

Health Care Use Varies with Age among CCS Enrollees

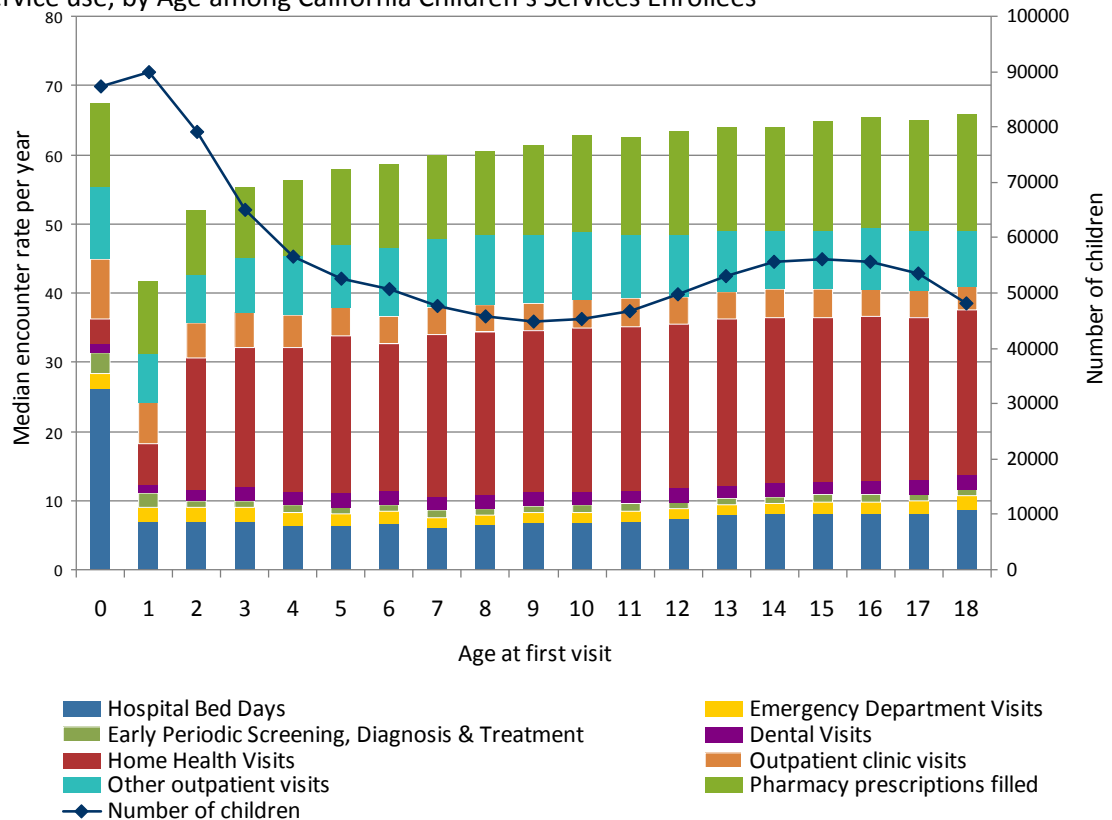
THE FINDINGS

- Children in different age groups use health care differently.
- Children in their first year of life primarily use inpatient services. The CCS population is greatest among children under age 1 year.
- Health care use is dynamic in the first 2 years of life and then follows a consistent pattern from ages 3-18 years. Children tend to use more outpatient and home-health services and fewer inpatient services from age 3-18 years.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- Approaches to CCS reform should account for individual child age and changing needs over time.
- A tiered system – accounting for age, diagnostic category, and diagnostic complexity -- is needed to make health care delivery more efficient. Tiering should also consider family and community-based factors.

Exhibit 1: Service use, by Age among California Children’s Services Enrollees



"CCS enrollee" is any child enrolled in California Children's Services for > 6 months from 7/1/2006 to 6/30/2012. As the nation's largest Title V program, CCS provides case management each year for >150,000 children with a serious chronic medical condition and whose family has an eligible adjusted annual income. Most CCS enrollees are enrolled in MediCal or Healthy Families. <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/ccs>. Data analyzed were based on paid claims for these CCS enrollees, as abstracted from the state's Management Information System / Decision Support System