

Ambulatory Care Utilization By Children Enrolled in HUSKY A in 2003

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This report is the fifth annual report on ambulatory care utilization in HUSKY A (Medicaid managed care), issued by the Children's Health Council through 2003 and by Connecticut Voices for Children in 2005.¹ Rates for calendar year 2003 are compared with rates for the prior four years. The purpose of ongoing monitoring is:

- To describe ambulatory care utilization by health plan and by selected factors that may affect access to care;
- To evaluate utilization trends in order to identify improvements or problems with access to care.

METHODS

Using HUSKY A enrollment data, children ages 2 to 19 years who were continuously enrolled (any plan) between January 1 and December 31, 2003, were identified.² HUSKY A encounter data were searched for records corresponding to care received during that one-year period.³ Utilization rates for well-child care and for episodic care (office or clinic visits and emergency visits for acute conditions or injuries) were determined by comparing the number of children who received care to the number who were enrolled.⁴ The percentage of children who did not

¹ Connecticut Voices for Children is a non-profit organization that conducts research and policy analysis on children's issues. This report on ambulatory care utilization was prepared under a contract with the Connecticut Department of Social Services and a grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. Performance monitoring in HUSKY A builds on work begun by the Children's Health Council, which was created in 1995 and charged with evaluating the impact of Medicaid managed care on children's health services. Connecticut Voices for Children contracts with MAXIMUS, Inc. for data management and data analysis. This report was prepared under the direction of Mary Alice Lee, Ph.D., Senior Policy Fellow.

² In 2003, the time frame for the collection and analysis of HUSKY A data was changed from a fiscal year (FY, October 1 through September 30) to a calendar year (CY, January 1 through December 31). Performance monitoring is based on health care received by children continuously enrolled during a specified time period for the following reasons: 1) utilization can be reported in terms of the experience of actual children rather than averaged over "member-months" or varying periods of eligibility; 2) depending on the age groups under study, up to 80% of children ever enrolled during a one-year period were in fact enrolled for 12 months; 3) the HUSKY program and participating health plans are clearly accountable for care of these children; 4) utilization differences among continuously enrolled children are likely to occur among other children as well; and 5) results of performance monitoring can be expressed in simple and consistent terms that convey the actual experience of children in the program.

³ Well-child care (EPSDT screening exams): Encounter records with CPT-4 codes for preventive care (99381-5, 9938R, 9938T, 99382, 99391-5, 9939R, 9939T, 99431, 9943R, or 9943T) when accompanied by any diagnosis code; UB-92 revenue codes (092, 093, 094) when accompanied by any diagnosis code; CPT-4 codes for evaluation and management (99201-5, 99211-5, 99432) and clinic codes (510, 515) when accompanied by well-child diagnosis (v20 series, v70, v70.0, v70.3-v70.9). Episodic care: CPT-4 codes (99201-5, 99211-99205, 99432-3), clinic codes (510, 514, 515, 516, 519, 3000Y), or UB-92 revenue codes (450, 456, 459) with any diagnosis other than well-child.

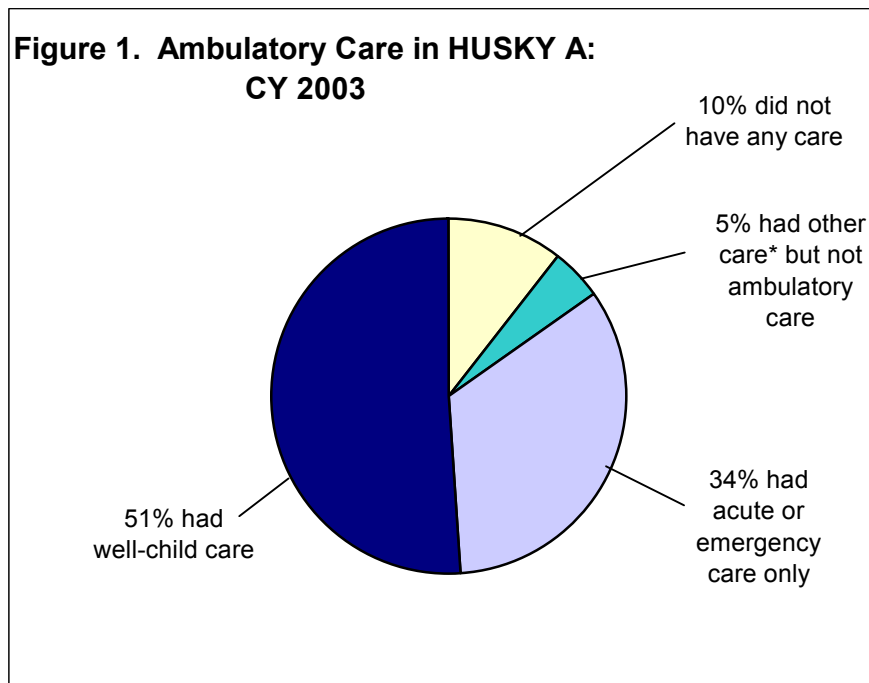
⁴ The EPSDT periodicity schedule specifies that children 2 to 5 and 11 to 19 should receive annual well-child exams and that children 6 to 10 should be seen every other year. Connecticut requires health assessments prior to

