

Time is on our Side: Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Students in Community-based Childcare Centers

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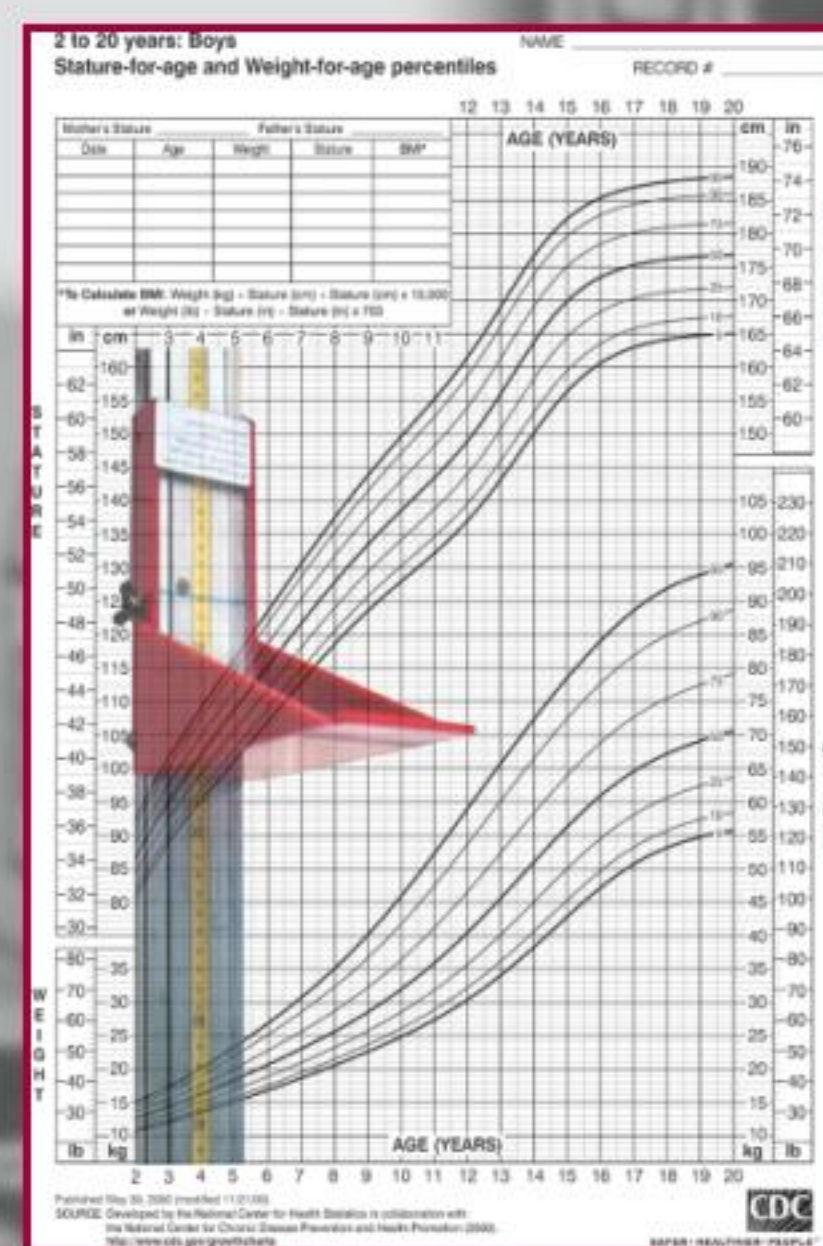
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PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

To examine the positive impact of pediatric nurse practitioner students performing physical examinations and developmental assessments at community-based childcare centers.

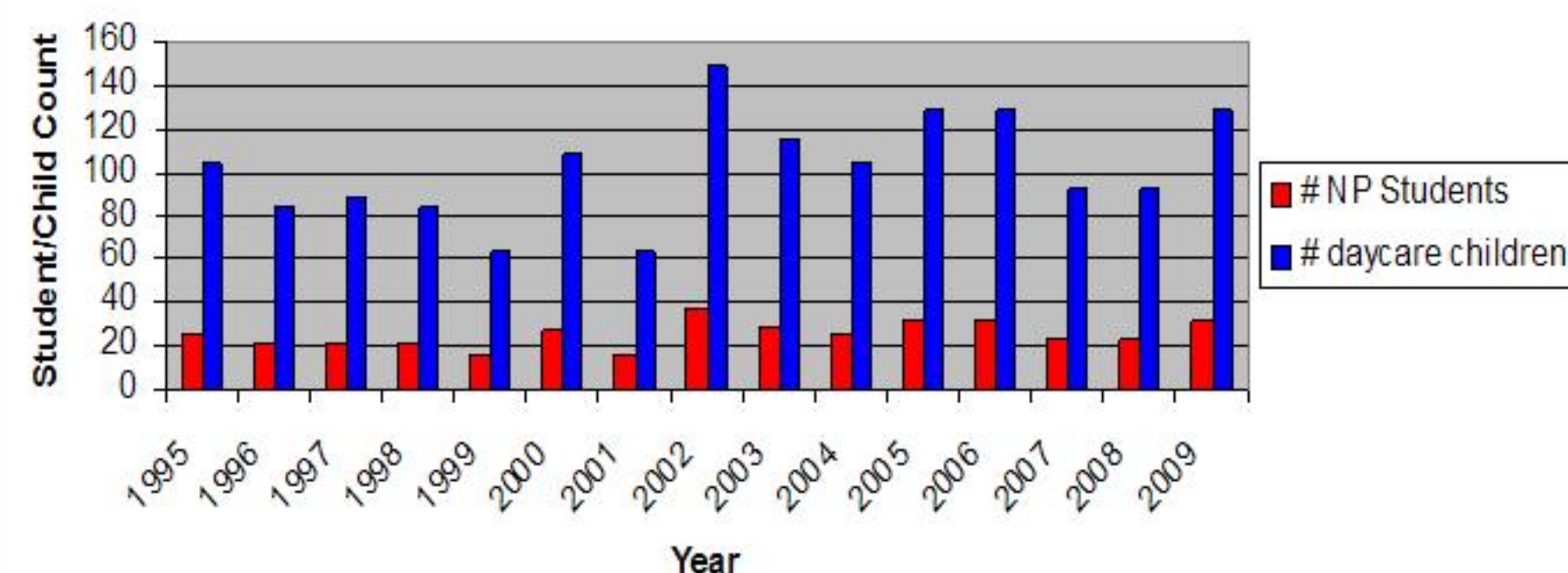
According to the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey in 2005, 93 percent of all ambulatory patient visits are shorter than 30 minutes in duration. Fifty-six percent of those visits are shorter than 15 minutes. When broken down by specialty, pediatrics has an average visit time of 15.4 minutes. These brief visits often do not allow for a complete and thorough assessment, particularly in the area of developmental screening.

