



Home Visitation Program Evaluation Report for 2012/13

Introduction

This is the first annual report of the new Home Visitation Initiative funded by Plumas First 5 which began implementation in July of 2012. Four funded programs provide intensive ongoing home visitation to parents of children 0 to 5 in Plumas County:

- Family First, operated by the Plumas County Public Health Agency received referrals from a wide range of sources, and links in other funded programs as appropriate to serve families
- Early Intervention Project, operated by the Plumas Unified School District served families with children at risk of developmental delay ages 0 to 3
- Roundhouse Council home visitation served families with children 0 to 5 in Greenville with an emphasis on Native American families
- Early Childhood Development Specialist contracted directly with First 5 Plumas to provide attachment and bonding services for families referred by the other funded programs

This report covers the period July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. It is organized into five sections: an introduction, description of clients, services provided, outcomes and services.

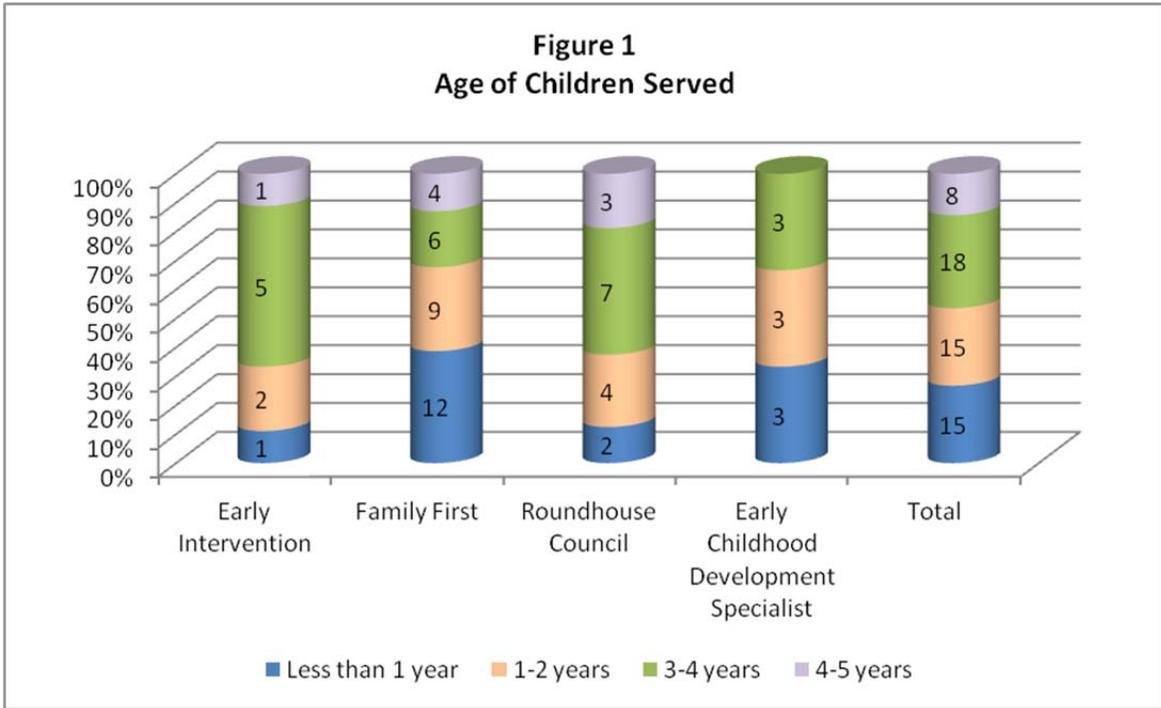
Clients

The program served 64 clients in 2012/13, 38 were served by Family First, 16 by Roundhouse Council, 10 by Early Intervention and 9 also served by the Early Childhood Development Specialist. The programs served 59 children; in some cases the mother was pregnant. Figure 1 shows the age of children served. Their age is estimated based on how old they would be on June 30, 2013. Because the Early Childhood Development Specialist served children already counted by Family First, Early Intervention or Roundhouse Council, children served by that program are not included in the total.