receive any ambulatory care in the one-year period was also determined. The well-child care rates and rates for no care were determined by age, gender, age and gender, race/ethnicity, primary language, residence, and health plan.

RESULTS

There were 150,843 children ages 2 to 19 years continuously enrolled in HUSKY A in 2003, up 17% from the previous year. The sociodemographic and enrollment characteristics of these children are described in Table 1.

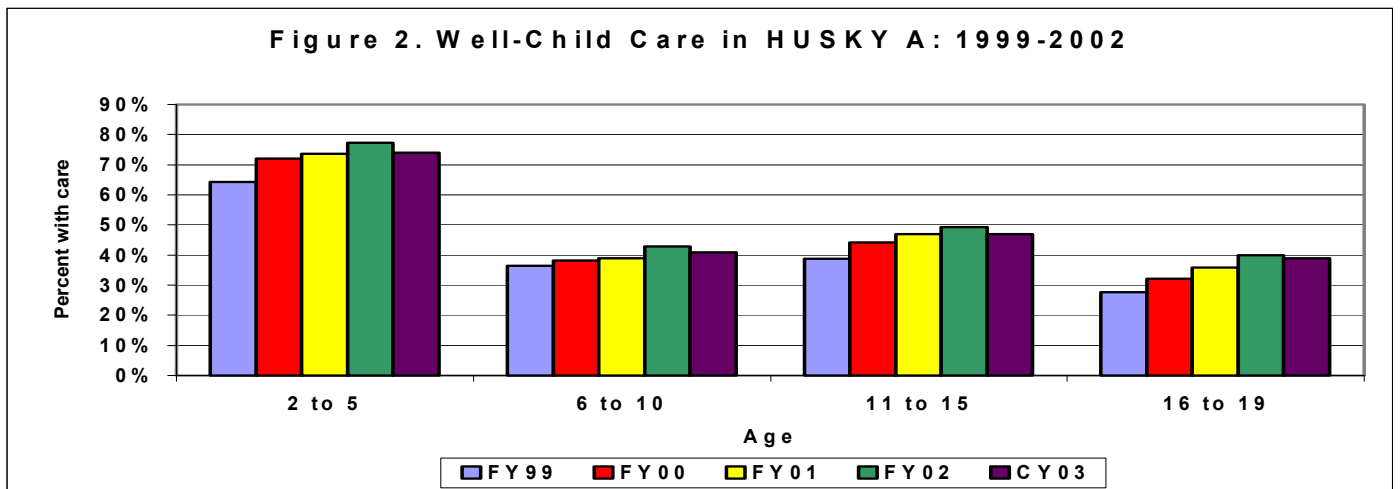
Most children (84.7%) received ambulatory care (office or clinic visit, emergency visit) in 2003, unchanged from the previous year (85.2%). The percentage of children who *did not* receive any ambulatory care, 15.3% in CY 2003, was also unchanged from the previous year (14.8%). The proportions of children who received ambulatory care in CY 2003 are described by type of care and sociodemographic characteristics in Table 2.



