

hawk-i

Impact on Access and Health Status Second Evaluation Report—Executive Summary January 2002

The second evaluation report for the Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa (*hawk-i*) program presents an estimate of the effect that providing *hawk-i* health insurance had on 1036 previously uninsured children. *hawk-i* is part of the Iowa State Child Insurance Program (SCHIP) for children between 133% and 200% of the federal poverty level. This study compares the results of a survey that asked about children's access to care, health status and family environment in the year prior to joining *hawk-i* with one that asked about their experiences while in *hawk-i*. Using standard statistical tests to evaluate differences in responses before and after *hawk-i*, the following was determined:

Medical care

After being in the hawk-i program for a year:

- ❖ children needed health care at rates similar to when they joined, however,
- ❖ they were less likely to be stopped from getting needed care (21% before vs. 6% after),
- ❖ they were less likely to be delayed from getting needed care (34% before vs. 10% after),
- ❖ there were more visits per child to a doctor's office or clinic,
- ❖ children were more likely to have 'always' received needed care for an illness or injury.

Specialty care

After being in hawk-i for a year:

- ❖ children needed to see a specialist at rates similar to when they joined, however,
- ❖ they were less likely to be stopped from getting specialty care (38% before vs. 13% after),
- ❖ they were less likely to be delayed from getting specialty care (39% before vs. 23% after).

Emergency room care

After being in hawk-i for a year:

- ❖ fewer children had visits to the emergency room in the past year (45% before vs. 38% after).

Dental care

After being in hawk-i for a year:

- ❖ children needed dental care at the same rate as when they joined, however,
- ❖ they were more likely to have a regular source of dental care (84% before vs. 88% after),
- ❖ they were less likely to be stopped from getting dental care (25% before vs. 8% after),
- ❖ they were less likely to be delayed from getting dental care (27% before vs. 9% after),
- ❖ they were more likely to have had a dental visit in past year (55% before vs. 69% after).

Preventive care

After being in hawk-i for a year:

- ❖ children were more likely to have 'always' received needed routine preventive care (e.g., physical exams or vaccinations),
- ❖ they were also as likely to receive anticipatory guidance (preventive counseling) as before they joined.

(Please see reverse side)

Other care

After being in hawk-i for a year:

- ❖ children had a similar need for vision care, however,
- ❖ they were less likely to have been stopped from receiving vision care (41% before vs. 15% after),
- ❖ children had a similar need for behavioral or emotional care, however,
- ❖ they were less likely to have been stopped from receiving behavioral or emotional care (44% before vs. 15% after),
- ❖ children had a similar need for prescription medicine, however,
- ❖ they were less likely to have been stopped from receiving prescription medicines (20% before vs. 10% after),

Health status

After being in hawk-i for a year:

- ❖ children's overall health status was rated higher (43% were rated in excellent health before vs. 47% after),
- ❖ more children's health was thought to be better than one year earlier (26% before vs. 32% after),
- ❖ children had fewer sick days in the previous 4 weeks (74% before without a sick day vs. 82% after),
- ❖ 1 in 4 children with a chronic condition had the condition detected because of care provided while in the *hawk-i* program.

Impact on families

After being in hawk-i for a year:

- ❖ stress was reduced in 95% of families,
 - more than three quarters said it had reduced stress "a lot,"
- ❖ worry about the ability to pay for health care was reduced significantly,
- ❖ the activities of significantly fewer children were limited because of the concerns about health care costs,
- ❖ significantly more parents had health insurance one year after their children started on the *hawk-i* program.

Health plans

After being in hawk-i for a year:

- ❖ one in five children had to get a new personal doctor or nurse,
- ❖ one in four had a problem finding a personal doctor or nurse they were happy with,
- ❖ one in three did not know that their health plan had a help line they could call for assistance.

The University of Iowa's, Public Policy Center conducted this research for the Iowa Department of Human Services. To receive a copy of the report or for more information about this evaluation of the *hawk-i* program, please contact:

Peter C. Damiano, DDS, MPH
Director, Health Policy Research Program
University of Iowa, Public Policy Center
227 South Quadrangle
Iowa City, IA 52242
(319) 335-6800

Or you can view/download the full *hawk-i* Second Evaluation report at: <http://ppc.uiowa.edu/hawk-i>

For more information about the *hawk-i* program, contact:

Anita Smith
Chief, Bureau of Insurance
Division of Financial, Health and Work Supports
Hoover State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319
(515) 281-8791
asmith@dhs.state.ia.us