

Nurse-Family Partnership *in* the U.S. Virgin Islands



Nurse-Family Partnership® (NFP) is an evidenced-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 to receive home visits from prenatal through the baby's second birthday. Mothers, babies, families and communities all benefit.

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.
- 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.

90%

babies born full term

100%

babies received all immunizations by 24 months

92%

mothers initiated breastfeeding

POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

Cumulative data as of 12/31/16, clients served by Vermont's Nurse-Family Partnership.

MOMS' DEMOGRAPHICS AT ENROLLMENT

● **MEDIAN AGE: 20**

● **94% UNMARRIED**

● **\$3,000 MEDIAN INCOME**

cumulative as of 12/31/16

● **RACE**

86% Black/African-American

4% White

3% American Indian/Alaska Native

0% Asian/Pacific Islander

1% Multiracial

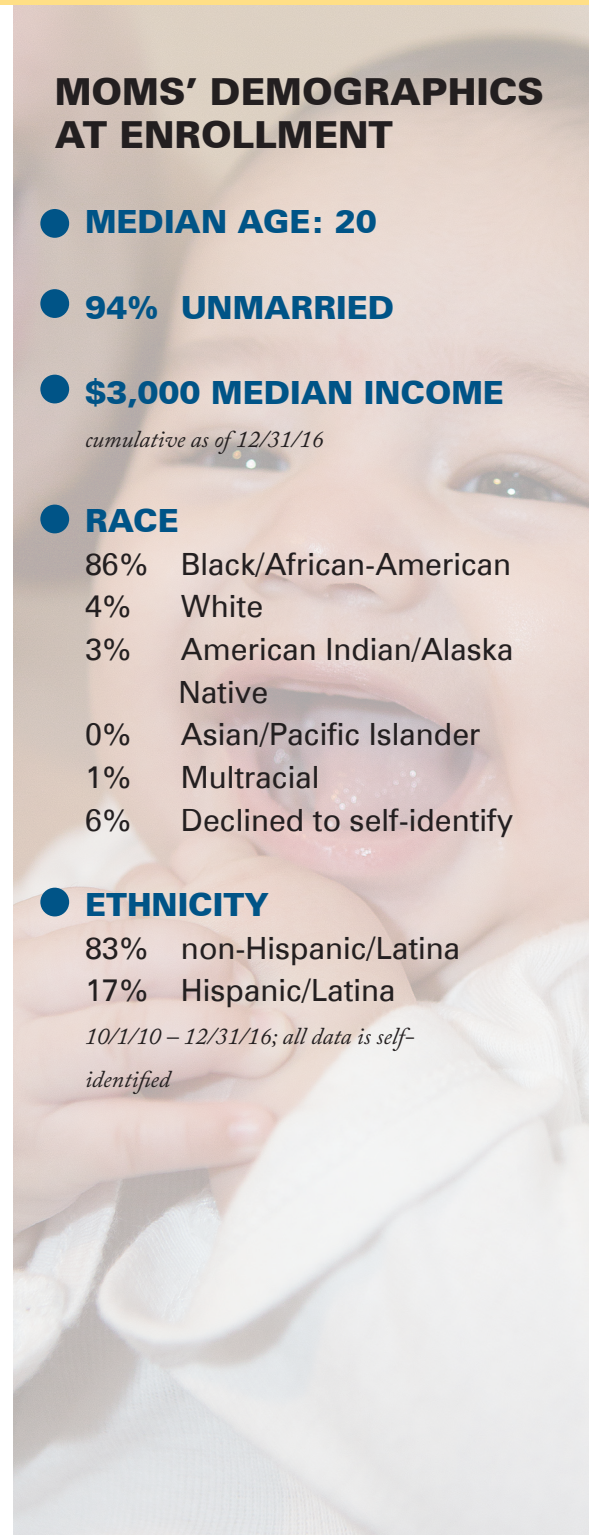
6% Declined to self-identify

● **ETHNICITY**

83% non-Hispanic/Latina

17% Hispanic/Latina

10/1/10 – 12/31/16; all data is self-identified



Established In 2012
84 Families Served
2 Counties Served
1 Agency

Based on a review of 41 NFP evaluation studies, Dr. Ted Miller of the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation predicts that nationwide every dollar invested in NFP will yield a return on investment to government of \$2.90 and to society of \$6.40.

NFP IN THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

Launching Nurse-Family Partnership in the U.S. Virgin Islands marked the first time that the model has been implemented in a U.S. territory. It consists of three primary islands – St. Croix, St. John, St. Thomas – as well as the smaller and sparsely-populated Water Island. The islands are divided into dozens of estates or neighborhoods that are based on the old plantation system. NFP implementation began on St. Thomas and includes the nearby island of St. John, which make up the regional health district, with two full-time nurse home visitors and a nurse supervisor who also supports some clients. (Water Island is also a part of this health district but the need for NFP services is virtually zero.)

The Maternal Child Health and Children with Special Health Care Needs Division within the Virgin Islands Department of Health serves as the implementing agency. The NFP nursing team is co-located with a number of other maternal and child health programs, such as family planning, Early Intervention, as well as prenatal and pediatric medical services that are both clinic- and home-based. The health department is responsible for delivering maternal child health services to all Virgin Islanders who need them for the entire territory, regardless of income.



NFP is 100 percent funded with federal funding under the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV). Interestingly, the Virgin Islands Department of Health functions as the lead agency for MIECHV as well as the direct implementing agency of NFP services. The territory designated NFP along with Healthy Families America (HFA) as the two evidence-based home visiting model for this federal initiative; HFA provides services on St. Croix. The Department of Health was particularly attracted to NFP because the model could complement the medical services that public health nurses provide in the clinics and in the home as needed, whereas NFP nurse home visitors could focus on building therapeutic relationships with new mothers and supporting them with education, goal setting, positive behavior change, nursing screenings and assessments, as well as case management activities.

At some point, the Virgin Islands Department of Health would like to expand services to St Croix and utilize a supervision structure that would mirror the common government management structure in the Virgin Islands, which is to have a “territorial” supervisor/manager who oversees services across the U.S. Virgin Islands.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

“Programs such as the Nurse-Family Partnership — in which nurses visit first-time, low-income mothers to provide information on nutrition and parenting — may be a more focused (and cost-effective) way to increase the school readiness of at-risk kids.”

*Michael Gerson, “Discipline, With Love,”
The Washington Post, Oct. 2, 2014*

“...the Nurse-Family Partnership, one of my favorite groups fighting poverty in America. It sends nurses on regular visits to at-risk first-time moms. The nurses warn about alcohol or drug abuse and encourage habits of attentive parenting, like reading to the child.”

*Nicholas Kristof, “Cuddle Your Kid!” The
New York Times, Oct. 20, 2012*

“Another example is the Department of Health and Human Services’ Home Visiting Program. It funds evidence-based approaches to home visiting, such as the Nurse Family Partnership, to help first-time, low-income mothers ensure their children are healthy and ready to learn. As a result, more disadvantaged mothers are receiving quality help at a critical period in their children’s lives.”

*- American Enterprise Institute,
February 2017*



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Interested in learning more about NFP in the US Virgin Islands?
Please contact us at:
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