Children's Hospital of Philadelphia PolicyLab

Using the Children with Special Health Care Needs Screener with Immigrant Families: An Analysis of the National Survey of Children's Health

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Children in immigrant families are less likely to screen positive with the Children with Special Health Care Needs Screener (CSHCN-S). This may indicate that children in immigrant families are healthier or require fewer health services than non-immigrant peers. Alternatively, the screener may under-identify special healthcare needs in this population. Using the 2011-2012 National Survey of Children's Health, we examined the prevalence of a positive CSHCN-S among children from first, second, and third generation households with an equivalent number of currently diagnosed chronic conditions (0, 1, 2+). Multivariate analyses controlled for sociodemographic factors. Among children with an equivalent number of chronic conditions, fewer children from first and second generation households screened positive with the CSHCN-S relative to children from third generation households. This association remained after adjusting for covariates. The CSHCN Screener may under-identify children from immigrant households, allowing for missed opportunities to allocate health resources.

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