

Save the CDRC!!

In the Spring of 2005 Oregon's governor presented a budget that included a \$4.5 million reduction in funding for Oregon Health and Science University's Child Development and Rehabilitation Center. The CDRC serves more than 8,000 children, youth and adults with special health care needs from all parts of the state. Over half of the families served have Medicaid insurance, or no health insurance at all. The budget cuts would have reduced by over one half the number of children and youth served by CDRC, forcing many families to pay out-of-pocket or forgo needed services.



While preparing for a legislative hearing on the proposed budget cuts, CDRC director Dr. Brian Rogers learned about the Data Resource Center. He called upstairs (the DRC is located in the same building that houses CDRC) for help. DRC Research Associate Dana Zive flew to the rescue with a mini-lesson on how to locate state by state comparisons for the National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs (NS-CSHCN). Dr. Rogers was able to add to his testimony the fact that **before** the proposed cuts Oregon ranked lowest among the states in the proportion of children with special health care needs whose families have adequate support services, and fifth from the bottom for meeting the needs of CYSHCN for specific health care services.

The information Dr. Rogers found at www.cshchdata.org was included in materials posted on a CDRC website that was developed specifically to support the effort to restore the CDRC budget. The website is still up, but now its message reads, "SaveCDRC.org would like to thank everyone for their support... State legislators have approved our funding... we couldn't have done it without YOU!"

Postscript:

Information from the Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health now appears in several CDRC documents, including an article in the Doernbecher Children's Hospital newsletter and the CDRC web page on the Oregon Health and Science University website.