

# Developmental Screening In Oregon: Progress Update

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February 2015

Developmental screening is the use of a validated, brief questionnaire to help identify children at risk for a developmental, behavioral or social delay. Early identification of developmental delays is critical to ensuring that Oregon's children are connected to needed services early and arrive at school ready to learn.

Under Governor Kitzhaber's leadership, Oregon is simultaneously transforming its health and early learning systems. Developmental screening is central to these concurrent transformation efforts in multiple ways:

- Developmental screening is an established best practice for primary care providers and various early learning providers
- New state policies have extended the practice of developmental screening to child care providers with implementation of Oregon's Quality Rating and Improvement System
- Developmental screening has been established as an accountability measure for Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) and Early Learning Hubs
- Developmental screening has been incorporated into the state's Patient-Centered Primary Care Home Program as a standard for child-serving medical homes

Each of these elements demonstrates an unprecedented opportunity to enhance developmental screening in Oregon with a focus on performance improvement, cross-system coordination and improved health and early learning outcomes for children.

## Recommended Screening Tools

For Medicaid reimbursement and consistent with national practice guidelines, the Health Services Commission's Prioritized List of Health Services Guidelines requires that health providers use developmental screening tools that are validated and reliable, such as:

- Ages & Stages Questionnaire, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (ASQ-3)
- Parents' Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS), with or without the Developmental Milestones (DM)

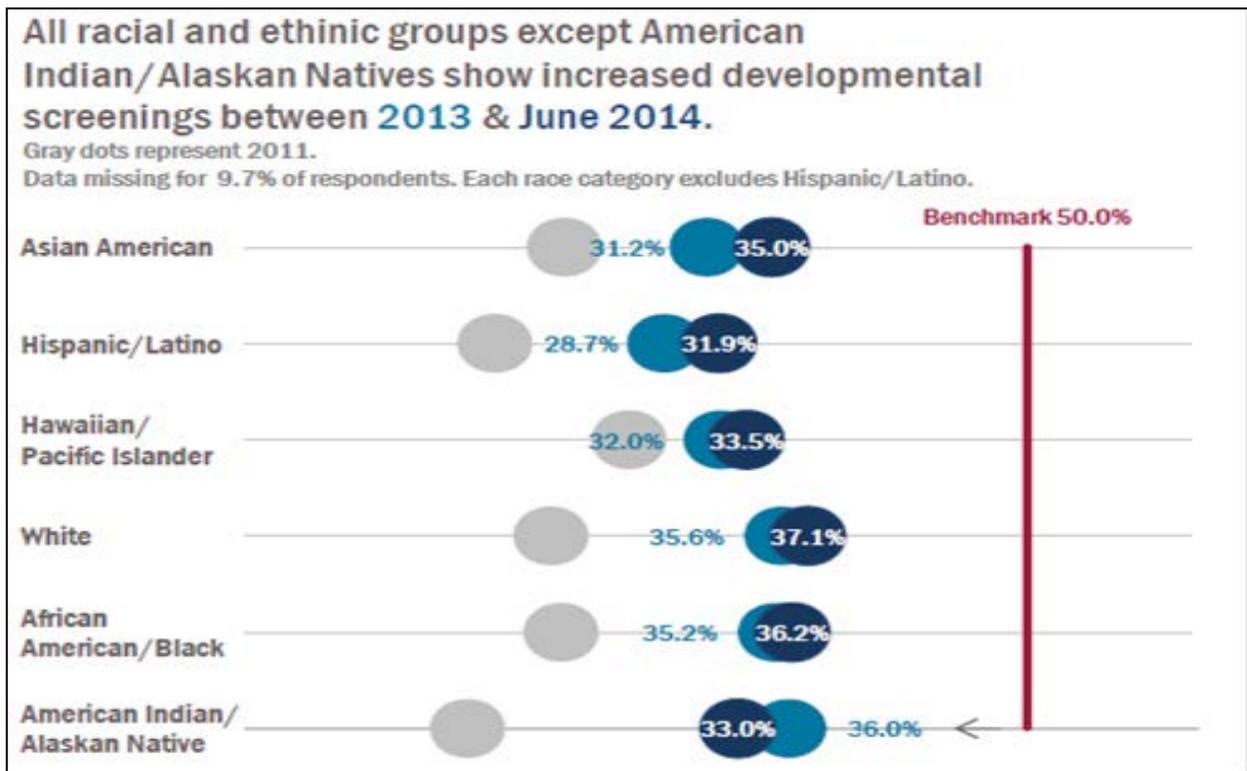
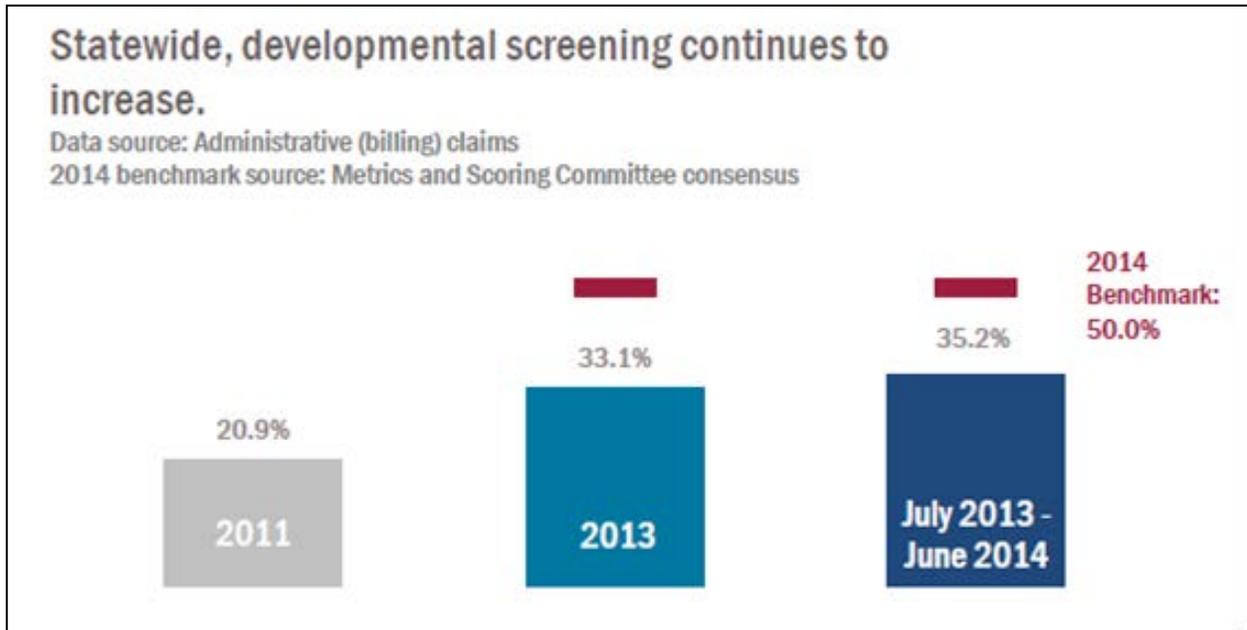
Oregon's Early Learning Council has adopted the ASQ-3 for general developmental screening done by early learning providers. All providers and parents can use the free online screening tool hosted by the University of Oregon, ASQ Oregon.

