



RESEARCH ALERT:

Reducing violence to help infants and children thrive: Research to evaluate a partner violence intervention in a nurse home visit program

What the research is about:

As described in a previous Research Alert, an international team of experts has developed an intervention to help nurse home visitors address intimate partner violence (IPV) among young, disadvantaged mothers participating in the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) program.

The effectiveness of the NFP-IPV intervention is currently being evaluated, using a randomized controlled trial design, in 15 NFP sites across the United States. In addition, qualitative methods are being used to describe the process and mechanisms through which nurses support women to address the violence in their relationships.

The objectives of this project are to:

1. Evaluate the effectiveness of the NFP + the enhanced IPV intervention. Sites randomized to deliver the enhanced intervention receive training and support to implement and deliver it.
2. Using qualitative methods, describe the process and mechanisms through which nurses support women to address the violence in their relationships.

What we've done so far:

- The intervention was pilot-tested with an NFP site in 2010, and we began recruiting NFP sites, using a staggered process, in 2011.
- 15 NFP sites located in various US states agreed to participate and were randomly assigned to either deliver the usual NFP ("control" sites = 8), or the NFP with the IPV intervention incorporated ("intervention" sites = 7).
- Nurses and supervisors in the intervention sites underwent full training and clients from these sites were recruited beginning in Fall 2011 and continued to October 2012.
- In total, 493 NFP clients agreed to participate in the study.
- Follow-up with participants occurred at 3 months postpartum and then every 6 months until the child is two years old; the final follow-up assessments will be completed in early 2015.

Future Research Alerts will provide emerging findings from the ongoing research.

For more information: contact the Trial Manager, Chris McKee at cmckee@mcmaster.ca.