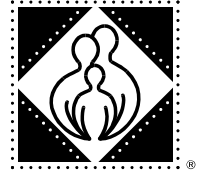


Healthy Families America Helps Ensure Healthy Child Development¹



Families are healthier, better insured, and use medical services more appropriately.

Research shows that families enrolled in Healthy Families America are healthier and use medical services more appropriately than comparable members of the general population. Among reported findings in this area, 94% to 100% of participating children and 86% to 96% of parents were linked to a primary medical provider.

Health care utilization and insurance

⊙ **Iowa:** Only 11 participating families (1.3%) reported having no health care coverage. This compares to Iowa's average uninsured rate of 17%. Of the 633 families who received program services, 84% utilized Medicaid.

⊙ **Maryland (Klagholz):** Ninety-six percent of participating mothers and 100% of babies had a medical home.

⊙ **New York:** Seventy-five percent of children participating in the program received the recommended number of well-baby visits by 15 months compared to 46% of children enrolled in New York State Medicaid managed care plans. In New York City, 78% of participating children had five to six visits vs. 36% of the Medicaid population.

Emergency room usage

⊙ **Michigan:** Emergency room use among the control group and the short-term intervention group was 42% and 21% respectively. Among program participants, emergency use was much lower (6.2%).

⊙ **Virginia (Galano I):** Over a three-year period, home-visited families made fewer visits to the emergency room per year than families in the control group.

Healthy Families America families have higher immunization rates.

Of the 13 studies measuring this outcome, immunization rates ranged from a low of 73% to a high of 100% (only three programs reported rates below 90%). Studies that included comparison data found immunization rates among program participants to be consistently higher than rates among comparison groups. Because Healthy Families America programs typically serve low-income families with multiple challenges, the program's ability to motivate parents to access timely well-baby care is impressive.

⊙ **Florida (Nelson):** Ninety-nine percent (272 of 276) of target children were compliant with recommended immunization schedules by age two.

⊙ **Georgia:** At one year of age, 98% of the children in the intervention group receiving home visitation services were completely up-to-date on their immunizations. The statewide immunization rate is about 80%.

⊙ **Michigan:** Ninety-nine percent of the participating children were current on immunizations compared to 72% of the children in the control group.

⊙ **New York:** Immunizations were up-to-date at twelve months of age for 96% of the home-visited children compared to 80% of children statewide.

⊙ **Oregon:** Ninety-seven percent of children in higher risk families receiving intensive services for 24 months or more were appropriately immunized.

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Healthy Families America mothers are more likely to seek prenatal care.

Women enrolled in Healthy Families America during the prenatal period experienced fewer birth complications, delivered a greater number of full-term babies, and had fewer low birth weight babies than individuals who did not receive prenatal home visiting services.

⊙ **New Jersey:** Premature infants of prenatally enrolled mothers had higher mean birth weights than those of postnatal enrollees (6.3 lbs vs. 5.3 lbs.).

⊙ **Oregon:** Sixty-eight percent of mothers received early, comprehensive prenatal care during their first pregnancy before entering the program. In contrast, while enrolled in the program, 88% received adequate prenatal care for their second pregnancies.

⊙ **Virginia (Galano I):** Only 18% of participating mothers had infants born with one or more birth complication compared with 40% of control group mothers. Overall, 85% of participating mothers had no pregnancy risk factors compared with about 50% of control group moms.

¹ 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.