

Additional Facts

Nationally, there are an estimated 500,000 children in the foster care system. California is among the highest, with about 100,000 children in out-of-home placement.

Children placed in foster care range from infants to adolescents and encompass all ethnicities and races.

The Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care is a collaborative effort by San Diego County: Children's Services, Child Health and Disability Prevention and Juvenile Probation.



For no cost health exams for foster care or non-foster care children call

1-800-675-2229

County of San Diego
CHDP Program



For more information about the Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care, please contact the foster care nurse in your area.

South Region

619-336-5842

North Coastal Region

760-754-3529

North Inland Region

760-480-5427

North Central Region

858-694-5728

East Region

619-401-3680

Central Region

619-688-4435



***What its children become,
that will the community
become.***

- Suzanne LaFollette



County of San Diego
Health and Human Services Agency



***Health Care
Program for
Children
in
Foster Care***

Did You Know?

- There are currently about 7,000 children in foster care in San Diego County.
- 40-60% of children in foster care have chronic medical conditions such as asthma, cognitive abnormalities, visual and hearing problems, dental decay and poor nutrition.
- Lack of adequate medical records can result in over-immunization and under-treatment of the chronic health conditions of foster children.



SAFETY, WELL-BEING, PERMANENCY

The Profile: Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care

The health and development of a child can be seriously affected by maltreatment, lack of continuity of health care and frequent placement changes.

In 1989 San Diego County began their Foster Care Health Program under the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program. This Program, now implemented statewide, is known as the Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care.

Public Health Nurses located in regional public health centers work in coordination with Children's Services Social Workers and Juvenile Probation Officers. They ensure children receive preventive healthcare and treatment of identified health problems. They also assist in the development and implementation of health service plans.



Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care: The Public Health Nurse

- Advocates for the health care needs of the child.
- Assists foster parents in obtaining timely health care services.
- Expedites timely referrals for medical, dental and mental health services.
- Follows children placed out-of-county to assure access to needed services.
- Serves as a resource to facilitate referrals to early intervention providers, specialty providers, dentists, mental health providers and other community programs.
- Oversees the creation and updating of a Health and Education Passport as required by law.
- Interprets medical reports for case workers and the courts.
- Educates social workers, judges, school nurses, probation officers and others about the health care needs of the child.