



STATE PROFILE 2012



NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP IN ARKANSAS

Nurse-Family Partnership® (NFP) is an evidence-based, community health program that helps transform the lives of vulnerable mothers pregnant with their first child. Each mother served by NFP is partnered with a registered nurse early in her pregnancy and receives ongoing nurse home visits that continue through her child's second birthday. Independent research proves that communities benefit from this relationship — every dollar invested in Nurse-Family Partnership can yield up to five dollars in return.

NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP GOALS

1. Improve pregnancy outcomes by helping women engage in good preventive health practices, including thorough prenatal care from their healthcare providers, improving their diets, and reducing their use of cigarettes, alcohol and illegal substances;
2. Improve child health and development by helping parents provide responsible and competent care; and
3. Improve the economic self-sufficiency of the family by helping parents develop a vision for their own future, plan future pregnancies, continue their education and find work.

THE NEED

Arkansas ranks 47th out of 50 states for overall child well-being according to the 2011 Kids Count ranking. Nurse-Family Partnership is helping to address the risks of poverty, preterm births and other poor maternal and child health outcomes, high school dropout rates, domestic violence and child maltreatment. The Mississippi Delta region of Arkansas, where the six initial target counties are located, has a long history of poor maternal-child health outcomes. In this part of the country, poverty rates are high, as is unemployment. With little new industry in the region, population levels are gradually waning. Children have less than optimal school readiness, and educational attainment is low on average. Maternal and child health indicators such as prematurity, low-birth weight and infant mortality run high in this region.

The first NFP Implementing Agency in Arkansas began serving clients in September 2011. Outcomes and demographics of NFP clients will be available in 2012.



In Arkansas, Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) is operated by the Arkansas Department of Health which implements the program in the following counties: Crittenden, Lee, Mississippi, Monroe, Phillips and St. Francis.

IMPLEMENTING AGENCY CONTEXT

Nurse-Family Partnership is operated by the Arkansas Department of Health. Individual Nurse-Family Partnership sites are implemented by the Arkansas Department of Health through local county health units.

FUNDING CONTEXT

Funding for Nurse-Family Partnership in Arkansas comes through the federal Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program.

A RIGOROUSLY TESTED PROGRAM WITH MEASURABLE RESULTS

Societal Benefits

Nurse-Family Partnership is a rare community health program that has been documented to achieve lasting significant effects through multiple, well-designed randomized, controlled trials. More than thirty years of research proves that it works. This evidence shows our clients — low-income, first-time mothers — that if they follow the program and work with their nurse, they can transform their lives and the lives of their children. Moreover, independent policy research makes clear that every public health dollar policymakers and the communities invest in Nurse-Family Partnership could realize up to five dollars in return.



National Recognition

- The Washington State Institute for Public Policy, The RAND Corporation and The Brookings Institution have concluded that investments in Nurse-Family Partnership lead to significant returns to society and government, giving taxpayers a \$2.88-5.70 return per dollar invested in the program.
- The Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy identifies Nurse-Family Partnership as one of only two early childhood programs that meet its “Top Tier” evidence of effectiveness.
- The Partnership for America’s Economic Success finds investments in early childhood programs, such as Nurse-Family Partnership, to be stronger investments than state business subsidies when viewed from a long-term, national perspective.
- The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence reviewed over 650 programs with published research in peer-reviewed literature. Nurse-Family Partnership is one of 11 (or 6%) of the programs, that clearly work or even appear promising. The Center fully supports and endorses NFP as one of its “Blueprints” programs.

ESTABLISHED: 2011

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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