

# Nurse Family Partnership: Global Replication

The NFP program is currently being implemented and evaluated in eight countries, including the United States. Each country has made some adaptations for the specific context and population being served whilst maintaining fidelity to the program model and each is at a different phase of program testing and expansion.

**Ontario, Canada**  
Initiated in 2008  
1385 clients served

**Nurse-Family Partnership: A Policy Option to Address Provincial Needs and Priorities in Ontario**  
NFP is a targeted and intensive home visiting program with a strong evidentiary foundation and proven outcomes for families experiencing complex challenges. NFP is currently offered in seven (7) Ontario health units with frameworks in place to support scalability of the intervention including:  
- a sustainable Canadian NFP education model;  
- structures to support site implementation and oversight, including data collection and reporting; and  
- processes to integrate NFP as a targeted intervention under the broader umbrella of the Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) program.

NFP is a scalable solution that can be implemented in local jurisdictions to address provincial needs and priorities. For more information on how NFP can respond to the complex challenges experienced by priority populations, public health leaders have developed a policy brief titled: Nurse-Family Partnership: A Policy Option to Address Provincial Needs and Priorities.

**Nova Scotia, Canada**  
Initiating in 2024  
11 families served

*Nurse-Family Partnership in Nova Scotia is designed to help improve pregnancy outcomes, help children have positive health and development outcomes, and set families on the best path forward for a healthy and happy life.*

**England**  
Initiated in 2007  
49,000 families served

*"The FNP program in England has evolved, been challenged, adapted and continues to deliver and promote evidence based practice for families facing multiple challenges across the country. It has been instrumental in the lives of thousands of families, practitioners and system leaders working relationally to improve outcomes."*

**Scotland**  
Initiated in 2009  
11,822 clients served

*"Over 11,800 families have benefited from the Family Nurse Partnership Program in Scotland since it began in 2010. Scotland is the first country in the world to deliver the Family Nurse Partnership at scale, and remains committed to the program and the positive longer term impacts for children and families."*

**Northern Ireland**  
Initiated in 2010  
1950 clients served

*"The transformational change in the young people's lives is achieved by the Mother setting her heart's desire and modelling a better future for her family and by taking small steps of personal change over this period. The Family Nurse Partnership program allows every child the best start in life."*

**Norway**  
Initiated in 2015  
606 clients served

*"NFP supports a vulnerable group that is difficult to reach with other services in Norway. The program helps to detect vulnerable families early and enable early intervention in families that would otherwise not be supported. NFP adapts to different needs and can therefore embrace families with different and complex challenges."*

**British Columbia, Canada**  
Initiated in 2012  
2100 families (over 4,000 young mothers & their children) served

*"We are very pleased to have completed the Canadian scientific evaluation of NFP – the first randomized controlled trial of an early prevention program embedded within public health in British Columbia (BC) and Canada. Through this trial, BC has demonstrated its support to evidence and providing high-quality, equitable services and care for families who most need it."*

**United States of America**  
Initiated in 1996  
Over 385, 375 families served

*Mission: Nurse-Family Partnership positively transforms the lives of vulnerable babies, mothers and families.  
Vision: A future where all children are healthy, families thrive, communities prosper and the cycle of poverty is broken.  
Three key randomized clinical trials (Elmira, New York, 1977; Memphis, Tennessee, 1987; Denver, Colorado, 1994) shaped the evidentiary foundation for the program*

**Australia**  
Initiated in 2008  
3411 clients served

*Mission: To lead the successful national adaptation, replication, and sustainable implementation of the Australian Family partnership program in the Aboriginal Community Controlled Comprehensive Primary Healthcare system.*

*Vision: We envision a nation where the Australian Family Partnership Program is seamlessly integrated within the Aboriginal Community Controlled Comprehensive Primary Healthcare system, resulting in improved evidence informed maternal and child health outcomes that promote healthy pregnancies, child development, and economic self-sufficiency where children are born healthy and strong and thrive in their early years.*

**Bulgaria**  
Initiated in 2015  
376 clients served

Bulgaria undertook a recent evaluation that showed significant improvements for the Roma families enrolled in the program.



# NFP International: Research, Implementation, & Future Directions

Countries interested in implementing NFP are assisted through an initial assessment process to determine their possible suitability and capacity for implementing NFP. Once there is a mutual decision to proceed with implementing NFP, countries must agree to progress through the five standard phases of Research and Implementation designed to assess the feasibility of introducing NFP in their context and eventually the added value that the program brings for families:



## NFP International Replication Publications

### England Trial

- Large sample (n=1645) of young women <20 years old.
- Increase in children's school readiness and reading at ages 5-7
- English trial results being reanalyzed

References:  
Robling M, Bekkers MJ, Bell K, et al. Effectiveness of a nurse-led intensive home-visitation programme for first-time teenage mothers (Building Blocks): a pragmatic randomised controlled trial. *Lancet*. 2016;387(10014):146-155. Olds D. Building evidence to improve maternal and child health. *Lancet*. 2016;387(10014):105-107.

Robling M, Lugg-Widger F, Cannings-John R, et al. Nurse-led home-visitation programme for first-time mothers in reducing maltreatment and improving child health and development (BB2-6): longer-term outcomes from a randomized cohort using data linkage. *BMJ Open* 2022; 12:e049960. doi: 10.1135/bmjopen-2021-049960

Olds, D. Improving the Report of the Building Blocks 2-6 Study. *BMJ Open Rapid Response*

### Australia Child Protection Study:

- Mixed methods study n=276
- Client adversity and complexity of Torres Strait Islander participants measured through semi-structured interviews and data collected at nurse home visits.
- NFP-visited families had lower rates of child abuse & neglect.

References:  
Child protection outcomes of the Australian Nurse Family Partnership Programme for Aboriginal infants and their mothers in Central Australia. Segal L, Nguyen H, Gent D, Hampton C, Boffa J. *PLoS ONE*. 2018;13(12): e0208764

### Norway Trial

The purpose of the phase 3 research study in Norway which began in , and 2022 and will enroll 700 families, will be to ;

- Determine the program's value for the target group(s), as a supplement to and in conjunction with, the Norwegian health and welfare services.
- Review the effects of the program in terms of level and organization for further roll out in the Norwegian context
- Identify if there any innovations, experiences, practices or effects that are specific to Norwegian national context, which could be of value to the international implementation and development of the program
- Discover if there some outcome areas which are *essential* in order to make the research internationally useful and fulfill the expectations in phase 3 of implementation

### Bulgaria Evaluation:

- Quasiexperimental study has been conducted and results will be reported soon.
- Recent evaluation conducted showed significant improvements for the Roma families enrolled in the program.

References:  
Feasibility and Acceptability Longitudinal Study to Inform Future Adaptation of the Nurse-Family Partnership Pilot Project in Bulgaria. *Ralitsa Dimitrova, Alexey Pamporov*. 2022

### Dutch Trial:

- High-need sample (n=460) identified through 2-stage selection
- Reduction in prenatal cigarette smoking
- Increase in breast-feeding
- Decrease in Intimate Partner Violence with the mother as both perpetrator and victim
- Improvements in home environment
- Reductions in child internalizing and externalizing behavioral problems
- Reductions in child abuse and neglect reports
- Note: The license in the Netherlands was not continued because the government chose not to invest in developing the information system.

References:  
Mejdoubi J, van den Heijkant SC, van Leerdam FJ, Heymans MW, Hirasig RA, Crijnen AA. Effect of nurse home visits vs. usual care on reducing intimate partner violence in young high-risk pregnant women: a randomized controlled trial. *PLoS One*. 2013;8(10):e78185.

Mejdoubi J, van den Heijkant SC, van Leerdam FJ, Crone M, Crijnen A, HiraSing RA. Effects of nurse home visitation on cigarette smoking, pregnancy outcomes and breastfeeding: a randomized controlled trial. *Midwifery*. 2014;30(6):688-695.

Mejdoubi J, van den Heijkant SC, van Leerdam FJ, Heymans MW, Crijnen A, Hirasig RA. The effect of VoorZorg, the Dutch nurse-family partnership, on child maltreatment and development: a randomized controlled trial. *PLoS One*. 2015;10(4):e0120182.

### British Columbia Trial

- Sample (n=739) 14-24 years old
- Significant reduction in prenatal cannabis and cigarette use
- Benefits for maternal-reported child language and mental health problem behavior by age two years

References:  
Catherine, N. L., MacMillan, H., Cullen, A., Zheng, Y., Xie, H., Boyle, M., Sheehan, D., Lever, R., Jack, S. M., Gonzalez, A., Gafni, A., Tonmyr, L., Barr, R., Marcellus, L., Varcoe, C., & Waddell, C. (2023). Effectiveness of nurse-home visiting in improving child and maternal outcomes prenatally to age two years: A randomised controlled trial (British Columbia Healthy Connections Project). *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcpp.13846>

Catherine NLA, Boyle M, Zheng Y, et al. Nurse home visiting and prenatal substance use in a socioeconomically disadvantaged population in British Columbia: analysis of prenatal secondary outcomes in an ongoing randomized controlled trial. *CMAJ Open*. 2020;8(4):E667-E675.

Gonzalez A, Catherine N, Boyle M, et al. Healthy Foundations Study: a randomised controlled trial to evaluate biological embedding of early-life experiences. *BMJ Open* 2018;8:e018915. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2017-018915

### United States Trials

- 3 original RCT's in Elmira, New York (1977); Memphis, Tennessee (1987); Denver, Colorado (1996)
- 48% reduction in child abuse and neglect
- 56% reduction in ER visits for accidents & poisonings
- 67% less behavioral/intellectual problems at age 6
- 32% fewer subsequent pregnancies
- 82% increase in months employed
- 61% fewer arrests of the mother
- 59% reduction in child arrests at age 15

1. Reanalysis Olds et al. Long-term effects of home visitation on maternal life course and child abuse and neglect fifteen-year follow-up of a randomized trial. *Journal of the American Medical Association*. 1997 2. Olds DL, et al. Preventing child abuse and neglect: a randomized trial of nurse home visitation. *Pediatrics*. 1986 3. Olds D.L., Robinson J., O'Brien, R. Home visiting by paraprofessionals and by nurses: a randomized, controlled trial. *Pediatrics*. 2002 4. Olds DL, et al. Effects of nurse home visiting on maternal life-course and child development: age-six follow-up of a randomized trial. *Pediatrics*. 2004 5. Olds, D.L., Eckenrode, J., et al. Long-Term Effects of Home Visitation on Maternal Life Course and Child Abuse and Neglect Fifteen-Year Follow-up of a Randomized Trial. *JAMA*. 1997 6. Olds D.L., Henderson C.R., Jr., Tatelbaum R., Chamberlin R. Improving the life-course development of socially disadvantaged mothers: a randomized trial of nurse home visitation. 1988 7. Reanalysis Olds et al. Long-term effects of nurse home visitation on children's criminal and antisocial behavior: 15-year follow-up of a randomized controlled trial. *Journal of the American Medical Association*. 1998