

Nurse Home Visitor Program

Nurse Home Visitor Program in Colorado

The Colorado Nurse Home Visitor Program (NHVP) was created by the Colorado General Assembly in 2000 to award grants to public or private organizations in Colorado to offer health education and support services to first-time, low-income women beginning in pregnancy and up to the child's second birthday. Local grantees are implementing the [Nurse-Family Partnership \(NFP\)](#) home visiting model that was developed and tested by the National Center for Children, Families and Communities at the University of Colorado Denver. NFP is a voluntary, relationship-based program that partners highly-trained professional nurses with vulnerable first-time mothers and their babies. The program transforms lives through improved pregnancy outcomes, promotion of child health and development, and the encouragement of economic self-sufficiency for families.

Funding for the Colorado program is made available as a part of the state's Tobacco Settlement legislation [C.R.S. 26-6.4-101 (2013)]. The legislative intent is to expand NHVP annually and make services available to all eligible mothers across the state who chooses to participate. The legislation creates an administrative partnership between the University of Colorado Denver (UCD) and the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) to support and oversee the program. Implementation is managed by the Colorado Coordination Team, which includes the School of Nursing at UCD, [Invest In Kids](#) (the state intermediary for the Nurse-Family Partnership), the [Nurse-Family Partnership National Service Office](#) and the Office of Early Childhood at CDHS.

Nurse Family Partnership outcomes in Colorado:

- Significant reductions (20%) in cigarette smoking during pregnancy – an important positive outcome as the program is funded through tobacco dollars
- Significant reductions during pregnancy in nearly every measure of family/domestic violence including physical (46%) and fear of partner (48%)
- Increased employment in the Colorado workforce by NHVP mothers of all ages
- Increased rates of marriage during participation in the NHVP (from 21% at intake to 37% at program completion)
- 41% of those entering the program without a diploma or GED received their diploma/GED by program completion

Infants born to Colorado NFP mothers have:

- An overall preterm birth rate consistently lower than the Colorado rate
- An overall low birth weight rate consistently lower than the Colorado statewide rate
- Completed immunization rates of over 92% at 24 months of age for all vaccines
- Breast feeding rates of 87% at birth; 34% continue to breast feed at 6 months of age, which is virtually identical to national rates for all mothers even though NHVP serves the most at-risk mothers in our state
- High rates of success for children in achieving developmental and language milestones based on screening tests and other assessments

What this means for Colorado...

- **Improved prenatal health and healthy infants**
- **Fewer childhood injuries**
- **Increased intervals between births**
- **Increased maternal education and employment**
- **Improved school readiness for children born to mothers with low psychological resources**

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