

Linn County Early Childhood Iowa

Counties in Area: Linn County
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Vision: Every child will have access to quality services empowering them to be healthy and successful.

Mission: To provide and support quality education, health and human services through community partnerships and collaborations, for children prenatal-age 5 and their families, resulting in healthy, safe and school ready children.

Did You Know?

- ✚ A child's first dental appointment should occur by his or her first birthday!
- ✚ Infants often receive contagious decay-causing bacteria from their parents through saliva sharing activities (e.g. kisses, sharing utensils) Source: IDPH

The Family & Community Health Alliance provides dental screening, education and care coordination for at-risk children, pregnant women and post-partum women whose needs were identified during pregnancy. Here are a few comments from FCHA Dental Health program participants:

"I was feeling helpless." (Parent) A family with twin boys on the autism spectrum did not have health insurance and one child had cavities and was in pain. The Dental Care Coordinator connected with local insurance specialist and outreach worker to obtain health insurance and dental appointments.

"I am amazed at the help and compassion I received."

"With the help of ECI Vouchers, HACAP and St. Luke's Dental Health Center these kids are now cavity free!" Two young children had several areas of decay. The family had no insurance and only spoke Chinese. Collaboration of resource made a real difference for this family! (Dental Staff)

Why Are The Programs ECI Supports Important to Reaching Our Vision & Mission?

- The Linn County ECI Board understands that investment in quality early intervention services is the key to **healthy, safe and school ready children.**

Linn County Community Plan Priorities

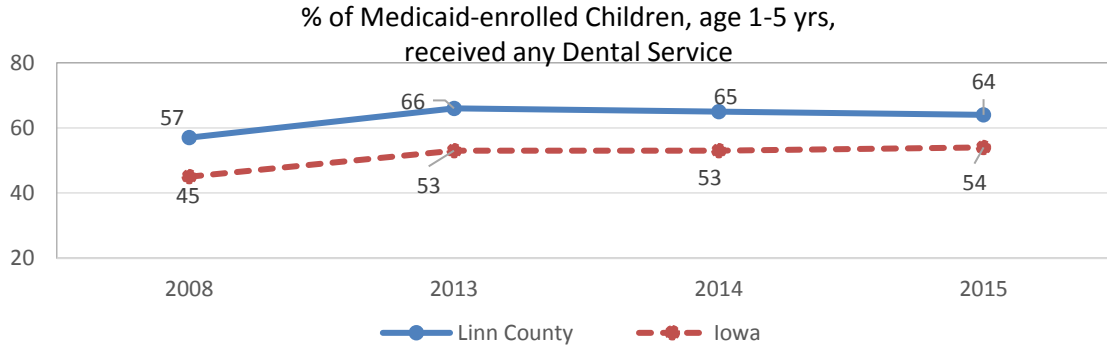
- ✓ Quality Early Care and Education
- ✓ Child & Family Resources
- ✓ Preventive Child Health
- ✓ Mental & Behavioral Health Supports

Types of Services supported by Linn County Early Childhood Iowa FY 16

- Child Health Services and Screenings
- On-Site TA Support for Child Care Providers
- In-Home Visitation & Family Support
- Part Day Preschool for 3 year olds
- Full-day Wraparound Child Care for 0-5 year olds
- Quality Improvements (NAFCC, QRS, ERS)
- Group-Based Parent Education
- Child Mental Health & Behavioral Supports
- Child Care Nurse Consultant
- Child Health & Developmental Screens
- Parent-led Behavior Interventions
- Child Care Home & Center Consultants

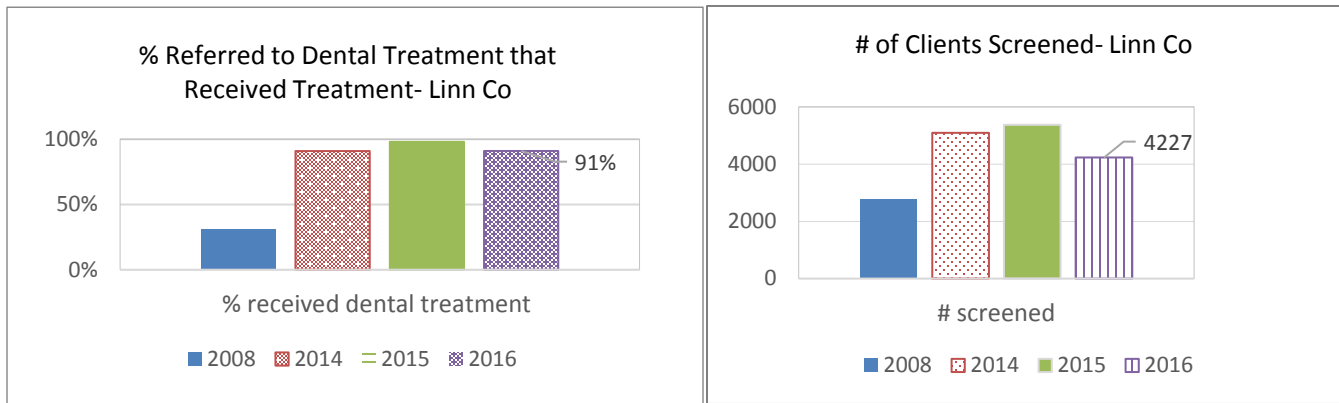
How Do We Measure Community Level Progress in Linn County?

The Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment program is for children enrolled in Medicaid. The focus is to assure that vulnerable children receive preventive health care services including oral health care. One benchmark tracked by the Iowa Dept of Public Health is the % of children on Medicaid that received any dental or oral health service. Data indicates the % of young children in Linn County with dental service consistently exceeds the State %.



How Do We Measure Program Level Progress in Linn County Early Childhood Iowa?

Fiscal Year 2007 marks the start of the Linn County ECI Boards focus on child oral health needs. Investment in additional screening and fluoride varnish opportunities, vouchers for treatment and care coordination increased. Services are contracted through Family & Community Health Alliance in close partnership with I-Smile Coordinator and the St. Luke's Dental Health Center. In FY 12 the importance of preventive dental care in pregnant women was shared with the ECI Board and since then included as an eligible use of ECI funds.



Although the % receiving Dental Treatment increased the % is impacted by the continued decrease in local dentists that will accept new Medicaid patients. The decline in # screened is reflective of flat/decreased funding.

Other Partners in Linn County that assist with Oral Health Supports

- St. Luke's Dental Health Center
- ECI programs ask families if they have dental home
- HACAP Outreach Worker
- I-Smile Coordinator
- Family Connections
- Child Health Events

What Can You Do To Help?

- Refer families seeking support or information to the Linn County Early Childhood Iowa office at 319-892-5721 or www.linncountyearlychildhoodiowa.org
- Parents should avoid sharing utensils or orally cleaning a pacifier or baby bottle nipple.
- Establish a child's dental home in the first year of life to ensure comprehensive oral health care.