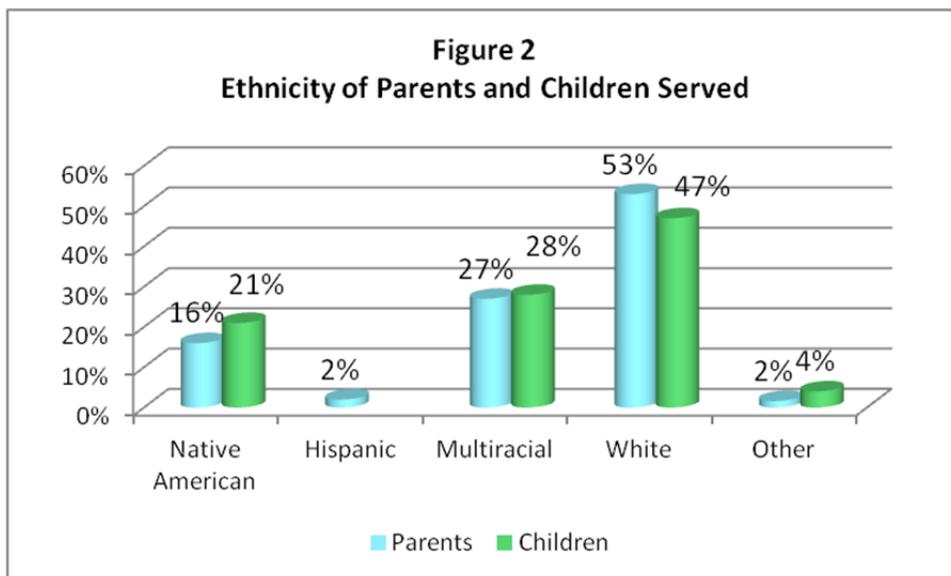
There were eight families who declined to participate in the program evaluation. Six of the families were served by the Early Intervention Project and two were served by Family First. The evaluation findings reported here do not include any service or outcome information on these eight families. The total number of home visits conducted by the Early Intervention Project reported here are only those for the families who consented to be included in the

evaluation. The Project conducted numerous home visits to non-consenting families that are not reflected in this report.

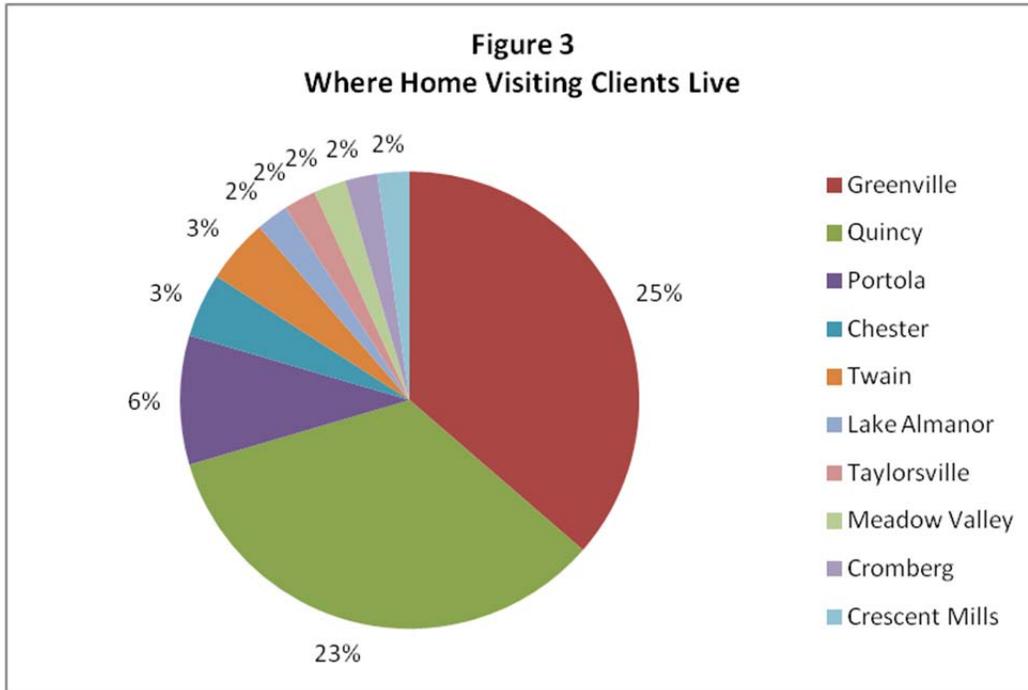
Overall, 54% of the children served are 0 to 2 years of age, and 46% are 3 to 5 years of age.



