Washington State Institute for Public Policy

Benefit-Cost Results

The WSIPP benefit-cost analysis examines, on an apples-to-apples basis, the monetary value of programs or policies to determine whether the benefits from the program exceed its costs. WSIPP's research approach to identifying evidence-based programs and policies has three main steps. First, we determine "what works" (and what does not work) to improve outcomes using a statistical technique called meta-analysis. Second, we calculate whether the benefits of a program exceed its costs. Third, we estimate the risk of investing in a program by testing the sensitivity of our results. For more detail on our methods, see our Technical Documentation.

Current estimates replace old estimates. Numbers will change over time as a result of model inputs and monetization methods.

Child Welfare

Program name	Date of last literature review	Total benefits	Taxpayer benefits	Non-taxpayer benefits	Costs	Benefits minus costs (net present value)	Benefit to cost ratio	Chance benefits will exceed costs
Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) for families in the child welfare system	Apr. 2012	$21,089	$7,879	$13,210	($1,623)	$19,466	$12.99	94 %
Intensive Family Preservation Services (HOMEBUILDERS®)	Apr. 2012	$21,284	$12,847	$8,437	($3,453)	$17,832	$6.16	99 %
Subsidized guardianship (Title IV-E waivers)	Apr. 2012	$5,411	$1,233	$4,178	$3,579	$8,990	n/a	99 %
Alternative Response	Aug. 2014	$2,905	$873	$2,032	($241)	$2,664	$12.07	88 %
Flexible funding (Title IV-E waivers)	Apr. 2012	$1,192	$385	$807	$0	$1,192	n/a	91 %
SafeCare	Apr. 2012	$2,757	$1,383	$1,374	($2,106)	$651	$1.31	50 %
Other Family Preservation Services (non-HOMEBUILDERS®)	Apr. 2012	($4,385)	($909)	($3,476)	($3,164)	($7,549)	($1.39)	0 %
Youth Villages LifeSet	Jun. 2016	($2,218)	$982	($3,200)	($9,694)	($11,912)	($0.23)	22 %

Other Child Welfare topics reviewed:

Program name	Date of last literature review	Notes
Family Team Decision-Making	Apr. 2012	Click for meta-analytic results
Fostering Healthy Futures	Jun. 2013	Click for meta-analytic results
Multisystemic Therapy (MST) for child abuse and neglect	Jun. 2013	Click for meta-analytic results
Structured Decision Making Risk Assessment	Apr. 2012	Click for meta-analytic results
Alternatives for Families (AF-CBT)	May. 2015	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Circle of Security	Jan. 2013	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Family Search and Engagement	Jan. 2013	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Functional Family Therapy (FFT) for children in the child welfare system	Jan. 2013	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Including Fathers—Father Engagement Program	Jul. 2014	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Kaleidoscope Play and Learn	Jun. 2013	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
King County Family Treatment Court	Jun. 2016	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Parent Mentor Program	Jan. 2013	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Parents and Children Together (PACT)	Jun. 2013	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Parents for Parents	Jan. 2013	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Partners with Families and Children	Jan. 2013	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Pathway to Reunification	Jan. 2013	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Project KEEP	Apr. 2012	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Promoting First Relationships	Jan. 2013	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Safe Babies, Safe Moms	Jan. 2014	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Dependency (or Family treatment) drug courts	Jul. 2008	See previous WSIPP publication for past findings.

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The Washington State Legislature created the Washington State Insititute for Public Policy in 1983. A Board of Directors-representing the legislature, the governor, and public universities-governs WSIPP and guides the development of all activities. WSIPP's mission is to carry out practical research, at legislative direction, on issues of importance to Washington State.