## Screening Rates in Oregon

Oregon continues to make progress towards comprehensive screening goals, as represented in the following tables from the Oregon Health Authority's 2014 Mid-Year Health System Transformation Report:

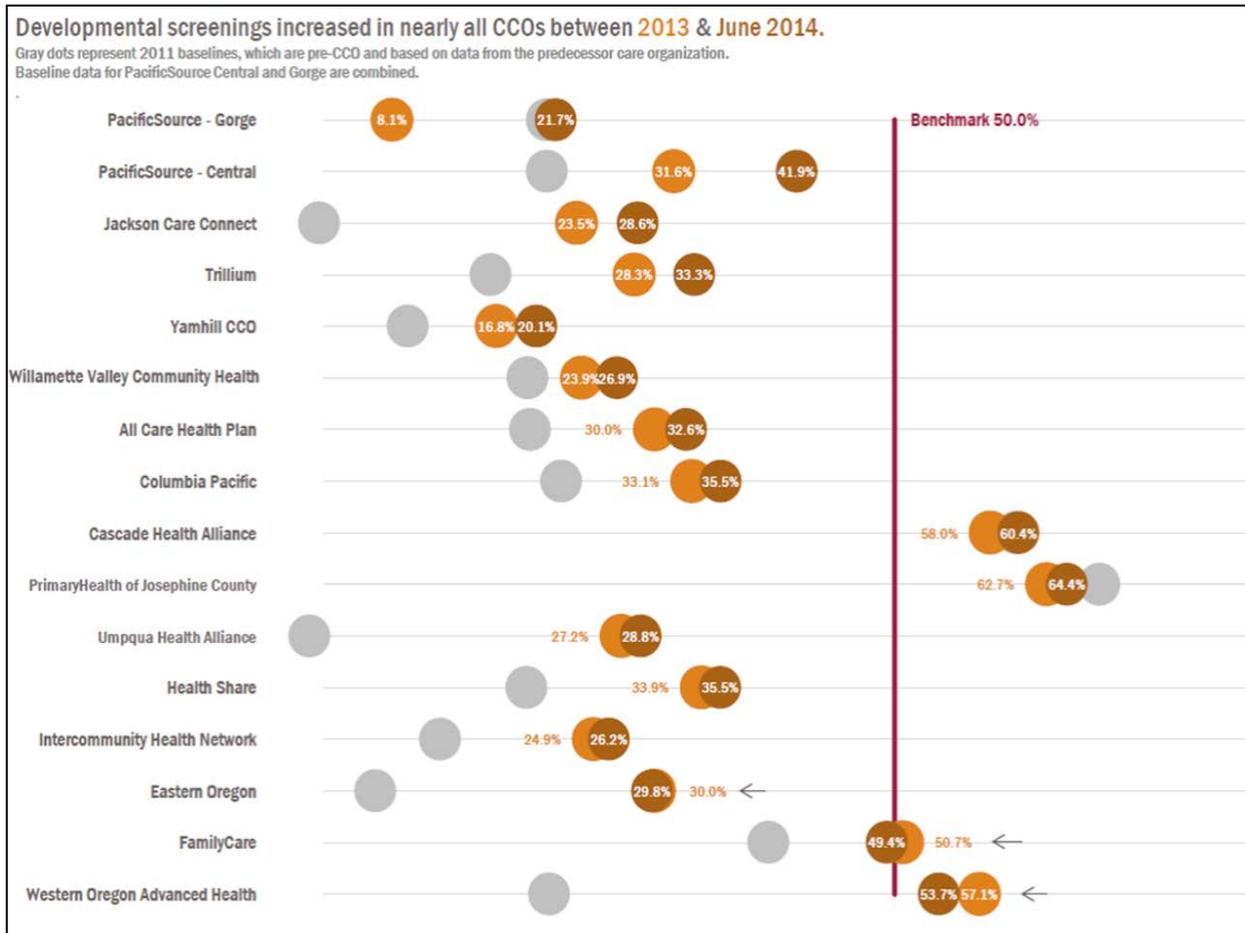
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## Professional Development Efforts

