



The Number of Children Affected

Amino acid-based elemental formulas provide the proper life sustaining nutrition for children and infants with severe multiple food allergies and related conditions. The number of children who require amino acid-based elemental formulas is quite small.

Prevalence and Need

Based on the expert advice of medical professionals as well as verified statistics from a number of state health offices, we have found that the number of those who rely on these formulas is very low. According to Dr. Robert Wood, MD, Professor of Pediatrics and International Health and the Director of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, 1 - 2% of the 2.5% of children who have a milk allergy, require an amino acid-based elemental formula. This translates, on average, to less than four-tenths of one percent. Dr. Wood has stated that the highest estimate would be 10% of the 2.5%.

We have also verified the accuracy of these projections based on actual figures regarding the usage of amino acid-based elemental formulas from state WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition for Women, Infants and Children) departments, which provide coverage for the formulas. Data from Maryland showed that ninety two (92) of the 84,716 infants and children on WIC received amino acid-based elemental formulas, or 0.1086%.

Integrating these statistical methods leads us to conclude that the prevalence is roughly 0.1% or lower

Potential Impact of Legislation

While our estimation of the prevalence is roughly 0.1% or lower, the legislation will not impact all those who require amino acid-based elemental formulas. As previously mentioned, state Medicaid and WIC programs provide coverage. Only those with private insurance would be impacted.

There is state-by-state variance, as far as the percentage of the population with 'public' versus private insurance, as well as the population of uninsured. Nationally, 27% of children are on Medicaid, 1% are on other public programs and 12% are uninsured. The legislation would have no effect on these groups. Therefore, based on national projections from the Kaiser Family Foundation regarding children (0-18):

Only 60% of children requiring elemental formulas would be affected by this legislation