

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Birth & Beyond (B&B) Family Resource Center Initiative, an AmeriCorps State and National program, supports families at risk of child maltreatment with weekly home visits by AmeriCorps members. AmeriCorps members as home visitors employ the evidence-based parent education curriculum, the Nurturing Parenting Program (NPP), and assesses parents using the Adult-Adolescent Parenting Inventory (AAPI) to determine risk of child maltreatment. Family Nurturing Plans are developed conjointly between B&B clients and their home visitor that prescribes the content and number of NPP lessons and home visits the parent will receive.

This study examines recurrence rates based on reentry into the Sacramento County Child Protective Services (CPS) system of B&B AmeriCorps Home Visiting program participants at the child level. This summary highlights key findings presented in this report:

1. **Birth & Beyond Outcomes:** *What percentage of B&B AmeriCorps Home Visiting clients with eight hours or more of service experience a substantiated allegation of maltreatment within 12 months of intake? Taking B&B home visiting dosage, demographics, and prior CPS history together, what factors predict the likelihood of substantiated allegations within a 12-month observation period from their date of intake?*
  - **Children in families with more AmeriCorps home visiting service were less likely to experience recurrence of maltreatment.** The substantiated recurrence rate of maltreatment was **5%** for children in families with eight or more hours, compared to **18%** for those with less than eight hours of service (Figure 1).
  - **CPS outcomes varied according to demographic and CPS risk factors.** Within the B&B AmeriCorps sample, Poisson regression analyses found that even after controlling for other factors, higher rates of substantiated recurrence were found in children who were non-White, ages 0-5, had priors within the last 5 years, had a substantiated baseline allegation at intake and who had a baseline disposition of abuse (Figure 3).
  - **Children who were higher on a vulnerability index were more likely to experience recurrence of maltreatment.** A vulnerability index was created for home visiting clients based on key covariates such as age, sex/gender, race/ethnicity, prior allegations, baseline outcome, and SDM risk assessment. Amongst B&B children with eight or more hours of service, 83% (n=146) were found to be *moderately* vulnerable, and 7% were found to be *highly vulnerable* (n=13). Recurrence rates were 5% and 8%, respectively.
  - **Service dosage mattered especially for the most vulnerable children:** Participant subgroups in the B&B AmeriCorps Home Visiting Program who received more than eight hours of program dosage had significantly ( $p<0.001$ ) lower rates of substantiated recurrence. For instance:
    - o Amongst children with a substantiated baseline allegation, the 12-month substantiated recurrence rate was **6%** for those whose families with eight hours or more of service, compared to **18%** for families with less than eight hours of service. In other words, children with a baseline substantiated allegation are *three times more likely* to experience a new allegation in 12 months if their families have less than 8 hours of home visiting service (Figure 2).

- Amongst children with a *high vulnerability* index score, the 12 month substantiated recurrence rate was **8%** for those with eight or more hours of service, compared to **24%** of *highly vulnerable* children who had any amount of service (Figure 6).
  - Poisson regression analyses showed that even after adjusting for other covariates, the probability of experiencing substantiated recurrence was substantially lower for all subgroups with eight or more hours of service (Figure 4 and Figure 3).
2. **B&B and CPS Comparison (Quasi-experimental Design or QED):** *How do the 12-month recurrence rates for B&B AmeriCorps participants with eight hours or more of service compare to a comparison group with similar characteristics?*
- ***Children in families with eight hours or more of AmeriCorps Home Visiting service were less likely than their peers to experience maltreatment in 12 months.*** Those in the B&B AmeriCorps home visiting program with eight or more hours of service were less likely to have a substantiated recurrence during the 12-month observation window (**2.8%** of 176 children), compared to **5.1%** percent of the 176 children in the matched comparison group (Figure 9).
  - ***Amongst children with low and moderate vulnerabilities, B&B participating children were less likely than their peers to experience recurrence.*** Amongst *low vulnerability* children with eight or more hours of service, there were no (**0%**) instances of recurrence, compared to **6%** of the matched comparison group. Amongst *moderately vulnerable* children with eight or more hours of service, **2%** experienced recurrence, compared to **5%** of the comparison group (Figure 10). It appears that B&B home visiting services were more effective for those who were found to be lower on the vulnerability scale.

