



illuminate
Building Brighter Childhoods

Child Welfare System Interim Study Committee

August 22, 2023

Illuminate Colorado's mission is to strengthen families, organizations and communities to prevent child maltreatment

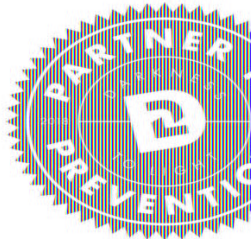
illuminatecolorado.org



Together, we can prevent child abuse, America... *Because childhood lasts a lifetime.*

Illuminate Colorado nurtures strong partnerships and formal affiliations with several national organizations to develop and implement programs, policies and initiatives that build brighter childhoods in Colorado.

Illuminate serves as the Colorado Chapter of the following organizations:



We Work Upstream and Downstream to Strengthen Families



Primary Prevention

We work upstream to **strengthen all families** and stop child maltreatment **before it ever starts.**



Secondary Prevention

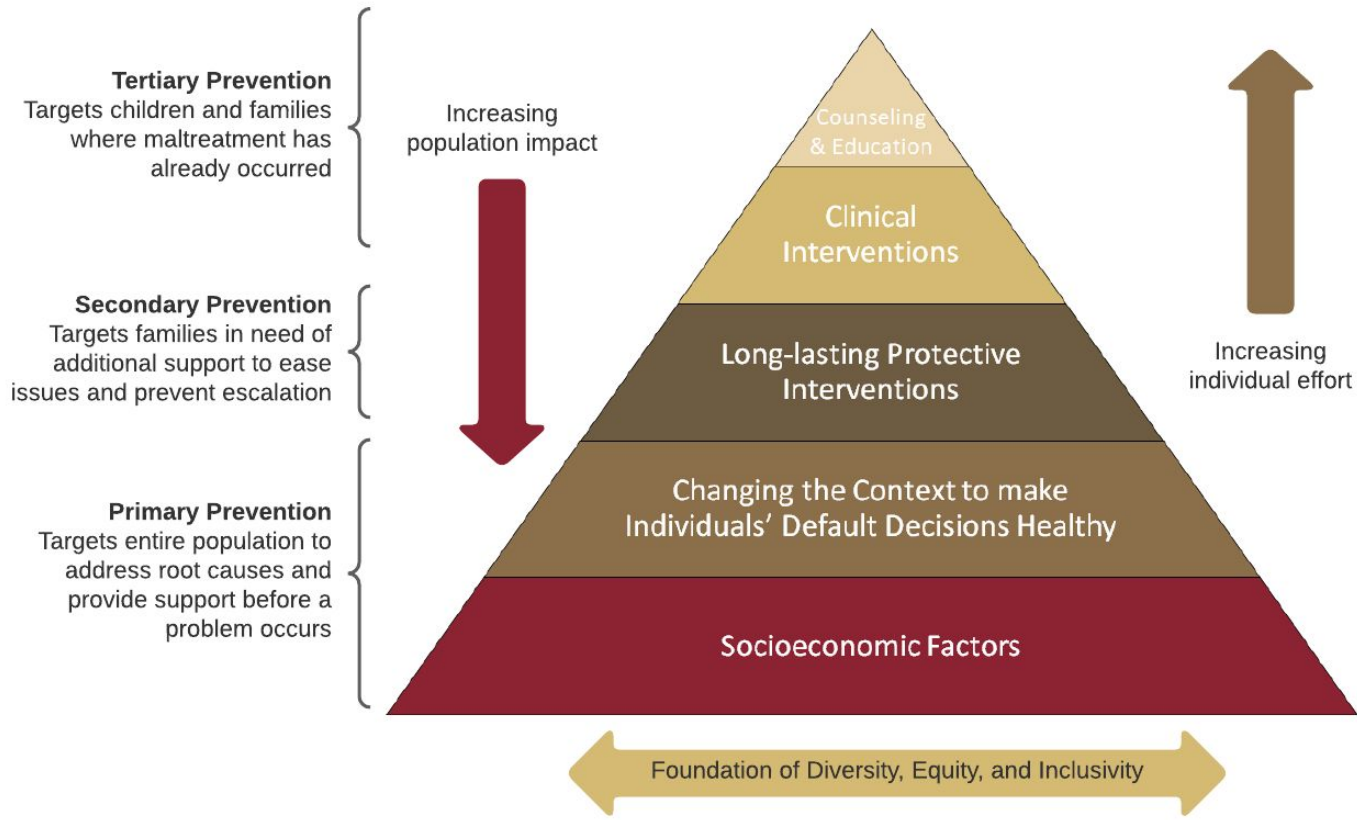
We bring focused energy and attention to **strengthen families with risk factors** associated with child maltreatment.



Tertiary Prevention

We collaborate to **strengthen families involved in the child protection system** to give children who have experienced maltreatment brighter futures.

A Statewide Approach for Child Maltreatment Prevention and Family Well-Being



Adverse Childhood Experiences

Abuse



Physical



Emotional



Sexual

Neglect



Physical



Emotional

Household



Mental Illness



Mother Treated
Violently



Parental Separation
or Divorce



Incarcerated Household
Member



Caregiver Substance
Use Disorder

Adverse Childhood Experiences

ACEs are linked to chronic health problems, mental illness, and substance use problems in adolescence and adulthood. ACEs can also negatively impact education, job opportunities, and earning potential.

1 in 6

1 in 6 adults experienced four or more types of ACEs.

5 of 10

At least 5 of the top 10 leading causes of death are associated with ACEs.

44%

Preventing ACEs could reduce the number of adults with depression by as much as 44%.

ACES are NOT predictive. They can be prevented and mitigated.

