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School Readiness and Healthy People 2020: Exploring an Innovative Population Measure for Child Development

Tanesha A. Woods, Ph.D. and Elizabeth A. Isakson, M.D., FAAP
National Center for Children in Poverty

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Presenter Disclosures

Tanesha Woods and Elizabeth Isakson

(1) The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

(2) No relationships to disclose

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Overview

- ♦ Healthy People 2020 (HP2020) Early and Middle Childhood Objective-1 (EMC-1)
- ♦ EMC-1 in context
- ♦ Methodology for literature review
 - Defining school readiness: Keyword search terms
 - Criteria for ideal measure
- ♦ Results
- ♦ Implications
- ♦ Discussion

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Early and Middle Childhood Objective

- ♦ EMC-1: Increase the proportion of children who are ready for school in all five domains of healthy development: (1) physical development, (2) social-emotional development, (3) approaches to learning, (4) language, and (5) cognitive development
- ♦ New objective that is considered developmental
 - A nationally representative data source has not been identified; objective will be removed in 2015 if none found
- ♦ Possible data sources: HRSA & MCHS, NSCH; CDC, NCHS; ED

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Historical Context – what does it mean to be ready for school?

- ♦ 1959 – Pediatrics Article
- ♦ 1965 – Head Start Program & Elementary and Secondary Education Act
- ♦ 1975 – Education for All Handicap Children
- ♦ 1994 – The Goals 2000: Educate America Act
- ♦ 2002 – Getting Ready Initiative 17 state collaborative
- ♦ 2011 – HP2020 added EMC -1
- ♦ 2011 – Race to Top: Early Learning Challenge

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Ready for School? – the five W's

1. *Who* are you going to ask?
2. *What* are you going to ask ?
3. *Where* are you going to ask?
4. **Why** are you going to ask?
5. *When* are you going to ask them?

The developmental psychologist and the pediatrician couldn't agree on answers except for number 4

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Measuring School Readiness for HP2020

- ♦ Focus on the whole child:
 1. Physical/motor development
 2. Social-emotional development
 3. Approaches toward learning
 4. Language and literacy development
 5. Cognitive development including math and science
- ♦ Population-level
- ♦ Predictive validity
- ♦ Feasible
- ♦ Inter-rater reliability
- ♦ Age of children 4 yrs. through 6 yrs.

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Methodology for Literature Review

- ♦ Purpose: identify population-level measure of school readiness that can be incorporated into existing data collection efforts
- ♦ Goal: move EMC-1 from a developmental objective to an adopted objective
- ♦ Databases used:
 - Medline-Ovid
 - PsychInfo-Ovid
 - ERIC

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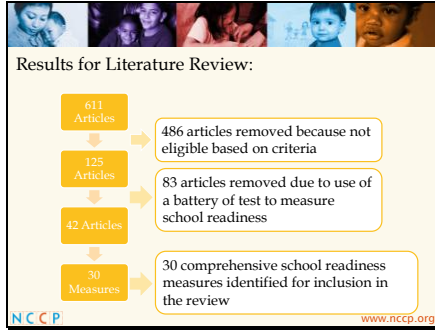


Methodology for Literature Review Continued

- ♦ Total is more than the sum of it's parts.....
- ♦ Despite decades talking about it difficulty exist in defining school readiness
- ♦ Keyword search terms:
 - School readiness + assessment
 - School readiness + measurement
 - School Readiness + early childhood development
 - School Readiness + child development
 - School Readiness + parental concern

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Results Continued: School Readiness Measures Identified


Measure	Pop. level	5 domains	Predictive validity	Inter-rater reliability	Feasible
Early Development Instrument (EDI)	X	X	X	X	X
Preschool Student Rating Scale	X	X	?	X	X
Schools Ready for Children, Children Ready for Schools	X	X	?	?	X
NHES - school readiness	X	X	?	?	X

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- Existing State-level Efforts:**
- 23 states have a school readiness measure already in place
 - All applicants to Early learning challenge grant had to show they had kindergarten assessment in place or are planning to establish one
 - Few, if any, of the measures are rigorously evaluated for standard psychometric properties, none are used as a public health measure
- NCCCP Stedron, J. M., & Berger, A. (2010). NCSL Technical Report: State Approaches to School Readiness Assessment. www.nccp.org

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Implications

- ♦ Only a handful of measurement tools met our criteria based on EMC-1
- ♦ Only one involved asking parents via telephone
- ♦ EDI stands out as a population-level measure for use with children from diverse backgrounds that has well documented psychometric properties
 - Possible data collection through ED, NAEP
- ♦ Method of survey is an issue for HP2020:
 - Most school readiness assessments are done in "school"
 - Speaks to need for collaboration between Education and Public Health to make most of this opportunity

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Discussion

- ♦ EMC -1 and the Early Learning Challenge Grant requirement for a kindergarten measure could be a great opportunity
- ♦ Incentive to integrate public health and education
- ♦ Young children are best served by a school readiness measure that marries public health and education perspectives and builds an early childhood through 12th grade infrastructure that supports universal school readiness

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