

Preventive Care Among Publicly Insured Youth

DESCRIPTION

Nationally representative data suggest that a large proportion of children and young adults in Medicaid have certain health conditions that can be identified or managed by preventive services and that many children were not receiving well-child checkups.¹ In the U.S., every state is required to provide quality well-child care for children eligible for Medicaid called early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) as specified in Section 1905(r) of the Social Security Act. The EPSDT benefit provides comprehensive and preventive health care services for children under age 21 who are enrolled in Medicaid. EPSDT is key to ensuring that children and adolescents receive appropriate preventive, dental, mental health, and developmental, and specialty services.² In Minnesota, the program is called Child and Teen Checkups (C&TC) and is administered by the Minnesota Department of Human Services with technical and clinical assistance from the Minnesota Department of Health. Periodic examinations or screenings are delivered according to a schedule known as the Periodicity Schedule³, to assure that health problems are screened for, diagnosed, and treated early before they become more complex and treatment becomes costlier. The schedule is a minimum standard; more C&TC visits or screenings can be done and billed for as medically necessary. Children in out-of-home placement or foster care should receive C&TC visits more frequently. Clinical recommendations about best practices in well-child care and training about the required components is provided to all clinics who accept public insurance.⁴ Ultimately, the state is responsible, but managed care plans may also have affirmative duties to ensure that enrollees are provided with the required screenings, diagnostic procedures, and treatment.⁵

HOW WE ARE DOING

States submit data to the federal government including the participant ratio, which is the percentage of children by age group who received at least one screening among the group that was eligible for the screening. In Ramsey County, infants under 1 year, children ages 1-2, and children ages 6-9 met the federal requirement of 80% in federal fiscal year (FFY) 2017. Ramsey County exceeded the federal requirement of 80 percent for youth in foster care during FFY 2017. Ramsey County has never met the overall participation rate for youth in all age groups compared to Hennepin County which has met the overall participation rate each year beginning in 2013⁶.

BENCHMARK INDICATOR

Federal Statutory Requirement: All children and young adults birth through 20 years on public insurance receive well-child checkups according to the Periodicity Schedule.
Minimum Target: 80 percent of eligible youth

DISPARITIES

Low-income youth have a distinct need for comprehensive care in order to lead healthy lives.⁷ Comparing various age groups, Ramsey County publicly insured youth ages 15-21 have the lowest rates of child and teen checkups, followed closely by children 3-5 years.

Information to note

- Ramsey County is not meeting the federal statutory requirement that 80% of eligible youth receive a child and teen checkup. Hennepin County has met the requirement for the past five years.
- Only 30% of Ramsey County's publicly insured children ages 3 - 5 receive federally required preventive care checkups.

¹ Medicaid Preventive Services: Concerted Efforts Needed to Ensure Beneficiaries Receive Services. United States Government Accountability Office. <https://www.gao.gov/assets/300/293989.pdf>. Published August 14, 2009. Accessed September 2018.

² Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment. Health Resources & Services Administration. <https://mchb.hrsa.gov/maternal-child-health-initiatives/mchb-programs/early-periodic-screening-diagnosis-and-treatment>. Accessed August 2018.

³ Minnesota Child and Teen Checkups (C&TC) Schedule of Age-Related Screening Standards. Minnesota Department of Human Services. 2018. <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfsrserver/Public/DHS-3379-ENG>. Accessed September 2018.

⁴ Child and Teen Checkups (C&TC). Minnesota Department of Human Services. <https://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/children-and-families/health-care/health-care-programs/programs-and-services/ctc.jsp>. Accessed September 2018.

⁵ Whitener K. EPSDT: A primer on Medicaid's pediatric benefit. Georgetown University. 2016. <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2016/03/04/what-is-epsdt-medicaid-benefit-big-idea/>. Published March 4, 2016. Accessed September 2018.

⁶ Child & Teen Checkups Program. Participation Reports. Minnesota Department of Human Services. https://www.dhs.mn.gov/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=id_018157. Accessed September 2018.

