

Glossary of Abbreviations and Terms

Glossary of Abbreviations

AAFP	—American Academy of Family Physicians	HMO	—health maintenance organization
AAP	—American Academy of Pediatrics	ICHP	—Improved Child Health Project
AAPC	—American Association for Protecting Children	IHS	—Indian Health Service
ACIP	—Immunization Practices Advisory Committee (PHS)	IOM	—Institute of Medicine
ACOG	—American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists	IPO	—Improved Pregnancy Outcome (project)
AFDC	—Aid to Families With Dependent Children	MCH	—Maternal and Child Health services (block grant)
BD	—biotinidase deficiency	MHC	—migrant health center
CAH	—congenital adrenal hyperplasia	MIC	—Maternity and Infant Care (project)
CDC	—Centers for Disease Control (PHS)	MMR	—measles, 'mumps, and rubella (vaccine)
CEA	—cost-effectiveness analysis	MSUD	—maple syrup urine disease
CF	—cystic fibrosis	NACHRI	—National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions
CFR	—Code of Federal Regulations	NCCAN	—National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect (DHHS)
CH	—congenital hypothyroidism	NCHS	—National Center for Health Statistics (PHS)
CHAMPUS	—Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services	NEISS	—National Electronic Injury Surveillance System
CHC	—community health center	NHIS	—National Health Interview Survey
COBRA	—Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-272)	NHTSA	—National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (U.S. Department of Transportation)
CPS	—Current Population Survey	NICHD	—National Institute for Child Health and Human Development (PHS)
CPSC	—Consumer Product Safety Commission	NICU	—neonatal intensive care unit
DDST	—Denver Developmental Screening Test	NIH	—National Institutes of Health
DES	—diethylstilbestrol	NIMS	—National Infant Mortality Survey
DHHS	—U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	NMCUES	—National Medical Care Utilization and Expenditure Survey
DTP	—diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (vaccine)	OB/GYN	—obstetrician /gynecologist
EPSDT	—Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (program) (Medicaid)	OBRA-81	—Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (Public Law 97-35)
FARS	—Fatal Accident Reporting System	OBRA-86	—Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-509)
FEP	—free erythrocyte protoporphyrin	OBRA-87	—Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-203)
FR	—Federal Register	OPV	—oral polio vaccine
GAO	—General Accounting Office (U.S. Congress)	OTA	—Office of Technology Assessment (U.S. Congress)
HC	—homocystinuria	PHHS	—Preventive Health and Health Services (block grant)
HCFA	—Health Care Financing Administration (DHHS)	PHS	—Public Health Service (DHHS)
Hgb	—hemoglobin	PKU	—phenylketonuria
Hib	— <i>Haemophilus influenzae b</i>	QALY	—quality-adjusted life year
HIP	—Health Insurance Plan of New York	RCOG	—Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
		RCT	—randomized clinical trial

RDS	—respiratory distress syndrome
SCA	—sickle cell anemia
SIDS	—sudden infant death syndrome
SMSA	—Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area
SPRANS	—Special Projects of Regional and National Significance
SSI	—Supplemental Security Income
TIPP	—The Injury Prevention Program (AAP)
WIC	—Women, Infants, and Children (program)

Glossary of Terms

Abortion rate: The number of induced abortions per 1,000 live births.

Accidental injury: Any injury that is not self-inflicted or caused by maltreatment.

Acute illness: An illness characterized by a single episode of fairly short duration, usually less than **30 days**, and from which the patient can be expected to return to his or her normal or previous state and level of activity. Compare *chronic illness*.

Adverse selection bias in prenatal care studies: A bias that results from the tendency of women who experience a problem with their pregnancy or who have information that leads them to expect problems (e.g., a poor pregnancy history) to seek care early and often. These women are likely to be at higher than average risk of poor outcomes. Compare *favorable selection bias in prenatal care studies*.

Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC) program: A program, established by the Social Security Act of 1935, providing cash payments to needy children (and their caretakers) who lack support because at least one parent is dead, disabled, continually absent from the home, or (in some States) unemployed.

