

Babies First! Outcomes for High-Risk Children up to Age 5

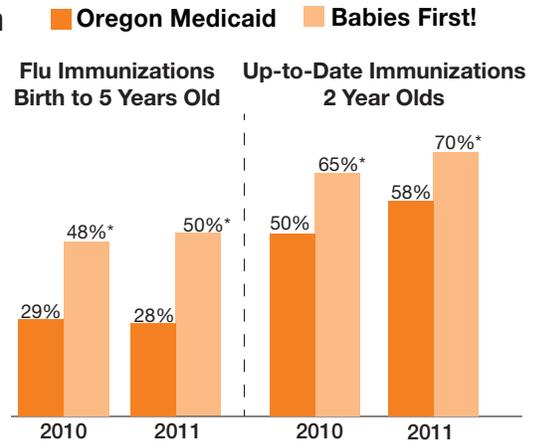


Babies First! is a statewide public health nurse home visiting program for families with babies and young children up to age 5 years old. The goal is to identify high-risk infants (based on social, emotional and medical risk factors) and improve the health outcomes of these vulnerable children through prevention and early intervention.

Compared to Medicaid, children that received Babies First! Medicaid nurse home visits had significantly* higher rates of:

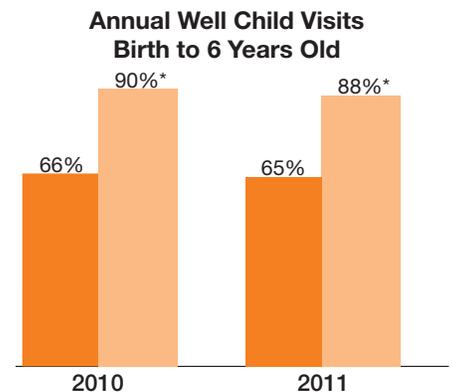
Immunizations

Immunizations save lives and improve quality of life. Babies First! annual flu immunization rates were 69% higher than Medicaid children in 2010 and 78% higher in 2011. For children that turned two years old during the year, Babies First! up-to-date immunization rates were 30% higher than Medicaid in 2010 and 21% higher in 2011.



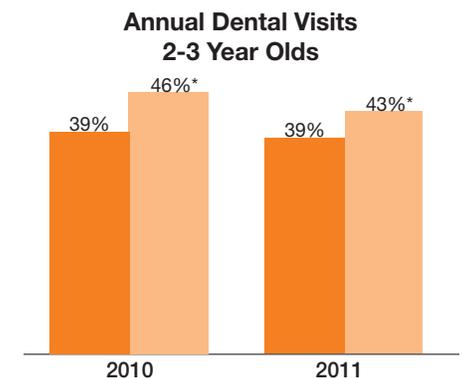
Annual well-child visits

Well-child visits are routinely scheduled preventive visits for children. Well-child visits are essential for maintaining long term positive health for children. Babies First! children were 37% more likely to receive an annual well child visit than other Medicaid children in 2010 and 36% more in 2011.



Annual dental visits

Developing good dental habits and routines early in life is important for long term health. Babies First! clients were 18% more likely to receive an annual dental visit than other Medicaid children in 2010 and 10% more likely in 2011.



*Chi-square significant at .05 or less

Babies First! Potential Medicaid Cost Savings

Immunizations: Immunizations generate significant economic benefits. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates for every dollar spent on immunizations about \$6 dollars in direct medical costs are saved. The higher Babies First! immunization rate may therefore result in considerable Medicaid savings.

Medicaid hospital costs: A recent study indicates that Babies First! visits were associated with a 10% reduction in Medicaid hospitalization compared to clients who did not receive nurse home visits. The national average cost of a child's hospital visit is \$5,200, indicating substantial potential Medicaid savings.

Information provided by:
Oregon Health Authority:
Department of Medical Assistance Programs
Immunization Program
Maternal and Child Health

At a glance:

Babies First! clients are more likely than other Medicaid clients to be up-to-date on immunizations.

Children involved with Babies First! access important early dental care.

"Our nurse was the best. She was compassionate, capable, knowledgeable, and caring. I learned so much about parenting, health and safety issues from her."

-Babies First! Client