Protective Factors

Strengthening Families™ is a research-informed approach to increase family strengths, enhance child development and reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. It is based on engaging families, programs and communities in **building five key protective factors.**



Parental Resilience



Social Connections



Concrete Support in Times of Need



Knowledge of Parenting & Child Development



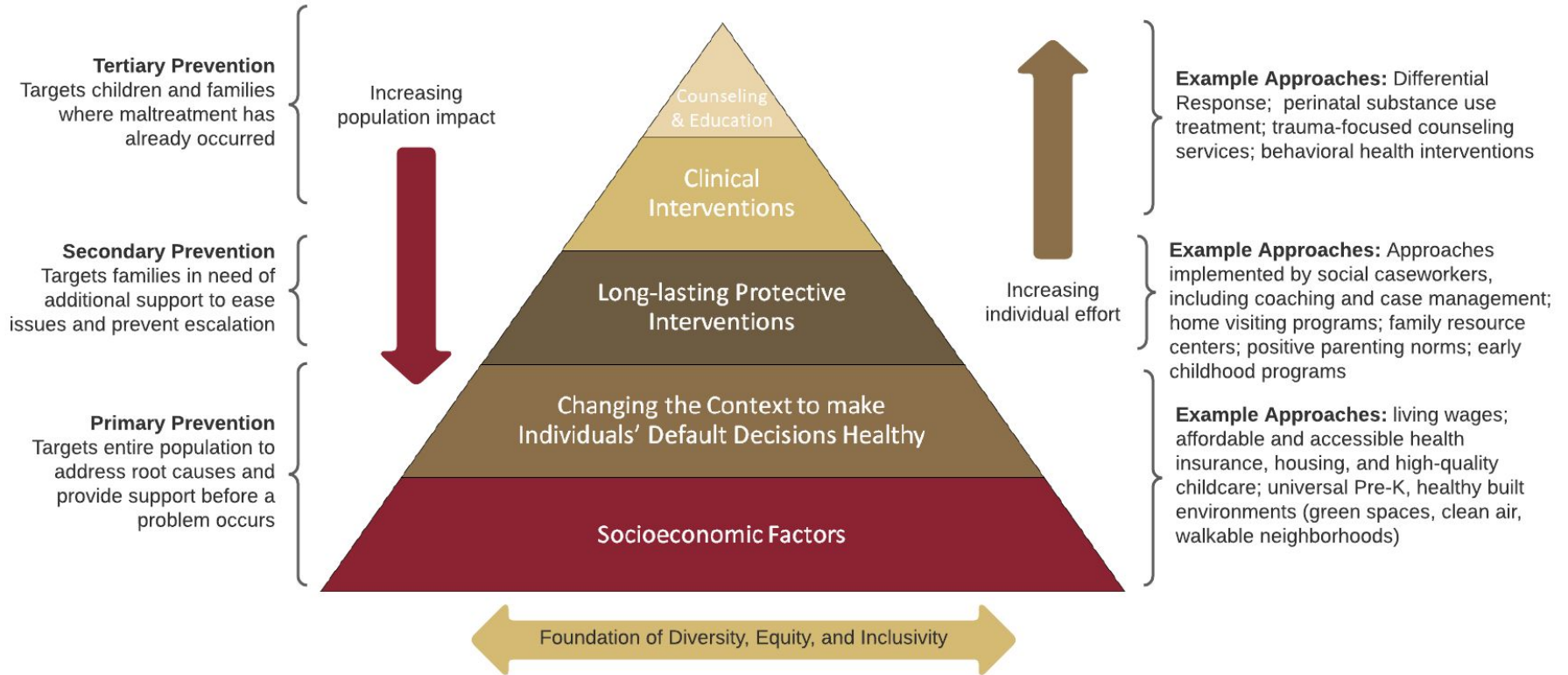
Social & Emotional Competence of Children

Positive Childhood Experiences

Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs) promote healthy development and mitigate harms, building a strong foundation for children to thrive into happy, healthy adults.

- Felt able to talk to their family about feelings
- Felt their family stood by them during difficult times
- Enjoyed participating in community traditions
- Felt a sense of belonging in high school
- Felt supported by friends
- Had at least two non-parent adults who took genuine interest in them
- Felt safe and protected by an adult in their home

A Statewide Approach for Child Maltreatment Prevention and Family Well-Being



Citation: Everson, C.L. & Klopfenstein, K. (June 2021). *Colorado Partnership for Thriving Families: A toolkit for actionable data and collective impact evaluation.* (Report No. 20-05A). Denver, CO: Colorado Evaluation and Action Lab at the University of Denver.

INFLUENCING POLICY

➤ Policy strengthens families and prevents child maltreatment.

CHANGING ORGANIZATIONAL PRACTICE

➤ Organizations are structured to strengthen families and prevent child maltreatment.

FOSTERING COALITIONS & NETWORKS

➤ Coalitions and networks advance strategies, policies and practices that strengthen families and prevent child maltreatment.

STRENGTHENING INDIVIDUAL SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE

➤ Families maintain and apply protective factors that strengthen families and prevent child maltreatment.

PROMOTING COMMUNITY EDUCATION

➤ Community norms build protective factors that strengthen families and prevent child maltreatment.

EDUCATING PROFESSIONALS

➤ Professionals strengthen families and prevent child maltreatment.



IMPACT: Child maltreatment in Colorado is prevented through strong families, organizations, communities and policies.

Programs & Services

www.illuminatecolorado.org/programs-services

COLORADO PARTNERSHIP FOR
THRIVING FAMILIES

**COLORADO
CONNECTED**



SuPPoRT
Colorado

Supporting Perinatal substance use Prevention,
Recovery, and Treatment in Colorado



ILLUMINATING CHILD CARE



COLORADO
strengthening familiesSM
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL POLICY
A PROTECTIVE FACTORS FRAMEWORK



Child Abuse & Neglect Expert Staffing (CANES)
Colorado Infant Safe Sleep Partnership
Colorado Toxicology Resource Guide
Youth Thrive & Youth Thrive for Youth
FASD Navigation
Policy Advocacy

Colorado is on the right track!

