

About Nemours

Health & Prevention Services

Office of Health Policy & Advocacy

Nemours is a foundation which operates one of the nation's premier child health systems, including the Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children in Delaware, a children's hospital in Lake Nona, Florida due to open in 2012, and outpatient facilities throughout the Delaware Valley and northern and central Florida. Nemours' integrated health system extends beyond these nationally recognized clinical services to include research, advocacy, education and prevention services for all families in the communities we serve.



Nemours Health and Prevention Services

Nemours enhances our medical services through a holistic “whole-child” approach to health. Nemours Health and Prevention Services (NHPS) expands Nemours' reach beyond clinical care to consider the health of all of Delaware's children within their families and communities.

- Working hand-in-hand with communities statewide to emphasize child health promotion where children live, learn and grow
- Supporting implementation of child health promotion policies and practices and evaluating them to learn what is working best
- Sharing findings and contributing to the knowledge base in the field of child health promotion and disease prevention
- Advocating for social, environmental and behavioral change that will lead to healthier future generations of children

Going Beyond the Clinical Setting

This nation needs a child health system designed to reach children where they live, learn and play. Nemours has developed a model of care that integrates clinical preventive and treatment services for children with population-based prevention initiatives. No other health system in the nation has made the same level of investment in community-based prevention programs, policies and practices.

Although research shows that prevention efforts targeting children can both improve child health in the short term and encourage healthy lifestyles with lasting benefits into adulthood, only 5% of health dollars are spent on prevention. This significantly impacts children because the most fundamental purpose of health care for children is to promote healthy development. Recently, increased attention has been given to the need for prevention initiatives. The political climate is ripe to encourage investment in community-based prevention strategies for children and to further the integration of clinical care and population-based initiatives.



Addressing Obesity in Delaware: A Nemours Place-Based Initiative

5-2-1-Almost None is the Nemours Health & Prevention Services evidence-based campaign to promote healthy eating and physical activity.

NHPS developed a comprehensive, cross-sector obesity prevention initiative to reach all children in Delaware. To achieve the greatest impact, NHPS considers the many different places where children and families spend their time: schools, child care facilities, health care settings, community centers and neighborhoods. The goal is to reinforce consistent messages through policy and practice changes in each setting to help children make healthy food and lifestyle choices and to stay physically active.

NHPS in Schools

NHPS works with district-level teams of administrators, teachers, counselors, school nurses, parents and the students themselves to encourage wellness policies and provide training and educational tools that support policy and environmental changes to encourage healthier eating and more physical activity on school campuses.

NHPS & Child Care

One of the most ambitious and comprehensive sets of policies and practices is in the child care setting. Nemours worked with government leaders to help Delaware become a frontrunner for policies that support healthy eating and physical activity. NHPS provides training and educational tools to help child care providers promote and model healthy behaviors for young children. In addition, NHPS advocates for adoption of healthy eating and physical activity principles as part of state quality rating and improvement systems for child care providers.

NHPS & Primary Care

Nemours convenes pediatric primary care providers from across the state to participate in study groups focused on improving office-based weight management and health promotion skills. Practitioners learn about new interventions and receive tools for use in the office setting, as well as take-home materials for families.

NHPS in the Community

NHPS works with youth-serving organizations, such as the YMCA of Delaware, the Boys and Girls Clubs and 4-H to promote healthy eating and physical activity and to develop a corps of champions who will model the behavior and help spread the message.

Nemours Office of Health Policy and Advocacy

Nemours leads as both a model of, and an advocate for, health policies and programs that seek to transform our system from a focus on sickness to a focus on wellness. Nemours is using our expertise to contribute to the advancement of national health policies to improve the health of all children, not just the children we directly serve.

In 2009, the Nemours Office of Health Policy and Advocacy will build on the expertise of Nemours to advocate for:

- Policies to promote integrated systems of medical care and population-based prevention initiatives
- Improvement in healthy eating and physical activity standards for children, particularly in child care settings
- Increased federal funding for community-based obesity prevention initiatives