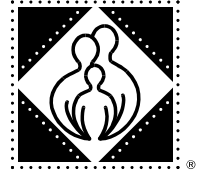


# Healthy Families America Reduces Child Maltreatment<sup>1</sup>



## **Healthy Families America reduces child abuse and neglect and helps keep families together.**

Innumerable scientific studies have documented the link between the abuse and neglect of children and a wide range of medical, emotional, psychological and behavioral disorders. For example, abused and neglected children are more likely to suffer from depression, alcoholism, drug abuse and severe obesity. By reducing the risk factors that lead to abuse, Healthy Families America programs are reducing the incidence of abuse.

⊙ **Arizona (Davenport):** Only 3.3% of program participants versus 8.5% of comparison group members had substantiated reports of abuse.

⊙ **Florida (Edwards):** Ninety-nine percent of participants in Healthy Families Jacksonville had no reports of child maltreatment for the 12 months following the target child's birth. The goal was 95%.

⊙ **Florida (Nelson):** In FY 00-01, the maltreatment rate among program participants was 14 out of 875 (1.6%) cases. Maltreatment estimates for Pinellas County during that same time period were 4.9%.

⊙ **Florida (Williams):** Ninety-eight percent of children had no verified indication of child maltreatment within 18 months following successful program completion.

⊙ **Georgia:** Scores on the Child Abuse Inventory, an assessment tool, indicate program parents were significantly less at risk for abuse than parents who did not receive services.

⊙ **Hawaii (Breakey):** Of 1,738 high-risk children served, four children (0.2%) were hospitalized for maltreatment. Among 2,728 families who screened positive but were not served by the program, 38 children (1.4%) were hospitalized for maltreatment, a rate 5.89 times the rate for those served by the program.

⊙ **Hawaii (McCurdy):** Families receiving program services had significantly fewer substantiated cases of abuse or neglect (3.3%) compared to 6.8% from the control group.

Between enrollment and 12 months of participation, there was also a significant reduction in scores that measure parental child abuse potential.

⊙ **Iowa:** With 826 families on the caseload in FY '00, 775 (93.8%) had no reports for child maltreatment.

⊙ **Maryland (Klagholz):** Healthy Families Maryland has only had a total of two indicated reports (both for neglect) out of 254 families served in its four years of program operation (.008 or 8 per 1,000 children).

⊙ **New Jersey:** From 1996-99 only 45 of 1,331 (3.4%) Healthy Families New Jersey families had substantiated reports of abuse or neglect. Having 96.6% of families free of child abuse and neglect exceeds the goal of 85%.

⊙ **Oregon:** The 1999 incidence rate of child abuse was lower for participating families (13 per 1,000 children age 0-2) than for non-served families in the same counties (25 per 1,000 age 0-2).

⊙ **Virginia (Galano 2):** All programs equaled or exceeded the statewide goal of having no child abuse or neglect reports for 95% of families who received services for at least 12 months.

⊙ **Virginia (Barrett):** From October 1993 to March 1997 only 2% of participating children had a substantiated report of child maltreatment (and all were for neglect).

<sup>1</sup> This report highlights findings from 18 studies conducted in 11 states over the past decade. The study designs range from pre-post analysis to statewide comparison and randomized trials.