



Targeted Home Visiting

Repays Its Costs and Benefits Society

Challenging economic times and budget shortfalls call for smart use of public funds for those services that have evidence to prove they work, save money by reducing the demand for other services, and bring long-term benefits to society.

Targeted home visiting, offered on a voluntary basis to high risk families throughout Minnesota, does just that.



The quality of life for a child and the contributions the child makes to society as an adult can be traced back to the first few years of life. If this period of life includes support for growth in cognition, language, motor skills, adaptive skills and social-emotional functioning, the child is more likely to succeed in school and later contribute to society.*

Without support during these early years, however, a child is more likely to drop out of school, receive welfare benefits and commit crime.

Documented and Research-Verified Results

Providing home visiting to high risk families results in lower public expenditure for services, helps families become healthier and more self-sufficient, and prepares children to succeed in school, stay out of trouble and enter the workforce.

Research shows that home visiting produces positive outcomes, reduces child maltreatment, improves health and self-sufficiency and saves public dollars. For example:

- ▼ The RAND Corporation has estimated the ROI for the research-based Nurse Family Partnership program is \$5.78 for every dollar of expenditure.
 - ▶ *The Nurse Family Partnership program is used by 17 Minnesota counties.*
- ▼ The Dakota Healthy Families model has documented significant and lasting outcomes with substantially lowered rates of child maltreatment by high risk families.
 - ▶ *This Healthy Families approach is now being used in 15 counties, including all seven metro counties, joined together under a joint powers agreement.*
- ▼ The Baby Steps program in Olmsted County has demonstrated a sustained impact in lowering rates of child maltreatment, high percentages of children receiving well child care and reaching normal developmental milestones; parents with increased child spacing intervals, high school completion, and economic self-sufficiency.
 - ▶ *Olmsted County has demonstrated outcomes from this program for more than a decade.*

Benefits for Children, Families, Taxpayers and Society

When services are in place to catch children before they fall, they develop with a durable foundation, succeed and become part of the community. Society benefits in the following ways:

Early or Preschool Benefits:

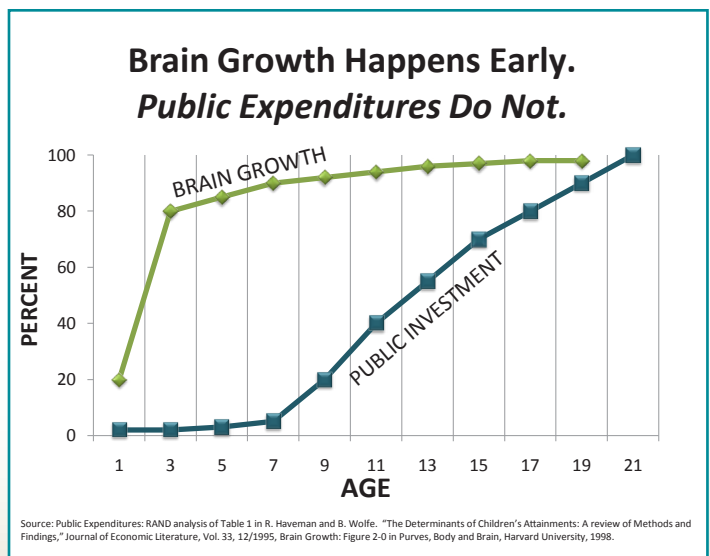
- ▼ Fewer low-birth-weight babies.
- ▼ Fewer child deaths in the first year of life.
- ▼ Fewer children hospitalized for injuries in the first two years of life.
- ▼ Fewer language delays by age two.
- ▼ Increased intervals between births.

Benefits During the School Years:

- ▼ Fewer incidents of child abuse and neglect.
- ▼ Reduced grade repetition.
- ▼ Reduced use of special education.
- ▼ Reduced incidence of teen childbearing.
- ▼ Fewer adolescents arrested and entering the criminal justice system.
- ▼ Reduced out-of-home placements of children and adolescents.

Long-Term Benefit for Parents and Children:

- ▼ Increased high school graduation rates and increase college attendance.
- ▼ Increased economic self-sufficiency.
- ▼ Reduced crime and contact with the criminal justice system.
- ▼ Reduced incidence of smoking and substance abuse.
- ▼ Improved health outcomes.
- ▼ Increased labor force participation and earnings in adulthood.



