Family Resource Centers' Role in the Community Pathway: A focus on child welfare outcomes

Jordan Katti, PhD Applied Survey Research June 14, 2023





Spotlights on successful FRC initiatives:

- Birth & Beyond FRC Collaborative (Sacramento County)
- Pathways to Hope for Children FRC (Shasta County)
- Westminster FRC (Orange County)
- CFRA COVID Relief (Statewide)

"[The FRCs] are so close to the parents. The parents recognize them as **resources** and **trust** them. I think the hugest thing is the trust, and the trust is mutual."

~ CFRA Staff Member on the Value of FRCs as Partners

Birth & Beyond FRC Collaborative in Sacramento County In 2020-21, Birth & Beyond directly served

6,575 parents/caregivers &

2,640 children ages 0 to 17

Average # of hours served: **5.4**

1,168 adults received Home Visiting

805 adults at Parenting Education Workshops

1,943 families received Crisis Intervention

Core services

Quasi-Experimental Design (QED)

Goal of the QED

To isolate the **impact** of receiving **8+ hours** of **B&B home visiting** by creating a statistically valid comparison group

Matching Strategy

Propensity Score Matching based on a vulnerability index, including:

- Age 5 and under
- Non-White
- Male
- Substantiated Baseline
- High or Very High SDM Risk Level
- 1+ Prior CPS involvement

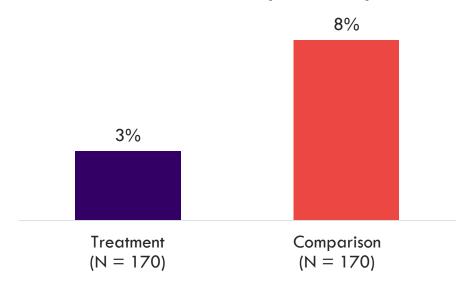
Quasi-Experimental Design CPS Outcomes

Ages 0 to 5

Children ages 0-5 receiving eight or more hours of Birth & Beyond home visiting were almost

two-thirds less likely

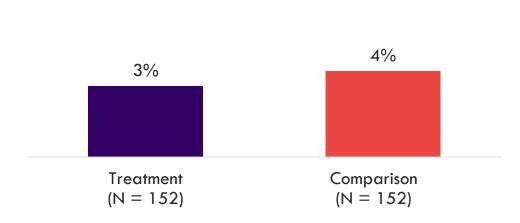
to experience substantiated recurrence compared with a matched countywide sample.



Ages 6 to 17

Children ages 6-17 receiving eight or more hours of Birth & Beyond home visiting were one-quarter less likely

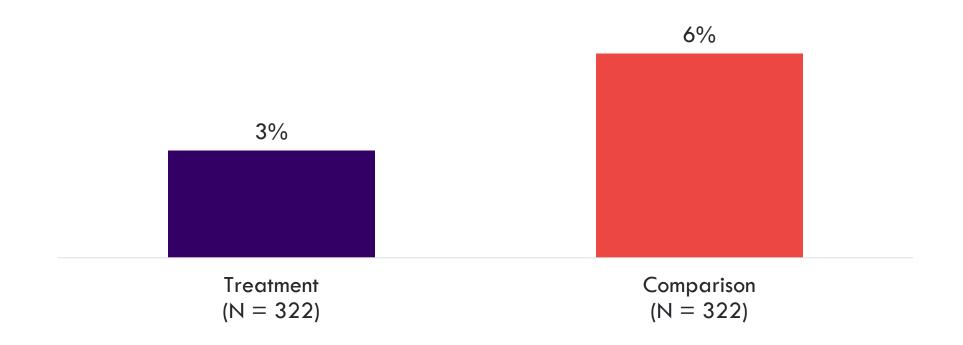
to experience substantiated recurrence compared with a matched countywide sample.



Quasi-Experimental Design CPS Outcomes: Ages 0-17

Children ages 0-17 who received eight or more hours of Birth & Beyond home visiting were half as likely

to experience substantiated recurrence compared with a matched countywide sample.



Pathways to Hope for Children FRC in Shasta County

- Services provided:
 - Drop-in support
 - Case management
 - Parenting education
 - Job skills assistance
 - Material help (diapers and clothes)

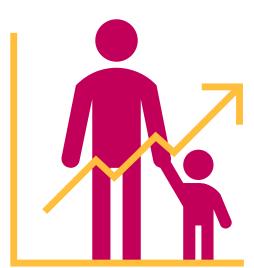
- Evaluation included 147 parents
 - 67.5% had Adverse Childhood
 Experiences (ACEs) scores of 4 or higher
 - 47% identified as homeless



Pathways to Hope for Children FRC in Shasta County

Evaluation Results

Hope Survey scores increased by 4.82 points.



- Progress toward treatment goals achieved by 89% of parents.
- Parental stress improved by 15%.
- Parent's well-being increased by 5.43 points.



Westminster Family Resource Center in Orange County

• In 2016 and 2017, WFRC participated in a quasi-experimental study to evaluate the return on investment of their services compared to the cost of child maltreatment.

In 2015, child abuse and neglect was estimated to cost \$428 billion nationwide.



\$268,544 per person to society due to child maltreatment.



Westminster Family Resource Center in Orange County

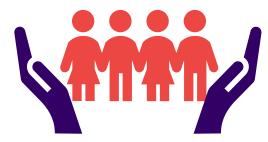
- The rate of substantiated child abuse in WFRC-served areas was significantly lower compared to similar communities in Los Angeles County.
 - 21% lower in 2016 and 41% lower in 2017.



More than

90 children

kept out of the child welfare system.





CFRA Response to COVID-19

• FRC COVID Relief Funds were distributed by CFRA at **unprecedented speed** to address family needs and maintain continuity of services and operations during the COVID-19 crisis.

With COVID-19 Relief Funds Distributed by CFRA from September 2021 through June 2022:

380 FRCs across **53** counties provided services

to 394,168 individuals

including 13,384 in the foster system

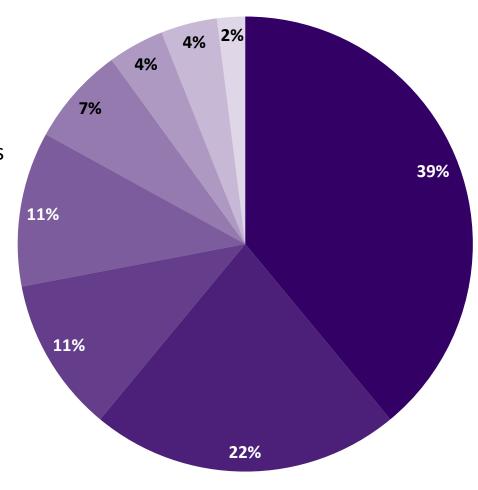
and 15,126 who are Native American/Tribal-Affiliated

CFRA Response to COVID-19

 During the COVID-19 pandemic, FRCs provided the following services thanks to COVID Relief Funds distributed by CFRA:



- Parenting Resources
- Linkages with Local, State, and Federal Benefits
- Isolation Needs
- Support for Education and Distance Learning
- Mental Health/Counseling Services
- Support for Returning to Work/School



"[Family Resource Centers] are the cornerstone of healthy communities. I can even go so far as to say that they are the **lifeline**. Especially in rural communities... They're key to community vitality... It's a proven strategy to build protective factors, to build community."

~ The Executive Director of an FRC Network that participates in CFRA



Picture obtained from El Sol Neighborhood Educational Center, used with permission