Ambulatory medical care: Medical care services that are provided to patients who do not require admission to the hospital as inpatients. Such services may be provided by a private physician or group practice, a public clinic, or a hospital outpatient department.

Ambulatory tocodynamometry: A technique that allows noninvasive ambulatory monitoring of uterine contractions in women at risk for premature labor and may enhance the effectiveness of the available therapies to reduce the incidence of premature birth.

Anemia: A condition that exists when the level of hemoglobin in a person's blood drops to an abnormally low level (e. g., below 11 grams per deciliter

of whole blood).

Antenatal care: Same as *prenatal care*.

Anticipatory guidance: The provision of health education, information, or counseling in order to influence the parents' or child's behavior and thus favorably influence the child's health.

Augmented prenatal care services: Prenatal care that includes supplemental services such as outreach, transportation, home visitation, nutrition and social services, health education, followup of missed appointments, case management/coordination of services, and dental care.

Biotinidase deficiency (BD): A congenital disorder caused by a deficiency of the enzyme needed to metabolize the B vitamin biotin leading to an overall deficiency of biotin in the body. If untreated, severe cases of biotinidase deficiency can lead to neurologic damage, resulting in coma or death in infancy. Less severe cases (resulting in developmental delay and hearing loss) and asymptomatic cases also occur.

Birth rate: The number of live births per 1,000 total population.

Birthweight: The weight of an infant at the time of delivery. *Normal birth weight* is 2,500 grams (5 lbs. 8 oz.) and above. *Low birth weight* is anything below 2,500 grams. Among low birthweight babies, there are *moderately low birth weight* babies (who weigh between 1,500 and 2,500 grams) and *very low birthweight* babies (who weigh less than 1,500 grams).

Birthweight distribution: The relative frequency of births in various birthweight categories in a population of newborns.

Birthweight-specific mortality rates: Mortality rates among newborns classified by birthweight. The birthweight-specific infant mortality rate is defined as the number of infants in a given birthweight interval who die in the first year of life per 1,000 live births in that interval. The birthweight-specific neonatal mortality rate is defined as the number of infants in a given birthweight interval who die in the first 28 days of life per 1,000 live births in that interval.

Catastrophic stop-loss on out-of-pocket expenses: Typically, an annual upper limit on the beneficiary's out-of-pocket payments for insured services.

Cervical cerclage: A surgical procedure in which the mouth of a woman's cervix is physically cinched together with a suture to attempt to stop the course of premature labor in pregnancy.

Child maltreatment: Behavior that falls into one of the following categories: physical abuse or neglect, psychological abuse or neglect, or sexual abuse. Abuse generally implies an act of commission on the part