*Some children without ambulatory care had other care, such as prescriptions, laboratory tests, or dental care.

enrollment in public school (around 5 years of age for kindergarten) and in either 6th or 7th grade (11-12 years) and in either 10th or 11th grade (15-16 years) (Connecticut General Statutes Chapter 169 Section 10-206).

Well-child care: Just over half the children (51.0%) received well-child care in 2003, a significant decline from the year before. This drop marks the end of a steady 4-year increase in well-child care rates, from 45.2% in FY 1999 to 53.4% in FY 2002. Well-child care rates were affected by age, gender, race/ethnicity, and health care plan (Table 4).



- **Age:** Young children (ages 2 to 5 years, 38.5%) were almost twice as likely to receive well-child care as older adolescents (ages 16 to 19 years, 38.5%; Figure 1). In every age group, well-child care rates were significantly lower in CY 2003 than in the previous year.
- **Gender:** Well-child visit rates for girls age 15 years and older were higher than those for boys of the same age. However, rates for younger girls and boys were similar, resulting in comparable overall well-child care rates for girls (52.1%) and boys (50.0%).
- **Race/ethnicity:** Well-child care rates were significantly lower for African American children (48.7%) compared with White (51.6%) and Hispanic (52.2%) children.
- **Health plan:** Children enrolled in First Choice were significantly less likely than those enrolled in other Medicaid managed care plans to receive well-child care (Table 3). Specifically, 42.5% of children enrolled in First Choice received well-child care, compared with 48.9% of children in BlueCare, 51.4% of children in Community Health Network, and 54.6% of children in Health Net. In addition, the percentage of children who received well-child care declined significantly among those enrolled in BlueCare and Community Healthy Network between FY 2002 and CY 2003 (Table 2).

Acute and emergency care: One third of the children enrolled in HUSKY A received acute or emergency care for illness, injury or other conditions, but no well-child care. Four percent of children received emergency care only, unchanged from the previous year.

No ambulatory care: Some children (15.3%) did not have any office visits, clinic visits or emergency visits in CY 2003 (Table 2). After four years of steady decrease in the percentage of children with no ambulatory care, the rate for CY 2003 is essentially unchanged from the previous year. The likelihood of receiving no ambulatory care was affected by age, race/ethnicity, and health plan.

- **Age:** Older children and teens were more than three times more likely than preschool children to go without ambulatory care in 2003.
- **Race/ethnicity:** African American children were more likely than White or Hispanic children to receive no ambulatory care.
- **Health plan:** Children enrolled in First Choice were more likely than those enrolled in other health plans to have had no ambulatory care.

Some children who did not have ambulatory care did receive other types of care (dental visit, prescription drugs, laboratory tests). However, 10.5% of the children who were enrolled for the entire year (15,798) had no records for any care at all in 2003.

Conclusions

- After several years of steady increase, the well-child care utilization rate significantly declined in CY 2003. This rate falls far short of professional recommendations and goals for children in Medicaid.
- Gaps in utilization persist among children of different racial/ethnic backgrounds.
- Health plan performance is not uniform, suggesting the need for additional efforts to improve access to primary care for all children in HUSKY A.