- **HB21-1258** Rapid Mental Health Response For Colorado Youth (Social & Emotional Competence of Children)
- **HB22-1289** Health Benefits For Colorado Children And Pregnant Persons (Parental Resilience, Knowledge of Parenting & Child Development)
- **HB22-1414** Healthy Meals For All Public School Students (Concrete Support in Times of Need)
- **HB22-1259** Modifications To Colorado Works Program (Concrete Support in Times of Need)
- **SB23-288** Coverage For Doula Services (Parental Resilience, Social Connections, Knowledge of Parenting & Child Development)
- **HB23-1112** Earned Income and Child Tax Credits (Concrete Support in Times of Need)

Invest in family well-being infrastructure outside of the child welfare system

Recommendations

- **Support Family Resource Centers across Colorado**
- **Continue to strengthen Home Visitation in Colorado**
 - For example, Family Connects as an evidence-based model for universal support of families upon the birth of child
- **Invest in Community Led solutions and strategies**
 - For example, Circle of Parents as an evidence-informed model for building protective factors through parent support groups

Family Connects Colorado

Connecting every family to a healthy future



3 Weeks In

Expect a visit around 3 weeks after birth



For All

Helping every family with a newborn



Registered Nurses

All nurses are highly skilled professionals



No Cost

As a parent, there is no additional cost to you

Family Connects Outcomes

Mothers

Mothers were 28% less likely to report possible clinical anxiety at infant age 6 months.

Mothers reported more positive parenting behaviors and were more responsive to their baby at age 6 months.

Mothers were more likely to complete their 6-week postpartum health check.

Babies

Total child emergency room visits and hospital overnights were reduced by 50% through age 12 months and 37% through age 2 years; \$3.17 reduction in total hospital billing costs for every \$1.00 in program costs.

Total child maltreatment investigations reduced by 44% through child age 2.

Families

Home environment were safer, and homes had more materials to support infant learning and development at age 6 months.

Families reported more connections to community resources and more frequent use of those services at infant age 6 months.

Circle of Parents



Colorado Chapter
CIRCLE of PARENTS®

Sharing Ideas. Sharing Support.

Circle of Parents is a support group that provides a friendly, supportive community led by parents and other caregivers to share successes and challenges they may face in today's parenting.



Circle of Parents allows for parents to come as themselves– the raw, real, and flawed caregivers that they are– to share and learn about resources and different parenting styles.



Circle of Parents helps families to realize their own strengths and to see that they are truly not alone.



Narrow the “front door” to the child welfare system

Recommendations

- **Revisit campaign promoting mandatory reporting and consider instead messaging related to building protective factors**
 - For example: Colorado Connected as a social norms campaign focused on support seeking & social connections
- **Explore existing research on warmlines & helplines alongside child maltreatment reporting hotlines and study feasibility of a similar system in Colorado building off of existing infrastructure**
- **Revisit Colorado's statutory definitions - particularly those related to child neglect to minimize the conflation of poverty & neglect**

Colorado Connected is an initiative of the Colorado Partnership for Thriving Families and Illuminate Colorado, with support from the Colorado Department of Early Childhood and the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Connected communities are the core of a vibrant Colorado where children and families thrive. COConnected is building connections that surround families with supportive networks, so parents do not feel alone when faced with challenges. Doing so creates a safe, stable environment for children to grow up in and produce positive childhood experiences and outcomes.

CONNECTING FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES ACROSS COLORADO

MAKE A CONNECTION

Parents, neighbors, families and friends can find tips and tools for connecting in this section of our toolkit.

CONNECTION HUBS

Community organizations can find tips and tools for fostering connections in this section of our toolkit.

ACTIVITIES

Both organizations and local community groups can find ideas for group activities and events in this section of our toolkit.

How you doing?

Parenting mood:

Just two minutes
to go to the bathroom...
that's all I wanted.

Have not even
thought about
dinner yet.
#SendBackup

We made way more than
we need. Bringing you food.
#GotUrBack

#SendBackup

#GotUrBack



Asking for help isn't always easy. So ask for backup instead. Connected communities are critical for raising happy, healthy kids (and parents!) across Colorado.

CoConnected.org

**Strengthen programs
supporting families
involved with the child
welfare system to promote
healing and prevent
recurrence of maltreatment**

Recommendations

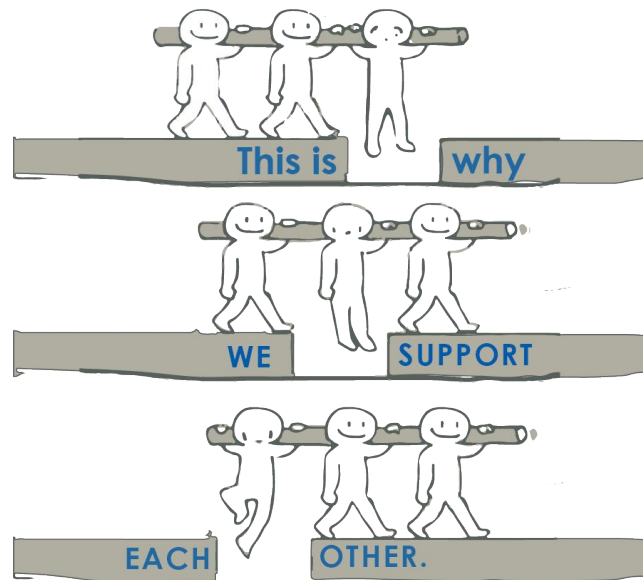
- **Increase access to peers and parent partners to support families involved with the child welfare system**
 - For example: Circle of Parents in Recovery implementation as a support to families with court involved child welfare cases
- **Maximize Family First Prevention Services Act funding by scaling evidence based programs to support families involved with the child welfare system**
 - For example: Healthy Families America evidence based child welfare adaptation as a program to support families

Circle of Parents in Recovery

As of today, 18 currently operating Circle of Parents groups are Circle of Parents in Recovery groups, supporting caregivers in recovery from a substance use disorder.

“Being able to actually discuss how you're feeling with people and just get support, you can get that here. In ways this group has honestly saved my life.”