- of a parent or other caretaker, while neglect implies an act of omission.
- Chronic illness:** Any illness persisting over a long period of time. Compare *acute illness*.
- Coinsurance:** In the context of health insurance, the percentage of the cost of covered services for which the beneficiary is responsible.
- Community health centers (CHCs):** Centers that provide primary health care to medically underserved areas and are part of the primary care program administered by the Federal Bureau of Health Care Delivery and Assistance.
- Congenital:** Existing at birth.
- Congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH):** A congenital disorder caused by a deficiency of one or another of the enzymes in the adrenal cortex that is required for normal hormone synthesis. Approximately one-half of all cases are life-threatening if untreated in the first few days of life.
- Congenital hypothyroidism (CH):** A congenital disorder involving a deficiency of the hormone thyroxine needed for brain development and physical growth. If untreated or late treated, congenital hypothyroidism results in mental retardation and physical abnormalities.
- Continuity of care:** A continuous source of medical care (e. g., primary physician, referral to specialist, hospital) or a coordinated system to provide comprehensive children's health care at all levels needed.
- Copayment:** In insurance, a form of cost-sharing whereby the insured pays a specific amount at the point of service or use (e.g., \$10 per visit).
- Cost-effectiveness analysis (CEA):** An analytical technique that compares the costs of alternative projects to the resultant benefits, with costs and benefits/ effectiveness expressed by different measures. Costs are usually expressed in dollars, but benefits/ effectiveness are ordinarily expressed in terms such as "lives saved," "disability avoided," "quality-adjusted life years saved," or any other relevant objectives. When benefits or effectiveness are difficult to express in a common metric, they should be (but usually aren't) presented as an "array."
- Cost-saving:** An economic concept referring to the results of cost-effectiveness analysis when the net health care costs of implementing one strategy (compared to another) are less than zero.
- Cost-sharing:** That portion of the payment to a provider of health care services that is the liability of the patient and that may include deductibles, copayments, coinsurance, and, under Medicare Part B, unassigned liability. Also, the general set of financial arrangements under which health care insurance is contingent on a purchaser's acceptance of the obligation to pay some portion of the reimbursements for those services.
- Cystic fibrosis (CF):** The most common potentially fatal genetic disease in the white population, caused by a disorder of exocrine glands. Individuals with cystic fibrosis have a variety of physical abnormalities, most serious among them is chronic obstructive lung disease, which is potentially fatal in early adulthood.
- Deductible:** In insurance, an aspect of cost-sharing in which the insured incurs an initial expense of a specified amount within a given time period (e.g., \$250 per year) before the insurer assumes liability for any additional costs of covered services.
- Denver Developmental Screening Test (DDST):** A standardized test, developed in 1967, for the detection of developmental and behavioral problems in children.
- Diphtheria:** An acute infectious disease caused by a bacterium that attacks the throat and nasal passages, interfering with breathing and sometimes producing a toxin that can damage the heart and nerves.
- Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTP) vaccine:** A combination vaccine composed of two toxoids (diphtheria and tetanus) and one inactivated whole-cell bacterial vaccine (pertussis).
- Disability:** The presence of one or more functional limitations. A person with a disability has a limited ability or an inability to perform one or more basic life functions (e.g., walking) at a level considered "typical."
- Discounting:** A procedure used in economic analysis to express as "present values" those costs and benefits that will occur in future years. Discounting is based on two premises: 1) individuals prefer to receive benefits today rather than in the future; and 2) resources invested today in alternative programs could earn a return over time.
- Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) program:** A State and federally funded, State-administered preventive health care program that mandates screening and followup of Medicaid-eligible infants and children for any illnesses, abnormalities, or treatable conditions.
- Econometric techniques:** A group of statistical methods used to estimate and test models of economic behavior or systems.
- Effectiveness:** The probability of benefit to individuals in a defined population from a medical technology applied for a given medical problem under average or actual conditions of use.
- False negative:** In medical diagnostics, a negative test result in an individual who actually has the disease or characteristic being tested for. The test incorrectly

