

# **Emergency Care for Children in HUSKY A: 2004**

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**Presentation to  
Medicaid Managed Care Council  
February 10, 2006**

# Purpose

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- **To describe children's emergency care**
  - Percent with emergency (ER) visit
  - Number of visits per child
  - Leading diagnoses
  - MCO-specific rates for care
- **To describe utilization trends**
- **To investigate emergency care utilization by children who had well-child care**

# Methods

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- **Identified children under 21 who were continuously enrolled in HUSKY A in 2004 (n=170,937)**
- **Searched encounter data for ER visits**
- **Determined ER visit rates**
- **Identified leading reasons for ER visits**
- **Determined association between having had well-child care and having had any ER visits**

# Emergency Care: 2004

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- **Percent with any ER visit: 33%**
- **Ave. number of visits/child: 1.9**
- **Visits/10,000 HUSKY A children: 6.3**
- **Unchanged from 2003 (33%)**
- **Down from 2002 (35%)**

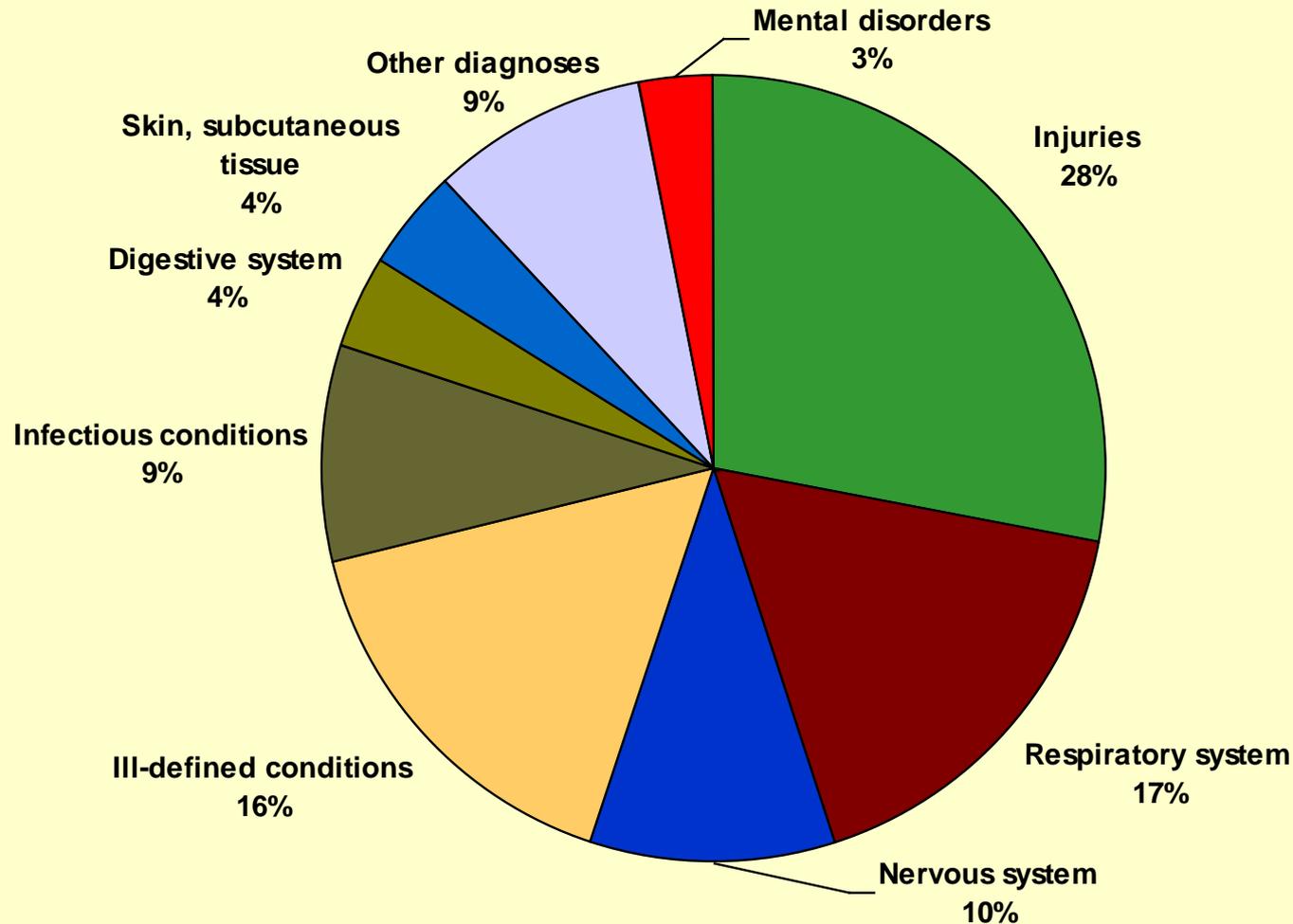
# ER Visits by MCO

<b>MANAGED CARE PLAN</b>	<b>% WITH ER VISIT</b>
BlueCare Family Plan	32%***
Community Health Network	37%***
Health Net	31%***
Preferred One	34%

