



on children, families and communities



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PPN Newsletter

April 2011

Listed below are recent updates to the Promising Practices Network on Children, Families and Communities website (<http://www.promisingpractices.net>).

WHAT'S NEW

Healthy Steps for Young Children program promotes attention to child development in health care settings



Healthy Steps for Young Children is a national initiative that incorporates child developmental specialists into primary care pediatric visits with the aim of meeting families' needs related to their young children's development and behavior. The impact of Healthy Steps was evaluated by a study of 2,235 families who enrolled within four weeks of the participating child's birth. Evaluations done at three years and five years after beginning the program found that families in the program group were more likely to discuss developmental topics with their health care provider, and children in those families were more likely to receive a developmental assessment. The year three evaluation also found that families in the program group were more likely to access on-time, age-appropriate developmental care for their child than children who did not participate in the program.

Read the new [Healthy Steps for Young Children](#) program summary See more [PPN programs related to this topic](#)

Early Head Start shows no long-term impacts on cognitive outcomes; few long-term impacts on social-emotional skills



Early Head Start is a federally funded community-based program for low-income pregnant women and families with infants and toddlers up to age 3. Its mission is to promote healthy prenatal outcomes for pregnant women, enhance the development of children age 0-3, and support healthy family functioning. Early Head Start has been shown to have positive impacts on children's cognitive and social-emotional skills, when measured at age 3, directly following program participation. However, a national follow-up study found very little improvement in outcomes as of fifth grade. Of 49 outcomes measured, only two showed significant improvement: social-emotional success and children's depressive symptoms. None of the cognitive outcomes that were measured showed improvement for the overall sample.

Read the new [Early Head Start](#) program summary See more [PPN programs related to this topic](#)

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Comprehensive review of children's health care quality shows some measures have improved, while others have declined



The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) recently released its annual reports documenting trends in quality and disparities in health care. The 2010 *National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Reports* include findings related to health care for children. The studies concluded, among other findings, that although health insurance enrollment has increased between 1998 and 2008, immunization rates have fallen for all racial/ethnic groups. Among families that need extra help coordinating care for their children, only 69 percent receive that help. Black, Asian and Hispanic children were less likely than White children to receive effective care coordination, as were children living in urban areas. Finally, less than two-thirds of children have a "medical home," a regular place to go for medical care. Black, Asian and Hispanic children were less likely than White children to have a medical home, as were uninsured children and children over the age of 12.

 [Read the fact sheet](#) at the AHRQ website  [More research related to children's health](#)

RESEARCH IN BRIEF

Listed below are research summaries that have been added to the PPN site this month.


Healthy and Safe Children

[See all in this area »](#)


Effects of Soldiers' Deployment on Children's Academic Performance and Behavioral Health — Apr. 2011

 [Summary](#) at RAND Corporation website


Vital Signs: Teen Pregnancy — United States, 1991-2009 — Apr. 2011

 [Report](#) at Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, CDC website


The Physical and Psychological Well-Being of Immigrant Children — Spring 2011

 [Summary](#) at Future of Children website


Emergency Department Visits for Drug-Related Suicide Attempts Involving Antidepressants by Adolescents and Young Adults: 2004 to 2008 — Mar. 2011

 [Report](#) at Drug Abuse Warning Network, SAMHSA website


Emergency Department Visits Involving Ecstasy — Mar. 2011

 [Report](#) at Drug Abuse Warning Network,
SAMHSA website


**Food Hardship in America — Data for the
Nation, States, 100 MSAs, and Every
Congressional District — Mar. 2011**

 [News release](#) at Food Research and Action
Center website

**Recent Decline in Births in the United States,
2007-2009 — Mar. 2011**

 [Data brief](#) at National Center for Health
Statistics website


**Recovery and Recurrence Following
Treatment for Adolescent Major
Depression — Mar. 2011**

 [Journal abstract](#) at Archives of General
Psychiatry website


**Regional Price Differences and Food
Consumption Frequency Among Elementary
School Children — Mar. 2011**

 [Journal abstract](#) at Public Health website


**Child and Adolescent Healthcare: Selected
Findings From the 2010 National Healthcare
Quality and Disparities Reports — Feb. 2011**

 [Fact sheet](#) at Agency for Healthcare Research and
Quality website


**A Review of Prenatal Home-Visiting
Effectiveness for Improving Birth
Outcomes — Feb. 2011**

 [Journal abstract](#) at Journal of Obstetric,
Gynecologic, & Neonatal Nursing website

**Emergency Department Visits Involving
Underage Alcohol Use in Combination with
Other Drugs — Jan. 2011**

 [Report](#) at Drug Abuse Warning Network,
SAMHSA website


**Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness
Review — Nov. 2010**

 [Executive summary](#) at Administration for Children
and Families website


Children Ready for School

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Early Care and Education for Children in Immigrant Families — Spring 2011

 [Summary](#) at Future of Children website


Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness Review — Nov. 2010

 [Executive summary](#) at Administration for Children and Families website

Children Succeeding in School [See all in this area »](#)

Do Low-Income Students Have Equal Access to the Highest-Performing Teachers?


— Apr. 2011

 [Brief](#) at National Center for Education Evaluation website


Effects of Soldiers' Deployment on Children's Academic Performance and Behavioral Health — Apr. 2011

 [Summary](#) at RAND Corporation website


Early Care and Education for Children in Immigrant Families — Spring 2011

 [Summary](#) at Future of Children website

The Physical and Psychological Well-Being of Immigrant Children — Spring 2011

 [Summary](#) at Future of Children website

Education in Chronically Poor Rural Areas Lags Across Generations — Mar. 2011

 [Issue brief](#) at Carsey Institute website

Strong Families [See all in this area »](#)

The Living Arrangements of Children of Immigrants — Spring 2011


 [Summary](#) at Future of Children website

The Physical and Psychological Well-Being of Immigrant Children — Spring 2011

 [Summary](#) at Future of Children website


Crime During the Transition to Adulthood: How Youth Fare as They Leave Out-of-Home

Care – 2011

 [Report](#) at Chapin Hall website

Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness

Review – Nov. 2010

 [Executive summary](#) at Administration for Children and Families website

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