

Health Service Utilization of Children in Delaware Foster Care, 2013-2014

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Introduction & Purpose

June 2014 - DE General Assembly established a Task Force on the Health of Children in Foster care

Task Force charge:

- 1. Learn more about the health-related needs of children in FC**
- 2. Develop recommendations to improve care**

April 2015 Report to the Task Force (and Executive Summary) available at <http://www.ccrs.udel.edu/node/489>

Acknowledgements

Research Team

- **Mary Joan McDuffie**
- **Katie Gifford**
- **Gemma Tierney**
- **Victor Rendon**
- **Caprice Torrance**
- **Steven Peuquet**
- **Erin Knight**

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Partners

- **John Monaghan,
DMMA/DHSS**
- **Tylesha Rumley,
DSCYF**
- **Members of the Task
Force on the Health of
Children in Foster Care**
- **Cathy Zorc, Nemours
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- **Vicky Kelly, DSCYF**

- **Learning Objectives:**
 - Identify the percentage of children in Delaware foster care who lack preventive health visits
 - Compare psychotropic medication rates between foster care children and other children in Medicaid in Delaware
- **Practice Change:**
 - Collaborate with case workers, teachers, and mental health specialists prior to prescribing a psychotropic medication for a child in foster care

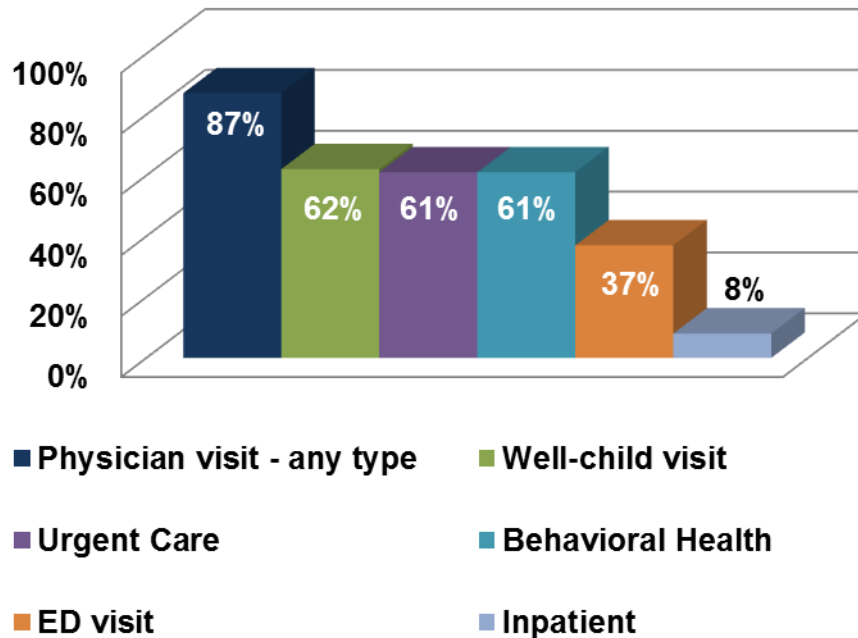
Approach/Methods

- **Data Sources:**
 - Division of Medicaid & Medical Assistance (DMMA) claims
 - Department of Services for Children, Youth & their Families (DSCYF) foster care placements
- **Time period: FY 2013 – FY 2014**
- **Approach**
 - Analyzed patterns of utilization by age, number of placements, etc.
 - Compared children in foster care (n=1,458) with cohort of all other children participating in Medicaid (n=124,667)
 - Examined special issues highlighted in the literature and identified by task force members

Characteristics of Children in Foster Care (FY 2013 – FY 2014)

