

Home Visiting

Prenatal and early childhood home visiting programs provide services to families in the home or in other preferred community settings to support maternal, child, and family health, and to prevent adverse childhood experiences. Home visiting programs improve maternal and infant health outcomes, positive parenting practices, family economic self-sufficiency, and school readiness.³⁸ Home visiting has also been found to reduce child maltreatment.³⁹ While home visiting programs are proven to help improve maternal and child health outcomes, not all families in need can access services. Due to its proven impacts, states are looking to develop home visiting programming plans which offer universal access to any family.

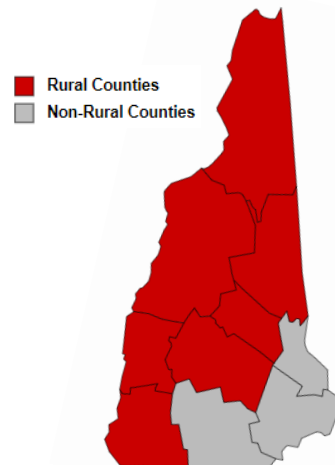
In New Hampshire, many families have access to home visiting at Family Resource Centers. Family Resource Centers are a network of community-based, non-profit organizations located throughout the state; all of which provide an array of family-strengthening programs and supports such as home visiting, parent education, Kinship Navigation, Resource Navigation, youth programs, playgroups, early supports and services, developmental screening, childcare, and concrete supports.⁴⁰ Despite the critical role Family Resource Centers play in supporting families, the system does not have consistent, comprehensive funding.

MIECHV Home Visiting in New Hampshire in 2021

Participants: 900
Households: 380
Home Visits: 5,211

- 65.5% of households served were low income
- 5.1% of households included a pregnant enrollee under age 21

Source: Data and design from US HRSA, Maternal and Child Health, 2021 New Hampshire Home Visiting State Fact Sheet



Key Takeaways

- ✓ 86.3 percent of NH mothers enrolled in HFA home visiting received a postpartum visit with a healthcare provider within 8 weeks of delivery. Appropriate postpartum care can significantly reduce maternal death
- ✓ 78.1 percent of caregivers enrolled in HFA home visiting were screened for depression within 3 months of enrollment or within 3 months of delivery. Research shows that postpartum depression can be associated with a number of adverse outcomes for both the mother and infant

Policy Recommendations

- 👤 Invest in comprehensive funding for a statewide system of Family Resource Centers that give communities access to services that strengthen families.
- 👤 Develop a plan to implement universal access to voluntary home visiting for all NH families
- 👤 Prioritize infant and early childhood mental health and support healthy emotional development.