

Ohio's Children with Special Health Care Needs

Pat Luchkowsky
Director of Public Affairs
Easter Seals of Ohio



Children with Special Health Care Needs

Definition –

“Children with special health care needs are those who have or are at-risk for a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral or emotional condition and who also require health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally”



CSHCN in Ohio

It is estimated that Ohio has 445,205 children with special health care needs. This represents 16.2% of all children in Ohio. Children with special health care needs spread across all income levels and races.



Income Levels

0 – 99% FPL 18.8%
100 – 199% FPL 17.6%
200 – 399% FPL 14.3%
400 % and above 15.8%



Race/Ethnicity

Non-Hispanic	16.1%
White	15.4%
Black	20.1%
Multiple Races	16.9%
Hispanic	14.8%



Health Insurance Coverage

In Ohio –

- 7.1% of CSHCN without insurance at some point in past year
- 2.1% without insurance at time of survey
- 32% currently insured CSHCN whose insurance is inadequate



Access to Care

In Ohio –

- 14.2% have unmet need for specific health care services
- 4.6% have unmet need for family support services
- 13.8% have difficulty getting a referral
- 5.2% without a source of care when sick



Impact on Family

In Ohio –

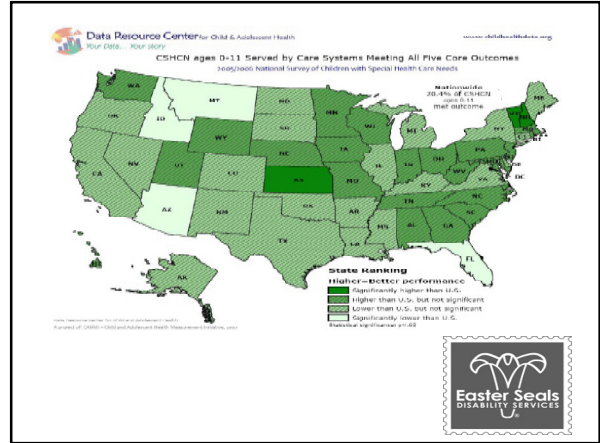
- 16.6% of families pay \$1,000 or more out of pocket for medical expenses
- 16% have financial problems because of child with special health care needs
- 10% spend 11 or more hours per week providing or coordinating care
- 23.4% family members cut back or stop working



Needs of Children and their Families

Ohio meets or slightly exceeds National average on all five core outcomes:

- Families are partners in decision making and satisfied with services
- CSHCN have a medical home
- CSHCN have adequate private and/or public insurance
- SCHCN are screened early and continuously for special health needs
- Community-based services are organized for ease of use



Special Issues

Compared with other populations, children with special health care needs experience poorer health and their families have more difficulty in finding, getting to, and paying for appropriate health care.



These Issues Include

- Lack of knowledge and understanding among health care professionals
- Lack of health promotion and disease prevention emphasis
- Lack of monitoring the utilization of health care services, correcting deficiencies in quality of care, underutilization of services



These Issues Include

- Failure to interact effectively with family and patient
- Lack of health care training by direct interaction with CSHCN
- Restrictive reimbursement rates for health care providers which limits use of innovative service models
- Gaps in coverage and large out of pocket expenses



These Issues Include

- Cost avoidance and cost-shifting between health insurance providers (both public and private), special education programs and long-term and acute care systems
- Fragmented health care system with primary and specialty care poorly distributed, inadequate in numbers and ill-equipped to meet needs



Why Is It Important

- Impact on school performance and development
- Health care needs
- Quality Assessment
- Costs
- Improvement opportunities



Building the Capacity

- Early Intervention
- Prevention of secondary results of disability
- Expanding the use of assistive technology
- Focusing goals on employment
- Research that is consumer and family driven
- Medical home



Building the Capacity

- Provider shortages
- Increasing access to therapies, especially among children with developmental disabilities
- Transition from pediatric to adult health care providers
- Outcome driven
- Coordination of school and health care systems



Resources

www.cshcndata.org – National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs Access to Needed Medical Care among Children under 18 Years of Age with Special Health Care Needs. 2002. Statistical Brief #75. Medical Expenditure Panel Survey.



Resources

Quality of Care for Children with Special Health Care Needs: Medicaid Findings from the CAHPS Child Survey. NCBH

Closing the Gap: A National Blueprint to Improve the Health of Persons with Mental Retardation. US Dept. of Health and Human Services, 2002

