



Children and Youth with Special
Health Care Needs National
Research Network

Research Project Brief

PROJECT | Chronic Mental and Physical Health Conditions in Children

Enrolled in Medicaid Who Receive Social Security

Income

- *Term:* 2020
- *Grantee:* CYSHCNet
- *Sub-recipient:* Boston Children's Hospital
- *Funding Agency:* Health Research Services Administration, MCH Research Networks Program
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Background | Substantial numbers of children insured by Medicaid receive Supplemental Security Income for disabling, chronic health conditions. For children enrolled in Medicaid for a disability, we assessed (1) their chronic mental health (MH) and physical health (PH) conditions; and (2) health services and resource use across chronic condition typologies. This was a retrospective analysis of 173,939 children aged 0-to-18 years with a chronic health condition who were enrolled in 10 U.S. state Medicaid programs through the disability pathway in the 2016 IBM Watson MarketScan Medicaid claims database. Chronic MH and PH conditions were assessed with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Chronic Condition Indicator system.

We found that multimorbidity was highly prevalent among children with a chronic condition who are enrolled in Medicaid because of a disability. Most children had co-existing mental and physical health chronic conditions; these children accounted for three-fourths of total Medicaid spending across our cohort. Children with multiple mental and physical health chronic conditions, almost a quarter of the cohort, experienced the most healthcare utilization and spending. Most children with multiple mental and physical health chronic conditions experienced over 60 days annually with a healthcare encounter.

Potential Impact | Perhaps enhanced home and school healthcare support might be effective, thereby improving employment stability and family income. Such efforts may help ensure that supplemental security income reaches its greatest potential to mitigate the economic hardship that children with disability and their families endure.



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Publication
Insert citation & URL here

Organizations Involved
Boston Children's
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