- indicates that the individual does not have the particular disease or characteristic.
- False positive:** In medical diagnostics, a positive test result in an individual who does not have the disease or characteristic being tested for. The test incorrectly diagnoses the individual as having the particular disease or characteristic.
- Favorable selection bias in prenatal care studies:** A bias that results from the tendency of women who routinely behave in healthful ways to seek prenatal care early and often. These women are probably healthy on the whole and thus are likely to be at lower than average risk of poor outcomes. Compare *adverse selection bias in prenatal care studies*.
- Fee-for-service payment:** A method of paying for medical services in which each service performed by an individual provider bears a related charge. This charge is paid by the individual patient receiving the service or by an insurer on behalf of the patient.
- Fetal death:** The product of conception, which, after separation from its mother, does not breathe or show other signs of life required to meet the World Health Organization's criteria for a live birth. Compare *live birth*.
- Fetal death rate:** The ratio of fetal deaths to fetal deaths plus live births.
- First dollar deductible:** In the context of insurance, the amount (which may vary by type of benefit) that a beneficiary must pay each year before he or she is eligible for coverage.
- galactosemia:** A deficiency of the enzyme needed to metabolize galactose, a type of sugar found in milk products. Untreated galactosemia usually leads to blood poisoning, progressive liver damage, and death by the first few weeks of life.
- Gestational age:** The number of completed weeks elapsed between the first day of the last normal menstrual period and the date of delivery.
- Haemophilus influenzae b (Hib):** The leading cause of serious systemic bacterial disease in the United States, including bacterial meningitis, epiglottitis, sepsis, and pneumonia.
- Head Start:** A Federal program begun in 1965 that provides educational, social, nutritional, and medical services to low-income preschool children. The program is overseen by the Administration for Children, Youth and Families (DHHS), but it is administered at the local level by Head Start agencies.
- Health maintenance organization (HMO):** A health care organization that, in return for prospective per capita (cavitation) payments, acts as both insurer and provider of comprehensive but specified medical services. Prepaid group practices and individual practice associations are types of HMOs.
- Hematocrit:** The volume occupied by the cellular elements of blood in relation to the total volume.
- Hemoglobin (Hgb):** The oxygen-carrying pigment found in red blood cells that serves as the primary oxygen transport vehicle in vertebrates. Hemoglobin is a protein composed of a single iron molecule surrounded by four globin molecules, two each of two different types (two alpha globins and two beta globins in normal adult humans).
- Herd immunity:** The level of immunity that must be attained to prevent epidemics of vaccine-preventable diseases in a specific population.
- High risk:** At greater than normal risk for contracting a specific disease or experiencing a condition.
- Homocystinuria (HC):** A congenital disorder caused by a deficiency of one of the enzymes involved in the metabolism of the amino acid homocystine. If left untreated, homocystinuria can lead to life-threatening episodes of vascular thrombosis; most untreated survivors go on to have mental deficiency, and half of them may die in early adulthood.
- Immunization:** The deliberate introduction of an antigenic substance (vaccine) into an individual, with the aim of producing immunity to a disease. Used interchangeably with vaccination in this report.
- Impairment:** See *disability*.
- Incidence:** The frequency of new occurrences of a disease within a defined time interval. Incidence rate is the number of new cases of a specified disease divided by the number of people in a population over a specified period of time, usually 1 year. Compare *prevalence*.
- Infant mortality:** Death in the first year of life. About 1 percent of all babies born in the United States die in the first year of life. It includes neonatal mortality and postneonatal mortality.
- Infant mortality rate:** The number of deaths among children under 1 year old per 1,000 live births in a given year. The infant mortality rate is the sum of two components: the neonatal mortality rate and the postneonatal mortality rate.
- Inpatient care:** Health care that includes an overnight stay in a medical facility.
- Intrapartum care:** Medical care received during labor and delivery. Compare *postpartum care* and *prenatal care*.
- Live birth:** According to the World Health Organization, "the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, which, after such separation, breathes or shows any other evidence of life such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles." This definition is the basis for most States' re-

