Early Childhood

Division of Health Promotion & Chronic Disease Prevention
Phone: 1-800-383-3826 or 515-281-4911
www.idph.state.ia.us/hpcdp/family_health.asp

Promoting & Protecting the Health of Iowans

IDPH Iowa Department of Public Health

Ellen's Story…

Our daughter, Ellen, was attending preschool at Heartland Child Development Center. They indicated that the Lions Club would be giving a free vision screening at the school and asked for permission to have her screened. We hadn't noticed any problems with her vision whatsoever, but thought it was a good idea to have her vision checked. Even though I am a nurse, I never detected any problems. I would not have had her vision checked until just before kindergarten.

Her results suggested that she be evaluated for a possible astigmatism. I made an appointment and her doctor was very surprised that her left eye had not turned in, as her vision was so poor in that eye. She wanted her in corrective lenses immediately to prevent any strabismus. When Ellen got her first pair of glasses, she cried; so did we! She was so surprised that she could see things that were far away. It was just before Christmas and when she saw the Christmas lights on the trees during the ride home, she said, "I never knew there were separate lights on the trees!" Initially, her vision would only correct to 20/40 with lenses. During the next year, we began patching her right eye in an effort to force the left eye to work harder. She progressed well and under the constant direction of her doctor, she was finally able to correct to 20/20. Also, both eyes have remained conjugate. She looks so cute in her little glasses.

Thank you for the work the Iowa KidSight Program does. If not for the screening, we may have waited too long, and her vision would have been forever impaired.

Did you know?

In Iowa, there are over 240,000 young children ages 0-5. Of these approximately:

- 20% live in poverty[1].
- 16% have parents with compromised mental health status including depression or anxiety[2].
- 40% have mothers with **less** than "excellent or very good" physical or mental health[3].

Why are Early Childhood programs important to promoting and protecting the health of Iowans?

- Despite a recent decline, 2009 data reported an 11% increase of reported child abuse.
- More than 3,000 Iowa children with a known developmental delay or health condition that puts them at risk for future developmental problems are helped each year through the Early ACCESS program. This number has more than doubled since 2001.
- Unintended injury is the leading cause of death and disability for children over age 1. Preventing injuries in early child care and education settings has a large impact on the health, school readiness, and lifelong potential of Iowa's children.

Which Iowa Public Health Goals are we working to achieve?

Strengthen the public health infrastructure

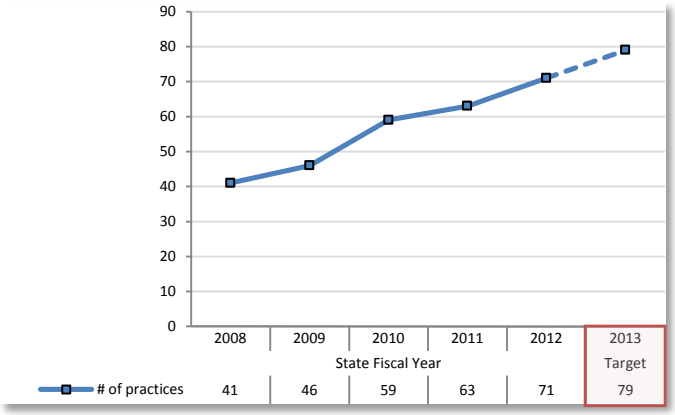
Promote healthy behaviors

What do we do?

- Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) has developed a comprehensive plan that serves as the framework for Iowa's early childhood system.
- The 1st Five program partners with primary healthcare providers to ensure quality social, emotional, and developmental screenings of children under age 5 and helps practices by offering enhanced care coordination to families in need of diverse community resources.
- Healthy Child Care Iowa (HCCI) supports the health and safety of children enrolled in early care and education programs through nurse consultation, health education, and facilitating health services referrals.
- Project LAUNCH seeks to develop the necessary infrastructure and system integration to assure Iowa children from birth to age 8 are thriving in safe, supportive environments, enter school ready to learn, and are able to succeed. Project LAUNCH targets traditionally underserved children and their families in Des Moines with a focus on low-income and minority populations.
- With the Iowa Department of Education, IDPH coordinates the Early ACCESS program, providing developmental evaluations and services for children from birth to age 3, and coordinates services for children with or at risk for developmental delays.

