



CCNC Pediatrics: Foster Care

NC Child Welfare Data: State Fiscal Year 2012

- 132,031 unique children were assessed for reports of child abuse, neglect & dependency
- Approximately 20% of those were found as abused, neglected, dependent, and or in need of child welfare services
- 13,844 unique children and youth were in foster care at some point *during this 12 month period.*

Did you know that children in Foster Care are children with Special Healthcare Needs?

Fundamental Principles:

- **Children and youth in foster care should be seen early**
 - To assess for signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect
 - To assess for presence of acute and chronic illness
 - To assess for signs of acute or severe mental health problems
 - To monitor adjustment to foster care
 - To ensure a child or youth has all necessary medical equipment and medications
 - To support and educate parents (foster and birth) and kin
- **Children and youth in foster care should be seen often upon entry to foster care**
 - Health screening visit within 72 hours of placement
 - Comprehensive health admission visit within 30 days of placement
 - Follow-up health visit within 60 to 90 days of placement
- **Children and youth should have an enhanced health care schedule**
 - To monitor for signs and symptoms of abuse or neglect
 - To monitor a child's or youth's adjustment to foster care and visitation
 - To ensure a child or youth has all necessary referrals, medical equipment, and medications
 - To support and educate parents (foster and birth) and kin
- **Children and youth in foster care should be seen often while they are in foster care**
 - **Monthly** for infants from **birth to age 6 months**
 - Every **3 months** for children age **6 to 24 months**
 - **Twice a year** for children and youth between **24 months and 21 years of age**
- **Children and youth in foster care should have comprehensive evaluations**

Within 30 days of placement, children and youth in foster care should have the following:

 - A mental health evaluation
 - A developmental health evaluation if under age 6 years
 - An educational evaluation if over age 5 years
 - A dental evaluation

Resource:

www.aap.org/fostercare

