



MATERNAL & EARLY CHILD HEALTH INITIATIVES

SUMMARY

The Network is strongly committed to the goal of improving the health and well-being of women, infants, children and families. The MCH Initiatives consist of three programs implemented through the Visiting Nurse Association of St. Luke's: the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP), Parent Advocate in The Home (PATH) and the Visiting Nurse Advocate for the County (VNAC). Each of these programs has a slightly different focus with the goal being to create positive environments in which children can grow in safe, healthy, and nurturing homes. Together, the MCH programs address priority areas: pregnancy outcomes including low birth weight and preterm birth, the prevention of child abuse, and keeping children on track physically and developmentally.

Over 700 families were served by these three programs this past year. While the MCH programs through the VNA serve families in Northampton and Lehigh Counties, the Nurse-Family Partnership is implemented widely throughout Pennsylvania and Network entities have associations with those NFP sites as well. While both Bethlehem and Allentown are served by this NFP site, St Luke's Miners campus has formed a relationship with the Schuylkill County NFP, St. Luke's Warren campus is served by the New Jersey NFP program in Sussex, Warren, and Hunterdon Counties and the future St. Luke's in Monroe County is served by the NFP in Monroe and Pike Counties. The added benefit of this is that as clients move from one area to another, we are able to transfer them between sites.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In NFP, the median age of clients at intake is 19 years (range 13 - 40 years) and only 9% of our clients are married when enrolled in NFP. 55% of clients identify themselves as Not Hispanic or Latina while 45% identify themselves as Hispanic or Latina
- 78.4% of our clients at The NFP of St. Luke's are currently in a diploma/GED completion program or have completed a GED or High School Diploma by 24 months postpartum. This is significantly higher compared to the state average of 67.4%, and national NFP average of 60.9%. It is also noteworthy that out of 78.4%, 23.8% NFP clients are pursuing higher education. Of those clients who were 18 or older at intake, workforce participation increased from 42.4% at intake to 74.1% at program completion. (State NFP average = 66.8%; National NFP average = 67.7% at completion).
- 218 families were served in the Lehigh Valley through the PATH program. 25% of clients were pregnant, and 73% had a child at intake. 48% identified themselves as non-Hispanic/Latina while 51% identified as Hispanic/Latina. 8% were married and 86% had an income of less than \$15,000 per year.
- 43% of parents enrolled in VNAC completed high school/GED. Parents with criminal involvement accounted for 55 (37%) of cases with 50% of cases having drug and alcohol-related issues identified at intake. A history of domestic violence was reported in 30% of cases, with physical abuse and neglect present at the time of referral in 23% of cases.
- Bethlehem Health Bureau and Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance organized the second child abuse prevention conference in November, 2013 and a mandatory child abuse reporter training in April 2014 in addition to the Front Porch Project.
- Continued participation in the Lehigh Valley Breastfeeding Coalition (LVBC). The vision is to create a breastfeeding friendly culture and environment among hospitals, businesses, and local leaders that will lead to sustainable change in policies focused on promoting breastfeeding support, education, and the absence of formula-based product promotion.

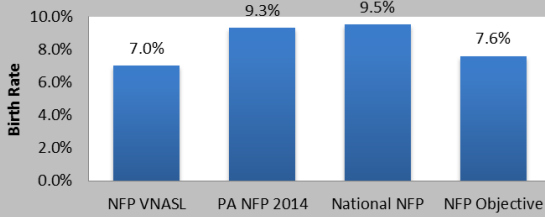
SUCCESSSES

NURSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP — NFP

- We have seen a severe reduction in state funds available for smoking cessation programs. Even with these obstacles, our NFP clients show a higher reduction in smoking when compared to the state and national averages.
- VNA of St. Luke's NFP program is lower than both state and national averages for low birth weight and very low birth weight:

	% Low Birth Weight	% Very Low Birth Weight
NFP VNASL	9.4%	1.3%
PA NFP	10.1%	1.7%
NATIONAL NFP	9.8%	1.6%
HP 2020 Target	7.8%	1.4%

Comparative Preterm Birthrates

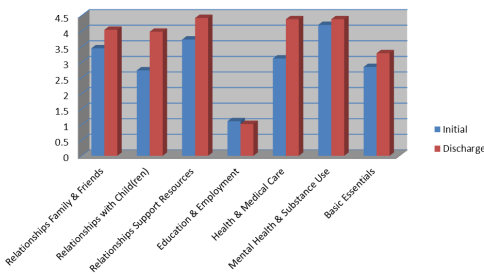


- The National NFP benchmark for immunizations at 24 months is 90%. The VNASL NFP data shows our immunization rate is 92.1%
- The VNASL NFP data shows 22.6% of mothers reported subsequent pregnancies by 24 months postpartum, better than the state and national NFP average of 28.6 and 28.7% respectively. The national NFP benchmark is <25%.
- The VNA of St. Luke's Preterm Birth rates are significantly lower than the state and national NFP averages:

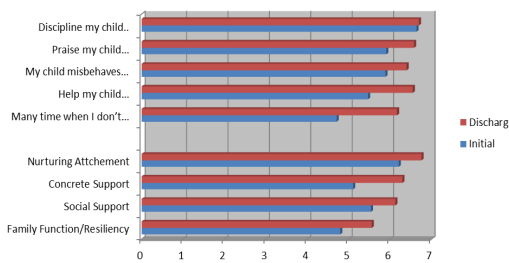
PARENT ADVOCATE IN THE HOME — PATH

- The Life Skills Progression (LSP) tool: is used to measure family progress in seven key areas:
- The Protective Factors Survey (PFS) is used to assess family functioning in five key areas

Life Skills Progression Initial to Discharge 2013-2014



Protective Factors Survey Initial to Discharge 2013-2014

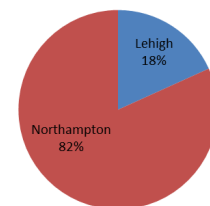


- Additionally children in the PATH program are assessed for developmental progress using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) and the Ages and Stages Social Emotional (ASQ-SE).

VISITING NURSE ADVOCATE FOR THE COUNTY — VNAC

- General Safety Assessments were completed upon admission and child safety was assessed at each visit. Of the 106 cases closed in the fiscal year, the family unit was maintained in 57 (53%) of cases and 42 remained open. It is recognized that in some cases a child is safest when removed from the family home. 8 children were successfully reunified with parents/guardians.
- Of the 148 children in VNAC, 109 (74%) stayed within a healthy BMI range and 3 children improved into a healthy BMI range. Nine of the 148 children (6%) active in the VNAC program were classified as Failure to Thrive at intake. (Defined as weight below the third percentile on a standard growth chart or 20% below the ideal weight for height).
- Nursing documentation indicates parenting education and the parent's response to the teaching in all cases. Documentation also identifies referrals to community resources.

Referrals by County



CHALLENGES & NEXT STEPS

We appreciate the volunteers who work in our office to maintain the paperwork and support our nurses as well as those in the community.