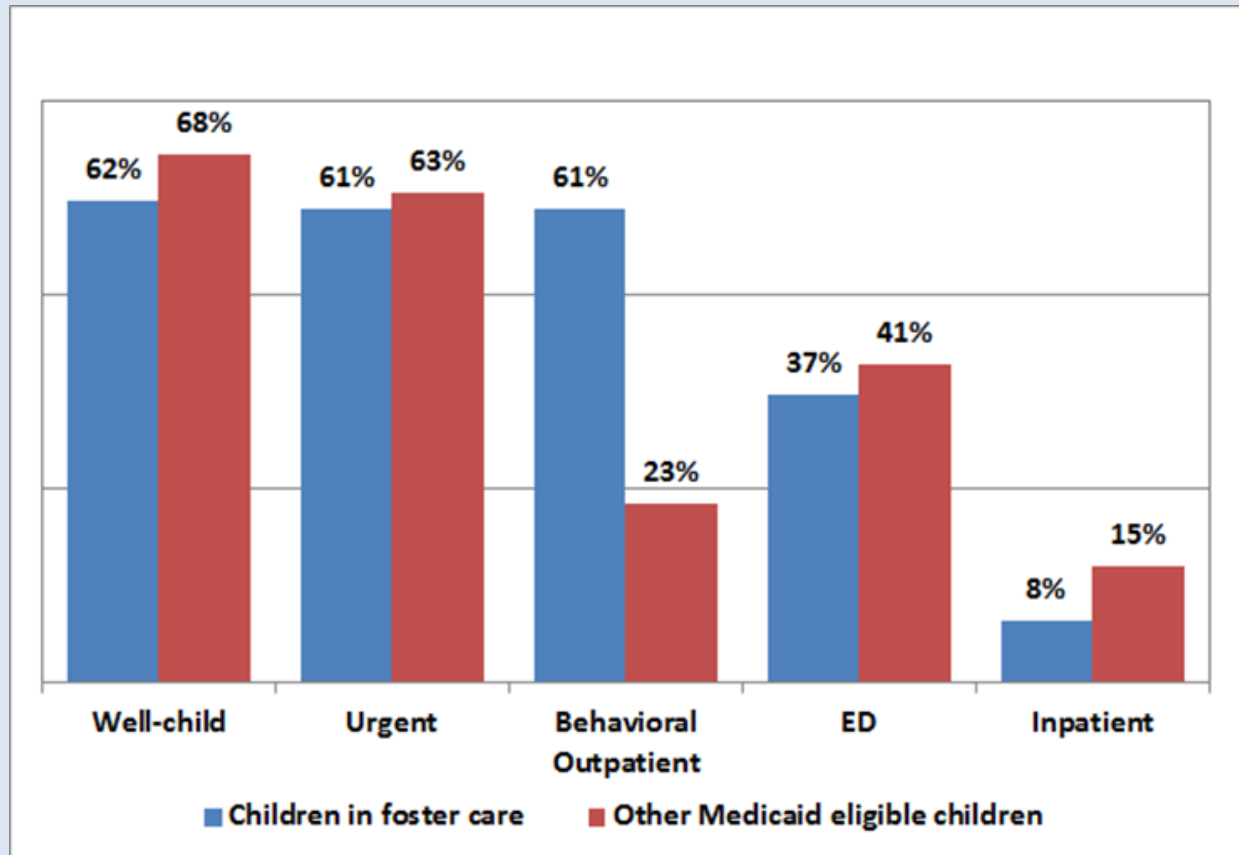
- Median age 8.5 years old
- Average 2.3 years in care
- 45-50% White; 50-55% African American
- 60% in New Castle County
- Even gender split
- 71% of children in foster care have one episode of care
- 4-5 placements per episode
- Data here is limited to services billed to Medicaid;
services during time in PBHS/YRS not included

Selected Medical Services



- **91% of children in FC received some kind of medical service in FY 13/14**
- **138 children (9%) had no medical claims during this period**

