CONNECTICUT VOICES FOR CHILDREN

Access to Care in the HUSKY Program: Achieving Our Goals for Well Child Care

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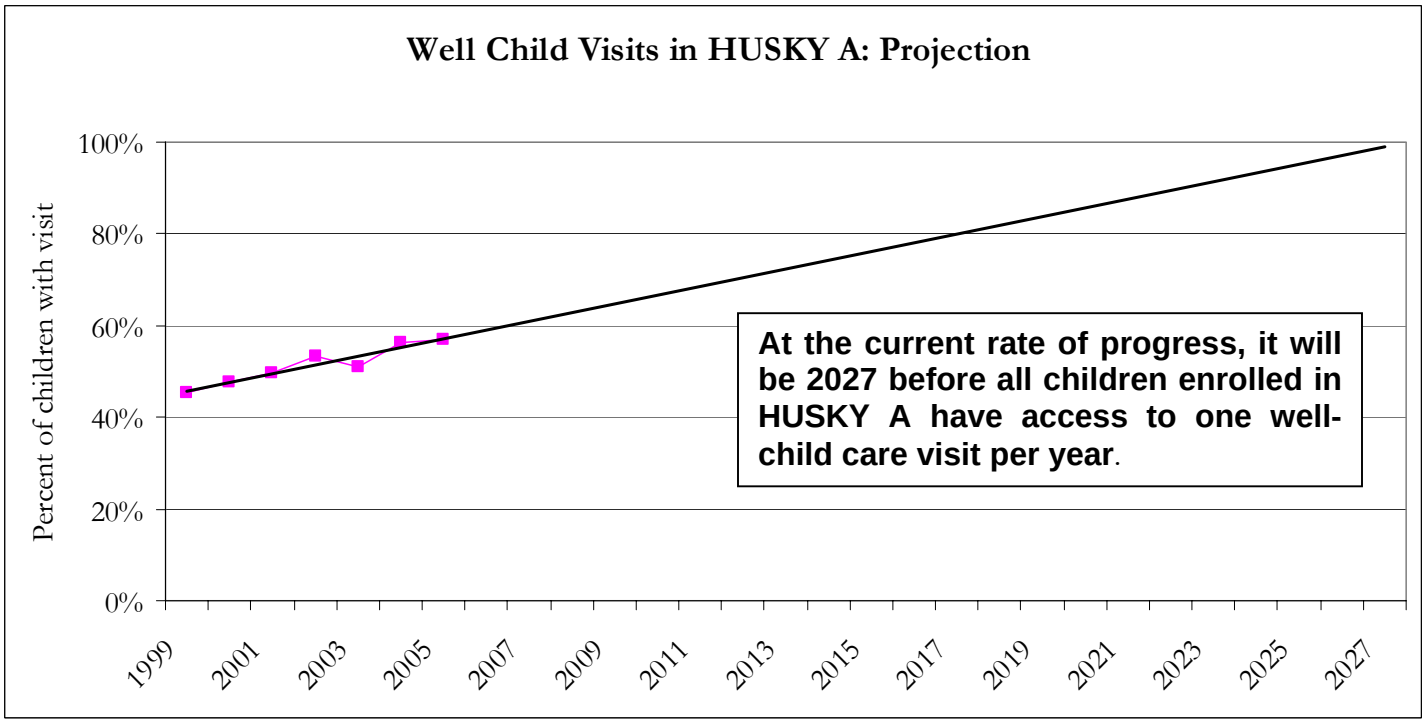

All children need high quality care to support healthy growth and optimal development during infancy, childhood, and adolescence. Ideally, this care should be available from known and trusted providers in medical homes that are "accessible, continuous, comprehensive, family-centered, coordinated, compassionate, and culturally effective." Regularly scheduled care, aimed at early detection and treatment of problems, is particularly important for children with increased risks for poor health and developmental delays, a fact Congress recognized back in 1967 when it created Medicaid's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment guidelines (EPSDT). The EPSDT periodicity schedule in Connecticut calls for annual well-child exams for children ages 2 to 5 and 11 to 19 and exams every two years for children ages 6 to 10.

In 2005, about half of the 156,368 children for whom Connecticut paid health insurance through HUSKY A received well-child care visits. At the current rate of improvement, not until the year 2027 will all children enrolled in HUSKY A receive well-child care visits. Given the improvement in treatment outcomes and the reduction in health care costs that early detection and preventive care can generate, Connecticut should do everything possible to ensure that all children enrolled in HUSKY A receive regular well-child care visits.

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