⁷ 1115 Medicaid Waiver Element: EPSTD. FamiliesUSA. <https://familiesusa.org/1115-waiver-element-epsdt>. Accessed September 2018.

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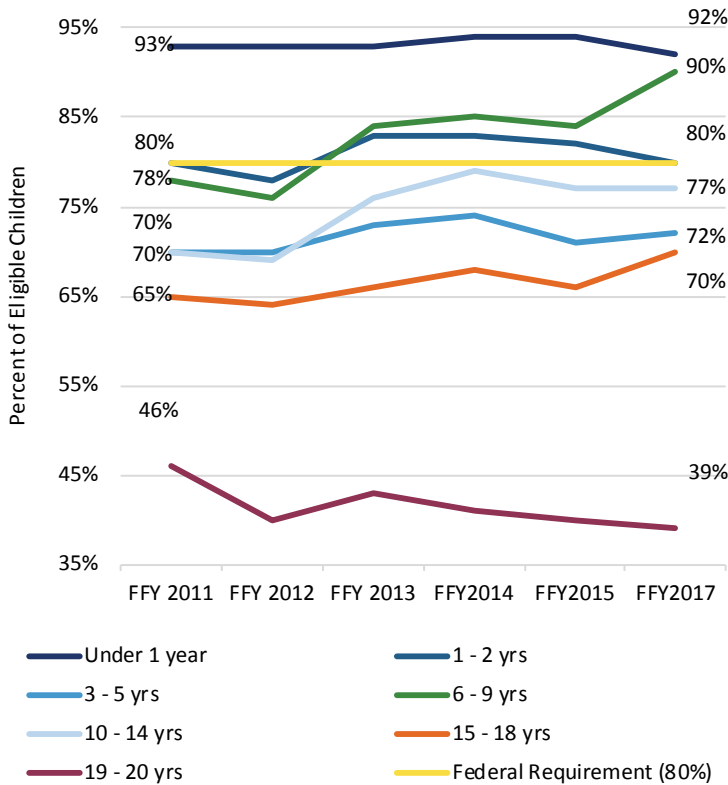
RISK FACTORS

Parents who are new to the U.S. may not understand the importance of preventive care medical visits for their children.

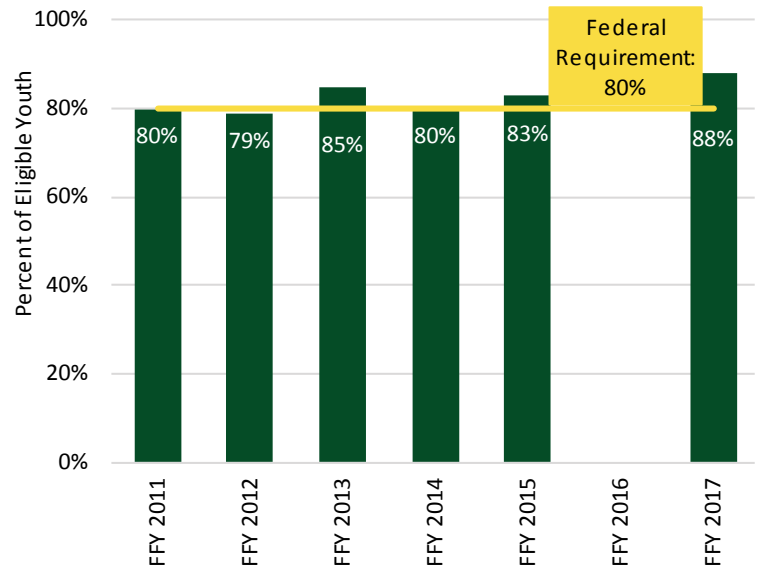
WHAT RAMSEY COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS DOING

Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health provides data monitoring and reporting for this topic in order to better understand the overall health and current conditions in the community. The information may help inform community partners, policy makers or county program leadership.

Youth Receiving a Child and Teen Checkup by Age Group Over Time*, Ramsey County



Foster Care Youth Receiving a Child and Teen Checkup * Ramsey County



* Data unavailable for FFY 2016.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services CMS-416 reports.

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