The ethnicity of the children and parents is shown in Figure 2. White parents made up a larger proportion of the group and Native American parents made up a smaller proportion of the group than do children. There are a sizeable number of multiracial parents and children served by the Home Visitation Program. Almost all of the parents (97%) and children (96%) speak English.



The Home Visitation clients were concentrated in Greenville (25%), Quincy (23%) and Portola (6%). The chart below shows where clients lived in Plumas County.



Most of the Home Visitation Program clients were living with a spouse (20%) or domestic partner (28%). Twenty-seven percent were single parents and 8% had another status. For 8% marital status was unknown.

Services

Home Visitation Program clients were referred by a wide range of agencies and individuals. The single largest source of referral was family members and friends at 34%. The next largest source was the Health Department or Maternal and Child Health at 21% and health providers at 19%. Children’s Protective Services accounted for 8% of referrals, 5% were self referrals, 3% came from WIC and 9% came from a variety of community agencies.

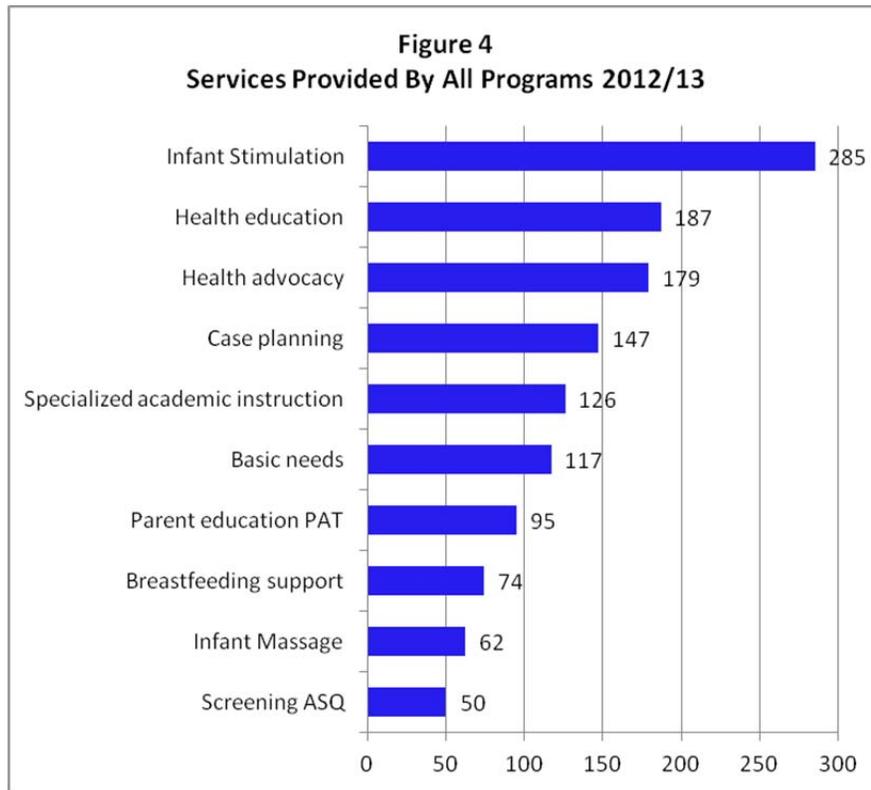
Referral sources varied by program. Table 1 shows the overall sources of referrals and the number of clients by referral source by program. Family First drew most of its referrals from the Health Department, Maternal and Child Health and health care providers. Roundhouse Council’s clients all heard about the program by word of mouth. Early Intervention had a number of family and friend referrals as well as organizational referrals.

