



South Dakota Head Start Association

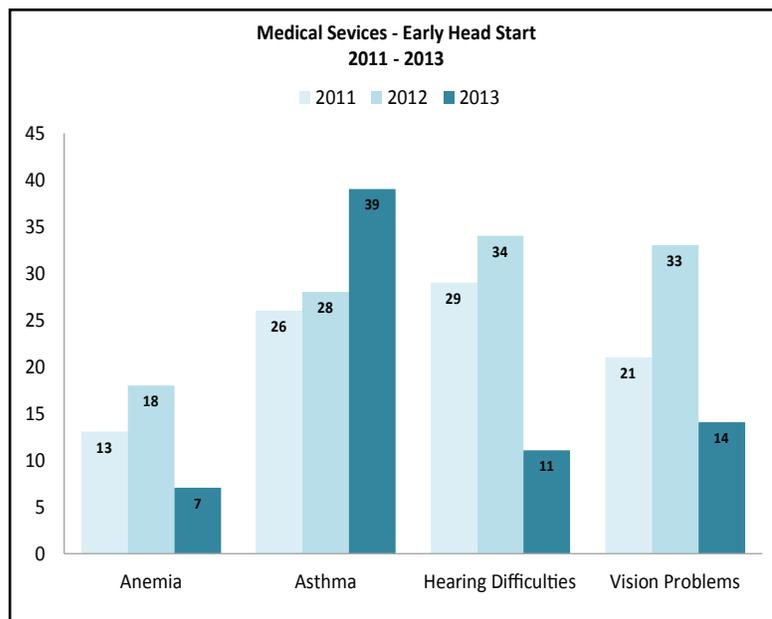
Volume 8, Number 4, August 2014

South Dakota Head Start & Early Head Start Health

Children's Medical Services

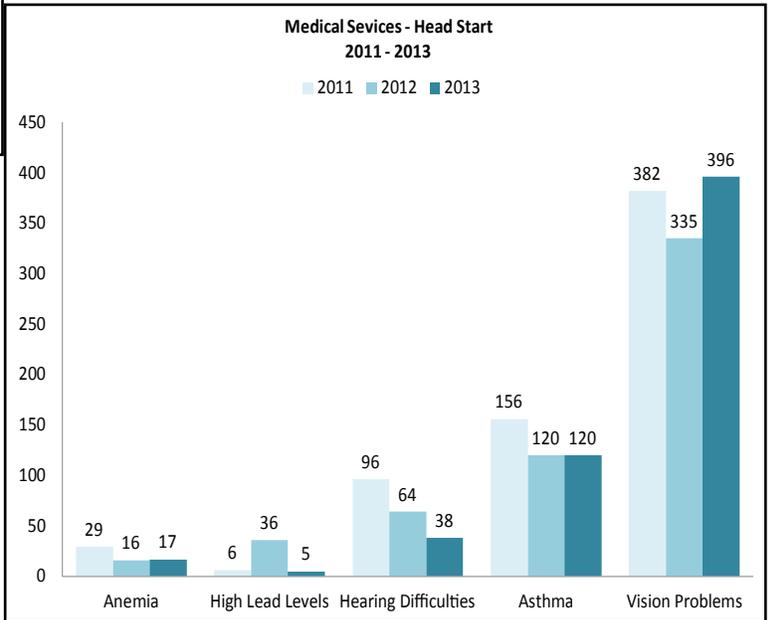
Head Start Program Performance Standards state that programs must ensure that all children are screened for lead poisoning by blood lead testing. The standard applies to all Early Head Start and Head Start enrolled children, not only to Medicaid-eligible children. Lead screening measures the level of lead in the blood. Lead is a poison that is very dangerous for young children because of their small size and rapid growth and development. Lead poisoning can cause serious health and developmental problems in young children, such as anemia, learning difficulties, and other medical problems. Many South Dakota Head Start grantees provide this blood test on site at no cost to the family as well as education as to the dangers of lead exposure to young children.

The charts below show the number of children who received treatment by type of medical service for the past three program years. There was a decrease from previous program years in the number of Early Head Start children receiving treatment for anemia, hearing difficulties, and vision problems. For Head Start children, there was a decrease from previous program years in the number receiving treatment for high lead levels and hearing difficulties. Early Head Start had an increase in the number of children with asthma while Head Start saw an increase in vision problems.



I am so grateful that my daughter was able to be a part of the Head Start Program. There are so many reasons, but particularly how head start did a vision screening on her and then brought it to my attention that further attention was needed. It is one of those things that may have went longer unnoticed had they not had the proper equipment to do such screenings. -Parent comment

Head Start has impacted our family in more ways than I can write, but some examples are helping my son learn everything from colors and shapes to tasting a new texture, gaining new and fun ideas and activities that the whole family can do, and teaching us as a family. -Parent comment



The Head Start / State Collaboration Office (<http://doe.sd.gov/oess/headstart.aspx>)

The Head Start / State Collaboration Office, at the Department of Education, was established in 1990, is the state's central point of contact between South Dakota Head Start programs and State agencies. Its purpose is to disseminate information about Head Start, assist in development of multi-agency and public/private partnerships between Head Start and the State, assist with interagency agreements for services and transitions from early childhood into the public schools, collaborate with other agency initiatives, and help build early childhood systems and access to comprehensive services for all low-income children.

