



As stated by Maine's 125<sup>th</sup> Legislature in 2011, "A Resolve to Ensure a Strong Start for Maine's Infants and Toddlers by Extending the Reach of High-quality Home Visitation," Maine is committed to maintaining a cohesive and accountable statewide home visiting system for improving childhood health and cognition outcomes, preventing child abuse and neglect, enhancing future productivity, and reducing future demand on tax-supported services.

This commitment is evidenced in *Maine Families*, Maine's state-administered voluntary home visiting program for pregnant women, expectant fathers, and parents or primary caregivers of children from birth to age three. Offered in every county of the state through a well-established and rigorously accountable system of performance-based contracts with local agencies, *Maine Families Home Visiting* is an evidence-based program that is delivered by trained specialists to ensure safe home environments, promote healthy growth and development for babies and young children, and provide key connections to needed services. Home visitors use a non-judgmental and compassionate approach that empowers parents with skills, tools, and confidence to nurture the healthy growth of their baby.

Following the nationally recognized Parents as Teachers (PAT) evidence-based model and curriculum, the intensity and length of service is matched to family needs in response to an individualized needs assessment. This allows for careful optimization of resources, in which highest-need families receive more frequent visits over a longer period of time. Priority is given to adolescent parents, families living in poverty, and families struggling with substance use, mental health, co-occurring, or family violence issues. Priority is also given to families living in remote rural areas, recognizing that other services are not easily available or accessible.

## Quick Facts SFY2014

All *Maine Families Home Visiting* programs share a single web-based Family Records System that allows for statewide evaluation and continuous quality improvement. All data listed below is from an independent data report generated by HZA, Inc. for the State Fiscal Year 2014 reporting period July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014, unless noted otherwise.

### SERVICE DELIVERY STATISTICS

- **2,393** families served
- **2,644** children served
- **22,112** home visits conducted
- **13 months** average length of participation per family, with length of service based on family needs
- **48%** of families enrolled prenatally

### PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

#### Age of mother at birth of first child

- 38% of participants were 22 or younger when their first child was born
- 138 participants were under 18 when their first child was born

#### Education level

- 19% of participants had not completed high school
- 42% of participants had completed high school or GED
- Less than 40% of participants had any education beyond high school

#### Household income

- Over 40% of participants had an annual income of under \$10,000 (42.8%)
- The majority of participants had an annual income of less than \$20,000 (65%)

#### Marital status

- More than one-quarter of participants were single parents (26%)
- About one third of participants were married (34%)

In State Fiscal Year 2014, *Maine Families Home Visiting* served 2,393 families based on family identified needs, reaching 2,644 infants and toddlers. The families who received home visits were largely young (38% under age 23 at their child's birth), single or unmarried (74%), and likely to be facing economic challenges (79% of the families had household incomes under \$30,000 for the year).

In recognition of the demonstrated outcomes and accountability of the *Maine Families Home Visiting* program, Maine received a competitive four-year Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) federal grant to expand *Maine Families* capacity to serve more vulnerable families statewide and is currently in the last year of that funding. A portion of the federal grant funding has been allocated to systems-wide improvements including support for the Developmental Screening Initiative, collaboration with Public Health Nursing to develop the CradleME Centralized Referral Pilot, and the creation of a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Drug Affected Baby Coordinator position at the Maine Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services.

With a baseline operating budget of about \$8 million for direct service, the statewide network of 17 Maine Families Home Visiting sites employed over 125 extensively trained and certified professionals serving nearly 2,400 families this year. The program's performance-based contracting structure, together with its commitment to evaluation and quality assurance, has demonstrated an exceptionally high level of accountability, as well as consistently positive outcomes for participating children and their families.

\*2013 Maine KIDS COUNT Data Book:

<http://www.mekids.org/2013-maine-kids-count-data-book.php>



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## Quick Facts SFY2014, continued

### CHILD AND FAMILY OUTCOMES

#### Prenatal Care

- 88% of expectant mothers received adequate prenatal care.

#### Preventing Unintended Pregnancy

- 92% of women who were not seeking to become pregnant were taking measures to prevent unplanned pregnancy.

#### Health Care for Children

- 92% of children had up to date immunizations (73% statewide\*).
- 99.4% of children had an identified Primary Care Provider (Statewide, 36.6% of children do not have a medical home\*).
- 97% of children had health insurance (95% statewide\*).
- 92% of children were up to date with well-child check-ups.

#### Protecting Children from Violence, Abuse and Neglect

- In FY2014, Maine Families served increasing numbers of families involved with Child Protective Services (CPS). Of families involved with CPS at enrollment, 95% had no further reports or substantiated allegations for child abuse or neglect during their participation with Maine Families. Home visitors prevent child abuse and neglect by helping families to build skills and confidence for managing the stresses of parenting a young child. Home visitors provide tools for understanding child behavior and addressing behavior challenges. In addition, home visitors comply with all state requirements for mandated child abuse and neglect reporting.

#### Secondhand Smoke

- Home visitors provide ongoing support for tobacco cessation and eliminating child exposure to second-hand smoke. In FY2014, 85% of participating children were not exposed to second-hand smoke. Over half (52%) of babies who were exposed to second-hand smoke at 3 months of age were no longer exposed at 9 months of age, reducing their risk of developing respiratory and other related health issues.

#### Developmental Screening and Intervention

- As a result of routine screening by trained home visitors, more than 177 children were identified with possible developmental delays and provided supports to help address those delays early before more costly remediation is needed in school.

#### Home Safety

- Home visitors help families to prevent child injuries and trips to the emergency department by administering a Home Safety Assessment at least every six months. At subsequent visits, home visitors check in to make sure safety improvements have been made. As a result, nearly 100% of Maine Families participants are following recommended safety practices in most categories, with the largest improvements seen in household, burns, sleep, and poison safety.

#### Increasing Family Self-Sufficiency

- Maine Families staff made more than 4,500 referrals on behalf of families. Nearly all enrolled families had adequate food and heat in their homes, facilitated in part by referrals for needed assistance.