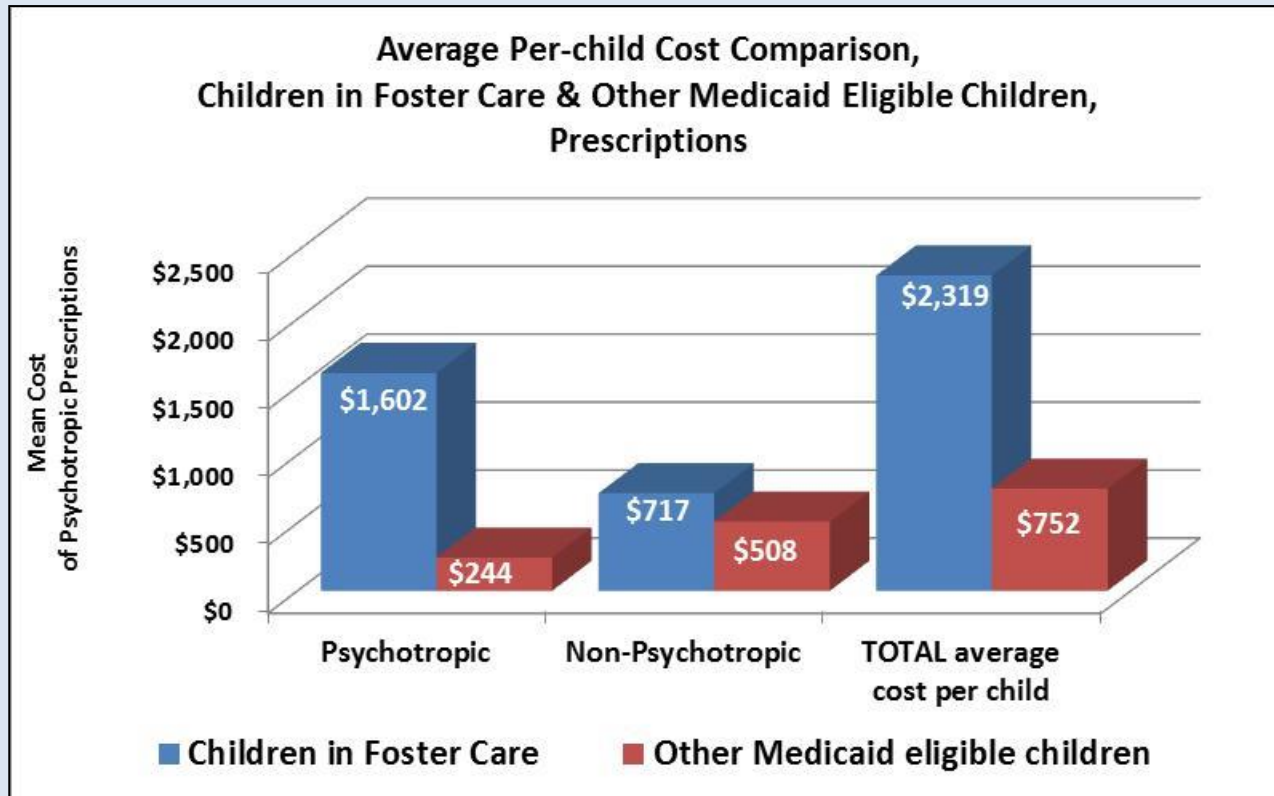
Service Utilization of Children in FC compared with other Children in Medicaid