Table 1 Source of Referrals to Home Visitation Program 2012/13				
Source	Total Percentage	Family First	Early Intervention	Roundhouse Council
Family, friend	33%	2	6	13
Health Dept; MCAH	19%	11	1	
Health care provider	17%	10	1	
CPS	8%	4	1	
Self	5%	3		
WIC	3%	2		
Other	12.5%	5		3
Unknown	3%	1	1	

The Home Visitation Programs provided a total of 753 home visits, 68 in-office consultations, and 59 phone consultations. Table 2 shows the services provided by each program and overall. The Early Intervention Program and Roundhouse Council provided the highest number of home visits, while Family First and the Early Childhood Development Specialist provided the most in office consultations and phone consultations.

Table 2 Home Visitation Program Services 2012/13					
Services	Family First	Early Intervention	Roundhouse Council	ECDS	All Programs
Home Visit	112	283	270	88	753
In office consultation	34		3	31	68
Phone consultation	38	1	4	16	59
Totals	184	284	277	135	880

Home Visitation Program staff record the subject of their services to families as well. Figure 4 shows the total number of services by category for categories with 10 or more services recorded. The largest number of services is in the categories of infant stimulation, health education and health advocacy. Case planning and specialized academic instruction are the next highest frequency services, followed by Basic Needs, Parent Education, Breastfeeding support, Infant Massage and Screening with the Ages and Stages Questionnaire.



Home visitors made referrals to community programs based on the needs of the families they are working with. In total, the programs made 104 referrals during the program year. The highest number of referrals was to WIC (18) and to Head Start, state preschools or child care resource and referral (22). There were 51 “other” referrals made as well to unspecified resources. The program making the largest number of referrals was Family First at 99 referrals. Table 3 shows all referrals made by program.

Family First home visitors screened 24 children with the Ages and Stages Questionnaire. Five children were found to be below the cut off point for their age on the ASQ and were referred for additional assessment. Another six children were near the cutoff point on the ASQ for their age and were monitored by the home visitor. Thirteen children were above the cut off point for their age on the ASQ and required no further action.

**Table 3
Referrals Made By Home Visitation Programs**

	Early Intervention	Family First	Roundhouse Council	All Programs
Child care resource and referral	1	4		5
Birth Partners		1	1	2
Early Intervention		5		5
Family Resource Center		1		1
Far Northern Regional		3		3
Head Start		14	1	15
Housing		1		1
Mental health services		5		5
State preschool		2		2
Substance abuse treatment		1		1
WIC			1	1
Head Start				0
Other	3	45	3	51
WIC		17	1	18
	4	99	7	110

Outcomes

First 5 Plumas adopted a set of desired outcomes in April of 2012 for the new home visitation initiative. The attached chart shows the adopted outcomes and results for 2012/13.

1. Engagement Rate

The programs successfully engaged 83% of their clients. The engagement rate is the percent of families who participate in 4 or more home visits. The engagement rates for the programs for 2012/13 were: Early Childhood Education Specialist 100%, Early Intervention 100%, Family First 74% (including cases co-served with the Early Childhood Education Specialist), and Roundhouse Council 94%.

