSKY Part A (Medicaid). The EPSDT On-Time Visit Rate is an estimate of program performance in terms of the rate at which individual children enrolled in HUSKY Part A (Medicaid managed care) receive timely screening examinations.¹ EPSDT On-Time Visit Rates are calculated by the Connecticut Children's Health Project and reported quarterly to the Department of Social Services by age and by health plan. The EPSDT On-Time Visit Rate is an important component of ongoing monitoring of access and utilization that includes focus groups, surveys, special studies, and qualitative analyses of calls to the Children's Health Infoline.

- ◆ In the first quarter 2001, the EPSDT On-Time Visit Rate (33.7%) was decreased from the previous quarter (36.1%) but essentially unchanged from the rate observed in the first quarter 2000 (33.1%). Typically, rates observed in the fourth quarters and first quarters have been the lowest of the year.

EPSDT On-Time Visit Rates (1998-2001)



- ◆ Most children did not receive timely EPSDT screening examinations. Screening rates for very

young and for adolescents were substantially lower than in the previous quarter; however, the rates for each age group were similar to rates observed one year earlier.

Child's Age	OTVR 1Q01	Compared to:	
		Previous quarter	One year earlier
4 to 24 months	61.9%	71.6%	59.9%
3 to 5 years	33.1%	32.3%	32.5%
6 to 10 years	11.2%	14.8%	10.9%
11 to 19 years	10.3%	15.1%	11.0%
Total	33.7%	36.1%	33.1%

- ◆ EPSDT On-Time Visit Rates varied by health plan. As in the previous year, the rate for children enrolled in First Choice was considerably lower than rates for other health plans.

Health Plan	Children due for screen	OTVR 1Q01
BlueCare	18,060	36.5%
Community Health Network	7,334	32.9%
Physicians' Health Services	16,588	35.3%
First Choice	3,390	12.5%

- ◆ For the first time since tracking began in 1996, the EPSDT On-Time Visit Rate for children in DCF custody (37.2%) was higher than the overall rate (33.7%). This improvement may be attributable to intensified outreach, education, and follow-up efforts by DCF Health Advocates.

ⁱ Every month, the Connecticut Children's Health Project identifies children due for screens in two months' time; their respective health plans are notified. The health plans can use this information to inform families and/or providers that children are due for well-child visits. After allowing time for the visit to

occur and 180 days for encounter records to be submitted to the Project, the encounter database is searched for encounter records coded according to the Department's uniform encounter data coding and reporting requirements for children who remained enrolled during the on-time window. The window of time in which a visit is considered "on-time" varies by the age of the child and the frequency of recommended screens: For 4 month old infants, 15 days on either side of the 4 month birthday (30 day window); for 6, 9, 12, 15, 18 month olds, 1 month on either side of the month in which the infant turns that age (3 month window); for annual exams between 2 to 5 and between 11 and 19, two months on either side of the birthday month (5 month window); for biennial exams between 6 and 10, two months on either side of the birthday month (5 month window). The number of children screened on time is compared to the number due for screens during that calendar quarter. These results are entirely dependent on the quality of the encounter data. CCHP monitoring of data submissions shows that generally more than 90% of encounter records are submitted within 180 days of the date of service. Another report by the CHC showed that in 1999-00, among continuously enrolled children 2-19, 48% had a well-child visit. A review of medical records by Qualidigm, Inc., recently showed that among children sampled from two age groups (n=227 0-12 months old; n=554 5-11 years old) who had had any care at all in a year, 28% received timely, comprehensive well-child visits; another 12% received comprehensive visits delivered outside similar on-time windows. The remainder of the children who were seen at any time had some but not all of the federally required components of a comprehensive EPSDT screening examination. The percentage of records in which there was agreement between procedure coding and the content of the visit was not reported. For a copy of the report, contact Qualidigm, Inc., (860-632-2008).