A CORNERSTONE OF NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

Nurse-Family Partnership is an evidence-based community health program that helps transform the lives of vulnerable, low-income mothers pregnant with their first children. Built upon the pioneering work of Professor David Olds, Nurse-Family Partnership's model is based on more than 30 years of evidence from randomized, controlled trials that prove it works.

Beginning in the early 1970s, Dr. Olds initiated the development of a nurse home visitation program that targeted first-time mothers and their children. Over the next three decades, he and his colleagues continued to test the program in three separate, randomized, controlled trials with three different populations in Elmira, N.Y., Memphis, Tenn., and Denver, Colo. (see below). The trials were designed to study the effects of the Nurse-Family Partnership model on maternal and child health, and child development, by comparing the short- and long-term outcomes of mothers and children enrolled in the Nurse-Family Partnership program to those of a control group of mothers and children not participating in the program.

A LASTING IMPACT

Today, Olds and his team at The Prevention Research Center for Family and Child Health at the University of Colorado continue to study the model’s long-term effects and lead research to continuously improve the Nurse-Family Partnership program model. Since 1979, more than 14 follow-up studies have been completed across the three trials, tracking program participants’ outcomes. The implementation of longitudinal studies enables Nurse-Family Partnership to measure the short- and long-term outcomes of the program. Although the Nurse-Family Partnership National Service Office maintains a close association with the Prevention Research Center, the two remain professionally independent.
TRIAL OUTCOMES

Trial outcomes demonstrate that Nurse-Family Partnership delivers against its three primary goals of better pregnancy outcomes, improved child health and development and increased economic self-sufficiency—making a measurable impact on the lives of children, families and the communities in which they live.

For example, the following outcomes have been observed among participants in at least one of the trials of the program:

**Improved Pregnancy Outcomes:**
- Improvement in women’s prenatal health
  - 79% reduction in preterm delivery for women who smoke, and reductions in high-risk pregnancies as a result of greater intervals between first and subsequent births

**Improved Child Health and Development:**
- Reduction in criminal activity
  - 59% reduction in child arrests at age 15
- Reduction in injuries
  - 39% fewer injuries among children
  - 56% reduction in emergency room visits for accidents and poisonings
  - 48% reduction in child abuse and neglect
- Increase in children’s school readiness
  - 50% reduction in language delays of child age 21 months; 67% reduction in behavioral/intellectual problems at age six

**Increased Economic Self-Sufficiency:**
- Fewer unintended subsequent pregnancies
  - 32% fewer subsequent pregnancies
- Increase in labor force participation by the mother
  - 83% increase by the child’s fourth birthday
- Reduction in welfare use
  - 26% reduction in months on welfare
- Increase in father involvement
  - 46% increase in father’s presence in household
- Reduction in criminal activity
  - 60% fewer arrests of the mother; 72% fewer convictions of the mother

ADHERENCE TO THE NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP MODEL

Today, Nurse-Family Partnership maintains fidelity to its model by managing a Clinical Information System designed specifically to collect and report Nurse-Family Partnership family characteristics, needs, services provided and progress toward accomplishing program goals as recorded by NFP Nurse Home Visitors. This process is fundamental to ensuring successful program implementation and beneficial outcomes that are comparable to those from the randomized, controlled trials.

A BASIS FOR EVIDENTIARY STANDARDS

The evidentiary foundations for the Nurse-Family Partnership model are among the strongest available for preventive interventions offered for public investment. Given that the original trials were relatively large, resulted in outcomes of public health importance, and were conducted with nearly entire populations of at-risk families in local community health settings, these findings are relevant to communities throughout the United States.

Nurse-Family Partnership’s emphasis on randomized, controlled trials is consistent with the approach promoted by a growing chorus of evidence-based policy groups including the Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy, Blueprints for Violence Prevention, The RAND Corporation, and the Brookings Institution, which seek to provide policymakers and practitioners with clear, actionable information on programs that work—and are demonstrated in scientifically-valid studies.