

Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Program (ICAPP)

Iowa's families and children grow resilient and strong with Evidence-Based Home Visiting. Through Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) funds, the Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Program (ICAPP) is building strong families using evidence-based home visiting programs.

Two evidence-based home visiting programs provided to Iowan families are **Parents as Teachers (PAT)** and **Healthy Families America (HFA)**.

During Federal Fiscal Year 2020, Iowa's Child Abuse Prevention Program provided evidence-based home visiting services to seven hundred and fifty-two (752) families. The caregivers in these families reported less formal education than the state population, with many having no more than a high school education or GED. More than two-thirds reported annual household incomes of \$30,000 or less.

Through a rigorous and impartial review of the research literature, the Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness (HomVEE) project found that both Healthy Families America and Parents as Teachers had favorable impacts on:

- Child development and school readiness
- Positive parenting practices
- Family economic self-sufficiency
- Reductions in child maltreatment¹

"Rigorous evaluation of high-quality home visiting programs has shown positive impact on reducing incidences of child abuse and neglect, improvement in birth outcomes such as decreased pre-term births and low-birthweight babies, improved school readiness for children and increased high school graduation rates for mothers participating in the program."¹

EVIDENCE-BASED HOME VISITING CAN SAVE MONEY



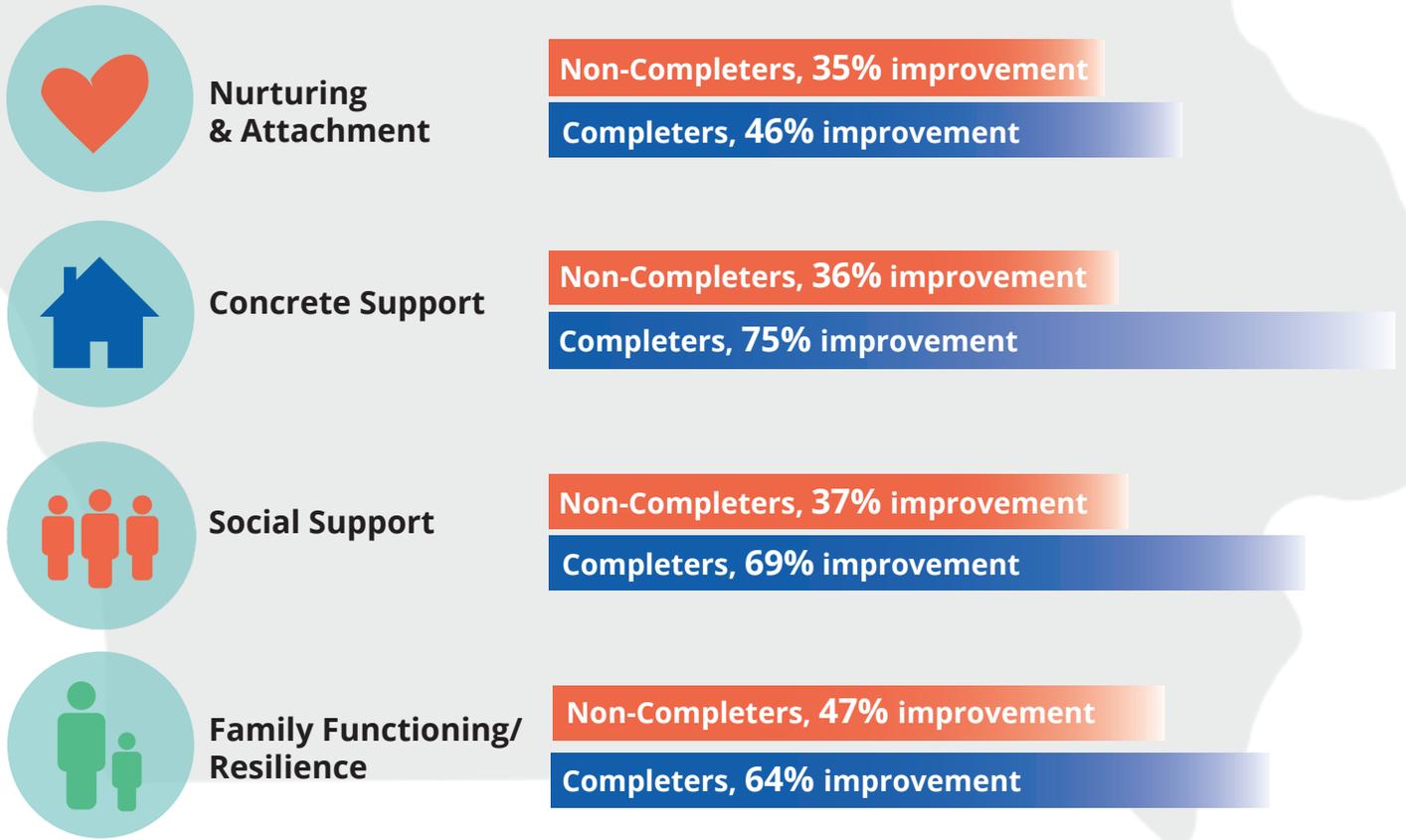
"Cost-benefit analyses show that high quality home visiting programs offer returns on investment ranging from \$1.75 to \$5.70 for every dollar spent due to reduced costs of child protection, K-12 special education and grade retention, and criminal justice expenses."¹

Data collected by local programs providing Parents As Teachers (PAT) or Healthy Families America (HFA) Home Visiting Programs show that **Dose Matters!**

Research tells us that when protective factors are present, risk for abuse and neglect is reduced and children are more likely to thrive. Aggregated data from home visiting programs revealed increases in protective factors across all families – and even greater increases when families completed the program.

"I don't know what I would have done if I didn't have you to call"
 -Participant from Monona county's Learning for Life program

Six hundred and fifty-one (651) matched pre- and post-test surveys show that participants who met requirements for program completion were more likely to show improvements in protective factors than those who did not.



"I've never met anyone like [home visitor]. She . . . took the time to understand me and not make assumptions. She went above and beyond"
 -Participant from Mills County family support program

"Thank you for encouraging me to finish school so I can work towards a better future"
 -Participant in Osceola O'Brien KIDS program



This brief was created in partnership with FRIENDS National Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) and the Iowa Department of Human Services, Prevent Child Abuse Iowa.