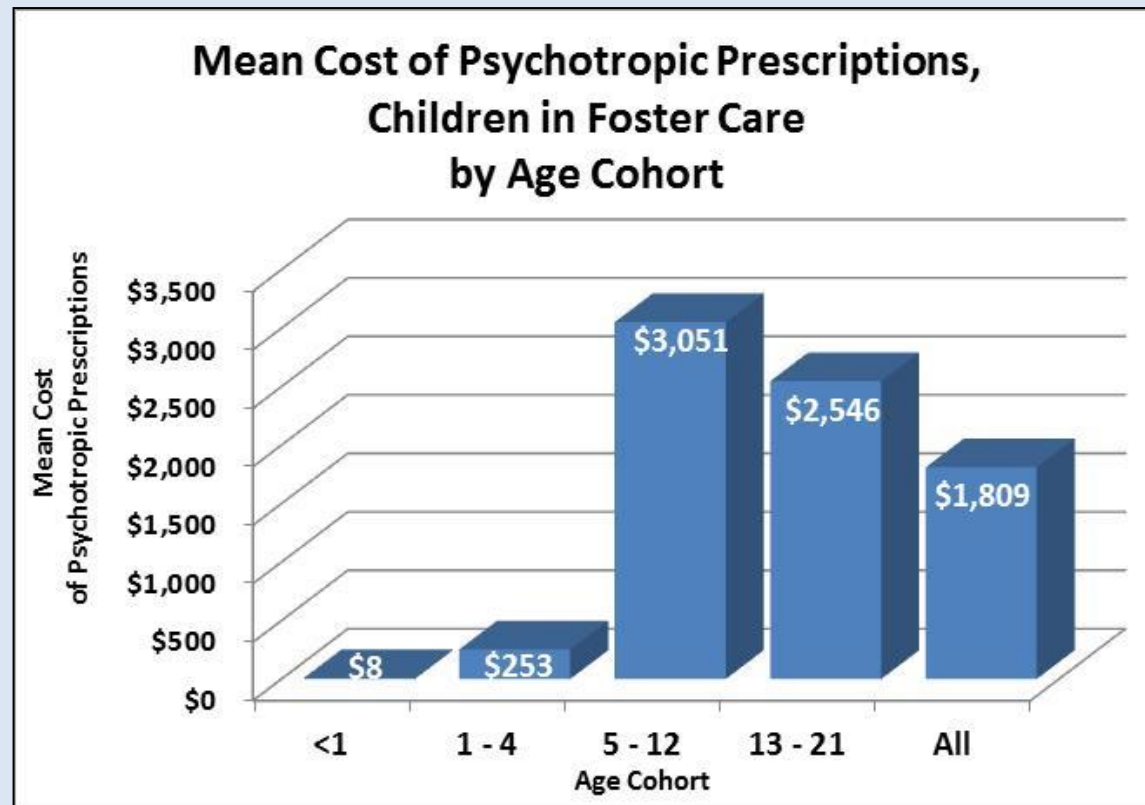
Selected Diagnoses of Children in Foster Care compared with other Children in Medicaid

Selected Diagnoses		
Diagnosis	Children in foster care	Other Medicaid eligible children
Asthma	10.0%	10.1%
Autism	1.4%	0.4%
Births	0.7%	1.3%
Central Nervous System Disorder	1.0%	0.1%
Chlamydia	1.0%	0.4%
Diabetes	1.0%	0.4%
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome	< 1%	0.0%
Gonorrhea	<1%	<1%
Hepatitis C	<1%	0.0%
HIV	<1%	0.1%
Mental Health	61.0%	22.9%
Muscular Dystrophy	0.0%	0.0%
Obesity	2.7%	2.3%
Pregnancy	2.0%	2.7%
Spina Bifada	0.0%	0.0%