Preserve Current Funding to Save Future Costs

Fully 40% of all births in Minnesota are to women enrolled in MinnesotaCare or Medical Assistance. The current state budget allocates \$8 million of TANF funds for voluntary home visiting for low-income, high risk families.

This funding helps to leverage additional federal, local and foundation funding. Even when all of these resources are combined, not all families who would benefit from this support can be served.



Minnesota Coalition for Targeted Home Visiting

Families, early childhood professionals, public health, physicians and nurses, social workers, foundations, health plans, children's advocates and counties support voluntary home visiting as a core service for new parents. Our statewide coalition seeks to make evidence-based home visiting available throughout Minnesota.

Coalition Co-Chairs:

Jill Briggs
Public Health Director
Chisago County Human Services

Jane Kretzmann
Senior Program Officer
Minnesota Community Foundation

Coalition Partners include:

- ▶ Affirmative Options
- ▶ Association of Minnesota Counties
- ▶ Child Care WORKS
- ▶ Children's Defense Fund MN
- ▶ Early Childhood Funders Network
- ▶ First Children's Finance
- ▶ Greater Twin Cities United Way
- ▶ Growth and Justice
- ▶ Life Track Resources
- ▶ Local Public Health Association
- ▶ Metro Alliance for Healthy Families
- ▶ Minnesota Association for Family and Early Educators
- ▶ Minnesota Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health, a division of MACMH
- ▶ Minnesota Association of Children Mental Health
- ▶ Minnesota Association for the Education of Young Children
- ▶ Minnesota Head Start Association
- ▶ Minnesota Inter-County Association
- ▶ Minnesota Licensed Family Child Care Association
- ▶ Minnesota Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Prevention & Parenting (MOAPPP)
- ▶ Minnesota School Aged Care Alliance
- ▶ Minnesota Visiting Nurses Agency (MVNA)
- ▶ Nurse Family Partnership
- ▶ Parents as Teachers
- ▶ Pine Rive-Backus Family Center
- ▶ Prime West Health
- ▶ Ready 4 K
- ▶ South Country Alliance
- ▶ Way to Grow

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

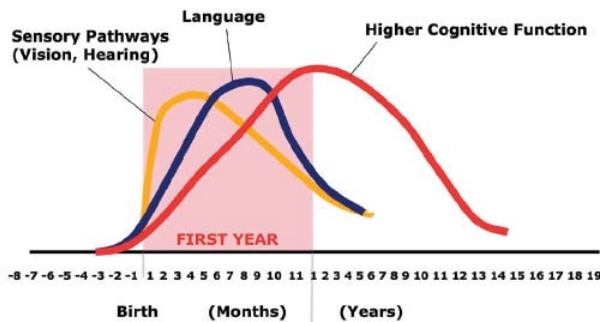
Julie Ring
Local Public Health Association
651-247-9418
ring@mncounties.org

Eric Haugee
Ready 4 K
651-644-8138 x116
eric@ready4k.org



Human Brain Development

Neural Connections for Different Functions Develop Sequentially



Source: C. Nelson (2000)

Data Sources and Resources for Additional Information:

***Infants, Toddlers and Families: A Framework for Support and Intervention**

Martha Farrell Erickson & Karen Kurz-Riemer
(New York: The Guilford Press, 1999), 19.

What Does Economics Tell Us About Early Childhood Policy?

Rand Labor and Population Research Brief
www.rand.org

Impacts of Early Childhood Programs, Research Brief 4.

First Focus, Brookings Institute Research Brief
www.firstfocus.net

Early Childhood Development: Economic Development with a High Public Return

Arthur J. Rolnick and Rob Grunewald, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis
www.minneapolisfed.org

Long-term Economic Benefits of Investing in Early Childhood Programs, Issue Brief 5, Partnership for America's Economic Success

Pew Charitable Trusts
www.partnershipforsuccess.org

Some Outcomes for Teen Parents in Ramsey County are Better if They Receive both MFIP and Public Health Home Nursing Services

Minnesota Linking Information for Kids Brief, No. 4, Fall 2007, Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare