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FACTSHEET

Investments in Evidence-based Home Visiting Programs Secure the Future of California's Young Children

Evidence-based programs can help improve child and family outcomes, and strengthen our state

Voluntary, evidence-based home visiting programs offer families direct support and coordination of services in the home from trained professionals. The California Home Visiting Program (CHVP) receives funds from the federal program Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) to implement voluntary, evidence-based home visiting services for high-need pregnant mothers and new parents in California. CHVP serves clients via Healthy Families America (HFA), Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP), and Parents as Teachers (PAT) home visiting programs. In 2019, $23 million were provided to the state for evidence-based and innovative home visiting services.[1]

Of the 405,000 highest-priority California families who could benefit from MIECHV, only about 2,700 received services (equivalent to less than one percent).[2] Of the families served in 2020, 71 percent had low incomes; 15 percent included pregnant enrollees under 21; and 22 percent reported a history of child maltreatment.[3]

Cultivating future success through home visiting

Fifteen percent of California children do not graduate on time with a high school diploma. Failure to obtain a high school diploma[4] can potentially hamper future opportunities to enter and excel in the workforce,[5] can be associated with crime,[6] and disqualifies youth from military service.[7] Home visiting programs help parents provide quality early learning experiences—setting children up for success in school. An evaluation of HFA found that participants were significantly less likely to drop out of high school, as compared with children not in the program.[8]

> **"25 percent of California's young children live in poverty."**

Home visiting can curb obesity

Thirty-one percent of children are either obese or overweight in California.[9] Considering that obesity disqualifies 31 percent of American youth from serving in the military,[10] prevention is paramount for our national security. Home visiting can play a role: PAT participants improved consumption of fruits and vegetables, and parents improved food preparation compared to nonparticipants.[11]

Improving financial stability through home visiting

One quarter of California's young children are impoverished.[12] Extensive research has shown poverty to be detrimental to children's

development and well-being.[13] High-quality home visiting has been shown to increase parents' earnings, and reduce their reliance on public assistance. **In an NFP study, the average participating family reduced their use of welfare benefits by 10 percent each year compared to the control group, which added up to $14,500 in the decade following the program.**[14]

Evidence-based home visiting programs can help improve child and family outcomes, strengthening California's future workforce, enhancing public safety, and bolstering national security. California policymakers must support extending the reach of home visiting programs to ensure that the most vulnerable children and families benefit from the critical services provided through home visiting programs.

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12 Danielson, C. & Bohn, S. (2017). Geography of child poverty in California. https://www.ppic.org/wp-content/uploads/content/pubs/report/R_0217SBR.pdf

13 Hertzman C, & Wiens M. (1995). Child development and long-term outcomes: A population health perspective and summary of successful interventions. Soc Sci Med (43), 1083–95. https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/8890409/

14 Olds, D. L. et al. (2010). Enduring effects of prenatal and infancy home visiting by nurses on maternal life course and government spending: Follow-up of a randomized trial among children at age 12 years. Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine, 164(5), 419-424. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20439792 The Coalition for Evidence put the savings in 2014 dollars: http://evidencebasedprograms.org/1366-2/nurse-family-partnership

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