

Primary Health Care Services for Children and Youth in Canada: Access, Quality and Structure

Appendix to module page 5.3.1: Developmental Surveillance and Screening

What Did We Do?

Through our survey, we assessed the current state of developmental screening (above and beyond routine well baby care) in primary care, notably the setting in which screening is offered, instruments used, as well as health providers involved. We defined screening as universal if a standard tool was implemented and provided routinely. In addition, we asked whether enhanced payments were available as an incentive to conduct developmental screening at 18 months of age. Further, we searched for national and provincial reports to describe screening practices across jurisdictions, and reported findings in conjunction with the results from our survey. It was difficult to understand whether well-baby visits and developmental screening were in part of routine, standard universal practice or whether they were targeted and/or opportunistic, as information related to details about screening and tools implemented were often unclear or unavailable.