

CaCoon:

Emergency Room Use Comparison between Medicaid Children with Special Health Needs Who Did and Did Not Receive CaCoon Services

CaCoon clients were 13 percent less likely to visit the emergency room.

CaCoon is an Oregon public health nurse home visiting program for children and youth with special health needs (CYSHN*) from birth to 21 years. CaCoon nurses provide comprehensive nurse assessments, interventions and care coordination to improve access to care and health outcomes.

Special Health Needs Diagnoses

Congenital, mental health, behavioral health, and developmental diagnoses defined special health needs diagnoses (SHN). Nearly one third of CaCoon clients had multiple SHN diagnoses compared to only two percent of the Medicaid-Not CaCoon clients.

Study

The purpose of the study was to compare emergency room visits between Medicaid clients who did and did not receive CaCoon services. Because CaCoon served a demographically and medically higher risk group, a matched sample of Medicaid clients who did not receive CaCoon was selected for comparison. Clients with no or multiple SHN diagnosis were excluded. Clients were matched by SHN, age, and length of Medicaid enrollment. Study participants included 542 CaCoon and 4,919 matched Medicaid Not CaCoon clients.

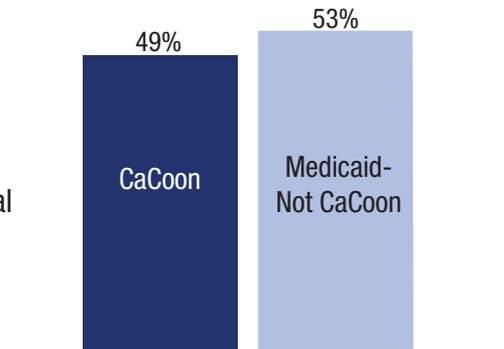
Results

CaCoon clients received an average of seven CaCoon visits. CYSHN who received **CaCoon visits were 13 percent less likely to visit the emergency room in 2010**, controlling for age, ethnicity, length of Medicaid enrollment, 2009 inpatient hospitalization and 2009 emergency room visits. Younger clients, clients with a 2009 inpatient hospitalization, and 2009 emergency room visits were more likely to visit the emergency room in 2010. Hispanic clients and clients with longer Medicaid enrollment were less likely to visit the emergency room in 2010.

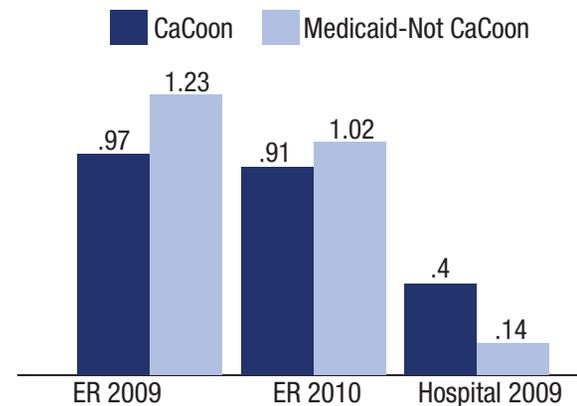
CaCoon Potential Medicaid Cost Savings

The average cost for an emergency room visit was \$1,349 according to the National Medical Expenditure Panel Survey. The results indicate substantial potential Medicaid savings for CYSHN who receive CaCoon home visits.

2010 Emergency Room Visits



Average ER and Hospital Visits



SHN Diagnosis Examples

Asthma
Autism
Cleft Palate
Cystic Fibrosis
Diabetes
Down Syndrome
Epilepsy
Failure to Thrive
Hearing Loss
Heart Conditions
Muscular Dystrophy
Sickle Cell Anemia
Spina Bifida

Note: A technical report provides detailed description of the research and analysis methods

**Children with special health care needs (CYSHN) have or are at increased risk for a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional conditions and who also require health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally. For example, more inpatient and outpatient care, specialty provider care, prescriptions, speech and occupational therapy, and assistive devices.*