Table 1. Sociodemographic and Enrollment Characteristics: CY 2003

	Total ^a		BlueCare		CHN		HealthNet		First Choice		Changed Plans	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total	150843	100.0%	58702	38.9%	24759	16.4%	48352	32.1%	7102	4.7%	11928	7.9%
Age												
2 - 5	39347	26.1%	15448	26.3%	6309	25.5%	12532	25.9%	1661	23.4%	3397	28.5%
6 - 10	45154	29.9%	17502	29.8%	7264	29.3%	14616	30.2%	2176	30.6%	3596	30.1%
11 - 15	44203	29.3%	17202	29.3%	7392	29.9%	14076	29.1%	2194	30.9%	3339	28.0%
16 - 19	22139	14.7%	8550	14.6%	3794	15.3%	7128	14.7%	1071	15.1%	1596	13.4%
Total	150843		58702		24759		48352		7102		11928	
Gender												
Female	74126	49.1%	28724	48.9%	12309	49.7%	23675	49.0%	3525	49.6%	5893	49.4%
Male	75963	50.4%	29685	50.6%	12358	49.9%	24386	50.4%	3550	50.0%	5984	50.2%
Unknown	754	0.5%	293	0.5%	92	0.4%	291	0.6%	27	0.4%	51	0.4%
Total	150843		58702		24759		48352		7102		11928	
Race/ethnicity												
African-American	40249	26.7%	14904	25.4%	7591	30.7%	11387	23.6%	2409	33.9%	3958	33.2%
White	56028	37.1%	21948	37.4%	3898	15.7%	24365	50.4%	2313	32.6%	3504	29.4%
Hispanic	51176	33.9%	20524	35.0%	12822	51.8%	11295	23.4%	2277	32.1%	4258	35.7%
Other	3390	2.2%	1326	2.3%	448	1.8%	1305	2.7%	103	1.5%	208	1.7%
Total	150843		58702		24759		48352		7102		11928	
Coverage Group												
DCF	7055	4.7%	2883	4.9%	808	3.3%	2425	5.0%	351	4.9%	588	4.9%
Other	143788	95.3%	55819	95.1%	23951	96.7%	45927	95.0%	6751	95.1%	11340	95.1%
Total	150843		58702		24759		48352		7102		11928	
Primary Language												
English	138445	91.8%	53102	90.5%	21548	87.0%	46187	95.5%	6674	94.0%	10934	91.7%
Other	909	0.6%	389	0.7%	161	0.7%	255	0.5%	41	0.6%	63	0.5%
Spanish	10726	7.1%	4916	8.4%	2956	11.9%	1614	3.3%	360	5.1%	880	7.4%
Unknown	763	0.5%	295	0.5%	94	0.4%	296	0.6%	27	0.4%	51	0.4%
Total	150843		58702		24759		48352		7102		11928	
Town												
Bridgeport	15125	10.0%	1908	3.3%	3155	12.7%	6634	13.7%	1843	26.0%	1585	13.3%
Hartford	19256	12.8%	12512	21.3%	1980	8.0%	2329	4.8%	275	3.9%	2160	18.1%
New Haven	14713	9.8%	3504	6.0%	7060	28.5%	1968	4.1%	574	8.1%	1607	13.5%
All Other Towns	101749	67.5%	40778	69.5%	12564	50.7%	37421	77.4%	4410	62.1%	6576	55.1%
Total	150843		58702		24759		48352		7102		11928	

^aChildren ages 2-19 years who were continuously enrolled in HUSKY A between 1/1/03 and 12/31/03.

