**The CSHCN Screener: Key Findings, Methods Issues, and its Relationship with Well-Being**

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Abstract:

Children with special health care needs (CSHCN) are defined as children with ongoing physical, mental, behavioral or other conditions who also require a type or amount of health and related services beyond that required by children generally. Since 2000, the *CSHCN Screener* has been used in national and international surveys as an efficient way to identify these children.

In this presentation, we will first look back at the past 10 years of survey and methodological research using this short five-item assessment tool and explore what this research tells us about its validity. We conclude that the *CSHCN Screener* continues to provide an efficient and highly discriminating method for identifying this policy-relevant subgroup of children. Recent legislative changes in the United States emphasize the need to reduce disparities in health care experienced by CSHCN. Using a standardized tool to identify CSHCN is essential to monitoring their well-being and assessing improvement over time.

With that purpose in mind, we will next explore the well-being of CSHCN. The data explored in this presentation will be drawn from the 2003 and 2007 National Survey of Children’s Health. These surveys were conducted by the U.S. National Center for Health Statistics as part of the State and Local Area Integrated Telephone Survey program. With these data, we will consider whether CSHCN differ from other children in their social behaviors and relationships; school engagement and school-related problems; time use and daily routines; and shared family activities. We will also consider the emotional health of their parents and the family-friendliness of their neighborhoods.