Fact Sheet

Services Provided to Children Enrolled in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start

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North Dakota Head Start

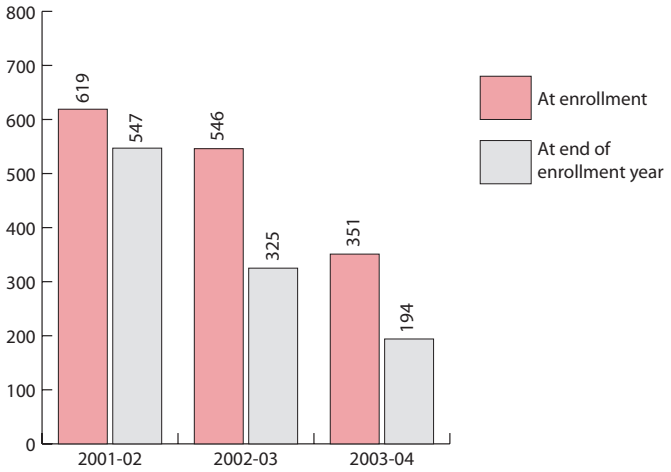
Services Provided to Children Enrolled in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start Highlights

- Fewer Head Start children are uninsured
- Most Head Start children are medically screened and obtain needed treatment
- Pregnant women in Early Head Start receive important health services
- Fewer Head Start children receive mental health services
- Speech/language impairment is the most commonly diagnosed disability among Head Start children

Fewer Head Start Children are Uninsured

A significant number of children are either entering North Dakota Head Start already insured or are gaining access to health insurance while enrolled. The number of uninsured children at time of enrollment dropped from 619 in 2001-02 to 351 in 2003-04. In addition, more than twice as many children gained access to health insurance while enrolled in Head Start during 2003-04 (157 children) than did so in 2001-02 (72 children).

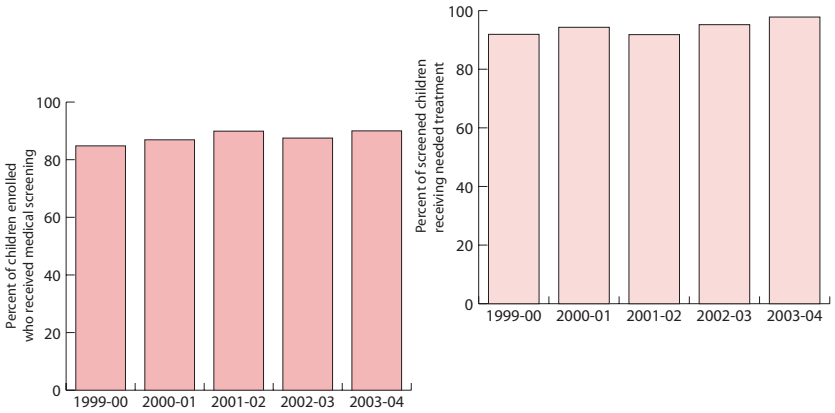
Figure 1. Uninsured Children Enrolled in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start by Time of Year, 2001-2004



Most Head Start Children are Medically Screened and Obtain Needed Treatment

The vast majority of children enrolled in North Dakota Head Start have received medical screening (from 85% in 1999-00 to 90% in 2003-04). Of those children screened, approximately one in five needed medical treatment in 2003-04. In addition, nearly all children diagnosed with medical needs received treatment (from 92% in 1999-00 to 98% in 2003-04). Their most common medical problems included asthma, hearing difficulties, and vision problems.

Figure 2. Percent of Children Enrolled in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start Who Received Medical Screening and Percent of Screened Children Who Obtained Needed Medical Treatment, 1999-2004



Data Source:
Data obtained from Head Start Program Information Reports, 1999-2004. Data in this fact sheet include pregnant women enrolled in Early Head Start programs.

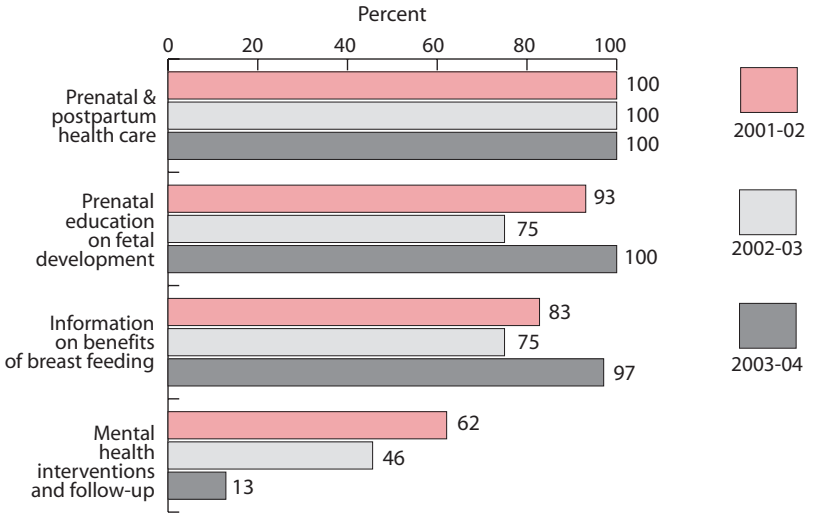
Our Mission

The goal of Head Start is to increase the social competence of children in low-income families and children with disabilities, and to improve their chances for school success.

