



STATE PROFILE 2010

NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP IN COLORADO

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 more than 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.

Positive Outcomes for Clients Served by Colorado's Nurse-Family Partnership

41% of mothers who completed the program and who did not have a diploma/GED at intake earned their diploma/GED

46% reduction in domestic violence during pregnancy

91% of babies were born full-term and 91% were born at a healthy weight - at or above 2500 g (5.5 lbs)

88% of mothers initiated breastfeeding and 35% continue to breastfeed at 6 months

CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

At intake

Median age: 19

80% Unmarried

70% Medicaid recipients

47% Hispanic

41% Non-Hispanic White

5% Multiracial/other

3% African American

2% Native American

1% Asian

Data as of September 2009



In Colorado, replication of Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) is led by Invest in Kids, an organization whose mission is to improve the health and well-being of vulnerable young children and families throughout Colorado. Working in partnership with local communities, Invest in Kids identifies, introduces, implements and ensures the success of research-based, proven programs.

See www.iik.org for more information.

ESTABLISHED: 2000
FAMILIES SERVED: 11,346



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In Colorado, Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) currently serves families in the following 52 counties: Adams, Alamosa, Arapahoe, Archuleta, Baca, Bent, Boulder, Broomfield, Chaffee, Clear Creek, Conejos, Costilla, Delta, Denver, Dolores, Douglas, Eagle, El Paso, Garfield, Gilpin, Gunnison, Huerfano, Jackson, Jefferson, Kiowa, La Plata, Lake, Larimer, Logan, Mesa, Mineral, Moffat, Montezuma, Montrose, Morgan, Ouray, Park, Phillips, Pitkin, Prowers, Pueblo, Rio Blanco, Rio Grande, Routt, Saguache, San Juan, Sedgwick, Summit, Teller, Washington, Weld and Yuma.

IMPLEMENTING AGENCY CONTEXT

Nurse-Family Partnership is a state-wide initiative, serving families in 52 of Colorado's 64 counties. Nineteen individual agencies operate NFP sites. These agencies consist of public health departments, community health centers, community nursing agencies, and hospital systems.

In Colorado, Nurse-Family Partnership is managed by a four-part team including the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment; National Center for Children, Families & Communities, College of Nursing, University of Colorado Denver; the NFP National Service Office; and Invest in Kids.

FUNDING AND POLITICAL CONTEXT

Invest in Kids is committed to ensuring the success of NFP in Colorado, and has worked to ensure long-term, sustainable funding for the program. Beginning in 1999, Invest in Kids met with numerous Colorado legislators to explain the importance and effectiveness of the program.

As a result, the Colorado General Assembly passed the Nurse Home Visitor Act in the 2000 legislative session. The Act allocates a portion of Colorado's share of the tobacco settlement proceeds to NFP each year. The funding for the program is supplemented with a federal Medicaid match.

PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM WITH PROVEN AND MEASURABLE RESULTS

Societal Benefits

Nurse-Family Partnership is one of the only community health programs that is based on evidence from randomized, controlled trials – 30 years of research proves that it works. This evidence shows our clients – eligible 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 communities invest in Nurse-Family Partnership could realize more than 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 non-profit, non-partisan Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy finds “strong evidence of effects on life outcomes of children and mothers” by Nurse-Family Partnership – findings that are consistent with the results of an authoritative evidence review recently published in *The Lancet*, one of the top medical journals.
- 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 only 6% of the programs that clearly work, or even appear promising. The Center fully supports and endorses NFP as one of its “Blueprints” programs.