

Intensive Family Preservation Services (Homebuilders)

Program description:

Intensive Family Preservation Services are short-term, home-based crisis intervention services that emphasize placement prevention. The original program, Homebuilders, was developed in 1974 in Federal Way, Washington. The program emphasizes contact with the family within 24 hours of the crisis, staff accessibility around the clock, small caseload sizes, service duration of four to six weeks, and provision of intensive, concrete services and counseling. These programs are intended to prevent removal of a child from his or her biological home (or to promote his or her return to that home) by improving family functioning. For this analysis, we have presented the effects of all such programs together.

Typical age of primary program participant: 10

Typical age of secondary program participant: N/A

Meta-Analysis of Program Effects

Outcomes Measured	Primary or Secondary Participant	No. of Effect Sizes	Unadjusted Effect Sizes (Random Effects Model)			Adjusted Effect Sizes and Standard Errors Used in the Benefit-Cost Analysis					
			ES	SE	p-value	First time ES is estimated			Second time ES is estimated		
						ES	SE	Age	ES	SE	Age
Child abuse and neglect	P	2	-0.23	0.11	0.04	-0.19	0.11	11	-0.19	0.11	17
Out-of-home placement	P	4	-0.55	0.15	0.00	-0.44	0.15	11	-0.44	0.15	17

Benefit-Cost Summary

The estimates shown are present value, life cycle benefits and costs. All dollars are expressed in the base year chosen for this analysis (2011). The economic discount rates and other relevant parameters are described in Technical Appendix 2.	Program Benefits					Costs	Summary Statistics			
	Parti- pants	Tax- payers	Other	Other Indirect	Total Benefits		Benefit to Cost Ratio	Return on Invest- ment	Benefits Minus Costs	Probability of a positive net present value
	\$878	\$3,759	\$443	\$1,863	\$6,942	-\$3,288	\$2.11	28%	\$3,655	99%