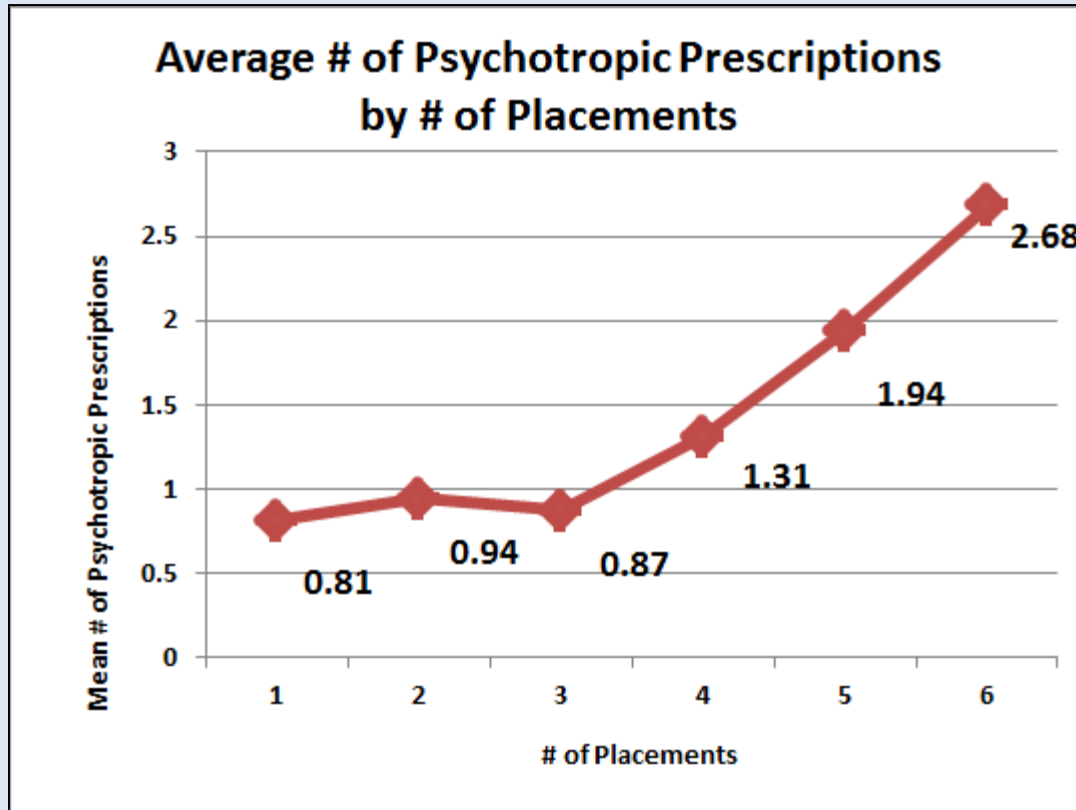
Average Cost of Prescription Drugs for Children in FC compared with other Children in Medicaid



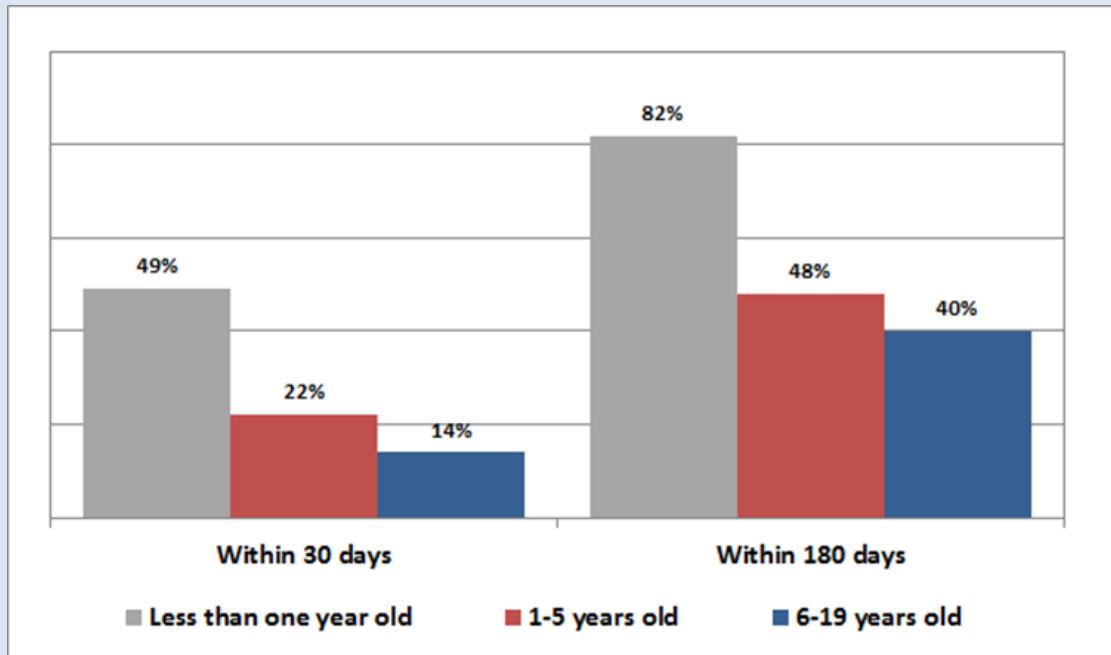
Average Cost of Psychotropic Prescription Drugs by Age of Children in Foster Care