- quirements governing the reporting of live births. Compare fetal death.
- Low birthweight:** Birthweight of less than 2,500 grams (5 lbs. 8 oz.).
- Low birthweight rate:** Percentage of live births with birthweight of 2,500 grams or less.
- Major medical coverage:** Health insurance coverage that provides for an array of services and usually includes an annual deductible, coinsurance requirements, and maximum benefit limits. By comparison, basic benefit plans usually provide first-dollar coverage but cover only a very narrow set of services (e.g., hospital, surgical).
- Maple syrup urine disease (MSUD):** A congenital disorder of amino acid metabolism involving the three branched-chain amino acids: leucine, isoleucine, and valine. Classic MSUD results in life-threatening acidemia and necrologic dysfunction in the newborn period, and is fatal if left untreated.
- Maternal and Child Health services (MCH) block grant program:** A Federal block grant program authorized under Title V of the Social Security Act, that provides health services to mothers (e. g., prenatal care) and children (e.g., well-child care). Created by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, the MCH block grant consolidated several categorical grant programs into one block grant.
- Maternity care:** Medical services received from conception through labor and delivery. Prenatal care and intrapartum care combined are referred to as maternity care.
- Measles:** A highly communicable viral disease involving primarily a harassing cough with steadily mounting fever followed by the eruption of red papules on the skin.
- Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine:** A combination vaccine composed of the three live, attenuated virus vaccines against measles, mumps, and rubella.
- Medicaid:** A federally aided, State-administered program that provides medical assistance for low-income people meeting specific income and family structure requirements.
- Medically needy Medicaid recipients:** States have the option to offer Medicaid to “medically needy” people who would be categorically eligible for Medicaid but whose income and resources lie above the standards for Aid to Families With Dependent Children. Each State sets its own medically needy resource and income standards up to 133 percent of State AFDC income standards.
- Migrant health centers (MHCs):** Centers that provide primary health care to migrant and seasonal farm workers and their families and are part of the primary care program administered by the Federal Bureau of Health Care Delivery and Assistance.
- Moderately low birthweight:** Birthweight between **1,500 and 2,500 grams**.
- Morbidity:** The condition of being diseased.
- Mumps:** A communicable disease caused by a virus that produces painful swelling of the salivary glands in the face and neck. Sometimes other organs may become inflamed.
- Neonatal:** Pertaining to the first **4 weeks (28 days) after birth**.
- Neonatal intensive care: Constant and continuous care of the critically ill newborn.**
- Neonatal intensive care unit (NICU):** A specialized hospital unit combining high technology and highly trained staff that treats seriously ill newborns.
- Neonatal mortality:** Death in the first **28 days** of life.
- Neonatal mortality rate:** The number of deaths during the first **28 days** of life per 1,000 live births.
- Neonate:** A newborn infant less than a month old.
- Newborn screening:** The process of testing asymptomatic newborn infants for diseases that require medical treatment.
- Normal birthweight:** Birthweight of 2,500 grams (5 lbs. 8 oz.) or above. Compare low *birth weight*.
- Oral polio vaccine (OPV):** A live, attenuated vaccine for the prevention of poliomyelitis. The vaccine is administered orally.
- Outpatient care:** Care that is provided in a hospital and does not include an overnight stay.
- Perinatal:** Pertaining to or occurring in the period shortly before and after birth; variously defined as beginning with the completion of the 20th to 28th week of gestation and ending **7 to 28 days after birth**.
- Perinatal care:** Medical care pertaining to or occurring in the period shortly before and after birth, variously defined as beginning with the completion of the 20th to 28th week of gestation and ending **7 to 28 days after birth**.
- Pertussis (whooping cough):** An infectious inflammatory respiratory disease of children caused by the bacterium *Bordetella pertussis*. The disease is characterized by explosive attacks of coughing ending in an inspiratory whoop.
- Phenylketonuria (PKU):** A genetic disorder of amino acid metabolism, characterized by the inability to metabolize the amino acid phenylalanine. Untreated or late treated PKU results in severe mental retardation in the majority of cases.
- Poliomyelitis:** An acute viral disease, occurring sporadically and in epidemics, and characterized clinically by fever, sore throat, headache, and vomiting, often with stiffness of the neck and back. Major

