

Michigan ABCD Project Parent Survey Results

IHCS, in collaboration with MDCH and the ABCD Workgroup, developed a brief 4-question (8-item) parent survey. The brief survey was intended to gather information regarding parents' perceptions of the level of education and information they receive from their child's provider about developmental milestones, standardized developmental screening and assessment. The survey also assessed whether parents/guardians were aware that the provider was performing a developmental screening using a standardized developmental screening instrument (i.e., Parents Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS), or Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)).

Survey questions were based on the developmental assessment section of the Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative (CAHMI) Promoting Healthy Development Survey-PLUS (PHDS-PLUS) survey and "Setting the Stage for Success," Integrating Developmental Screening and Surveillance in Primary Care Practice resource tools (parent survey). A draft of the survey was also shared at the ABCD State Advisory Group (SAG) for comment and feedback.

The parent survey was mailed by MDCH to the parents/guardians of children included in the medical record review data files (N=2786). The survey was comprised of a letter portion and a survey portion. The name of the child was included on the letter portion of the survey but was not included with the response. The letter portion of the survey informed parents/guardians that the Michigan Medicaid program was interested in their child's health care and that they were receiving the survey because Medicaid records indicated that their child had a well child check-up in the last year. The letter explained that the intent of the survey was to determine if the child had been screened for developmental problems or delays during the well child check-up. The survey indicated that findings would be used to improve Medicaid child health programs. Parent and child names were not collected. Parents could choose not to complete the survey nor did they have to answer all of the questions. In addition, parents were informed that their decision to complete or not complete the survey would not affect their own or their child's Medicaid health benefits.

A total of 2786 surveys were mailed to the parents/guardians of children in the eligible population. Eleven percent (303/2786) of the surveys were returned to MDCH as undeliverable. Two hundred eighteen (218) surveys were completed and returned by mail and eight (8) surveys were completed online, for a total of 226 returned surveys. After deleting the undelivered surveys from the denominator, the overall survey response rate was 9% (226/2483).

Survey data indicate that a majority of respondents (66%) had been asked to complete a checklist about their child's learning, development or behavior. Seventy percent (70%) also reported that they had been asked if they had concerns about their child's learning, development or behavior in the last year. This would seem to confirm that the participating pilot practices had implemented standardized developmental screening (i.e., parent administered developmental questionnaires such as the ASQ).

However, only 38% of respondents reported that the health care provider or other health care staff told them they were conducting a developmental screening on their child; and only 38% reported their child's learning and behavior had been tested in the last year. Responses to these two questions appear to indicate a lack of provider or office staff communication regarding the developmental screening process and assessment of developmental milestones. Based on the responses to these questions, it would appear that there is an opportunity for improved physician and staff communication with parents regarding developmental promotion and anticipatory guidance.

Eighteen percent (18%) of the respondents reported that their child's health care provider noted a concern about their child's learning, development or behavior that needed to be carefully watched; and 8% reported that their child had been referred for learning, development or behavior problems. The respondents' reported identification of concerns appears to be consistent with the ABCD Measurement and Evaluation results which demonstrate that 19% of the medical records with evidence of a standardized developmental screening had an abnormal result.

Twelve percent (12%) of the respondents reported that their child had been referred for speech/language or hearing testing. Since the Measurement and Evaluation Report did not specifically address speech/language or hearing testing, it is difficult to interpret this finding.