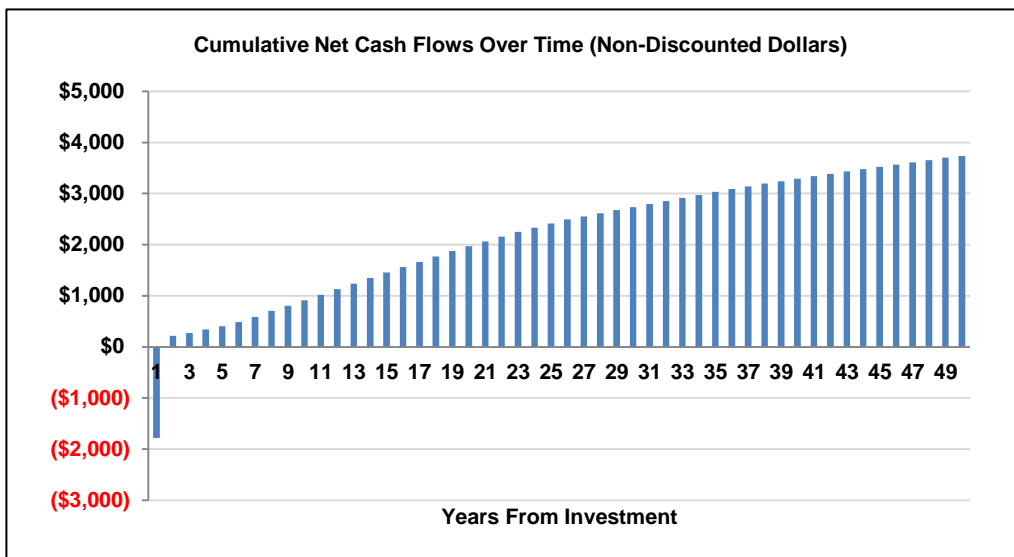
Detailed Monetary Benefit Estimates

Source of Benefits	Benefits to:					Total Benefits
	Parti- pants	Tax- payers	Other	Other In- direct		
From Primary Participant						
Crime	\$0	\$158	\$452	\$78		\$688
Earnings via high school graduation	\$191	\$70	\$0	\$35		\$295
Earnings via test scores	\$109	\$40	\$0	\$20		\$168
Child abuse and neglect	\$555	\$64	\$0	\$32		\$652
Out-of-home placement	\$0	\$3,330	\$0	\$1,651		\$4,981
K-12 special education	\$0	\$42	\$0	\$21		\$63
Earnings via alcohol disorder	\$11	\$4	\$0	\$2		\$18
Health care costs for alcohol disorder	\$0	\$1	\$1	\$1		\$3
Earnings via illicit drug disorder	\$1	\$1	\$0	\$0		\$2
Health care costs for illicit drug disorder	\$1	\$2	\$2	\$1		\$5
Property loss from illicit drug disorder	\$1	\$0	\$1	\$0		\$2
Earnings via depressive disorder	\$9	\$3	\$0	\$2		\$15
Health care costs via depressive disorder	\$4	\$11	\$11	\$5		\$31
Health care costs via education	-\$4	\$32	-\$24	\$16		\$19

Detailed Cost Estimates

The figures shown are estimates of the costs to implement programs in Washington. The comparison group costs reflect either no treatment or treatment as usual, depending on how effect sizes were calculated in the meta-analysis. The uncertainty range is used in Monte Carlo risk analysis, described in Technical Appendix 2.	Program Costs			Comparison Costs			Summary Statistics	
	Annual Cost	Program Duration	Year Dollars	Annual Cost	Program Duration	Year Dollars	Present Value of Net Program Costs (in 2011 dollars)	Uncertainty (+ or - %)
	\$3,547	1	2008	\$392	1	2008	\$3,285	10%

Source: Program costs per family provided by DSHS Children's Administration, 2008. The Institute adjusted for multiple children per family. Comparison group costs calculated based on social worker time.



Multiplicative Adjustments Applied to the Meta-Analysis

Type of Adjustment	Multiplier
1- Less well-implemented comparison group or observational study, with some covariates.	0.5
2- Well-implemented comparison group design, often with many statistical controls.	0.5
3- Well-done observational study with many statistical controls (e.g., IV, regression discontinuity).	0.81
4- Random assignment, with some RA implementation issues.	0.81
5- Well-done random assignment study.	1.00
Program developer = researcher	0.25
Unusual (not "real world") setting	0.5
Weak measurement used	0.54

The adjustment factors for these studies are based on a multivariate regression analysis of 106 effect sizes from evaluations of home visiting programs within child welfare or at-risk populations. The analysis examined the relative magnitude of effect sizes for studies rated a 1, 2, 3, or 4 research design quality, in comparison with a 5 (see Technical Appendix II for a description of these ratings). We weighted the model using the random effects inverse variance weights for each effect size. The results indicated that research designs 1 and 2 have effect sizes about twice the size of studies rated as a 5, and research designs 3 and 4 have effect sizes about 24 percent higher than a 5.

The analysis also found that effect sizes were statistically significantly higher when the program developer was involved in the research evaluation, or when a weak outcome measure was used.

Studies Used in the Meta-Analysis

- Blythe, B., & Jayaratne, S. (2002, March). *Michigan families first effectiveness study*. Retrieved December 5, 2003, from <http://www.michigan.gov/printerFriendly/0,1687,7-124--21887--,00.html>
- Feldman, L. H. (1991, December). *Assessing the effectiveness of family preservation services in New Jersey within an ecological context*. Trenton, NJ: New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services; Bureau of Research, Evaluation, and Quality Assurance.
- Fraser, M. W., Walton, E., Lewis, R. E., Pecora, P. J., & Walton, W. K. (1996). An experiment in family reunification: Correlates of outcomes at one-year follow-up. *Children and Youth Services Review, 18*(4-5), 335-361.
- Mitchell, C., Tovar, P., & Knitzer, J. (1989). *The Bronx Homebuilders program: An evaluation of the first 45 families*. New York: Bank Street College of Education.
- Walton, E. (1998). In-home family-focused reunification: A six-year follow-up of a successful experiment. *Social Work Research, 22*(4), 205-214.