- Circle of Parents Participant



Healthy Families America

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.**

Thank You & Questions

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Appendix



illuminate
Building Brighter Childhoods

Sources:

Minoff, Elisa and Alexandra Citrin. "Systemically Neglected: How Racism Structures Public Systems to Produce Child Neglect." Center for the Study of Social Policy, March 2022. Available at:

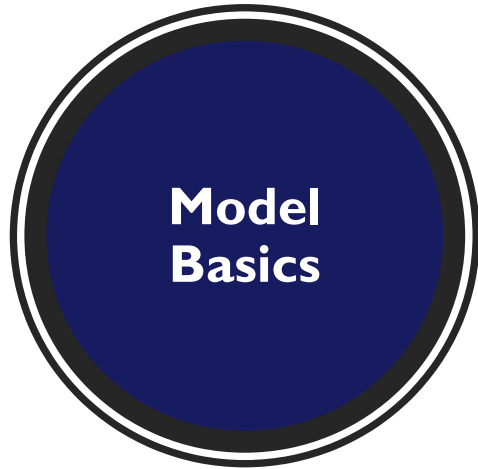
<https://cssp.org/resource/systemically-neglected/>

KFF. (2022). Racial disparities in maternal and infant health: Current status and efforts to address them. Retrieved From:

<https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/issue-brief/racial-disparities-in-maternal-and-infant-health-current-status-and-efforts-to-address-them/>

Monnet, Perrine. (2023). Accessibility of Care in Colorado. The Bell Policy Center. Retrieved from:

<https://www.bellpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/Accessibility-Of-Care.pdf>



Model Basics

Visit offered/scheduled
prior to discharge at
birthing hospitals

Visit scheduled
between 3 to 12
weeks postpartum

Available to ALL
families with newborns
living within a defined
geographic area

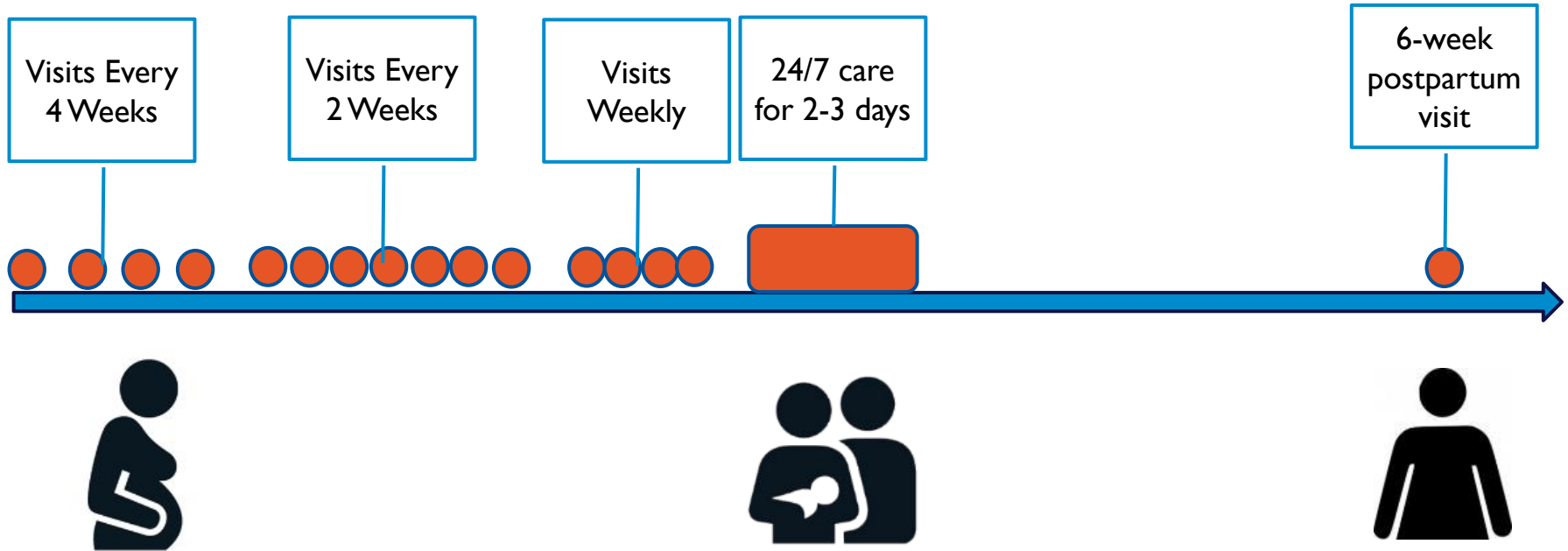
Six to eight new cases
per nurse per work
week

Follow-up contact
confirm linkages with
community resources

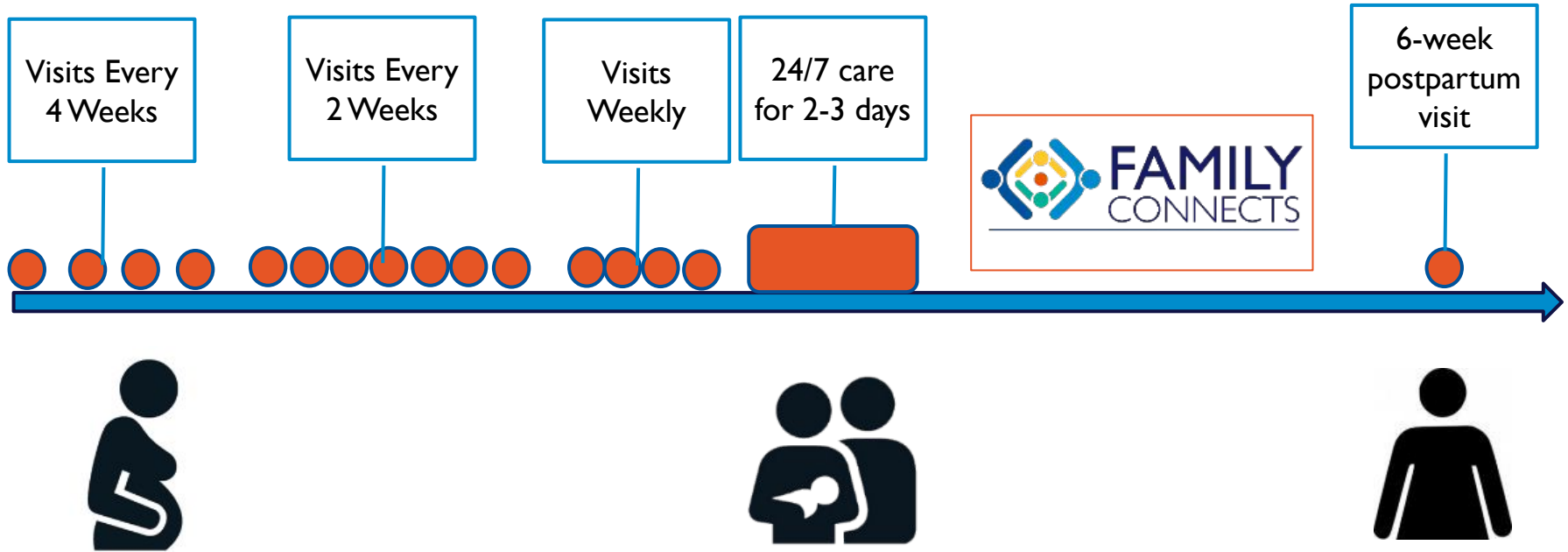
Nurse is an RN, but is
not required to
be a BSN



