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## FACT SHEET: [Service Intensity](#)

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

This fact sheet on service intensity is based on the report of the Healthy Families America Implementation Study (May 2004)<sup>i</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**

#### **Service Intensity:**

- ▶ Ideally, Healthy Families America provides at least six months of weekly home visits (Level 1). After six months of weekly home visits, families may move to Level 2 (i.e., two visits per month). However, the reality is that programs face challenges in scheduling parents for visits. Averaging across study sites, a considerable number of families receive less than the recommended number of visits during the first six months post birth (i.e., less than four visits per month).
- ▶ **Frequency of visits on Level 1 overall:** for the typical site, 31% of families receive three visits per month.
- ▶ **Frequency of visits on Level 2:** for the typical site, 66% of families receive 1.5 or more home visits per month.

#### **Site Differences on Intensity:**

- ▶ Half of the study sites delivered most or all expected visits to at least 40% of families during the first six months post-birth (a portion of Level 1).
- ▶ At Level 2, more sites are able to deliver the expected number of visits (1.5 or more per month) to a larger percentage of families (median = 67%).
- ▶ Sites serving predominantly African-American families delivered fewer visits than sites serving predominantly Anglo families and sites serving multiple groups, for Level 2.
- ▶ Some sites demonstrate high performance, but overall it is difficult for many to provide weekly home visits. In addition to scheduling challenges related to work and school enrollment, many families may need time to fully engage in the program.

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<sup>i</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.