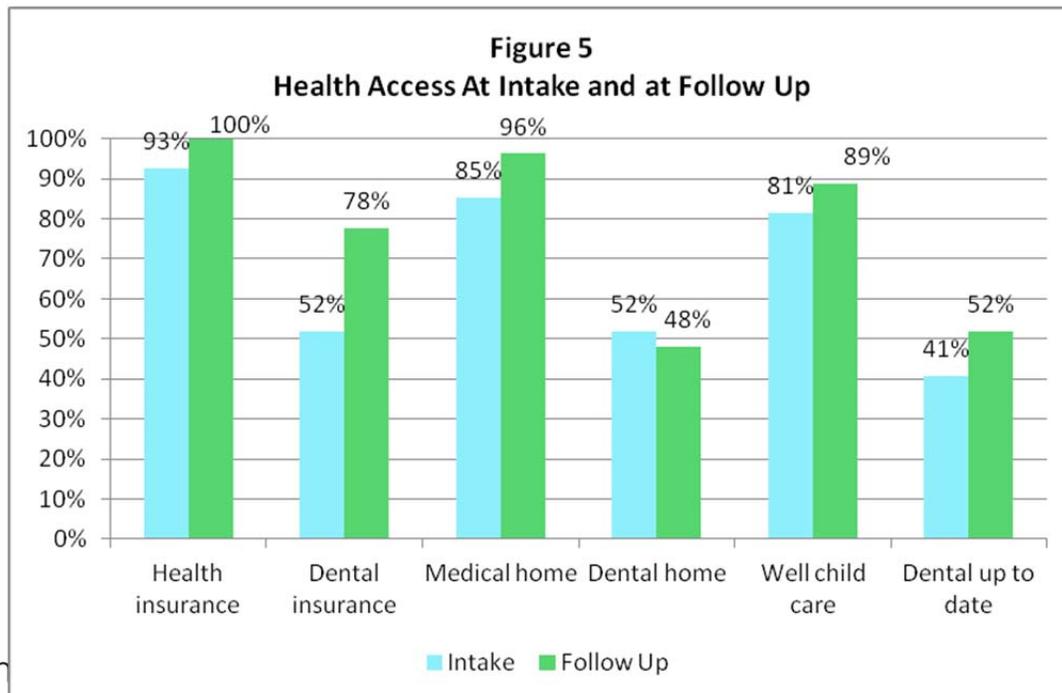
2. Increased Male (Father) Involvement in the lives of children

Fathers in the household were present in 23% of home visits during the 2012/13 program year. The proportion of visits that included fathers varied by program. For Family First, fathers were present at 49% of home visits, for Roundhouse Council, fathers were present at 21% of home visits, for Early Intervention, fathers were present at 21% of home visits and for the Early Childhood Development Specialist, fathers were present at 19% of home visits.

Measuring whether fathers were present at home visits is an initial step in assessing father involvement. Home visitors received training on how to involve fathers as part of the Strategies Home Visiting training in 2013. Also, First 5 Plumas identified Daddy's Tool Kit DVD as a helpful way to engage and teach fathers about how to care for a young child. All home visitors received copies of Daddy's Tool Kit DVD to share with their families. The Commission's director has been distributing the DVD to partner agencies such as Head Start. The DVD has also been included in the First 5 Kit for New Parents and is distributed to new parents countywide. Other First 5 Commissions have successfully incorporated the Daddy's Tool Kit into their family support programs.

3. Health Access

Home visitors had a positive effect on access to health and dental care for participating families. Families participating in home visiting were asked whether they had health insurance, dental insurance, a medical home, a dental home, whether their child had up to date well child care and up to date dental care. The same questions were repeated in a follow up survey, conducted at least 6 months after services started. The results are shown in Figure 5. There were 27 families with pre and post surveys on health access.