How do we measure our progress?

❶ Number of medical practices engaged in 1st Five screenings.



Data source: 1st Five Title V Child Health Agencies. Data are available annually.

How are we doing? Between FY06 to FY12, the number of known practices in Iowa working to integrate a standardized surveillance tool during well child exams that includes assessing for social/emotional development and family risk factors increased from two to 71. During this same timeframe, the number of children ages birth to 5 served by this surveillance method increased from approximately 3,000 in FY06 to 75,000 in FY12. For FY13, it is estimated that approximately 8 more practices will be added. Evaluation of referrals shows that for every one referral from a medical practice, three additional referrals are identified when care coordinators work with families.

❷ Number of onsite visits in early childhood and education settings by a Child Care Nurse Consultant

Data Source: ECI Annual Reports and HCCI records. Data are available annually.

How are we doing? In state fiscal year 2012, there were 5,931 onsite visits in early childhood and education settings by a Child Care Nurse Consultant. This is up from 4,154 onsite visits in SFY2011.

A new baseline measure for HCCI is the number of children with special health care needs who have a special needs care plan in the early care and education setting. In SFY2012, only 37% of children with special needs had a care plan. Care plans, such as asthma action plans, diabetic care plan, allergy and anaphylaxis plans, etc. ensure caregivers are aware of the health needs of the infants and young children in their care and how to care for these children on a daily and emergency basis.

What can Iowans do to help?

1. Go to www.earlychildhoodiowa.org and the parent's page (www.parents.earlychildhoodiowa.org) to learn more about the Early Childhood Iowa project.
2. Check www.idph.state.ia.us/1stfive/ for information on children's social-emotional development and to search a current statewide map of clinics partnering with 1st Five.
3. All Iowans can make sure their babies are screened for hearing loss. Iowa law requires screening all babies before leaving the hospital. To learn more, go to www.idph.state.ia.us/iaehdi/default.asp.
4. If you have a concern about a child's development, make a referral to Early ACCESS by calling 1-888-IAKIDS1 or an email to earlyaccessia@vnsdm.org.
5. All Iowans can support and encourage funding for quality evidence-based early childhood programs.

Expenditures

Federal funds & intra state receipts* (Dept of Human Services & Education): 0153-0548/0676/0980/0986. **1st Five**: general fund, health care trust, & intra state receipts* (Dept of Human Services): K05-0691. **Early ACCESS**: federal funds & intra state receipts* (Dept of Education): 0153-0708/AR18. **HCCI**: intra state receipts* (Dept of Human Services & Management): 0153-0662. **Vision Screening:** general fund K09-0931

	State Fiscal Year 2011 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2012 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2013 Estimate
State funds	$366,652	$427,707	$427,301
Federal funds	$1,261,542	$969,937	$1,291,587
Other funds*	$596,428	$553,175	$490,993
Total funds	**$2,224,622**	**$1,950,819**	**$2,209,881**
FTEs	8.36	5.59	6.10

Note: Funding information is intended to provide an overview of funding related to the program area. It does not include all federal and state requirements and/or restrictions for the use of funds. Contact the program area for more detailed budget information.

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4th & 5th Floors, Lucas Building ◇ 321 E. 12th Street ◇ Des Moines, IA 50319-0075

Early ACCESS (4th floor)
Phone: 515-242-6167 Fax: 515-242-6013
http://www.idph.state.ia.us/iaehdi/

1st Five (5th floor)
Phone: 515- 281-8284 Fax: 515-242-6013
www.iowaepsdt.org

Healthy Child Care Iowa (5th floor)
Phone: 281-7519 Fax: 515-242-6013
www.idph.state.ia.us/hcci

[1] Kids Count Data Center, Annie E. Casey Foundation.
[2] Iowa Child and Family Household Health Survey, 2005.
[3] Maternal and Child Health Bureau. (2007).The health and well-being of children: A portrait of states and the nation. *US Department of Health and Human Services.* Retrieved from: http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch07/state/iowa.html