Professional training on developmental screening has been the mainstay of quality improvement activities throughout the state. Training is available to providers through a variety of state, county and nonprofit programs across Oregon. Three types of trainings are available to providers on a statewide basis.

*For child care providers, home visitors, and other early learning professionals:*

### Training of Providers (TOPs):

- Six-hour free training co-presented by OHA and University of Oregon staff
- Professional development credit through Portland State University's Oregon Center for Career Development; curriculum covers:
  - Administering the ASQ-3 including use of the ASQ Oregon website
  - Engaging parents in their child's development and screening results
  - Responding to screening results and parental concerns

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## Training of Trainers (TOTs) :

- 10-hour free training over 1 ½ days; co-presented by OHA and University of Oregon staff
- For trainers who have received “Master Trainer” status with the OCCD Registry
- Upon completion, trainers may administer Training of Providers (TOPs) across the state

*For Primary Care Providers:*

## Screening Tools & Referral Training (START):

- Developed and administered by the Oregon Pediatric Society
- Trains primary care providers and clinic staff to implement standardized developmental screening and manage children’s developmental and behavioral health issues, billing and coding and clinic workflow
- Aligns with CCO and PCPCH metrics; promotes improvement of care coordination

## **Strategies for enhancing developmental screening efforts**

Across the state, local communities and organizations are engaged in a variety of activities and strategies to meet developmental screening targets and improve coordination of screening efforts across health and early learning sectors. Some of the broad strategies include:

- Expansion of professional development/training opportunities
- Promotion/training of primary care providers on the use of the CPT code (96110) for developmental screening
- Purchase/use of screening materials
- Development of information sharing systems to account for all screenings

See Table 1 for examples of Early Learning Hub/CCO collaboration strategies around developmental screening work.

## **Future opportunities**

Despite the growing rates of developmental screening and collaborative efforts across health and early learning, there is still more to do. Areas that need further progress include, but are not limited to:

- Ensuring *all* children receive developmental screening in their first three years of life
- Remove racial and ethnic disparities in screening rates
- Develop information sharing systems that support better coordination of care for children at risk for delays
- Ensure that children identified as having a risk of delay get timely assessment and needed services
- Assure that families get the support they need to navigate needed services
- Monitor child outcomes to ensure our approaches are working

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**Table 1: Example CCO & Hub collaboration strategies around developmental screening\***

CCO Name	Willamette Valley Community Health	Eastern Oregon CCO	Trillium Community Health Plan	PacificSource-Columbia Gorge	Jackson Care Connect	AllCare Health Plan	Primary Health of Josephine County
Strategy							
Funding for a screening-focused coordinator position (or related)	Early Learning Hub, Inc.					X	
Professional development for health providers		Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub	Lane Early Learning Alliance				
Exploring Health Information Exchange Options				Four Rivers Early Learning Hub (not yet to contract)	Southern Oregon Early Learning Services	Southern Oregon Early Learning Services	Southern Oregon Early Learning Services
Community Screening Events		Frontier Early Learning Hub					

\*This list is not exhaustive and includes efforts currently known by the OHA Child Well-being Team.