Pregnant Women in Early Head Start Receive Important Health Services

In 2001-02, there were 29 pregnant women enrolled in North Dakota Early Head Start programs. This number rose to 68 women in 2002-03 and 70 women in 2003-04. In each of these years, all enrolled women received prenatal and postpartum health care services. In addition, 75% or more received prenatal education on fetal development and information on the benefits of breast feeding. In contrast, the percent of women receiving mental health interventions and follow-up declined dramatically from 62% of women in 2001-02 to 13% of women in 2003-04.

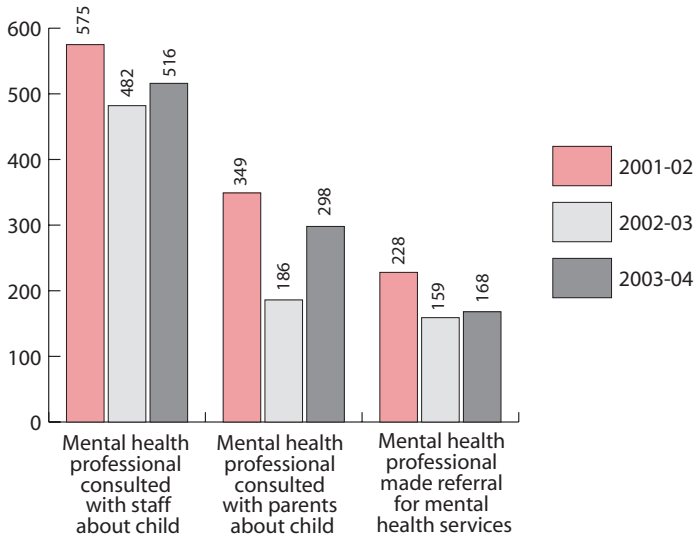
Figure 3. Percent of Pregnant Women Enrolled in North Dakota Early Head Start by Type of Health Services Received, 2001-2004



Fewer Head Start Children Receive Mental Health Services

Over the past several years, fewer numbers of children enrolled in North Dakota Head Start programs have received services from a mental health professional. In 2001-02, mental health professionals consulted with staff about 575 children, or 16.5% of Head Start enrollees. By 2003-04, mental health professionals consulted with staff about 516 children, or 13.3% of all enrollees. In addition, mental health professionals made referrals for 6.6% of Head Start children in 2001-02. In 2003-04, 4.3% of Head Start children were referred for mental health services.

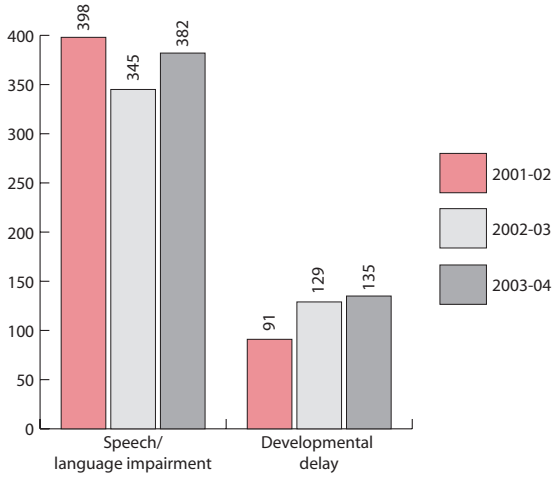
Figure 4. Children Enrolled in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start by Type of Mental Health Service Received, 2001-2004



Speech/Language Impairment is Most Commonly Diagnosed Disability among Head Start Children

While most North Dakota Head Start children are not diagnosed as having a disability, speech/language impairment is the most commonly diagnosed disability among Head Start pupils, affecting 11.4% of enrollees (398 children) in 2001-02 and 9.9% (382 children) in 2003-04. Developmental delay is the second most commonly diagnosed disability for Head Start children.

Figure 5. Children Enrolled in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start by Diagnosed Disability , 2001-2004



For further information on North Dakota Head Start, contact the North Dakota Head Start State Collaboration Office, 600 East Boulevard Avenue, Department 325, Bismarck, ND 58505 or visit http://www.state.nd.us/humanservices.

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