New York ranks 28th among all states for child well-being, according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation. “Home visiting programs are designed to enhance the well-being and development of young children by providing: prenatal and other maternal health care; information on child health, development, and care; prenatal support and instructions; referral to other services; or a combination of these interventions.” Yet, 87% of parents with children under age four in New York did not receive a home visit.

Current evidence based home visiting models in Westchester include: Early Head Start, Healthy Families America, and Parent Child Home Program. They report a variety of positive outcomes including healthier birth outcomes, lower incidence of abuse or neglect, and better school readiness. As a critical service delivery for strengthening children and families, more home visiting and improved screening and referral apparatuses are needed.

Only a limited number of families that could benefit from support receive services they need because of funding limitations of current Westchester programs.

**Key Facts**

- Roughly 40% of births in Westchester are covered by Medicaid and Child Health Plus.
- New York Office of Children and Family Services has designated Westchester as a high need community for early childhood home visiting services which have been shown to improve many aspects of child well-being.
- 1 in 4 children in Westchester live in families at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, which is $47,700 for a family of four.
- In 2012, 1,637 children were in indicated reports of child abuse/maltreatment in Westchester County.

**Current Families Served by Home Visiting Programs in Westchester**

- 110 families were enrolled in the WJCS Parent Child Home Program for 2013-14 program year
- 121 families were enrolled in Early Head Start programs through either Family Services of Westchester or WestCop during the 2013-2014 program year
- 113 families were enrolled with Andrus Healthy Families New York for the 2013-2014 year
FactSheet

Key Facts about Westchester Births
Annual Average 2008-2010

Total Births in Westchester: 11,249

How infant is fed in hospital:
- Breastfeeding only: 54.2%
- Formula Only: 13.5%
- Both: 30.5%

Infant Mortality Rate:
- 5.0 (per 1,000)

Babies born with low birth weight:
- 8.6% (966)

Teenage Mothers:
- 2.7% (300)

Not Married Mothers:
- 34.3% (3,506)

Deliver By Cesarean:
- 40.6% (4,562)

Emergency Room Visits for Children Under Five:
- 30,085 (Rate of 5,259.6 per 10,000)

Financial Coverage at Birth:
- MEDICAID, Child Health Plus: 38.9%
- Private Insurance: 56.6%
- Self-Pay/Other: 4.4%
- Other Public Insurances: 0.1%


We Can Do Better

- Identify the most appropriate and effective evidence based and promising models for Westchester early childhood home visiting
- Develop consensus on a screening and referral tool
- Educate the public and policy makers to build political and community support for home visiting
- Secure resources to expand effective home visiting programs in Westchester

Prenatal Care in Westchester
Annual Average 2008 - 2010

- Late or No Prenatal Care: 27.30%
- Received Prenatal Care: 72.70%


Sources:

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