EPSDT

A majority of children served in Head Start programs are Medicaid eligible. Medicaid's child health component, known as the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) program, fits the standards of pediatric care and meets the special physical, emotional, and developmental needs of low-income children. Since 1967, the purpose of the EPSDT program has been "to discover, as early as possible, the ills that handicap our children" and to provide "continuing follow up and treatment so that handicaps do not go neglected." Federal law – including statutes, regulations, and guidelines – requires that Medicaid cover a very comprehensive set of benefits and services for children, different from adult benefits. Since one in three U.S. children under age six is eligible for Medicaid, EPSDT offers a very important way to ensure that young children receive appropriate health, mental health, and developmental services¹.

According to South Dakota Codified law (67:16:11:04), a complete, comprehensive EPSDT screening must include:

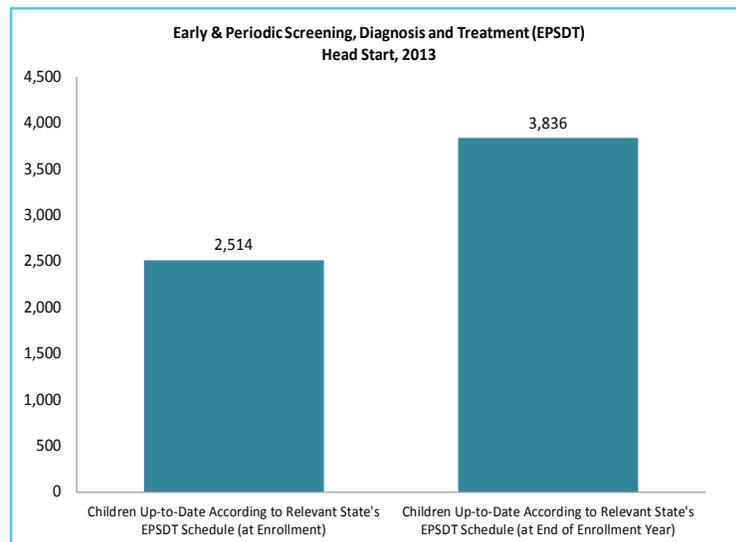
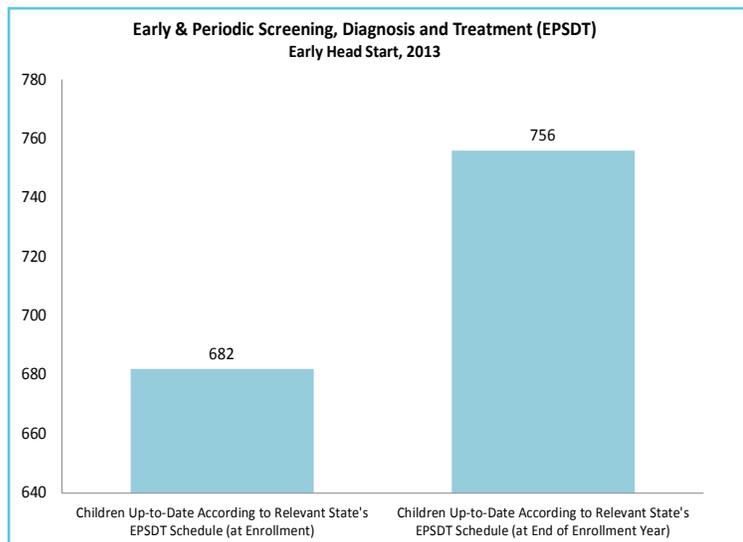
- (1) A comprehensive health and developmental history, including an assessment of the physical and mental development appropriate for the child's age;
- (2) A comprehensive unclothed physical exam;
- (3) Health education, including anticipatory guidance;
- (4) Immunizations appropriate for age and health history; and
- (5) Laboratory tests appropriate for age and risk factors.

A complete, comprehensive screening must be conducted by a physician, physician's assistant, nurse practitioner, rural health clinic, federally qualified health center, or an Indian health clinic.

A community health nurse may complete the physical development portion of the comprehensive health and development history, health education, and immunization components.

On an order from a physician, a licensed psychologist, or a mental health center may complete the mental health development assessment portion of the comprehensive health and development history.

The charts below show EPSDT medical services for Early/Head Start children in program year 2012/2013. Both programs show an increase from the beginning of enrollment to the end of the enrollment year for children being up-to-date on the South Dakota EPSDT schedule.



¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Retrieved May 2, 2014, from <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/epsdt/epsdttitle.html>

Data Sources: Data are from the Head Start Program Information Reports 2010/11 - 2012/13. The figures are all Head Start and Early Head Start programs in South Dakota, including Tribal programs. There are 23 reporting sites.

South Dakota Head Start Association (<http://sdheadstart.org>)



The South Dakota Head Start Association, established in 1989, is to coordinate and conduct activities designed to enhance awareness of Head Start in South Dakota, to be a support link between local, regional and National Head Start programs, to develop joint policy positions and statements which reflect a consensus of the opinions of Head Start Parents, Staff, Directors, and Friends, to establish communication, cooperation and an action network between head Start Directors, Staff, Parents, and Friends within the State of South Dakota, to conduct training on a statewide basis for Head Start parents, Staff, Directors, and Friends and to coordinate efforts with other interested groups.

Our Mission: The South Dakota Head Start Association is a leading voice supporting the work of Head Start programs and their partners through education, advocacy, training and networking for quality early childhood education and services to families. **Our Vision:** To be a positive voice, a powerful advocate and promoter of quality programs for children, families, and communities in South Dakota.



Data were prepared by: South Dakota KIDS COUNT. Beacom School of Business

