

Appendixes

Method of the Study

This assessment was requested by the House Energy and Commerce Committee and its Health Subcommittee and the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources. The committees asked OTA to examine the status of children's health; problems in children's access to effective health services; and the effectiveness and costs of selected technologies, particularly preventive strategies for improving the health of children. In addition, the Senate Finance Committee asked for an assessment of a new technology for prenatal care: tocodynamometry. The assessment began on October 1, 1985.

One of the first tasks in planning an OTA assessment is to choose an advisory panel of experts in various fields. The advisory panel for an OTA assessment suggests source materials, subject areas, and perspectives for staff consideration; assists in interpreting information and points of view assembled by OTA staff; and suggests possible findings and conclusions based on the study. Panel members review staff and contract materials for accuracy and representativeness, discuss policy options of the study, and present arguments for and against the options and conclusions. The final report, however, is the responsibility of the OTA staff.

The advisory panel for this assessment of technologies related to child health consisted of 18 members with expertise in health policy, health economics, clinical medicine, law and medical ethics, as well as experience in State and Federal Government and academia. The advisory panel was chaired by Harvey Fineberg, Dean of the Harvard School of Public Health.

The first panel meeting was held on February 11, 1986. OTA staff for the project presented topics for the panel's discussion of the overall plan for the assessment. Major chapter topics selected for study were the

problem of infant mortality, family planning, prenatal care, neonatal intensive care, newborn screening, well-child care, prevention of accidental injuries, and prevention of child maltreatment.

Contracts were let for background papers and acquisition of data on a variety of issues for staff use in preparing the assessment. These contracts are listed at the end of this appendix. Background papers with an asterisk (*) are or will soon be available from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS).

OTA prepared two documents in addition to the main report for this project. They include a technical memorandum, *Technology-Dependent Children: Hospital v. Home Care*, and a case study, *Neonatal Intensive Care for Low Birthweight Infants: Costs and Effectiveness*. They are available from the U.S. Government Printing Office.

The second meeting with the advisory panel was held on August 5, 1986. OTA staff presented outlines of each chapter for the panel's discussion. In addition, some preliminary data were presented for discussion. Suggestions for improvement were provided by the panel members.

At the last panel meeting, on February 24, 1987, OTA staff had prepared a draft of the final report. The panel was mailed a copy prior to the meeting. Comments were provided by the panel and discussed at the meeting. It was agreed that OTA staff would revise the draft and send it out for a broader review.

After revising the main report, OTA staff mailed the second draft to more than 125 reviewers. These reviewers represented a broad range of experts in a diversity of settings. Appropriate revisions based on comments received were made by OTA staff, and the report was submitted to the Technology Assessment Board on July 27, 1987.

Contractor	Subject
Martha Burt The Urban Institute Washington, DC	Pregnancy Prevention Strategies for Improving Child Health
Howard Dubowitz University of Maryland Medical School Baltimore, MD	Child Maltreatment in the United States: Etiology, Impact, and Prevention*
Isaac Eberstein and Robert Weller Center for the Study of Population Florida State University Gainesville, FL	Data Analysis of 1980 National Natality Survey on the Adequacy of Prenatal Care and Pregnancy Outcome
Warren Greenberg Department of Health Services Administration The George Washington University Washington, DC	The Impact of Product Liability Laws on the Costs of Injury Prevention Devices and Products
Charles Homer Massachusetts General Hospital Boston, MA	Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Well-Child Care Services for Children*
Information Service Center, Inc. Baltimore, MD	Maryland Hospital Use and Cost Data
Michael Kenney Pinole, CA	Task I—Assessment of CDC's Quality Assurance and Proficiency Testing in Newborn Screening Task II—Description and Comparison of Four Neonatal Screening Programs in the United States
Lorraine Klerman and Helen Burst Yale University New Haven, CT	Summary of Recommendations on and Evidence of the Effectiveness of Recommended Prenatal Care Components*
Peter McMenamin Washington, DC	Medicaid Participation by Pediatricians and Obstetricians*
Bonnie Preston Takoma Park, MD	Description of the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program: History, Evaluation, and Issues*
Leon Robertson Nanlee Research Branford, CT	Costs and Effectiveness of Strategies To Prevent Unintentional Childhood Injuries*
T. Paul Schultz Economic Growth Center Yale University New Haven, CT	Data Analysis of the 1980 National Natality Survey: Prenatal Care for Low Income Women
Katherine Swartz The Urban Institute Washington, DC	Task I—Data Analysis of the Current Population Survey and Children's Health Insurance Coverage Task II—A Note on the Strengths and Weaknesses of Using the CPS To Estimate Children's Health Insurance Coverage*

*Available from the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, VA