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Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

Illinois Home Visiting

Home Visiting is a voluntary program that provides evidence-based services and support to pregnant women and families who are at risk for poor health, educational, economic or social outcomes.¹ Home Visiting builds upon decades of research and provides voluntary individually-tailored support to families in their homes,² to promote parent-child attachment and positive parenting.

Eligibility Criteria

Varies by program.

Services Provided

Services and support for families are individualized to meet the parents' and child's needs. Home Visiting services include but are not limited to developmental assessments, information on child development and learning, parenting coaching, and connections to community resources.

Effectiveness of Home Visiting Services

Research shows home visiting can be an effective method of delivering family social support and child development services.³ Home visiting models vary in their program structures, but the models approved for state funding provide specific outcomes and services, and are evidence-based. Home visiting leads to fewer

Major Funding Sources

Federal

- Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV)
- Early Head Start/Head Start

State

- Early Childhood Block Grant, Prevention Initiative 0-3, Illinois State Board of Education
- General Revenue Fund, Illinois Department of Human Services

1. National Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families. (2014). *The Research Case for Home Visiting*. Retrieved from <https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/144-the-research-case-for-home-visiting>

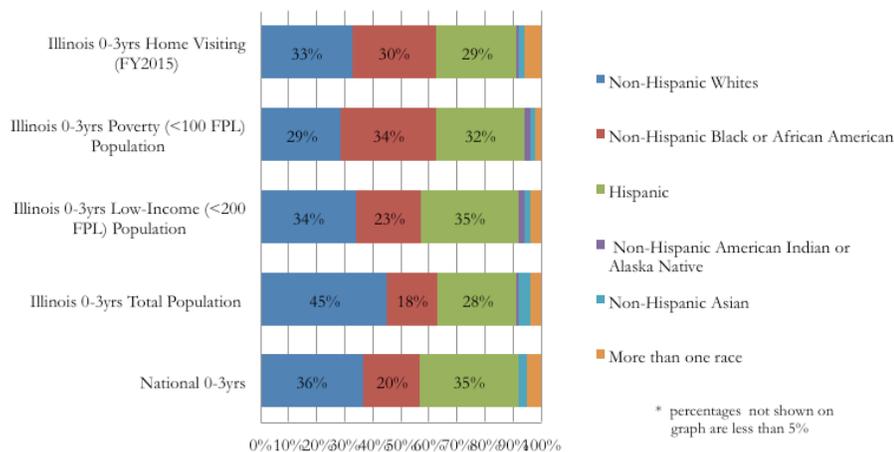
2. D. I. Lowell, A. S. Carter, L. Godoy, et al., "A Randomized Controlled Trial of Child FIRST: A Comprehensive Home-Based Intervention Translating Research into Early Childhood Practice." *Child Development* 82, no. 1 (2011): 193-208

3. Filene, J. H., Kaminski, J. W., Valle, L. A., & Cachat, P. (2013). *Components Associated With Home Visiting Program Outcomes: A Meta-analysis*. *Pediatrics*, 132(Supplement). doi:10.1542/peds.2013-1021h

children in child welfare, mental health, and juvenile corrections systems, saving costs for Illinois.⁴ Many of the outcomes such as increased reading and other language-related activities at home are positively associated with school readiness. Moreover, receiving social support and connections to reduce parental stress ultimately helps alleviate toxic stress reactions that can undermine the baby's development.⁵

State and federal sources combined totaled approximately \$90 million in funding for Home Visiting in Illinois (FY2015),⁶ which supported a network of over 300 programs across the state—serving approximately 17,000 families per year, some from prenatal to age 5. (These numbers include funding from the Illinois State Board of Education's Early Childhood Block Grant/Infant-Toddler set-aside.) Illinois home visiting programs serve fewer than 10% of low-income families with children 0-age 3.

Estimated Percentage of Children 0-3yrs in Illinois Home Visiting Programs by Race & Ethnicity



Source: U.S. Census 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Demographic and Service Delivery Indicators for Illinois Home Visiting Programs State Fiscal Year 2015 Report

This graph shows that compared to the racial composition of the 0-3 population living in poverty, Asian, Hispanic, and Black children are less likely to receive home visiting services compared to White children.

The Illinois Home Visiting program is complex, with multiple funding streams and numerous requirements for reporting demographic statistics. Due to varying data collection policies, it is difficult to aggregate home visiting data. Funders of Illinois Home Visiting are continuously assessing the needs of the program and addressing the state's diverse geographic and demographic realities.

4. Chapin Hall at University of Chicago. (2012). *Building a System of Support for Evidence-Based Home Visiting Programs in Illinois: Findings from Year 2 of the Strong Foundations Evaluation*

5. Center for Education and Human Services, SRI International. (2012). *Home Visiting Programs and Their Impact on Young Children's School Readiness*. Retrieved from <http://www.child-encyclopedia.com/sites/default/files/textes-experts/en/912/home-visiting-programs-and-their-impact-on-young-childrens-school-readiness.pdf>

6. Funding for FY2016 and FY2017 has been greatly reduced during the state budget impasse