

National Epilepsy Awareness Month — November 2014

November is National Epilepsy Awareness Month. Epilepsy is a brain disorder characterized by recurrent seizures and affects an estimated 2.3 million adults and 450,000 children in the United States (1,2). Eighty-seven percent of parents of children with epilepsy have reported needing care coordination, and of these, 45% had unmet needs (3).

Community-based care coordination can improve outcomes and reduce health care costs for children with special health care needs (4). But more research regarding its effectiveness in epilepsy is required (2). The Health Resources and Services Administration funds community-based demonstration projects to improve access to coordinated care for children with epilepsy (2). These projects promote partnerships between health care providers and patients and their families, link care with other community resources, and address barriers to care (2,5).

CDC also supports community-based resources and services for children with epilepsy and their families. Additional information is available at <http://www.epilepsy.com/get-help>.

References

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4. Council on Children with Disabilities and Medical Home Implementation Project Advisory Committee. Patient- and family-centered care coordination: a framework for integrating care for children and youth across multiple systems. *Pediatrics* 2014;133:e1451–60.
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Premature Deaths Among Children with Epilepsy — South Carolina, 2000–2011

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Epilepsy is a common childhood neurologic disorder. In 2007, epilepsy affected an estimated 450,000 children aged 0–17 years in the United States (1). Approximately 53% of children with epilepsy and special health care needs have co-occurring conditions (2), and only about one third have access to comprehensive care (3). The few studies of mortality risk among children with epilepsy as compared with the general population generally find a higher risk for death among children

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