



FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT

The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) gives states, territories, and tribes the option to use child welfare programming funds (Title IV-E federal funds) for evidence-based preventive services. The **Healthy Families America® (HFA) model has received the highest possible rating** of “well-supported” through the Prevention Services Clearinghouse, demonstrating favorable outcomes in areas impacting child and adult well-being, family functioning, and positive parenting practices.

Healthy Families America is the nationally recognized, evidence-based home visiting program of Prevent Child Abuse America. HFA builds a strong foundation for safe and secure relationships between caregiver and child, maximizing opportunities for all children to reach their full potential. Families enroll voluntarily in HFA as early as prenatally or at birth and work one-on-one with a Family Support Specialist in the home, receiving services tailored to their needs, until the child is five years old.

HFA demonstrates positive outcomes for children and families, including reductions in child abuse and neglect. These positive outcomes represent findings from independent researchers replicated across multiple studies, including randomized control trial and quasi-experimental studies. This growing body of independent research shows HFA decreases child maltreatment.

OUR OUTCOMES HFA HELPS PREVENT CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

Eight studies show that HFA has **early impacts on child maltreatment prevention** among children ages 1 to 3 years old, including:



Eight studies looking at families with children up to 3 years old show that HFA has **impacts on child maltreatment prevention**, including:

HFA HELPS REDUCE CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES INVOLVEMENT.

49%
FEWER SUBSTANTIATED
CPS REPORTS

In a study looking at outcomes up to age 7, school-age children of young, first time moms who enrolled in HFA early in pregnancy were **49% less likely to experience an indicated Child Protective Services (CPS) report.**

HFA **prevents the recurrence of child maltreatment by 1/3** among families with prior CPS involvement.

HFA INCREASES POSITIVE PARENTING PRACTICES.



HFA parents had more confidence in themselves as parents and did more to promote healthy child development, such as having **more positive interactions with their children.**

HFA parents also used more positive discipline with less yelling and **less physical punishment.**

Over the past several years, **HFA has developed an optional child welfare adaptation**, which maintains the expected rigor and fidelity requirements providers have expected from HFA for almost 30 years. HFA sites that have received national office approval to utilize this adaptation are able to extend enrollment for families with a child up to 24 months of age referred by the child welfare system. Consistent with HFA requirements, voluntary services will be offered for a minimum of three years, regardless of the age of the child at intake.

HFA's evidence of effectiveness and the flexibility of enrollment offered through the child welfare adaptation make HFA a great prevention choice for states and child welfare organizations seeking to strengthen families and reduce the number of children placed in foster care.

GETTING STARTED

Existing HFA sites and systems interested in learning more should contact their HFA Training and Technical Assistance Specialist at the national office. Organizations not yet affiliated with HFA and interested in the child welfare adaptation should reach out to one of our Site Development Specialists at hfamail@preventchildabuse.org.