Current Health-Care System



Family Connects Intervention



Core Components



Integrated Home Visit: Family Support Matrix Domains

Support for Health Care

1. Maternal Health

2. Infant Health

3. Health Care Plans

Support for Infant Care

4. Child Care Plans

5. Parent-Child Relationship

6. Management of Infant Crying

Support for a Safe Home

7. Household Safety/Material Supports

8. Family and Community Safety

9. History with Parenting Difficulties

Support for Parent(s)

10. Parent Well Being

11. Substance Abuse in Household

12. Parent Emotional Support

Each factor is rated as:

1 = No family needs

2 = Needs addressed during visit

3 = Community resources needed

4 = Emergency intervention needed



Key health areas covered during a Family Connects nurse visit include:

Health assessment:

- Maternal vitals, including blood pressure check
- Infant vitals, including measurements of weight/length/head circumference
- Physical exam of mother as needed
- Full physical exam of infant at every home visit

Validated Screening tools:

- Social drivers
- Intimate Partner Violence
- Substance use
- Perinatal mood disorders

Evidence Based Education, Recommendations and Referrals:

- Infant feeding and care practices
- Safe sleep and SIDS prevention
- Breastfeeding support
- Postpartum warning signs
- Parent-child interaction assessment and coaching
- Reinforcement of connection to the medical home for mother and infant, to reduce unnecessary Emergency Department visits
- Assistance with obtaining health insurance coverage/enrolling in Medicaid, child care, and social services
- Postpartum care, including scheduling postpartum appointment as needed
- Referrals related to risk for medical concerns, social drivers, intimate partner violence/safety, postpartum mood disorders, substance use treatment, tobacco cessation, etc



At the end of the visit

- Each factor in the Family Support Matrix is scored at each visit
- Allows nurse and parent together to assess strengths, vulnerabilities and areas for potential referral or recommendation
- With consent of caregiver, information from the visit, including referrals made, is shared with pediatric and obstetric care providers



Community Alignment Domains



What did we learn?



Every family is vulnerable at the birth of a child

94% of families had 1+ need for nursing support and/or community resources



Community-wide eligibility is essential to population change

Does not replace intensive, targeted programs, but informs what families need



Population reach requires both a top down and a bottom up approach

Identify preventive system of care, align resources, reach all families
Assess risk, provide intervention, improve connections

RCT I evaluation results

Compared to control families, Durham Connects-eligible families had:

Age 6-Month Interviews

- More connections to community resources
- More mother-reported positive parenting behaviors
- Higher quality and safer home environments
- Higher quality childcare for those choosing out of home care
- Less maternal-reported anxiety

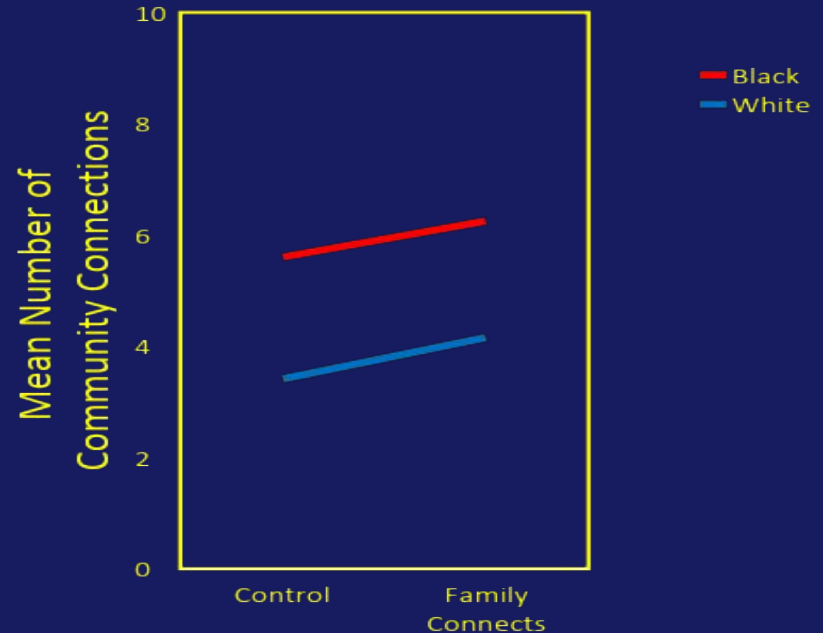
Age 24-Months Interviews

- More connections to community resources
- Less maternal-reported depression and anxiety
- Lower rates of CPS investigation for suspected abuse/neglect
- More likely to complete maternal 6-week postpartum health check
- More emergency department visits for mothers
- Fewer emergency department visits but more hospital overnights for infants as birth risk increased



