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## FACT SHEET: **Family Retention**

### ***Healthy Families America Implementation Study***

This fact sheet on family retention is based on the report of the Healthy Families America Implementation Study (May 2004)<sup>1</sup>. The primary sample for the study includes approximately 100 sites in nine states or Healthy Families America systems. This number is approximate as the number of sites and states represented in each area of the study varies considerably. The study provides the most comprehensive picture of Healthy Families America implementation status to date. Overall, the results reveal that sites vary in their implementation in ways that may affect family outcomes in areas such as parent-child interaction, child development and child abuse and neglect. The study provides a foundation for interpreting the differences in these outcomes from site to site.

### **Summary of Results**

#### **Family Retention:**

- ▶ On average, about half of families remain in the program for at least one year, though some sites retained a higher percent of families for one year or longer.

#### **Site Maturity:**

- ▶ Older sites and those with high staff retention had higher family retention, though the difference was small.
- ▶ Older sites show significantly higher retention than newer sites at 12 and 24 months.
- ▶ Mothers who are older and have fewer risk factors, but less formal education, tended to stay in the program longer.
- ▶ Years of education was significantly related to retention.
- ▶ Married mothers had higher retention than single mothers.

#### **Race/Ethnicity:**

- ▶ Retention was higher when the home visitor was older than the mother.
- ▶ Family retention was greater when mothers and FSWs were of the same race/ethnicity. Retention among moms of the same race/ethnicity as the FSW averaged 10.2 months.
- ▶ At the 3 month retention marker only, sites serving predominantly Latino families showed higher retention.

#### **FSW Retention:**

- ▶ Sites with greater retention of FSWs for at least 24 months were associated with higher family retention from 3 to 24 months.

<sup>1</sup>See Harding, K., Reid, R., Oshana, D., & Holton, J., (April 2004). [Initial results of the HFA implementation study](#). National Center on Child Abuse Prevention Research, Prevent Child Abuse America: Chicago, IL.