Table 2. Ambulatory Care by Type of Care: CY 2003

	Total ^a		Any Care		Well-Child		Acute and Emergency Care Only		Emergency Care Only ^b		No Ambulatory Care	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total	150843		127725	84.7%	76945	51.0%	50780	33.7%	6346	4.2%	23118	15.3%
Age												
2 - 5	39347	26.1%	36845	93.6%	29181	74.2%	7664	19.5%	1067	2.7%	2502	6.4%
6 - 10	45154	29.9%	37135	82.2%	18374	40.7%	18761	41.5%	2152	4.8%	8019	17.8%
11 - 15	44203	29.3%	36134	81.7%	20876	47.2%	15258	34.5%	1804	4.1%	8069	18.3%
16 - 19	22139	14.7%	17611	79.5%	8514	38.5%	9097	41.1%	1323	6.0%	4528	20.5%
Total	150843		127725		76945		50780		6346		23118	
Gender												
Female	74126	49.1%	63527	85.7%	38586	52.1%	24941	33.6%	2747	3.7%	10599	14.3%
Male	75963	50.4%	63593	83.7%	37977	50.0%	25616	33.7%	3567	4.7%	12370	16.3%
Unknown	754	0.5%	605	80.2%	382	50.7%	223	29.6%	32	4.2%	149	19.8%
Total	150843		127725		76945		50780		6346		23118	
Race/ethnicity												
African-American	40249	26.7%	32236	80.1%	19593	48.7%	12643	31.4%	1935	4.8%	8013	19.9%
White	56028	37.1%	48605	86.8%	28906	51.6%	19699	35.2%	1730	3.1%	7423	13.2%
Hispanic	51176	33.9%	44073	86.1%	26737	52.2%	17336	33.9%	2600	5.1%	7103	13.9%
Other	3390	2.2%	2811	82.9%	1709	50.4%	1102	32.5%	81	2.4%	579	17.1%
Total	150843		127725		76945		50780		6346		23118	
Coverage Group												
DCF	7055	4.7%	5597	79.3%	3435	48.7%	2162	30.6%	253	3.6%	1458	20.7%
Other	143788	95.3%	122128	84.9%	73510	51.1%	48618	33.8%	6093	4.2%	21660	15.1%
Total	150843		127725		76945		50780		6346		23118	
Primary Language												
English	138445	91.8%	117066	84.6%	70398	50.8%	46668	33.7%	5692	4.1%	21379	15.4%
Other	909	0.6%	760	83.6%	445	49.0%	315	34.7%	36	4.0%	149	16.4%
Spanish	10726	7.1%	9287	86.6%	5717	53.3%	3570	33.3%	586	5.5%	1439	13.4%
Unknown	763	0.5%	612	80.2%	385	50.5%	227	29.8%	32	4.2%	151	19.8%
Total	150843		127725		76945		50780		6346		23118	
Town												
Bridgeport	15125	10.0%	13096	86.6%	8728	57.7%	4368	28.9%	467	3.1%	2029	13.4%
Hartford	19256	12.8%	16045	83.3%	9054	47.0%	6991	36.3%	1033	5.4%	3211	16.7%
New Haven	14713	9.8%	11882	80.8%	7050	47.9%	4832	32.8%	681	4.6%	2831	19.2%
All Other Towns	101749	67.5%	86702	85.2%	52113	51.2%	34589	34.0%	4165	4.1%	15047	14.8%
Total	150843		127725		76945		50780		6346		23118	
Plan												
BlueCare	58702	38.9%	49318	84.0%	28681	48.9%	20637	35.2%	2613	4.5%	9384	16.0%
CHN	24759	16.4%	20861	84.3%	12730	51.4%	8131	32.8%	1267	5.1%	3898	15.7%
HealthNet	48352	32.1%	41867	86.6%	26401	54.6%	15466	32.0%	1289	2.7%	6485	13.4%
First Choice	7102	4.7%	5350	75.3%	3021	42.5%	2329	32.8%	635	8.9%	1752	24.7%
Changed plans	11928	7.9%	10329	86.6%	6112	51.2%	4217	35.4%	542	4.5%	1599	13.4%
Total	150843		127725		76945		50780		6346		23118	

^aChildren ages 2-19 years who were continuously enrolled in HUSKY A between 1/1/03 and 12/31/03.

^bEmergency Care Only is a subset of the category, "Acute and Emergency Care Only." Utilization rates are calculated as a percentage of the total number of continuously enrolled children.

Table 3: Ambulatory Care in HUSKY A: CY 2003 and FY 2002

	CY 2003 (n=150,843)		FY 2002 (n=128,975)	
	Well-child care	No ambulatory care	Well-child care	No ambulatory care
Total:	51.0%***	15.3%	53.4%	14.8%
Age (years):				
2 to 5	74.2%***	6.4%	77.3%	5.9%
6 to 10	40.7%***	17.8%	42.9%	17.6%
11 to 15	47.2%***	18.3%**	49.3%	17.4%
16 to 19	38.5%**	20.5%	40.0%	19.7%
Gender:				
Female	52.1%***	14.3%	53.8%	14.1%
Male	50.0%***	16.3%***	53.0%	15.5%
Race/ethnicity:				
African American	48.7%***	19.9%	50.1%	19.5%
Hispanic	52.2%***	13.9%	55.1%	13.6%
White	51.6%***	13.2%***	54.3%	12.2%
Other groups	50.4%	17.1%	53.1%	15.8%
Language:				
English	50.8%***	15.4%	53.3%	14.9%
Spanish	53.3%	13.4%	54.7%	13.6%
Other languages	49.0%	16.4%	54.7%	14.3%
Town:				
Bridgeport	57.7%	13.4%**	58.4%	12.3%
Hartford	47.0%***	16.7%	51.9%	16.6%
New Haven	47.9%***	19.2%***	43.1%	22.9%
All other towns	51.2%***	14.8%***	54.5%	13.5%
Health plan:				
BlueCare	48.9%***	16.0%***	55.6%	14.4%
Community Health Network	51.4%***	15.7%**	54.1%	14.6%
Health Net	54.6%	13.4%***	53.9%	12.5%
First Choice	42.5%	24.7%**	42.1%	26.8%
Changed plans	51.2%***	13.4%***	44.7%	19.9%