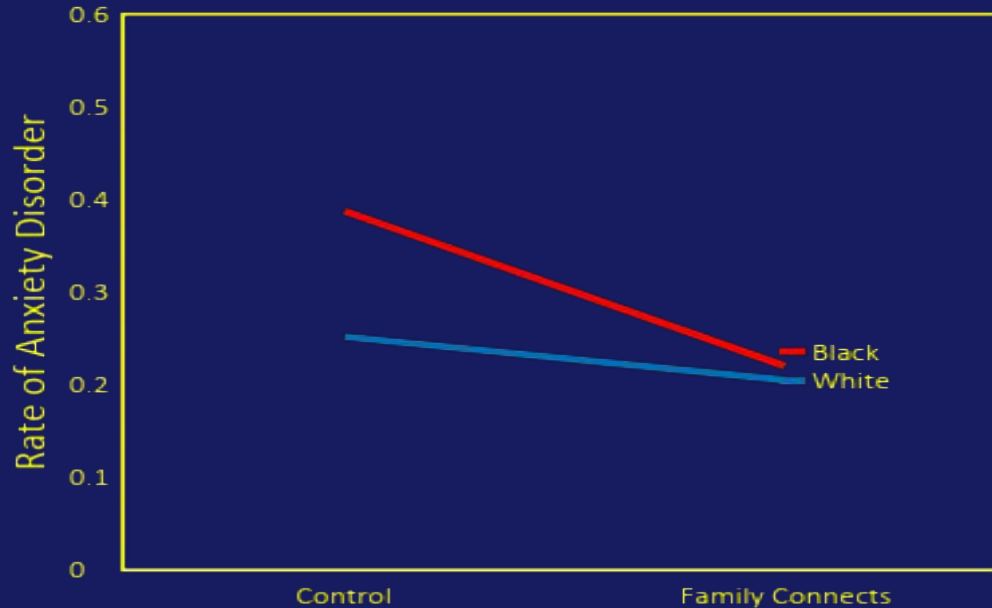
Family Connects RCT I Implementation Findings

1. Strong participation (80% participate. 86% of participating complete program)
2. High needs (94% report a need: half resolved by nurse and half connected to community)
3. Positive impact on access to community resource for Black & White families



RCT I. Family Connects at age 6 months:

- decreases maternal anxiety disorder by 34% and
- closes race disparity by 89%



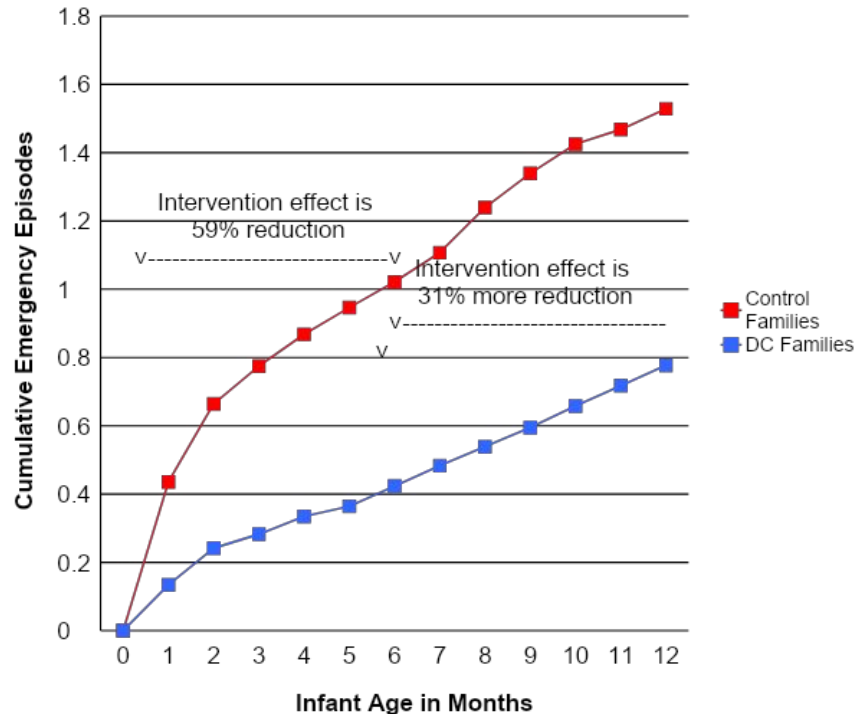
RCT I evaluation results: Child hospital administration records

Results at infant age 12 months from aggregate hospital records

-50% less total infant emergency medical care (ER visits + overnights in hospital)

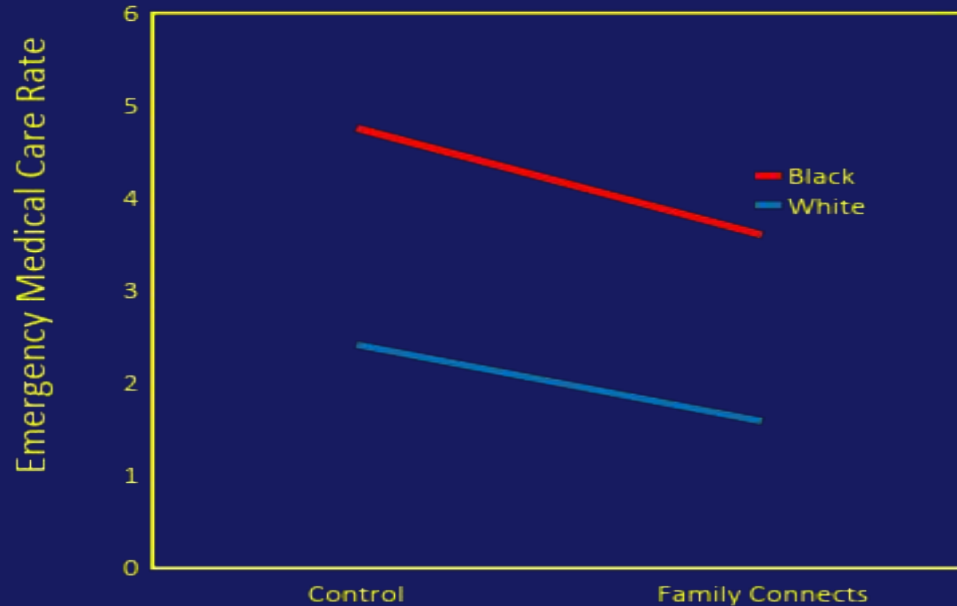
Results at infant age 24 months from aggregate hospital records

-37% less total infant emergency medical care (ER visits + overnights in hospital)

