

# Healthy Families New York Prevents Child Maltreatment

## HFNY:

- Produced sustained reductions in maternal reports of harmful parenting practices for the whole sample at ages one, two and seven.
- Reduced rates of confirmed abuse and confirmed neglect, as well as the rate of services cases opened for a subgroup of moms with prior confirmed CPS reports.
- Reduced the rate of confirmed CPS reports between the fifth and seventh years of life for children of young, first time moms who enrolled in the study early in pregnancy.

## For questions about the program, contact:

Bernadette Johnson  
Program Coordinator  
NYS OCFS  
Phone: (518) 402-6770

## For questions about the study, contact:

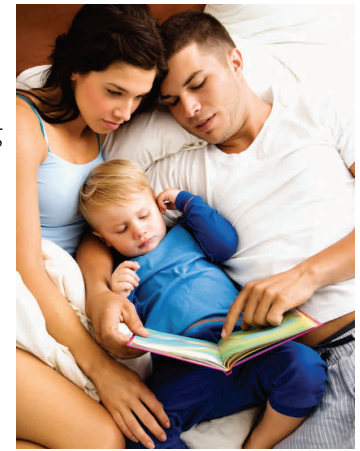
Kristen Kirkland, Ph.D.  
Research Scientist  
NYS OCFS  
Phone: (518) 473-8833

## Healthy Families New York (HFNY) Home Visiting Program

HFNY is an evidence-based, voluntary home visiting program for expectant and new parents. Based on the Healthy Families America model, trained paraprofessionals use a strengths-based approach to service provision and may provide Intensive in-home services

until the child enters school or Head Start.

The goals of HFNY are to promote positive parenting skills and parent-child interaction, prevent child abuse and neglect, promote optimal prenatal care and child health and development, and enhance family self-sufficiency.



## Healthy Families New York Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT)

In 2000, OCFS initiated an RCT in collaboration with SUNY Albany's CHSR to test the effectiveness of HFNY in preventing child maltreatment and promoting children's development.

Families eligible for HFNY in three sites were randomly assigned to either an intervention group that was offered HFNY services or to a control group that was given information on and referrals to appropriate services other than home visiting. Baseline interviews were conducted with 1,173 women (intervention, n=579; control, n=594). Mothers were again interviewed in their homes around the time of the child's first, second, third, and seventh birthdays.

The research team also examined data from child protective services

reports and foster care placements.

For additional details on this research, see the following sources:

DuMont, K., Mitchell-Herzfeld, S., Greene, R., Lee, E., Lowenfels, A., Rodriguez, M., & Dorabawila, V. (2008). Healthy Families New York (HFNY) randomized trial: Effects on early child abuse and neglect. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 32, 295-315.

DuMont, K., Kirkland, K., Mitchell-Herzfeld, S., Ehrhard-Dietzel, S., Rodriguez, M., Lee, E., Layne, C., & Greene, R. (2011). *A randomized trial of Healthy Families New York (HFNY): Does home visiting prevent child maltreatment?* Final Report to the National Institute of Justice. [www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/232945.pdf](http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/232945.pdf)

## HFNY Produced Sustained Reductions in Harmful Parenting Practices for the Whole Sample

*HFNY produced sustained reductions in maternal reports of harmful parenting practices for the whole sample at ages one, two, & seven.*

HFNY produced sustained effects on harmful parenting practices. Based on all mothers' reports of parenting practices, HFNY generated:

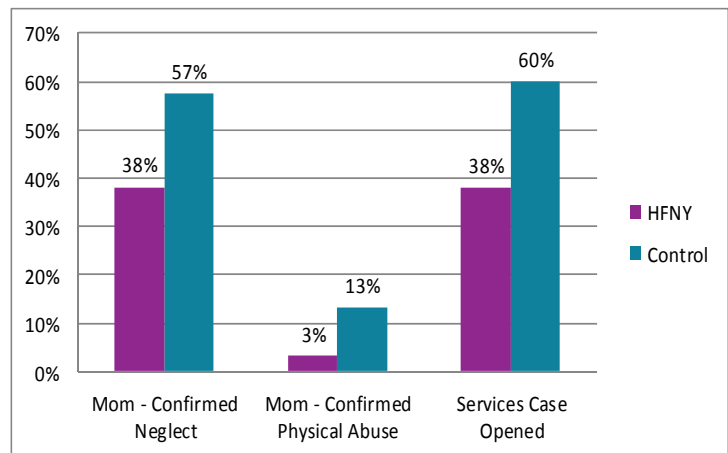
- An 88 percent reduction in the average number of acts of very serious physical abuse at age one.\*
- A 75 percent reduction in the average number of acts of serious physical abuse at age two.\*
- An 80 percent reduction in the average number of acts of serious physical abuse at age seven.\*

## HFNY Reduced Child Welfare System Involvement for Two Subgroups of Women:

*HFNY reduced the rate of confirmed neglect by 33 percent and the rate of confirmed abuse by 77 percent for a subgroup of mothers with prior confirmed CPS reports.*

### 1. Mothers who had confirmed CPS involvement prior to HFNY

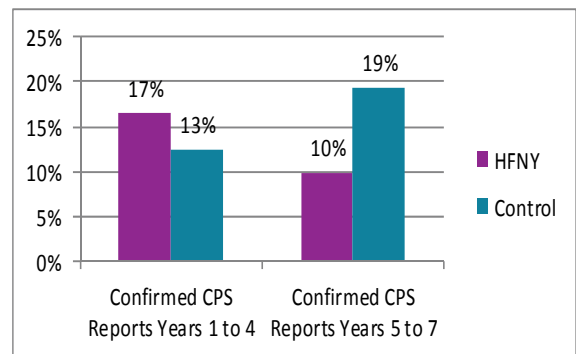
HFNY reduced rates of confirmed Child Protective Services (CPS) reports for neglect† and physical abuse† and for initiation of child welfare services\* through age seven for a subgroup of mothers with confirmed CPS involvement prior to being randomly assigned to the HFNY RCT.



### 2. Young, first-time moms who enrolled in the study early in pregnancy

*HFNY reduced the rate of confirmed CPS reports between the fifth and seventh years of life by 49 percent for a subgroup of children of young, first-time moms.*

Although there were no differences in the cumulative rate of confirmed CPS reports in the first four years of life for a subgroup of children of young, first-time moms who enrolled in the study early in pregnancy, HFNY did reduce the rate at which these children were confirmed as victims in CPS reports between the fifth and seventh years of life†.



\* Denotes statistical significance at the .05 level

† Denotes statistical significance at the .10 level