

California Statewide Screening Collaborative Issue Brief #3: Data and Policy Barriers for Infant and Early Childhood Screenings

Systematic data coordination and policy challenges limit capacity to accurately determine rates of screening in young children in California. Data sharing limitations also lead to duplication of efforts across agencies and providers in some communities and missed screenings in others. A cohesive, integrated policy approach to screenings and service delivery should support data sharing across different systems to strengthen coordination between service providers and those conducting screenings, increase access to services, and provide more accurate counts of developmental, behavioral, and trauma screenings in the state. Such a policy approach should address confidentiality regulations and meet family privacy needs.

Data Coordination Strategy Example- Orange County Children’s Screening Registry:

The Orange County Screening Registry was developed by Help Me Grow Orange County to tackle a multitude of data coordination challenges including data duplication, cross-sector communication challenges, and siloed referral services and resources. The screening registry is HIPPA compliant and has gone through all levels of the legal team at Children’s Hospital Orange County (CHOC) to ensure confidentiality. The registry provides primary health care providers and other community-based providers with a platform through which to share screening, referral, and outcome data.

Policy Barriers and Strategies:

Barriers	Strategies
Lack of cross-system and internal agency coordination, resulting in duplication of efforts	Funding to support cross-agency work to effectively coordinate efforts, resources, strategies, and policy work; develop mechanisms to facilitate communication across service delivery systems
Policy focus on screening-only for developmental, behavioral, and trauma concerns	Develop comprehensive policies including workforce, service, and resource development to effectively address full range of concerns
Advisory boards have a limited number of family and community stakeholders who can influence policy	Increase number of family and community stakeholders on advisory boards to influence policy

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