- illness can lead to paralysis.
- Postneonatal mortality:** Death between the first 28 days in life and the first year of life.
- Postneonatal mortality rate:** The number of deaths among infants between 28 days old and 1 year old per 1,000 live births.
- Postpartum care:** Medical services rendered to a mother immediately following a baby's delivery to the sixth week after birth. Compare *intrapartum care* and *prenatal care*.
- Power of a statistical test:** The probability that a specified difference between the experimental and comparison groups in a study will be detected in the experiment.
- Prenatal:** Occurring or formed before birth. Also called "antenatal."
- Prenatal care:** Medical services delivered from conception to labor. Prenatal care and intrapartum care combined are referred to as maternity care. Early prenatal care is care received in the first trimester of pregnancy. Compare *intrapartum care* and *postpartum care*.
- Prevalence:** The frequency of existing cases of a disease or condition within a defined time interval in a defined population. The prevalence rate is the number of existing cases of a disease or other condition in a defined population at a particular time or over a specified time period. Compare *incidence*.
- Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) block grant:** A Federal block grant program, created by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (Public Law 97-35), that provides funding to States for a broad array of preventive health services.
- Preventive strategy:** Any action taken by individuals, professionals, or governments to alter the environment, change the behavior of a child or the family, or provide effective health care with the intention of preventing disease or injury.
- Prospective study:** Study in which subjects are assigned to alternatives and observed in an experimental context. Compare *retrospective study*.
- Randomized clinical trial (RCT):** An experiment designed to test the safety and efficacy of a medical technology in which people are randomly allocated to experimental or control groups, and outcomes are compared.
- Respiratory distress syndrome (RDS):** An acute respiratory disorder which, in premature infants, is thought to be caused by a deficiency of pulmonary surfactant. In severe form, patients often need mechanical assistance to breathe.
- Resuscitation:** The return to life or consciousness of one who is apparently dead or whose respirations have ceased.
- Retrospective study:** Study in which effects are observed without any control over the original process of assignment. Compare *prospective study*.
- Rubella (German measles):** A mild viral illness that causes a diffuse reddish rash and swollen lymph glands. Infection in a pregnant woman is of greatest concern, as it can lead to miscarriage, stillbirth, or birth defects.
- School-based clinics:** Clinics in or near junior or senior high schools that typically offer a variety of health care services, including physical examinations, treatment for minor acute illness, preventive services, family planning, pregnancy testing, prenatal care, and screening for venereal disease.
- Self-selection bias:** The likelihood that people who seek more care, or different kinds of care are inherently different in terms of their health risks from those who do not.
- Sensitivity analysis:** A study of the effect of changes in assumptions on the findings of a cost-effectiveness analysis.
- Sensitivity of a test:** The percentage of all those who actually have the condition being tested for who are correctly identified as positive by the test. Operationally, it is the number of true positive test results divided by the number of patients that actually have the disease (true positives divided by the sum of true positives plus false negatives). Compare *specificity of a test*.
- Sickle cell anemia (SCA):** A genetic disorder of hemoglobin synthesis leading to the production of abnormal red blood cells. Infants with sickle cell anemia are at risk of overwhelming infection and sudden death in the first few years of life. Painful episodes of vaso-occlusive crises are the hallmark of sickle cell anemia, although there is wide variability in expression of the disease in older patients.
- Specificity of a test:** The percentage of all those who do not have the condition being tested for who are correctly identified as negative by the test. Operationally, it is the number of negative test results divided by the number of patients that actually have the disease (true negatives divided by the sum of true negatives plus false positives). Compare *sensitivity of a test*.
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program:** A Federal income support program for low-income disabled, aged, and blind persons.
- Technology-dependent children:** Children requiring the use of a medical device to compensate for the loss of use of a body function and substantial and complex daily nursing care to avert death or further disability.
- Tetanus:** A noncommunicable disease caused by the

- toxin released from the bacteria *Clostridium tetani* resulting in trismus (“lockjaw”), generalized muscle spasm, arching of the back, glottal spasm, seizures, or respiratory spasms and paralysis.
- Third-party payment:** Payment by a private health insurer or government program to a medical provider for care given to a patient.
- Tocodynamometry:** See *ambulatory tocodynamometry*.
- Tocolytic:** Stopping the onset of premature labor during pregnancy.
- Trimester:** A period of **3 months**.
- Tuberculosis:** A chronic infectious disease of humans and animals caused by any of several species of mycobacteria. It usually begins with lesions in the lung, but can spread to other parts of the body.
- Ultrasound:** High-frequency sound waves that can be focused and used to picture tissues, organs, structures, or tumors within the body.
- Vaccination:** The deliberate introduction of an antigenic substance (vaccine) into an individual with the aim of producing immunity to a disease. Used interchangeably with the term immunization in this report.
- Vaccine:** A preparation of living, attenuated, or killed bacteria or viruses, fractions thereof, or synthesized antigens identical or similar to those found in the disease-causing organisms, that is administered to produce or increase immunity to a particular disease.
- Validity:** A measure of the extent to which an observed situation reflects the “true” situation. Internal validity is a measure of the extent to which study results reflect the true relationship of a technology to the outcome of interest in the study subjects. External validity is a measure of the extent to which study results can be generalized to the population which is represented by individuals in the study.
- Varicella:** Chickenpox.
- Very low birthweight:** Birthweight of less than 1,500 grams (3 lbs. 5 oz.).
- Well-child care:** Preventive health care for children, including immunization, physical examinations and other tests that screen for illness or developmental problems, health education, and parental guidance.