Research Shows Home Visiting Works

**Improves family safety and parenting**

Partnerships for Families ("PFF") achieved reduced rates of re-referral to child protective services, substantiated allegations of maltreatment, DCFS case openings, and removal from the home (Brooks et al., 2011).1

Early Head Start ("EHS") was shown to reduce child welfare encounters between 5-9 years of age, subsequent encounters, and substantiated reports of physical or sexual abuse (Green et al., 2014).2

Healthy Families America ("HFA") and Nurse Family Partnership ("NFP") both had positive impacts on reducing child maltreatment (Paulsell et al., 2010),3 the Nurse-Family Partnership home visiting program has been shown to reduce child maltreatment by 48% (Children Now, 2014).4

Welcome Baby ("WB") moms demonstrated stronger teaching skills and affection towards their children at 36 months (First 5 LA, 2015).5

**Improves health behaviors and outcomes, including HEDIS measures**

Mothers who receive home visits during pregnancy are nearly half as likely to deliver low birth weight babies — saving $40,000 for each averted low-weight birth (Children Now, 2014).6

HFA was shown to decreases the risk of delivering a low birth weight baby and improve expectant mothers’ linkage to primary care providers before birth (Lee et al., 2009)7; it was also shown to increase well-child visits received and improve whether the child had health insurance (Avellar and Supplee, 2013).8

The WB rate of return for postpartum care within 21-56 days of delivery (the HEDIS guideline) was 87.5%; higher than LA County’s Medi-Cal plans, higher than the national Medicaid population, and higher than for patients covered by private insurance (Careaga, 2012).9 WB moms are also 40%-60% more likely to exclusively breastfeed their babies at four months postpartum (Benatar et al, 2012).10

NFP was shown to improve emergency room visit use rates for child enrollees (Avellar & Supplee, 2013).11; children in NFP are also significantly more likely to be up-to-date on immunizations at 6, 18, and 24 months (Thorland et al., 2017)12 and NFP moms also exhibited longer inter-birth intervals (Ols et al., 2007).13

**Decreases reliance on public assistance**

NFP moms had less use of welfare and food stamps and fewer subsequent births (Ols et al., 2007).14

At age 19, daughters of NFP enrollees had fewer children and less reliance on Medicaid (Eckenrode et al., 2012).15

EHS has been shown to positively impact parents’ participation in education, job training activities and employment (Admin for Children and Families, 2006).16

Children who receive home visiting services have also been shown to exhibit better cognitive and social development and better school performance - key building blocks for job readiness.

**Improves cognitive and social development**

According to Health and Human Services’ systematic review of the research on home visiting, several different home visiting models, including Early Head Start, Healthy Families America, Nurse Family Partnership, and Parents as Teachers all had a positive impact on child development and school readiness (Paulsell et al., 2010).17

EHS showed positive impact on children’s cognitive development by 36 months (Roggman et al., 2009).18 At 36 months, WB babies demonstrate enhanced communication and interpersonal skills, social competence, and engagement and attention (Sandstrom et al., 2015).19

PAT children score higher on reading, math and language in elementary grades (Orazem & Haust, 1995).20 NFP enrollees had higher cognitive and vocabulary scores at age 6 and higher grade point averages and test scores in math and reading at age 9 (Olds et al., 2004 and 2007).21-23

Children who participated in Healthy Families America were half as likely to repeat 1st grade (3.5% vs 7.1%) as those who did not participate (Children Now, 2014).24

Comparing to non-PAT children, PAT children were shown to require half the rate of remedial and special education placements in third grade (Plannerstein et al., 2002).25

**Improves mental health**

Participation in the LA County PFF program had a significant impact on reducing parental depression, mood swings, and aggression/anger, especially for prenatally enrolled moms (Reuter et al, 2016).26

EHS showed positive impact on children’s attachment by 18 months (Roggman et al., 2009).27

An evaluation of LA County’s Welcome Baby program showed that moms had lower parenting stress and stronger maternal responsiveness at 36 months compared to the control (Urban Institute, 2018).28

**Citations**

8) Careaga, D. “Welcome Baby Strategic Partnership Hospital Letter of Intent” (First 5 LA, July 2012).