



BrainGain@PEC

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Date: January, 2020

BrainGain@PEC provides brief summaries of research or publications on family homelessness and related issues. Previous issues of BrainGain@PEC can be found at <http://bit.ly/29MhFEx>.

Can home visiting impact family homelessness?

Summary of Healthy Families Massachusetts Home Visiting Program Evaluation

This report summarizes “**Home visiting program impacts on reducing homelessness among young mothers,**” a study published in 2018 and written by Tufts Interdisciplinary Evaluation Research (TIER) and Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Study and Human Development at Tufts University.

PEC summarized the report to inform Pennsylvania’s community involved in family homelessness and home visiting.

Data Source: The source document can be found <http://bit.ly/30ULrTG>. All findings, conclusions and recommendations are those of the researchers who conducted the study.

Key findings:

- Compared to the control group, mothers in the program were **less likely to be homeless**, particularly during the child’s preschool and early school age years.
- Overall, **33% of mothers** reported experiencing homelessness at some point after program enrollment.
- **21.7% reported “early” homelessness** when their child was less than 3 years old, and **15.8% reported “later” homelessness** when their child was 3 years of age or older.



- As the number of home visits increased, the **likelihood of homelessness decreased**: Mothers who received fewer than 5 home visits were 1.3 times more likely to experience homelessness than mothers with 27 home visits.
- “...upon program completion, mothers were more economically, educationally, and/ or occupationally independent (Tufts Interdisciplinary Evaluation Research, 2015) in turn, supporting a more stable housing environment.”

Healthy Families Massachusetts (HFM)

provides home visiting services to young parents (< 21 years old) across Massachusetts.

For this study, researchers interviewed **443 young mothers** who received home visiting services six years prior about their experiences of homelessness.

On average, **mothers received 27 home visits** over approximately 16 months.

At the time of interview, mothers and children were, on average, 25 years old and 6 years old, respectively.

Conclusion: Home visiting services had a **significant effect on overall homelessness** among young mothers and their children.

Citation: Lauren E. Stargel, Rebecca C. Fauth & M. Ann Easterbrooks (2018) Home visiting program impacts on reducing homelessness among young mothers, *Journal of Social Distress and the Homeless*, 27:1, 89-92, DOI: 10.1080/10530789.2017.1396740

What is home visiting?

HFM’s home visiting services include:

- Help with housing applications
- Referrals to shelters
- Help with job searches & resume writing
- Linking mothers to cash assistance