

III. Overview of Data Management System

Healthy Start is specifically required by Oregon legislation to document the results of comprehensive assessment and the outcomes for families as these relate to Oregon’s Early Childhood Benchmarks. Evaluation data are also used to monitor the program’s adherence to Healthy Families America credentialing standards.

All sites participate in the statewide data collection and evaluation system. Findings are reported annually in two areas:

- * **Implementation and service outputs:** What level of services is being provided?
- * **Outcomes for children and families:** Is the program reaching its intended goals?

This information is useful for stakeholders including families, program staff, program management, and the Oregon legislature and other policymakers.

The Healthy Start Evaluation focuses on outputs and outcomes of Healthy Start programs. Measurement occurs at entry into the Healthy Start system, either during the prenatal period or when the child is born, and thereafter, at 6 month intervals. The evaluation provides data to monitor adherence to the Healthy Families of America performance standards.

Outcomes are tracked only for higher risk families receiving Intensive Service. Table 1 shows key outcomes that are tracked for Healthy Start families.

Table 1. Key Outcomes for Oregon Healthy Start

Key Healthy Start Program Outcomes
Children free from maltreatment
Children typically developing
Early intervention for children who need it
Regular health care and immunizations
Frequent family literacy activities
Adequate basic resources
Good parenting skills
Adequate support networks
Early, comprehensive prenatal care for second pregnancies
Family satisfaction

If families provide consent, demographic information about the families screened through the Healthy Start collaboration is entered at the local level into the Oregon Commission on Children and Families “Family Manager” data system, and a Healthy Start identification number is obtained. In order to protect the confidentiality of children and their parents/guardians, this ID number is then used in place of a name or other identifier, by

local Healthy Start staff on all evaluation forms. Outcome information on child and family progress is collected at the local level by Healthy Start workers *only for families receiving Intensive Service*. This information is transmitted on a monthly basis to NPC Research. Neither children's names nor those of their parents or guardians are included in the data files at NPC Research.

Child maltreatment

On an annual basis, the Oregon Department of Human Services, Children, Adults, and Families Division (CAF) reviews all children screened/served by Healthy Start for victimization reports. To assess the rate of child maltreatment by service type, victimization information about founded cases of abuse and neglect is transmitted to NPC Research at an individual (de-identified) level.

Reporting results

Implementation and outcome data are analyzed and reported by NPC Research. Participation rates for the number of families screened and served, as well as key outcomes are reported to local projects.