\*\*\* Rate is significantly higher or lower when compared to rate for all other children

# ER Visits: Leading Diagnoses

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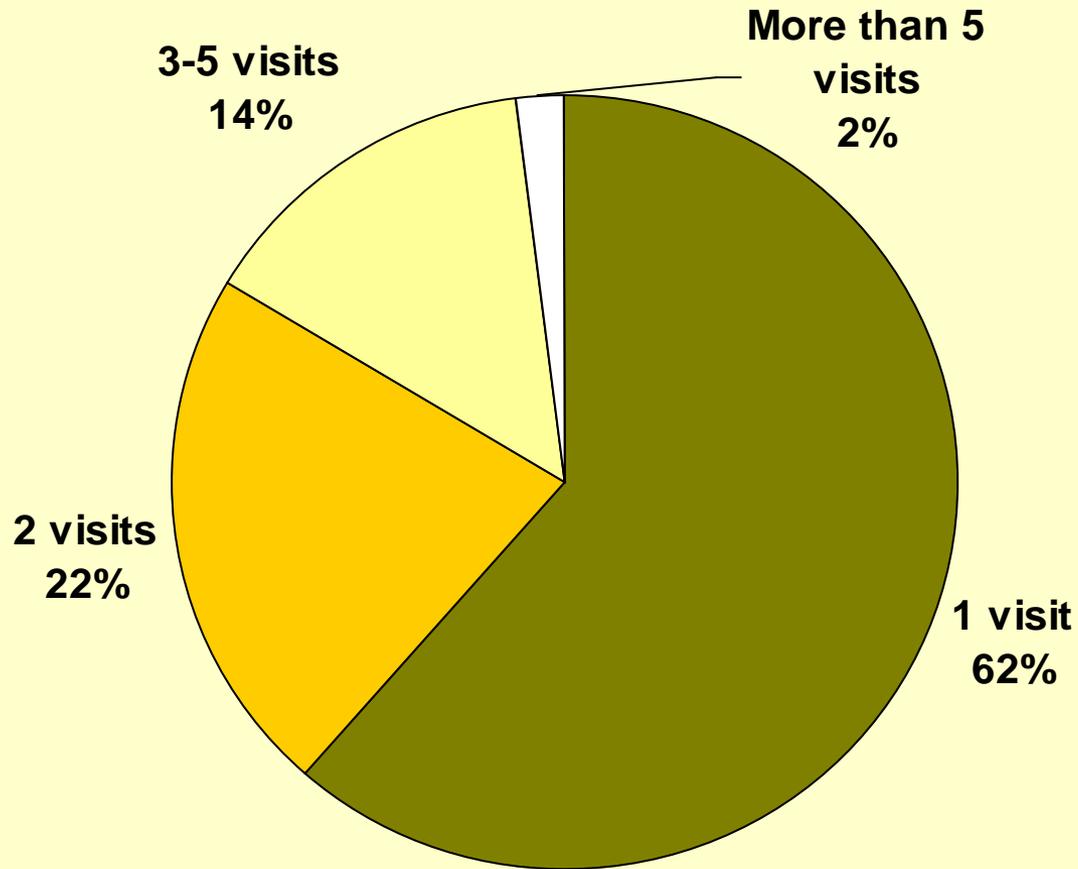
# Leading Diagnoses by Age

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<b>AGE</b>	<b>LEADING DIAGNOSES</b>
Under 1	Respiratory conditions (30%)
1 to 5	Respiratory conditions (21%) Injuries (21%)
6 to 14	Injuries (33%)
15 to 20	Injuries (30%)

# Children with ER Visits

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# Well-child care\* and ER visits

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Had well-child visit?	Had ER visit
Yes	34%
No	29%

\*Well-child care for children 2-19

RR = 1.18 (1.16, 1.20)

# Comparison with Rhode Island ER Visit Rates

	<b>HUSKY A</b>	<b>Rhode Island*</b>	
		<b>Medicaid</b>	<b>Commercial</b>
<b>Number of children</b>	170,937	35,465	30,720
<b>Age group</b>	Under 21	Under 18	
<b>Enrollment</b>	12 months (2004)	428 days ave. (2001-02)	519 days ave. (2001-02)
<b>Number of ER visits per 10,000 children</b>	6.3	5.0	2.0

\*Vivier P. A comparison of ED use between commercially and Medicaid enrolled children. Presentation for Center for Health Care Strategies, August 2, 2005.

# Conclusions

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- 1 in 3 children in HUSKY A has emergency care each year
  - Reasons for ER visits vary by age
  - ER visit rate varies by MCO
- Children who had well-child care were more, not less, likely to have emergency care