



# Strategies to Provide Primary Care in an Enhanced Medical Home Model to Underserved Children

Carla Lewis PhD & Roy Grant MA  
Children's Health Fund (CHF), New York, NY

## Enhanced Medical Home

- Medical home model: Primary care that is readily accessible, continuous, comprehensive, coordinated, culturally competent
- Enhanced medical home model integrates mental health and oral health care, and facilitates access to other specialists
- High rate of psychosocial problems in primary care:
  - Domestic violence
  - Maternal depression
  - Toxic stress
- Brito et al., Advances in Pediatrics, 2008*

## Setting

- Network of 23 projects in 16 states serving inner city & rural poor, homeless, migrant, immigrant, and post-disaster pediatric populations
- Fleet of >50 mobile clinics providing medical, mental health and oral health care

## Study Design

- Two surveys of national network describing scope of practice in each project
- Respondents: medical directors and program administrators
- Follow-up phone calls for clarification
- 100% response rate

## Primary Care Exceeds AAP Standards

**100%** saw patients regardless of ability to pay

**100%** provided 24 hour / 7 day per week coverage by affiliation with academic medical centers or health centers

**95%** saw walk-ins with same-day appointments

**84%** had formalized systems to track referrals and facilitate care coordination

**80%** provided mental health screening and treatment

**79%** dispensed prescription and over-the-counter medications

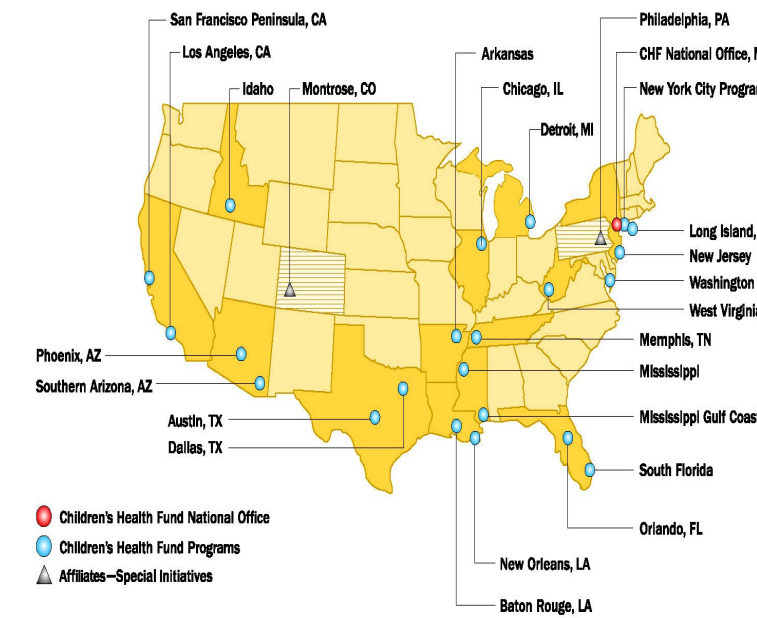
**63%** provided nutrition counseling

**57%** used electronic health records

**44%** provided school-based and/or school-linked care

**42%** supplemented oral health screening with fluoride varnish

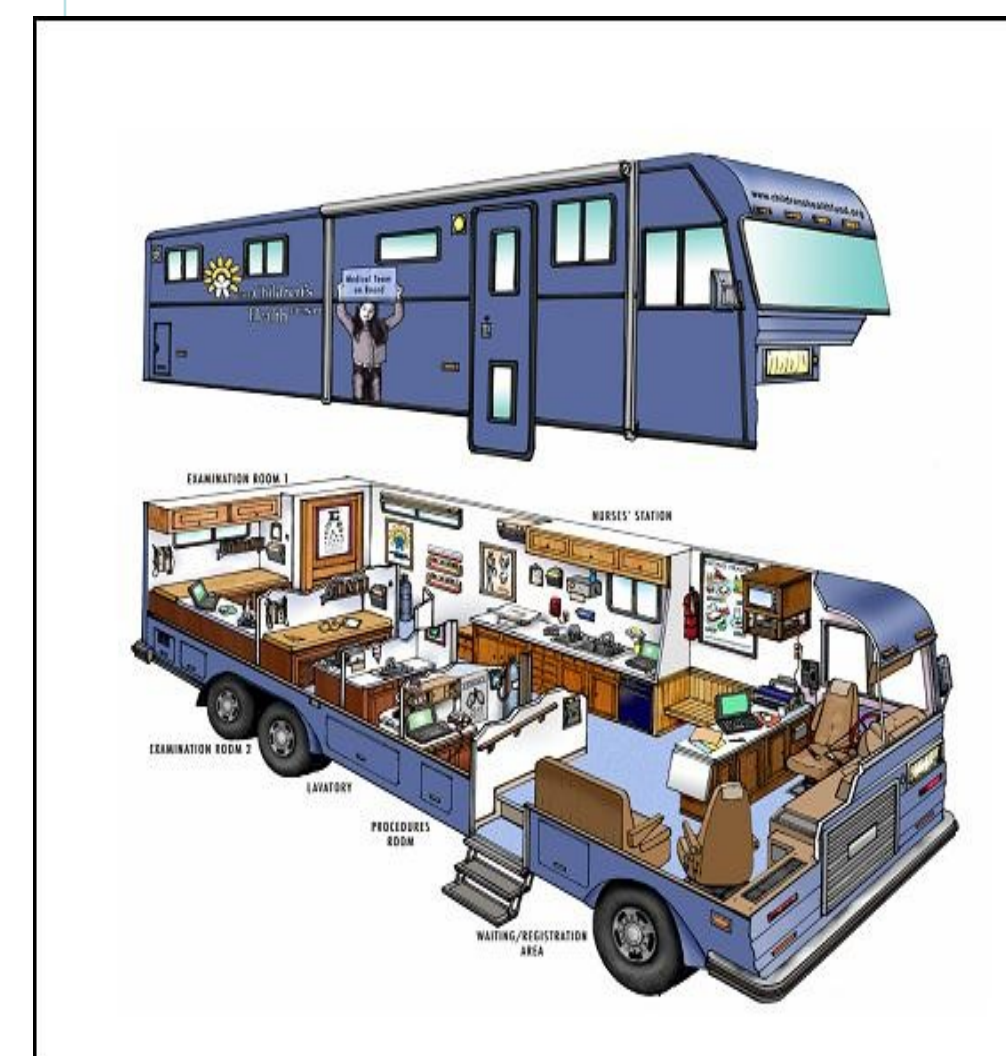
## National Network Sites



## Principal Findings

- In 2010, CHF National Network Projects provided:
  - 130,520** medical encounters
  - 38,467** mental health and case management encounters
  - 9,820** oral health encounters
  - 8,884** nutrition encounters
  - 56,687** health education encounters
  - 33,720** community outreach encounters
- 2.25 million** encounters since 1987

## Mobile Medical Clinic



## Conclusions

- The first element of a medical home model is timely access
- Alternative models of primary care delivery can be used to provide an enhanced medical home model while bridging barriers to access
  - Mobile medical clinics
  - School-based and school-linked clinics
- Quality and comprehensiveness of care are not compromised
- Essential to establish and maintain clinical and community affiliations