Psychotropic Drug Utilization according to Number of Foster Care Placements

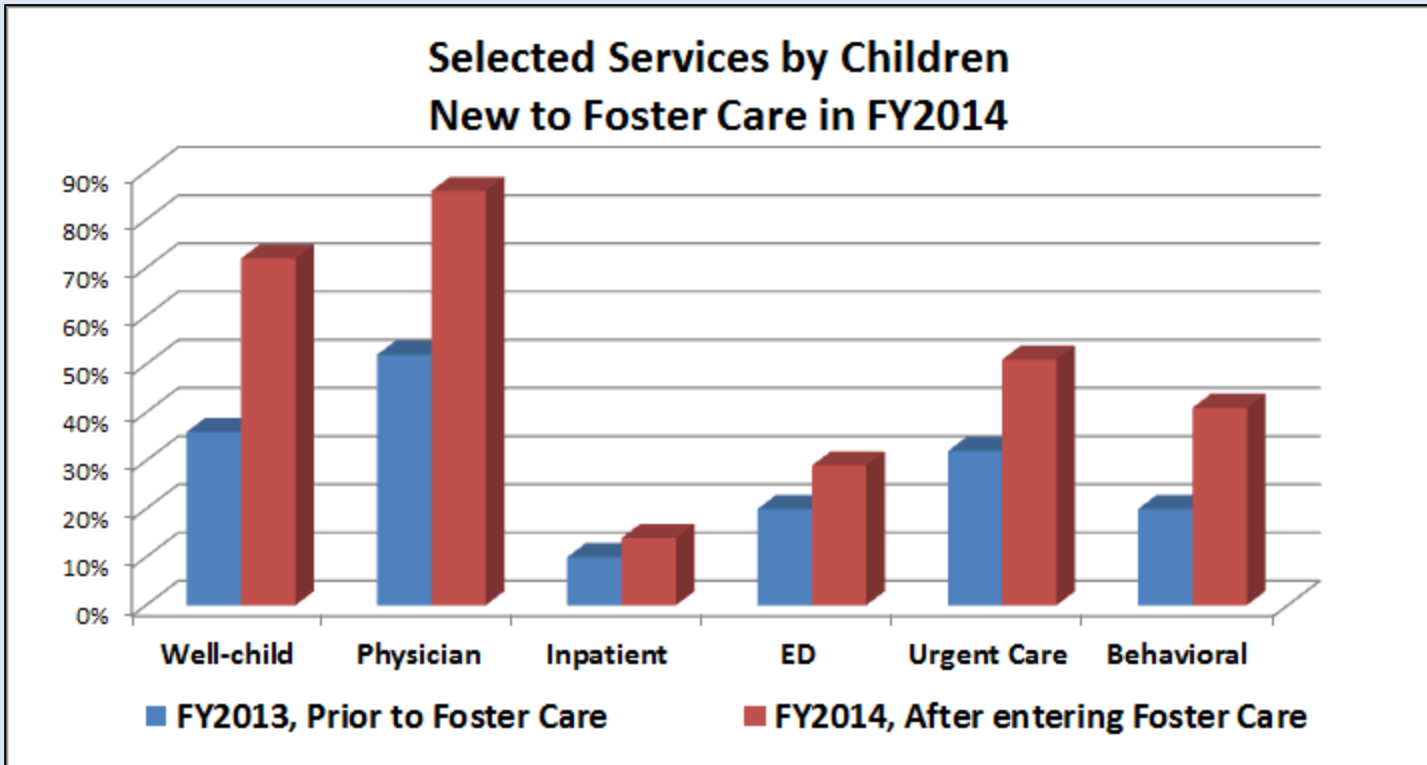


Well Visits among New Entrants into Foster Care (n=542)

