Nurse-Family Partnership: Outcomes, Costs and Return on Investment in New York



A new report¹ on the Nurse-Family Partnership[®] (NFP) found that NFP offers significant benefits to the families it serves and significant cost savings to society and government funders. Prepared by Dr. Ted Miller of the Pacific Institute of Evaluation and Research, the report is the most comprehensive analysis to date of NFP's costs, outcomes and return on investment.

NFP's Cost Savings and Return on Investment

NFP Cost per Family Served	\$ 8,959
Savings to State Government at age 18	\$ 15,312
Savings to Fed Government at age 18	\$ 12,199
Total Government Savings at age 18	\$ 27,511
Cumulative Savings to Medicaid at age 6	\$ 9,260
Cumulative Savings to Medicaid at age 18	\$ 17,491
Societal Cost Savings*	\$ 85,648



*NFP's benefits to society are estimated to be \$85,648, taking less tangible savings (like potential gains in work, wages and quality of life) into account along with resource cost savings (cost offsets to government, insurers, and out of pocket payments by families).

At an average cost per family of \$8,959 in New York, Miller's model predicts that by a child's 18th birthday:

- State and federal cost savings due to NFP will average \$27,511 per family served or 3.1 times the cost of the program.
- State savings alone are estimated to be \$15,312 and federal savings, \$12,199, per family served.
- Cumulative cost savings to Medicaid are estimated to be \$17,491.
- If Medicaid were to fully fund the program, cost savings to Medicaid would fully cover the costs of the program before the child reaches six years of age.

Taking less tangible savings (like potential gains in work, wages and quality of life) into account along with resource cost savings (cost offsets to government, insurers, and out-of-pocket payments by families), the societal benefits as a result of NFP are estimated to be \$85,648, which equals a **benefit cost ratio of 9.6**.

Benefit/Cost Ratio Highlights:

- \$1.71 for every dollar invested by the state of New York
- \$1.36 for every dollar invested by the federal government
- \$1.95 for every dollar invested by Medicaid

Estimated \$9.56 return on investment to society for every dollar invested in Nurse-Family Partnership.

OUTCOMES

Based on a review of evidence from 30 NFP evaluation studies, including randomized controlled trials, quasiexperimental studies and large-scale replication data, Miller's analysis predicts that when NFP is brought to scale, it can achieve the following outcomes in New York:

- 25% reduction in smoking during pregnancy
- 28% reduction in pregnancy-induced hypertension
- 16% reduction in preterm births (<37 weeks)
- 61% reduction in infant mortality (4.1 fewer infant deaths per 1,000 families served)
- 32% reduction in closely-spaced second births (within 2 years postpartum)
- 24% reduction in very closely-spaced second births (within 15 months postpartum)
- 38% fewer subsequent preterm births per 1,000 families served
- 13% increase in moms who attempt to breastfeed
- 39% reduction in emergency department use related to childhood injuries (ages 0-2)
- 32% reduction in child maltreatment (through age 15)
- 40% reduction in language delays
- 47% reduction in crimes and arrests (ages 11-17)
- 55% reduction in alcohol, tobacco & marijuana use (ages 12-15)
- 23% increase in full immunization status (ages 0-2)
- 7% reduction in TANF payments (through 9 years postpartum)
- 9% reduction in Food Stamp Payments (through 10 years postpartum)
- 7% reduction in person-months of Medicaid coverage (through 15 years post-partum)
- 16% reduction in costs if on Medicaid through age 18
- Subsidized child care caseload reduced by 3.7 children per 1,000 families served

Dr. Miller's model predicts that on average, enrolling 1,000 low income families in NFP will prevent:

- 21 first preterm births and 28 subsequent preterm births to young mothers
- 62 cases of preeclampsia
- 3.5 infant deaths
- 118 cases of child maltreatment
- 140 child injuries treated in emergency departments
- 216 instances of youth substance abuse
- 311 youth arrests

ⁱ Ted Miller, Ph.D, Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, *Nurse-Family Partnership Home Visitation: Costs, Outcome, and Return on Investment*, April 30, 2013 and associated Return on Investment Calculator dated 9/23/13.