METHODS



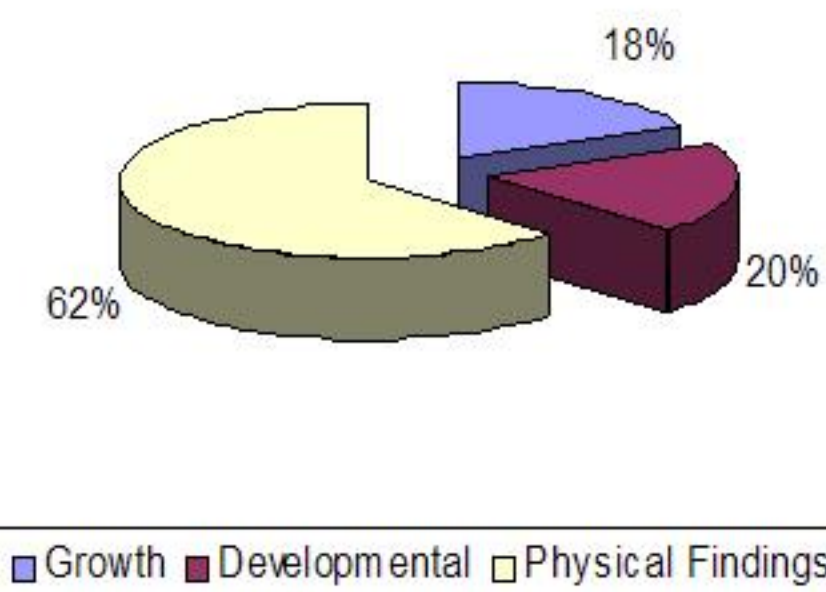
Each year, University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing Science, Pediatric Acute Chronic, Oncology, Critical Care and Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Students in the Advanced Pediatric Physical Assessment Course perform head-to-toe physical and developmental assessments on children in local childcare centers during the fall semester. Each student spent an average of 2 hours each week assessing one or two systems on 4 children ages 2 months to 5 years. This resulted in an average of 30 minutes per child per visit. At the end of each visit, positive findings were recorded, and letters were sent home to caregivers to communicate any significant findings, treatment, and recommendation for prompt follow up with their primary care provider.

Number of NP Students and Children Examined



RESULTS

Positive Findings (1995-2004)



DEVELOPMENTAL FINDINGS

- ✘ Failed Developmental Screen
- ✘ Failed Hearing Screen
- ✘ Failed Language Screen

GROWTH FINDINGS

- ✘ Ht. >95th Percentile
- ✘ Ht. <5th Percentile
- ✘ Wt. >95th Percentile
- ✘ Wt. <5th Percentile
- ✘ HC >95th Percentile
- ✘ BMI >95th Percentile
- ✘ BMI <5th Percentile

RESULTS CONTINUED

Over the past 14 years of this program, more than 2000 children have been assessed by over 375 nurse practitioner students, with an average of 4 hours spent with each child. Children have received growth, vision and developmental screening identifying over 350 pertinent positive findings. Letters were sent home to notify family members of any abnormal findings. Twenty-eight of the children had concern for developmental delays and seventy were identified as at risk for growth issues related to height, weight, head circumference and BMI. Numerous other physical findings were noted, including otitis media, dermatologic conditions and dental caries.



PHYSICAL FINDINGS

- ✘ Otitis Media
- ✘ Serous Otitis
- ✘ Cerumen Impaction
- ✘ Displaced TM Tube
- ✘ Conjunctivitis
- ✘ Esotropia
- ✘ Colorblindness
- ✘ Wheezing
- ✘ Closed Ant. Fontanelle 9mo
- ✘ Spine Curvature
- ✘ Shoulder Asymmetry
- ✘ Gait Abnormality
- ✘ Thrush
- ✘ Traction Alopecia
- ✘ Varicella
- ✘ Rash
- ✘ Xeroderma
- ✘ Ringworm

CONCLUSIONS

This data represents the significant impact these visits have had on children examined in the community, and identify the beneficial role of nurse practitioner students in well-child screening and assessment. By filling the health care gaps that primary care providers are having difficulty accomplishing due to time constraints and other variables, we can offer children in the community thorough health assessments, prompt identification of potential problems, and improve health promotion and disease prevention.