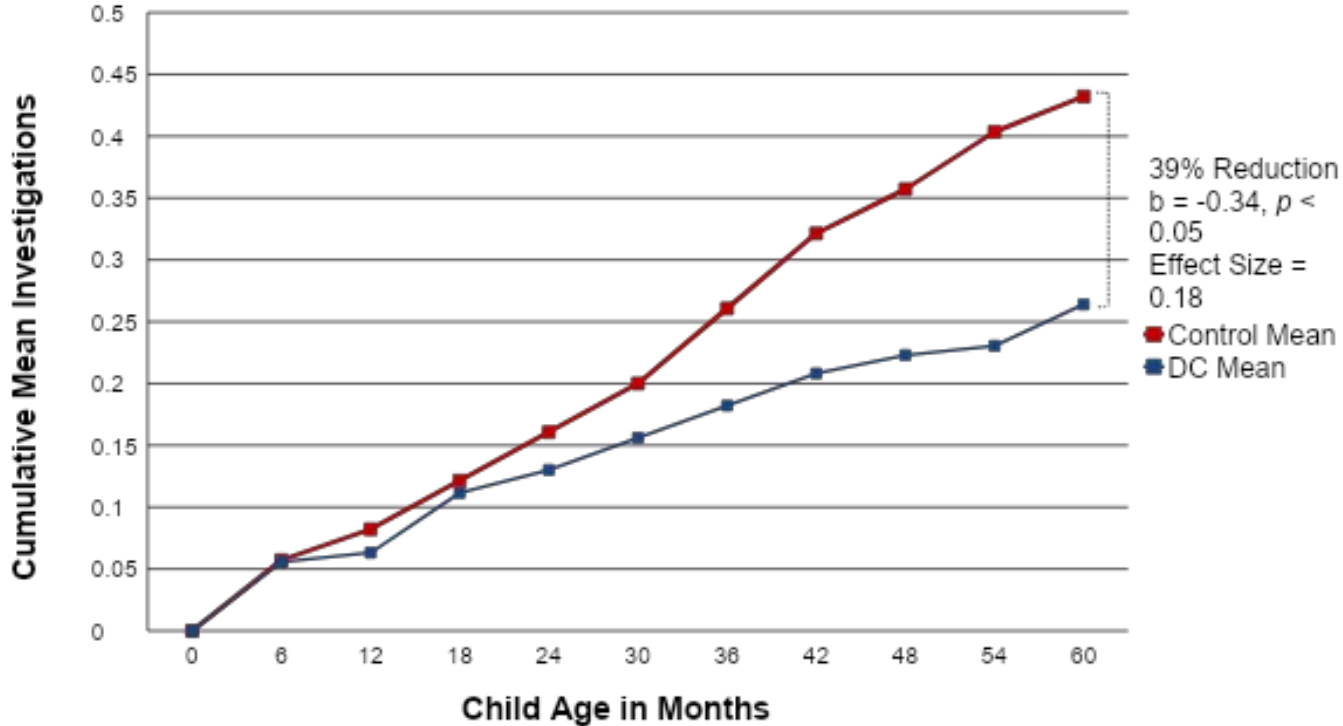


RCT I. Family Connects at age 60 months:

- decreases emergency medical care by 33%,
- closes race disparity by 14%.

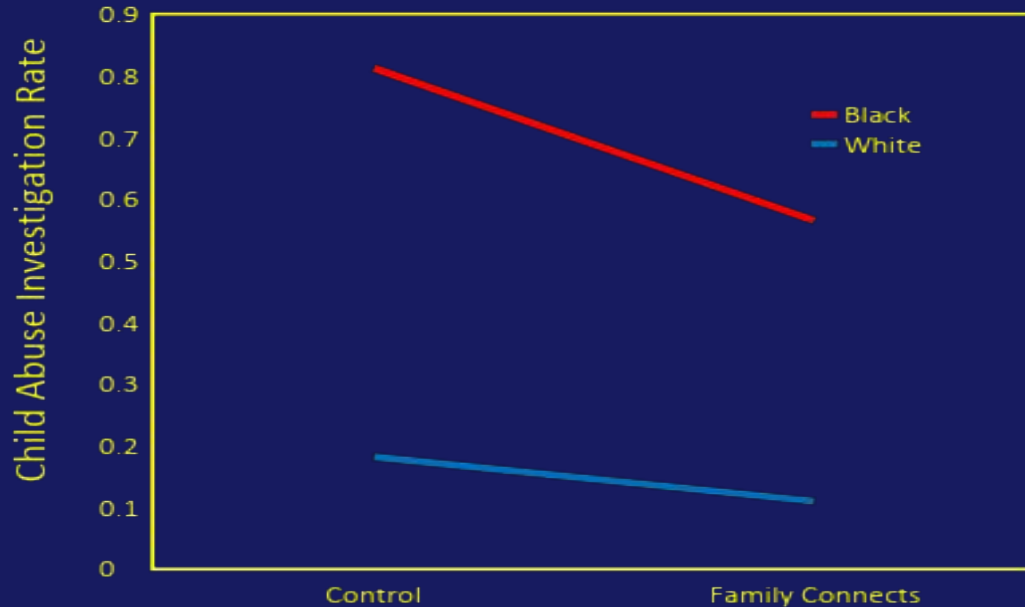


RCT evaluation results: Age 60-month CPS investigations



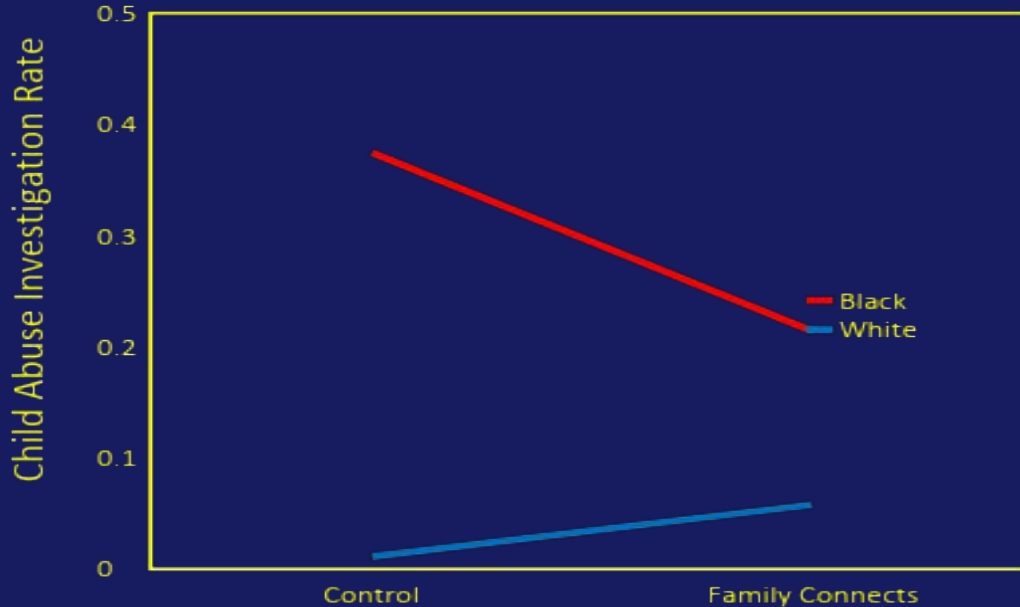
RCT I. Family Connects at age 60 months:

- decreases child abuse investigations by 39%, and
- closes race disparity by 28%.



