



COMMUNITY GRANT OUTCOME REPORT

Measuring the Impact

Software makes home visits more effective for kids

New technology helps home visitors keep better data, which leads to better evaluation and improved outcomes for at-risk children.



A home visit is conducted in Manitowoc County using the software developed in through this grant. Employing the new technology led to better outcomes, increased efficiency, and improved data quality.

► **Description:** Significant public and private investments have been made in home visiting as a way to prevent child abuse, neglect, and injury. Yet despite these efforts, there has not been an effective way to measure the impact of home visiting services. The project sought to fill this gap, introducing computer-based evaluation programs to determine whether home visits were successful in improving outcomes.

► **Results:** This project developed software to help home visitors record information from home visits with families. Rather than handwriting data on paper forms and then entering it into a computer system upon return to the office, information is entered directly on the portable computer as home visits occur. The results of the completed electronic screenings are available immediately and can be discussed with the family. Evaluation revealed home visiting programs realized time

and cost savings, and improved completeness and quality of data collected when using the software.

► **The Partnership:** The academic partner assisted with the project's evaluation design, data analysis and data interpretation. She also was available throughout the project in a consultative role.

► **Next Steps:** This project is helping to build data collection and analysis infrastructure to better evaluate and implement home visiting in Wisconsin. The new technology makes for higher-quality data and allows progress to be measured systemically to ensure programs are achieving their goals. Wisconsin's Department of Health Services and the Department of Children and Families has expressed interest in replication of the technology. The findings have been published in the Children and Youth Services Review.

GRANT FACTS

Grantee: Children's Hospital and Health System - Child Abuse Prevention Fund

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Grant Award: \$381,879 over three years