

Early Childhood Success

Outcome:
Babies Are Born Healthy

Indicator:
Children Ages 0-4 Meeting Social, Emotional, Cognitive, Language and Physical Development Milestones

Where Is Santa Fe Now?
? We Do Not Know. This is a Data Development Agenda

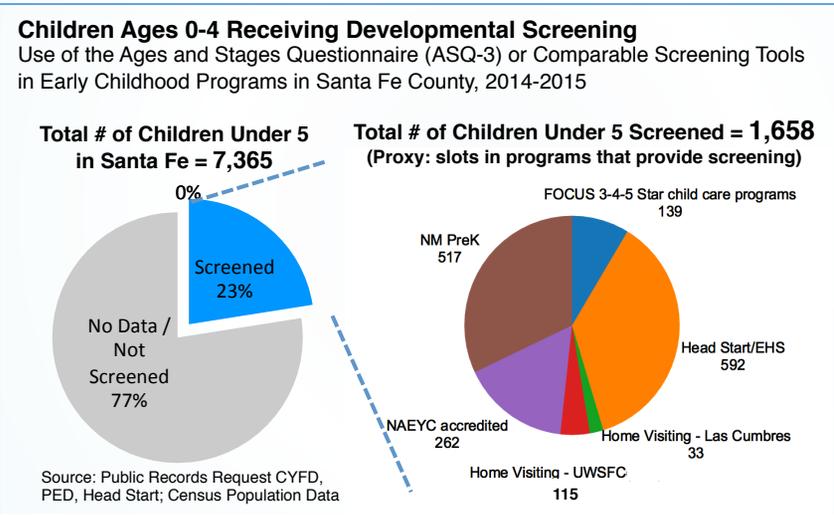
Why is this important?

Formal developmental screening is primarily used to identify children who may be at-risk for delay, in order to refer the child for further evaluation, and treatment if needed. Early identification and treatment of delays often result in the child overcoming delays and achieving normal development. Developmental screening is not designed to be used as a child outcome measure.

For practitioners of all types, use of a fairly simple developmental screening tool such as the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) helps them learn about milestones and stages of child development. Using such a tool with parents has the added benefit of helping parents understand and celebrate their child's development across time.

How Are We Doing?

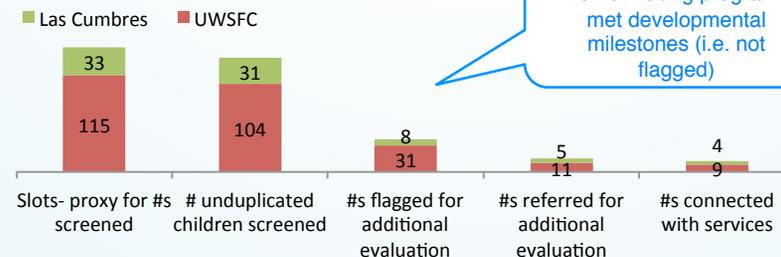
We do not know. About 1 in 4 children in Santa Fe receive ASQ-3 or similar developmental screening through Early Childhood Programs. However, there is limited tracking of data on screening results and referral follow-ups except through CYFD Home Visiting Program.



The major providers of early care and education in Santa Fe County conduct regular developmental screening and share results with family members to achieve appropriate referrals for additional evaluation and treatment. However, strategies and process for reporting-tracking the results of developmental screening to state or county oversight agencies are almost non-existent. Current CYFD, PED and Head Start policy does not require reporting (except CYFD Home Visiting). Lack of data management systems and capabilities may be additional barriers. Medical providers do not currently report screening results.

Appendix 2. Programs providing routine developmental screening of children 0-4

Tracking Developmental Screening & Referral Process for Home Visiting Programs



The **CYFD Home Visiting Program** has stringent policies for tracking developmental screening that could serve as a model for other programs. Home visiting is also emerging as an effective family support service increasing parenting capacities and supporting appropriate child development and learning. Home visiting is provided in Santa Fe County by United Way and Las Cumbres through CYFD contracts.

Children identified with possible developmental delay are referred to New Vistas Family Infant Toddler-FIT program (ages birth-3) or to Santa Fe Public Schools Child Find (ages 3 and up) for further evaluation and treatment if needed.

 **APPENDIX: Early Childhood Success**

Appendix 2. Programs providing routine developmental screening of children 0-4

Home Visiting funded by CYFD is the “gold standard” for documentation of developmental screening activities and results—data system reflects the numbers eligible for the required screening every 6 months, and requires entering of numbers screened, numbers of screened that are flagged, numbers of flagged then referred, and numbers of referred who report connecting with services. Program quarterly reports track status.

PreK Standards require developmental screening be completed for each child prior to the third month of enrollment. State standards allow a choice of tools. Results are to be shared with parents, and referral information shared with parents (if flagged). Children flagged for additional evaluation are generally referred to Child Find (IDEA Part B) c/o Santa Fe Public Schools. Screening completion is monitored by the assigned PreK Consultants. There is currently no formal recording or reporting of screening results, although the PreK program at United Way of Santa Fe County documents this information into their data system and it could be reported.

Head Start/Early Head Start Performance Standards require developmental screening within 45 days of enrollment, and annually. The federal standards allow a choice of tools; Head Start/Early Head Start in Santa Fe County is operated by PMS and the Ages and Stages Questionnaire is used. Health Coordinators monitor the screening and referrals. There is currently no formal recording or reporting of screening results to state or county entities. However, PMS is in the process of implementing a comprehensive data management system and expects to have developmental screening results documented by fall 2015.

NM FOCUS Tiered Quality Rating Improvement System for early care and education programs. FOCUS criteria were adopted in 2012 to replace AIM HIGH quality rating. The new FOCUS criteria for Star 3, 4, 5 require that programs complete developmental screening for all children within 4 months of enrollment and regularly thereafter, using a choice of tools (eg, ASQ), and that results be shared with families. Ongoing monitoring may be provided by the assigned FOCUS Consultants. There is currently no formal recording or reporting of screening results.

FOCUS Star 5 via Accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Four Santa Fe County Licensed child care centers hold NAEYC Accreditation and FOCUS Star 5 rating. NAEYC accreditation requires developmental screening; criteria are monitored by the NAEYC Commission on Accreditation. There is currently no formal recording or reporting of screening results to state or county entities.

Medical providers: Many Pediatricians and Family Practice doctors follow the American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines that recommend developmental surveillance at every visit, and formal developmental screening at 9, 18, and 24 or 30 months, and ages 3, 4, and 5, with appropriate referrals as indicated. Currently there is no formal recording or reporting of screening results by medical providers.

The state team for the Department of Health Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) planning and implementation is addressing statewide access to developmental screening for all young children, as is the Act Early campaign at UNM Center for Development and Disability. DOH personnel have become interested in a statewide Registry for developmental screening, similar to the existing immunization Registry.

This is an important data development agenda because medical providers are thought to be a major provider of developmental screening of young children. Medicaid regulations pay for Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) services

IDEA Parts B and C: Children identified as needing further evaluation and possible early intervention treatment have access to services required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), provided in New Mexico for children 0-3 by the Department of Health Part C Family Infant Toddler (FIT) program, contracted in Santa Fe County to New Vistas; and provided to children ages 3 and up through Part B Child Find services through the Santa Fe Public Schools exceptional student education program.