*Utilization rate in 2003 is significantly different than rate for 2002 (*** p<.001 ** p<.01 * p<.05)

Table 4. Well-Child Care by Health Plan: CY 3003

	Total ^a		BlueCare		CHN		HealthNet		First Choice		Changed Plans	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total	76945	51.0%	28681	48.9%	12730	51.4%	26401	54.6%	3021	42.5%	6112	51.2%
Age												
2 - 5	29181	74.2%	11221	72.6%	4616	73.2%	9824	78.4%	1037	62.4%	2483	73.1%
6 - 10	18374	40.7%	6785	38.8%	3001	41.3%	6416	43.9%	713	32.8%	1459	40.6%
11 - 15	20876	47.2%	7605	44.2%	3653	49.4%	7150	50.8%	915	41.7%	1553	46.5%
16 - 19	8514	38.5%	3070	35.9%	1460	38.5%	3011	42.2%	356	33.2%	617	38.7%
Total	76945		28681		12730		26401		3021		6112	
Gender												
Female	38586	52.1%	14293	49.8%	6428	52.2%	13270	56.1%	1507	42.8%	3088	52.4%
Male	37977	50.0%	14245	48.0%	6256	50.6%	12981	53.2%	1500	42.3%	2995	50.1%
Unknown	382	50.7%	143	48.8%	46	50.0%	150	51.5%	14	51.9%	29	56.9%
Total	76945		28681		12730		26401		3021		6112	
Race/ethnicity												
African-American	19593	48.7%	6956	46.7%	3695	48.7%	6037	53.0%	1023	42.5%	1882	47.5%
White	28906	51.6%	10871	49.5%	1943	49.8%	13359	54.8%	902	39.0%	1831	52.3%
Hispanic	26737	52.2%	10195	49.7%	6899	53.8%	6311	55.9%	1054	46.3%	2278	53.5%
Other	1709	50.4%	659	49.7%	193	43.1%	694	53.2%	42	40.8%	121	58.2%
Total	76945		28681		12730		26401		3021		6112	
Coverage Group												
DCF	3435	48.7%	1375	47.7%	407	50.4%	1184	48.8%	135	38.5%	334	56.8%
Other	73510	51.1%	27306	48.9%	12323	51.5%	25217	54.9%	2886	42.7%	5778	51.0%
Total	76945		28681		12730		26401		3021		6112	
Primary Language												
English	70398	50.8%	25886	48.7%	10887	50.5%	25206	54.6%	2811	42.1%	5608	51.3%
Other	445	49.0%	169	43.4%	85	52.8%	140	54.9%	15	36.6%	36	57.1%
Spanish	5717	53.3%	2483	50.5%	1711	57.9%	903	55.9%	181	50.3%	439	49.9%
Unknown	385	50.5%	143	48.5%	47	50.0%	152	51.4%	14	51.9%	29	56.9%
Total	76945		28681		12730		26401		3021		6112	
Town												
Bridgeport	8728	57.7%	970	50.8%	1891	59.9%	3892	58.7%	1028	55.8%	947	59.7%
Hartford	9054	47.0%	5725	45.8%	993	50.2%	1216	52.2%	66	24.0%	1054	48.8%
New Haven	7050	47.9%	1547	44.1%	3775	53.5%	895	45.5%	109	19.0%	724	45.1%
All Other Towns	52113	51.2%	20439	50.1%	6071	48.3%	20398	54.5%	1818	41.2%	3387	51.5%
Total	76945		28681		12730		26401		3021		6112	

^aChildren ages 2-19 years who were continuously enrolled in HUSKY A between 1/1/03 and 12/31/03.