



First 5 Commissions Investing in Early Identification and Intervention





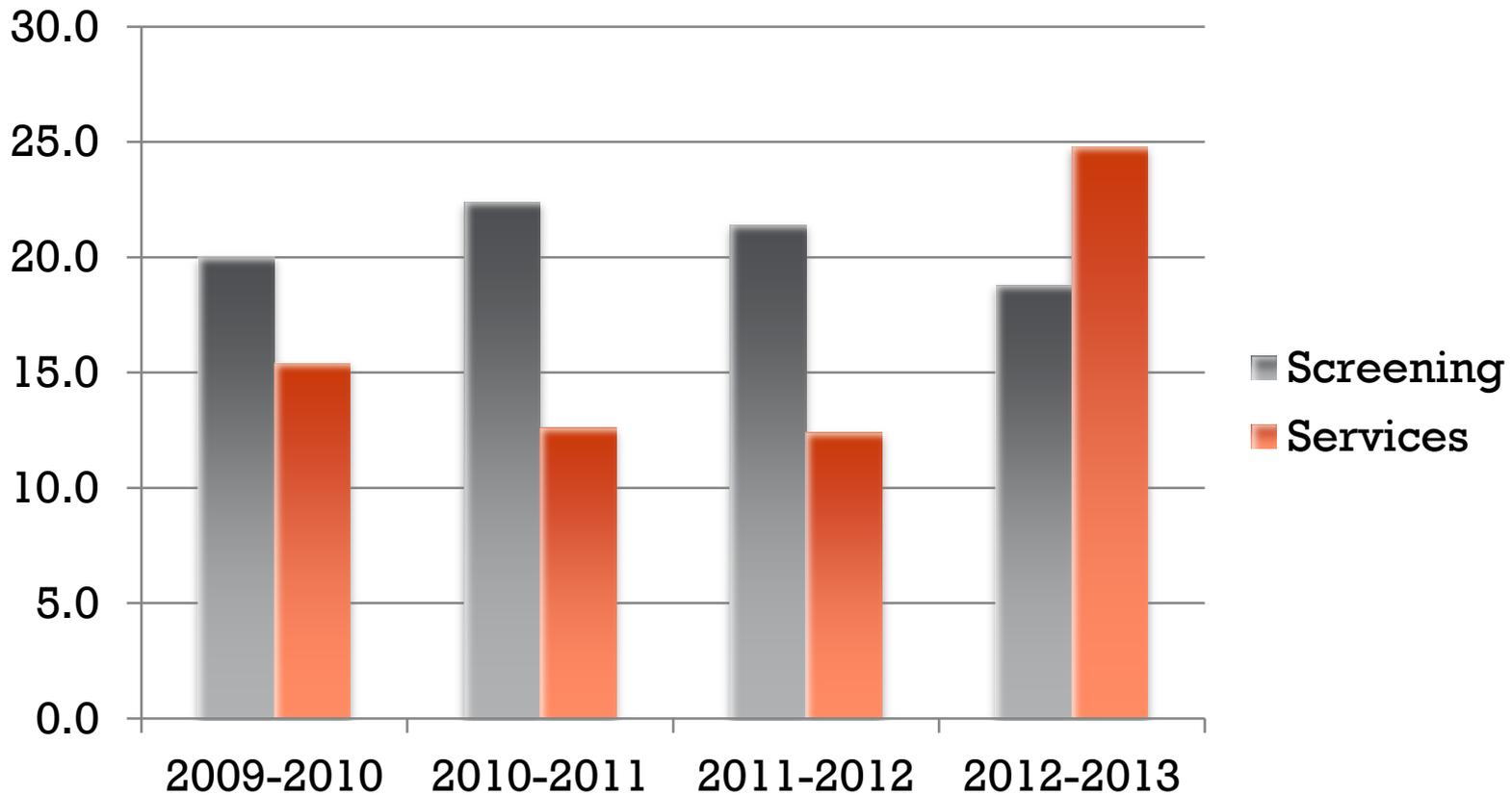
Early Intervention is a critical piece for First 5 county efforts



- Universal and/or targeted screening efforts, including training professionals on use of screening tools
- Assessment services for difficult to diagnose children
- Community-based services and supports for children
- Systems navigation and care coordination for families
- County-wide integration



First 5s invested nearly \$150M over last 4 years





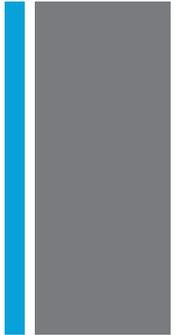
Despite First 5 efforts, CA lacks a system



- As many as 1 in 4 children in the U.S., ages 0-5, are at moderate or high risk for developmental, behavioral or social delays.
- Fewer than 30% of developmental disabilities or delays are identified before California's children enter kindergarten.
- 72% or 1.7 million of California's 0-5 children did not receive any recommended developmental screening last year.
- Access to screening is even more difficult for children of color. Latino children are diagnosed with autism an average of 2.5 years later than white children, delaying the start of crucial intervention treatment.



A Fragmented and Underfunded Landscape



- Reduced and insufficient funding for entitlement services, e.g. Early Start and special education
- Confusing referral pathways and inconsistent messaging about eligibility and process
- Providers and families are often unaware of services and supports that are available
- Low referral patterns persist even with screening, e.g. ECE and pediatric providers
- Pediatric community needs support for its critical role
- Counties struggle to meet screening mandates, e.g. CAPTA and Katie A.



Making the Case Should be Easy



- *Improving the early intervention system is an important investment in California's long-term fiscal health*
 - Identifying developmental delays early can save up to \$203,000 in treatment costs per child ages 3-22.
 - Every \$1 spent on providing an autistic child with intensive early intervention services saves approximately \$6 in future care costs.
- *California must ensure compliance with new Federal mandates*
 - The ACA requires insurance plans to cover developmental and behavioral screenings at no cost to children, following the AAP Bright Futures schedule.
 - Medicaid (Medi-Cal) also covers developmental and behavioral screenings as part of its package of children's preventive services.



State Policy Leadership Needed



California's Leaders Can:

- Recognize early identification, referral, and intervention for children, including universal developmental and behavioral screenings, as a major state health and education priority;
- Ensure children's health insurance plans and programs appropriately provide developmental and behavioral screenings, as well as other preventive services, that are covered at no cost under federal and state law; and
- Invest in quality early intervention services and promotion of child-centered referral and care coordination models.

+ Status of First 5 Efforts

- First 5 investments in early intervention are by necessity and design cross-disciplinary and networked.
- These efforts aim to reach children in a broad variety of settings, with providers in every capacity able to refer families to necessary supports and services.
- First 5 commissions could be more effective and efficient in their work with stronger State-level leadership.
- Help Me Grow California, a linked effort of 7 affiliated counties and 14 additional “learning counties” provides a model for data-driven, systems-linking early identification and intervention.



Help Me Grow

- 2005: Orange County becomes the first HMG replication site in the nation.
- 2011: California becomes a replication state with the support of the Kellogg Foundation. Alameda and Fresno join Orange in adopting the HMG model.
- 2012: HMG Learning Community launches with 13 additional counties. Participants include First 5s, Special Education, County Health and Social Services representatives, child care.
- 2014: Four new HMG CA Affiliates (Solano, Ventura, San Joaquin, and San Francisco) and Learning Community adds 3 new counties expanding to a total of 21.