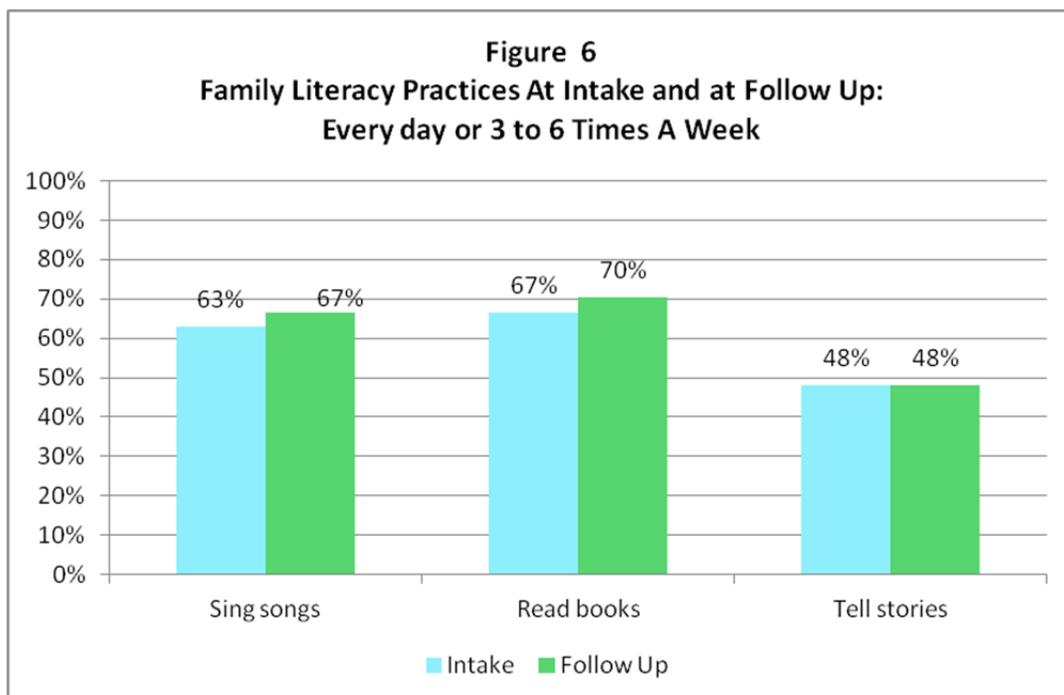
Almost all of the mothers had health insurance at entry and by 6 months, all clients had health insurance. Not all families had a medical home or usual place for care for their child, however. At entry, 85% had a medical home. After 6 months, 96% had a medical home. Families were asked about their child's well child care: 89% had up to date well child care after 6 months compared to 81% at entry to the program.

Fewer families had access to dental care. At entry, 52% had dental insurance. By 6 months, 78% had dental insurance. At entry 52% had a dental home, and after 6 months, 48% had a dental home. At entry 41% of the children had up to date dental care, compared to 52% after six months.

4. Family Literacy Practices

Families were asked whether they sang songs, read books or told stories to their children and how often they did so when they entered the program and 6 months after entry. The results are shown in Figure 6.

The results for family literacy are less positive than those seen in health access. On all three measures, the frequency of family literacy practices either increased slightly or remained the same between entry to the program and 6 months.

