

The University of Texas at Austin LBJ School of Public Affairs

# 2021 Prenatal-to-3 State Policy Roadmap

Methods and Sources

**Effective Strategies** 

### **EVIDENCE-BASED HOME VISTING PROGRAMS**

### What are evidence-based home visiting programs and why are they important?

All references for this section are provided in the Notes and Sources section at the bottom of each webpage. Additionally, search the <u>Prenatal-to-3 Policy Clearinghouse</u> for an ongoing inventory of rigorous evidence reviews, including more information on evidence-based home visiting programs.

## What impact do evidence-based home visiting programs have?

The following studies meet standards of strong causal evidence to demonstrate the impacts of home visiting for the health and wellbeing of young children and their families:

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## How can states effectively implement evidence-based home visiting programs?

In the absence of an evidence-based state policy, we present several choices that states can make to more effectively provide evidence-based home visiting programs to families who need the services. We identify states as leaders in the implementation of evidence-based home visiting programs if they:

- Serve a high share of their state's low-income infants and toddlers relative to other states; and
- Use state dollars or Medicaid to support home visiting services.

To assess if a state serves a high share of eligible infants and toddlers, we calculated the percentage of children under age 3 in a state participating in home visiting programs, using data from the National Home Visiting Resource Center's (NHVRC) 2020 Home Visiting Yearbook and population-level estimates from the 2018 and 2019 American Community Survey. Additional details on the calculation of this measure can be found below (see Measure 1). States identified as serving a high share of children are those that were in roughly the top third of states on this measure and typically had a substantial number of infants and toddlers in their state who may benefit from participating in home visiting. In states which the number served data reported in the 2020 Home Visiting Yearbook differed substantially from those data reported in 2019, we contacted individuals involved in the state's administration of its home visiting program to validate the data reported. Some states provided alternate service data to more accurately reflect the number of infants and children participating in home visiting in the state. These data replaced those reported by the NHVRC in our calculation. Additionally, Vermont was not able to provide alternative data but the numbers reported by the NHVRC were determined to be not reflected of actual service levels. Data for Vermont is not reported in the 2021 Prenatal-to-Three State Policy Roadmap for this measure.

We utilized research conducted by the Johnson Group Consulting to capture states that use state funds or Medicaid funding to support components of their home visiting programs. Currently Ohio has planned to use Medicaid funding to support its home visiting programs, however, this has not yet been implemented.

We also performed an electronic search using Quorum State between July 1, 2020 and August 15, 2021 to assess legislative progress pertaining to home visiting, specifically related to new state appropriations or designating new funding models to support state home visiting programs. The main search strategy used combinations of keywords for proposed bills related to home visiting ("home visiting" OR "home visitor" OR MIECHV OR "maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting" OR HomVee). Because we distinguish between high-touch and targeted home visiting programs versus low-touch and universally available comprehensive screening and connection programs, bills proposing "universal home visiting" are typically considered comprehensive screening and connection programs and are included in that section of the 2021 Prenatal-to-Three State Policy Roadmap. Research staff conducted searches, analyzed results for relevant state legislation, and summarized state's efforts around home visiting programs at the state level.

#### Sources:

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West Virginia	(no additional sources)
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Wyoming	(no additional sources)

# How do evidence-based home visiting programs vary across states?

Data were collected for 1 measure to assess how states vary in their implementation of evidence-based home visiting programs. The datasets, calculations, and sources referenced for each state are listed below.

Measure 1: Estimated percentage of children under age 3 served by evidence-based home visiting programs

### Definition:

The percentage of children under age 3 served by home visiting programs out of all children under age 3 in families with incomes below 150% of FPL.

#### Notes:

- Numerator: total number of children under age 3 who were served by home visiting in 2019. (Data in the home visiting yearbook are presented with the total number of children served by home visiting and the percentage of those children who were under age 3. We multiplied the percentage of children under age 3 by the total number of children served to get the number of children under age 3 who were served by home visiting.)
- 2. Denominator: the sample of children under the age of 3 whose family poverty value was below 150% of the federal poverty level (FPL) from the 2018 and 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) Public-Use Microdata Sample (PUMS).
- 3. We used the 150% FPL cutoff as a proxy for the high-priority eligibility criteria typically used across home visiting programs (e.g., pregnant women, mothers under 21, single/never married mothers, parents with less than a high school education, and families with incomes below 100% FPL).
- 4. Sample size estimates were calculated in Stata 17 using person-level weights. Given the age and income limits imposed on the sample (children under age 3 living in families below 150% FPL) and the estimates by state, two years of ACS data were combined to improve data quality and accuracy and all weights were appropriately adjusted to account for the combined years of data.
- 5. Children living in group quarters or whose family poverty status was not available (e.g., foster children or children who were unrelated to the head of household) were excluded from the calculation.
- 6. The US Census calculation of poverty is based on the total income of all individuals aged 15 or older who are related to the head of household through marriage, birth or adoption. Income from cohabiting partners who are not married and unrelated children (including foster children) are not included in the calculation of family income. This family income is compared to federal poverty thresholds based on

- related family size and composition. This family income is compared to federal poverty thresholds based on related family size and composition (*povpip*).1
- 7. Data were not reported for Vermont, as the participation data collected were impacted by model changes during 2019 and likely not reflective of accurate participation rates.
- 8. The Home Visiting Yearbook typically gathers data directly from programs; however, in Iowa the state agency sends its data to the Home Visiting Yearbook.
- 9. Maine does not have any income requirements to determine eligibility for home visiting. Generally, the state measures the reach of its program by comparing the number of families who enroll in a year to the number of new births.
- 10. Since the FY 2017-2018 budget appropriation, Indiana has allocated \$5 million to its Nurse Family Partnership home visiting program every year. This new and sustained allocation likely explains the significant increase (~50%) in percent of children under age 3 in families with incomes of less than 150% of the FPL in Indiana's home visiting programs the data shows between 2018 and 2019 service data.
- 11. Data from the Michigan Infant Health Program (MIHP), one of the largest home visiting programs in Michigan, was not included in the National Home Visiting Yearbook prior to 2020 because it was not yet determined as evidence-based through the HOMVEE process. Once it was added to the HOMVEE platform, it was included in the 2020 Home Visiting Yearbook.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> US Census Bureau (n.d.). *How the Census Bureau measures poverty*. As of August 27, 2019. Retrieved on April 28, 2020 from <a href="https://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty/guidance/poverty-measures.html">https://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty/guidance/poverty-measures.html</a>