



# Childhood Begins at Home

**Evidence-based home visiting is a research-proven tool to support the development and safety of our most vulnerable children and their families.** Far too many of Pennsylvania's youngest children are at risk of child abuse and neglect, live in poverty, and experience poor education and health outcomes. At times, parents and others raising children need support to improve their education, health, safety and economic stability.

**Four evidence-based models are currently using about \$50 million in state and federal funds to provide services in Pennsylvania. They include:**

- **Early Head Start (EHS)** - Enhances the ability of low-income families to meet the developmental and early learning needs of their children at home.
- **Healthy Families America (HFA)** - Strengthens families by promoting positive parenting, enhancing child health and development, and preventing child abuse and neglect.
- **Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP)** - Pairs first-time, low-income pregnant women with nurses to improve pregnancy/birth outcomes, child health and development, and family economic self-sufficiency.
- **Parents as Teachers (PAT)** - Builds the capacity of parents to care for their children, while promoting school readiness and healthy child development.

**Childhood Begins at Home is a statewide campaign designed to help policymakers and the public understand the value of evidence-based home visiting as an effective way to support parents and others raising children.** Partners include Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, Maternity Care Coalition, Pennsylvania Head Start Association, Pennsylvania Nurse-Family Partnership, Pennsylvania Parents as Teachers, Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children and Trying Together.



## Improving Health

Only **1 in 10 Pennsylvania babies** born on Medicaid received the appropriate evidence-based home visiting services following birth last year.



## Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect

Only **21 percent of Pennsylvania children** under age 6 known to the child welfare system received the appropriate evidence-based home visiting services to reduce the likelihood of future child abuse and neglect last year.



## Reducing Poverty

Only **4 percent of Pennsylvania children** living in low-income families that would benefit from appropriate evidence-based home visiting received services last year.



## Improving Literacy

Only **half of Pennsylvania children** born to a mother without a high school diploma received appropriate evidence-based home visiting services last year.

# Mercer

County

## Improving Health



**0**  
Children served by  
HFA and NFP

**451**  
Unmet need

**451**  
Medicaid Births

## Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect

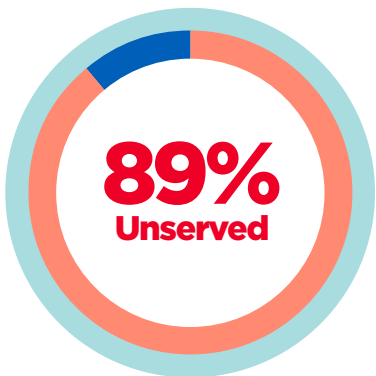


**0**  
Children served by  
HFA and NFP

**389**  
Unmet need

**389**  
Children age 0-5  
known to the child  
welfare system

## Reducing Poverty



**372**  
Children served by  
EHS, HFA, NFP, and  
PAT

**3,064**  
Unmet need

**3,436**  
Children in poverty

## Improving Literacy



**372**  
Children served by  
EHS and PAT

**0**  
Unmet need

**255**  
Births to mothers  
without a high school  
diploma

**Help address the opioid crisis by investing in evidence-based home visiting programs as recommended to be part of the Plan of Safe Care.**

# SUPPORT

***\$6.5 million increase (\$5.3M in the Community-Based Family Centers and \$1.2M in the Nurse-Family Partnership line items) to expand evidence-based home visiting to an additional 800 families; train staff to better support families dealing with the opioid crisis; and provide a COLA to NFP and PAT.***