Home Visiting: Measuring What Happens in Visits to Get It Right the Second Time Around

Collaborative Science of Home Visiting Annual Meeting
Three Points

1. We are stewards of something unique.
2. We face some formidable challenges.
3. To overcome them, we must understand what happens in visits.
1. We are stewards of Something Unique

Home visiting is different from all other services, because we cross the threshold into family life.
We are stewards in a time of scale up.
We face formidable challenges.

- Family engagement
- Determinants of visit content
- Fidelity to core components
- Home visitor burnout and turnover
- Challenges in earning trust
- Addressing sensitive issues
CHALLENGE: Variable success in engaging families

Family Retention by Implementing Agency
Hawaii HSP RCT, 1994-96

Family Retention
Alaska HFA RCT, 2000-03

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<th>Retention Rate</th>
<th>All Sites</th>
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<td>6 months</td>
<td>75%</td>
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Reasons: Family recruitment? What happens in visits?

CHALLENGE: Variable content by site within model.

**Time Distribution in Visits**

- **CD** Child Development
- **PCI** Parent-Child Interaction
- **HC** Health Care
- **FF** Family Functioning
- **AD** Administrative
- **EN** Environmental
- **UP** Unplanned

Lines show 3 sites’ profiles.

Source: NJ HFA MIS Data 2011-2012 Postnatal Visits, First 6 Months of Enrollment
**CHALLENGE:** Variable content by site within model.

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Lines show 3 sites’ profiles.

**Reasons:** Family vs. home visitor vs. site preferences?

*Source: NJ HFA MIS Data 2011-2012 Postnatal Visits, First 6 Months of Enrollment*
CHALLENGE: Variable delivery of intended services

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**Reasons:** Site support? Visitor perceived role, self-efficacy?

*HFA Alaska RCT, 2000-5*

*Duggan et al, Child Maltreatment, 2007; RCT Final Report, 2005*
**CHALLENGE:** Relationship style, burnout and turnover

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**Mothers**

**Home Visitors**

*Burrell et al., J. of Human Behavior in Social Environments, 2009*
CHALLENGE: Relationship style, burnout and turnover

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Reasons? Implications for what happens in visits?

Burrell et al., *J. of Human Behavior in Social Environments*, 2009
Maternal Trust in HV as a Function of Relationship Anxiety

CHALLENGE: Variable success in earning trust.

McFarlane et al. (2010) J Community Psychology 38(5):541-556
**CHALLENGE:** Variable success in earning trust.

Maternal Trust in HV as a Function of Relationship Anxiety

![Graph showing maternal trust levels for different relationship anxieties.]

**Reasons:** A reflection of what happens in visits?

McFarlane et al. (2010) J Community Psychology 38(5):541-556
What Happens in Visits – Relevance for the Research Agenda

What happens in visits related to all priorities, but especially these four.

**Top Ten HV Research Priorities** *(HVRN, 2013)*

1. Strengthen and broaden home visiting effectiveness
2. Identify core elements of home visiting
3. Promote successful adoption of home visiting innovations
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5. **Promote fidelity in implementing home visiting**
6. **Build a stable, competent workforce.**
7. **Promote family engagement in home visiting**
8. Promote coordination with other services for families
9. Promote the sustainment of effective home visiting
10. **Build home visiting research infrastructure**