



The Assuring Better Child Health and Development (ABCD) model is a proven approach to screening young children in primary health care settings as part of a well-child visit. ABCD works to increase developmental and autism screening, and referral rates for all young children within the medical home, targeting practices serving Medicaid-eligible children. ABCD promotes the integration of developmental screening into well-child visits, using a valid and reliable interactive screening tool, such as the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ), or the Parents Evaluation of Developmental Skills (PEDS). Medical professionals are also taught to use the Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (MCHAT) and refer children as needed for follow-up to appropriate community services. The goal of the ABCD project was to increase the percentage of children screened during well-visits, the percentage of children appropriately referred for follow-up/treatment and the percentage of children who receive follow-up services.

The North Carolina Partnership for Children (NCPC) built upon the existing local Smart Start-funded ABCD programs and linked services within the Community Care Network of N.C. (CCNC), North Carolina's medical home and care management system. CCNC is a quality assurance network of physicians utilizing Medicaid to provide incentives that improve medical care based on the American Academy of Pediatrics Bright Futures National Standards. N.C. has 14 Community Care Regions and NCPC has expanded Smart Start's ABCD coordinator model to all 14 CCNC regions.

Assuring Better Child Health and Development (ABCD)

PARTNERS



Through the ABCD project, rates of developmental screening and referral increased across the state. Developmental screening rates improved from 85.2 percent at baseline to 93.9 percent of children due for screening receiving one during their well-child visit. Referral rates of children scoring in the "at-risk" category increased from 68.4 percent at baseline to 76.1 percent.

Assuring Better Child Health and Development (ABCD)

One of the themes that emerged from the ABCD evaluation is the need for a more robust, coordinated system to track referrals and ensure families are linked to services when needed. Discussion among key stakeholders and state leadership should focus on strategies that create stronger alignment among procedures, and ways the state can more effectively coordinate those services to ensure all families receive the support they need to best promote a child's health and development.

State partners will continue to meet both informally and formally through the ABCD Advisory Group meetings to identify policy recommendations, potential system barriers, and strategies to maintain the infrastructure strengthened through this project. Stakeholders from the ABCD Advisory Group partners are currently investigating other national, comprehensive models, such as Help Me Grow, to explore the opportunities such frameworks offer as a means to strengthen the infrastructure and better coordinate existing systems.

For more information about ABCD, go to <http://www.ncsmartstart.org>.



A proven, universal approach to screening young children in health care settings.

ABCD works to increase health and developmental screening and referral rates for all young children by integrating routine screenings into well-child visits. ABCD Coordinators work with medical professionals to increase the use of standardized screening tools and to refer children who may need follow-up for appropriate services.



By identifying and addressing these disabilities early, children are more likely to graduate from high school.



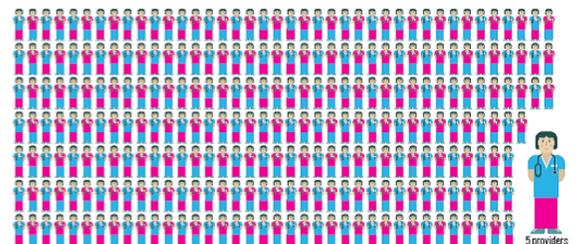
Through the Smart Start network, ABCD:

Impacts approximately **65,000** children enrolled in Medicaid

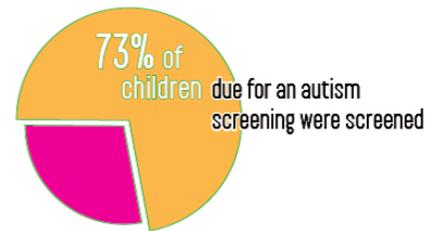
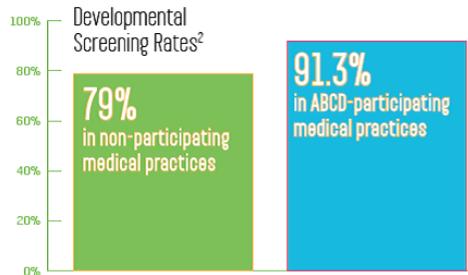
Is working with **246** medical practices



Has **1,345** participating providers



This means more children are likely to get identified for the early intervention services they need:



¹ States in Action: Innovations in State Health Policy, 2015

² As determined by Medicaid Chart Reviews

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North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services | Division of Child Development and Early Education
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