REPLICATION: RCT II

- decreases child abuse investigations by 44%, and
- reduces race disparity by 57%.



Circle of Parents Data Snapshot

Current Status: 40 Circle of Parents groups across CO

Focus Areas: Parents in Recovery; Fathers & Male Caregivers; Veterans; Circulo de Padres (Spanish Speaking Only); New, Expectant & Expanding Families; Parents of Children with Special Needs

In 2022, on average, respondents demonstrated increases in all five Protective Factors, including:

Largest increases in:



Social emotional support



Concrete supports

High levels of:



Nurturing and attachment



Family functioning and resiliency



Child development and knowledge of parenting

Healthy Families America

Healthy Families America® (HFA) is the nationally recognized, evidence-based home visiting program of Prevent Child Abuse America® the nation's oldest and largest organization dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. The HFA network includes close to 600 sites that annually serve almost 70,000 families with more than 950,000 home visits across 38 states, DC, all 5 territories, and Israel.

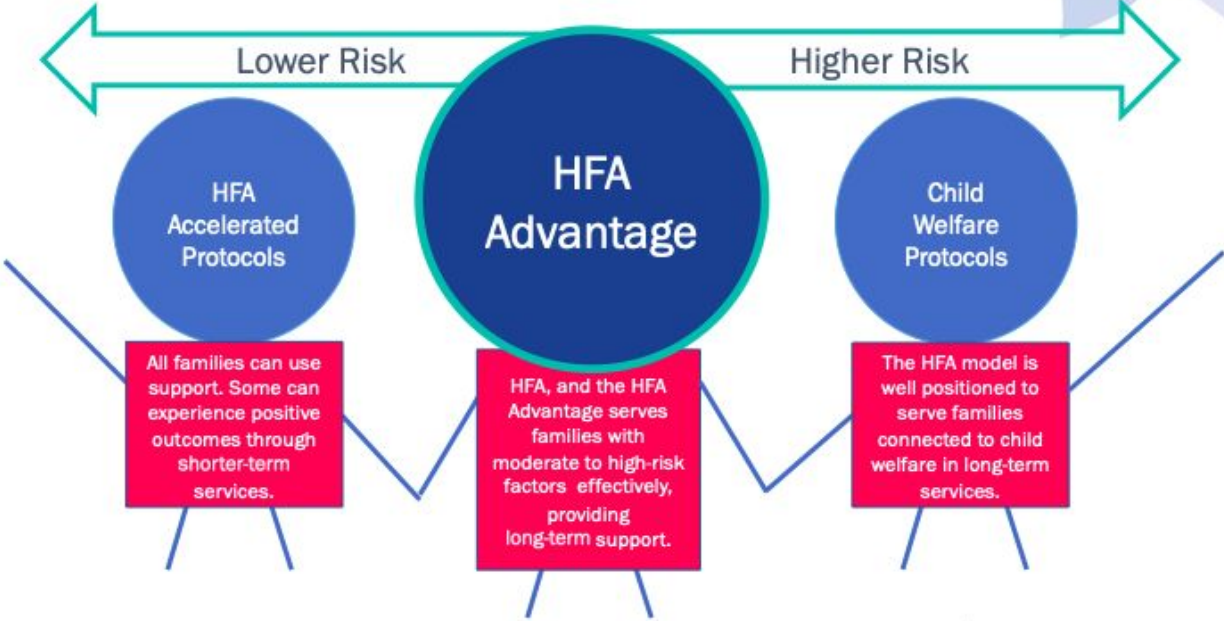


HFA Model



- HFA works with pregnant and parenting families of children prenatally up to age 5
- Best serves those who are high-risk and overburdened, including those who have been involved in the child welfare system
- Designed to provide flexibility in the communities to use the model to the needs of the community and their families
- Eligibility varies among sites. Each HFA site can determine their criteria for eligibility
- Number of visits per month depending on family needs and availability
- Curriculum available in English and Spanish with photos and materials to better relate to target population
- Home Visitors bicultural and bilingual. Qualifications varies per site. Ex: High School, LEX, 3 years of Early Childhood experience

Continuum of service



Outcomes

Reductions in child abuse and neglect

49% fewer substantiated CPS reports

Prevents recurrence of child maltreatment by 1/3 among families with prior CPS involvement

Increase in Positive Parenting Practices

Improvement in Child Health

Reduction in Juvenile Delinquency, Family Violence and Crime

Improvement in Child Development and School Readiness

Increase in Linkages and Referrals

Improvement in Maternal Health

Improvement in Family Economic Self-Sufficiency



HFA in Colorado: Garfield, Pitkin, and Eagle Counties

Great Expectations

Founded in 1983 as one of the first home visiting agencies in Colorado, Great Expectations has grown to serve more than 10,000 families in Garfield, Pitkin, and western Eagle counties. Our core programs—Healthy Families America, Nurse-Family Partnership, Partners for a Healthy Baby—reflect decades of research and practice on child and maternal health.



HFA in Colorado: Boulder County

GENESIS

GENESIS helps children get their best start in life. The home visiting program supports healthy parenting practices within teen parent families in Boulder County. Services are provided to teen parents from pregnancy through the child's third birthday. GENESIS provides high-quality family support services according to the Healthy Families America® home visiting model.

Eligibility

Can accept clients who meet all of the following criteria:

- 19 years or younger at the time of becoming pregnant.
- Pregnant or parenting a child who is younger than 6 months old.
- Living in Boulder County.

