

# HFA IMPACTS ON COMMUNITIES



a program of Prevent Child Abuse America

[healthyfamiliesamerica.org](http://healthyfamiliesamerica.org)

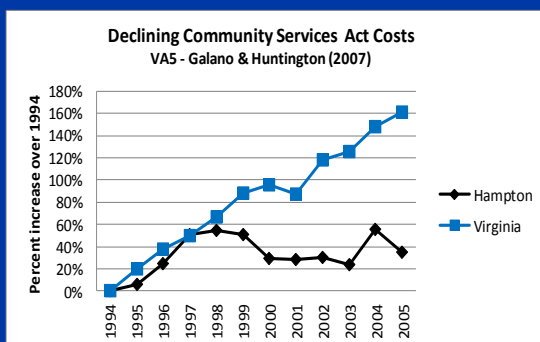
Healthy Families America is an effective and proven model for early childhood home visiting with positive impacts in eight areas essential for children. Currently there are 590 Healthy Families America home visitation sites in 40 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands and Canada. *Learn more about home visiting at [homvee.acf.hhs.gov](http://homvee.acf.hhs.gov)*

*Expanding, or “scaling up”, Healthy Families America to serve the entire community offers measurable improvements on child and family well-being. Further, Healthy Families America builds and sustains community partnerships through the creation of community advisory boards, staff training on local family resources, linkages and referrals, and more.*

## COMMUNITY-WIDE IMPACT STUDY

A ground-breaking study commissioned by Hampton Virginia city leaders found significant community benefits of HFA (VA5). \*

- ◇ The study examined rates of change in several key benchmark areas, comparing Hampton to similar communities.
- ◇ The strongest results showed a greater rate of improvement for Hampton on rates of child maltreatment, child maltreatment fatalities, and infant mortality.
- ◇ Hampton’s costs related to these outcomes indicate savings compared to state costs, shown in the figure below.



## IMPROVED BIRTH SPACING & OUTCOMES

Delaying subsequent pregnancies helps young families achieve greater financial security. More HFA moms waited at least two years to have another child (FL4, NC, VA2b). HFA also improves birth outcomes, including low birth weight, a problem with tremendous public and personal costs. When moms enroll in HFA before the third trimester, studies report positive impacts on birth weight (NY2, FL3, DC, NJ1, VA4), and fewer birth complications (VA2).

## LOWER EDUCATION COSTS

The largest long-term rigorous study of HFA to date (NY2) shows impacts on academic success, with fewer children retained in first grade or receiving special education services. Other rigorous studies show early indicators of school readiness (AK, CA, GA, NY1).

## IMPROVED FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY

In multiple studies, HFA parents show significant gains in their education (AZ2, CA, NY1, DC, FL4, MA1, MD2, NJ1) that can lead to increased family income and tax base.

## REDUCED CHILD MALTREATMENT

Several rigorous studies show reductions in child maltreatment measured via parent self-report (AK, AZ2, CA, HI2, NY2), or substantiated reports (HI1, VA5). Strongest results on substantiated reports are for select subgroups (MA2, NY2, FL4, OR), such as first-time moms who enrolled prenatally (NY2).

**THE BOTTOM LINE:** At full-scale (serving an entire community), Healthy Families America has the potential to achieve community-wide benefits, including intermediate system change and long-term impacts on community health.

\* **Evaluation Studies:** State abbreviations refer to evaluation studies; those in *italics* indicate Randomized Control Trials (RCT). For more information, see the HFA Evaluation Table at [healthyfamiliesamerica.org/research/](http://healthyfamiliesamerica.org/research/)

**More Information:** Please visit [healthyfamiliesamerica.org](http://healthyfamiliesamerica.org) to read more about HFA’s positive impacts for children and communities.