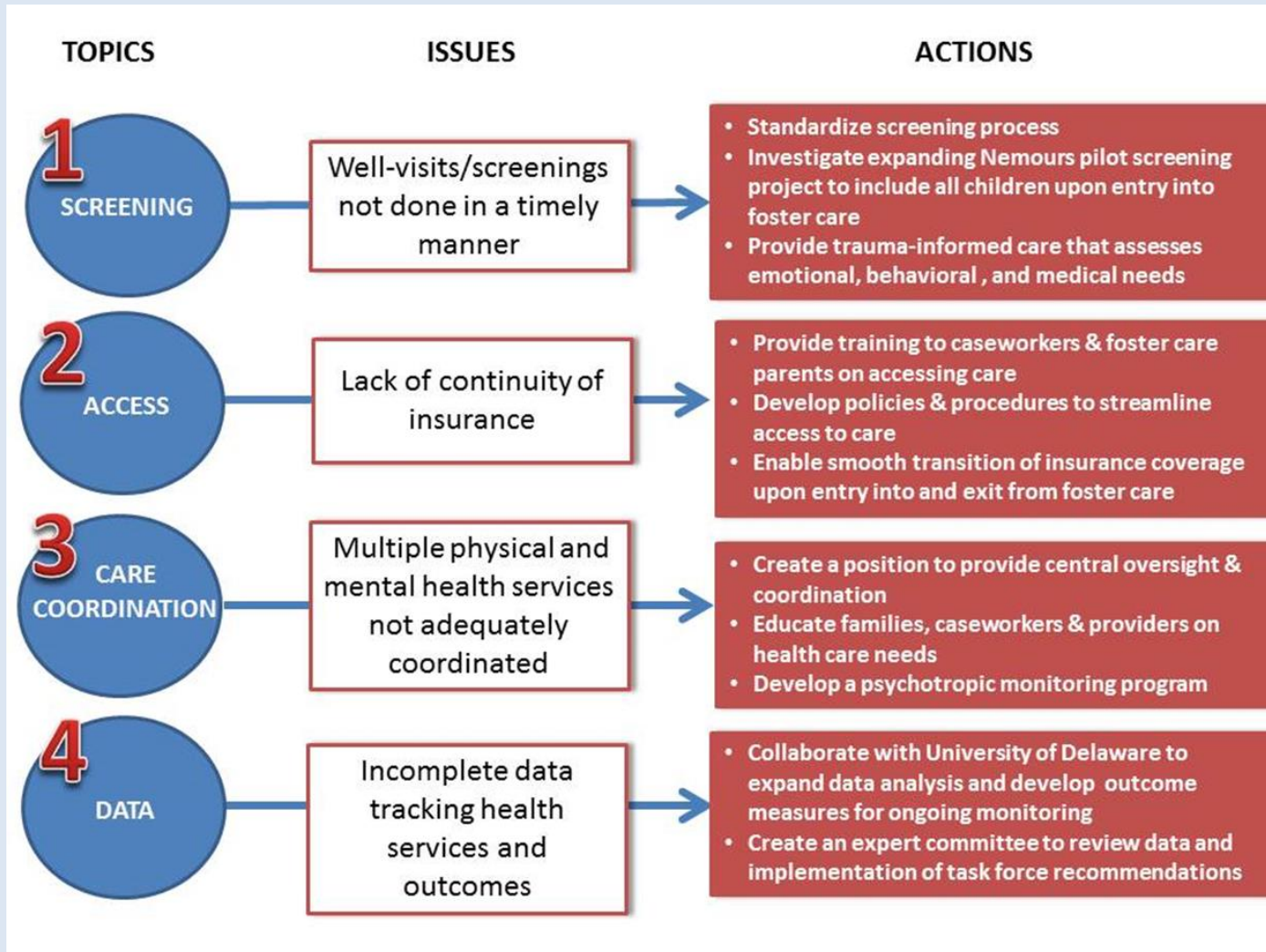


- 47% of children new to FC did not have a well visit in their first 180 days in FC
- Among children under the age of one:
 - 1/2 had a well visit during their first 30 days in FC
 - After 180 days, 82% of had a well visit

Change in Selected Services after entry into Foster Care among New Entrants in FY14 (n=127)



Task Force Recommendations



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