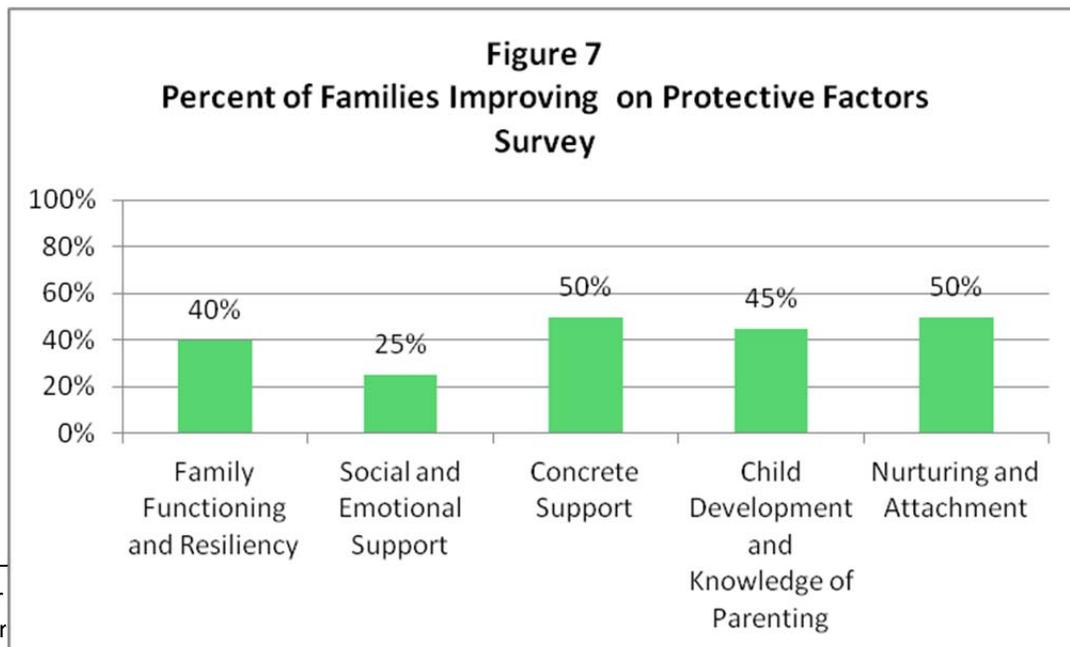


5. Family Functioning

Changes in family functioning were measured by a standardized instrument, the Protective Factors Parent Survey. The survey was developed by the FRIENDS National Resource Center in partnership with the University of Kansas Institute for Education and Research & Public Service. Home visitors gathered the survey from parents at entry to the program and after six months participation.

The Protective Factors Survey measures five domains: Family Functioning and Resiliency, Social and Emotional Support, Concrete Support, Child Development and Knowledge of Parenting and Nurturing And Attachment. In the pretest reported in the midyear evaluation report, the domain with the highest average score was Nurturing and Attachment, with an average score of 6.4 on a 7 point scale. ¹The domain with the lowest average score was Family Functioning and Resiliency with a score of 5.4 on average on a 7 point scale. This domain is a self report of the family's ability to communicate and solve problems.

The results on the post test are shown below in Figure 7. There were 20 clients with pre and post surveys available for the analysis. Half of the families showed improvement in the domains of Concrete Support (knowledge of where to go for help finding a job and basic necessities) and Nurturing and Attachment (bonding to their child). Forty percent of families improved on Family Functioning and Resiliency and 45% improved on knowledge of Child Development. One quarter of families improved on Social and Emotional Support. Post surveys were not available for clients who had moved away or lost contact with their home visitor.



¹ For reverse scores across domains.

order is reverse scores

Summary

The Home Visitation Program completed its first year of implementation in 2012/13. Four programs implemented home visitation: Family First operated by the Public Health Department, Early Intervention Project operated by Plumas Unified School District, Roundhouse Council and Early Childhood Development Specialist implemented by contractor Jaye Bruce. The four programs served 64 clients and 59 children. Most (54%) of the children served were under 2 years of age. Parents served by the program were white (53%), Multiracial (27%) and Native American (16%), 2% were other ethnicity. Most of the clients lived in Greenville (25%), Quincy (23%) and Portola (6%).

Outcomes

The program met most of its desired outcomes:

- 83% of families engaged in home visiting, defined as families who participated in 4 or more home visits.
- Fathers were present and participated in 23% of home visits.
- Access to health care improved for participating families: access to dental insurance, having a medical home, obtaining well child care and obtaining preventive dental care.
- Family functioning improved for half of the families in the areas of obtaining basic needs and nurturing their children

Result Areas where improvement is needed:

- Family literacy practices
- Family Functioning and Resiliency
- Social and Emotional Support
- Child Development and Knowledge of Parenting

Recommendations

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