

# **“Hope for Change”: Taking Stock of the Emerging Home Visitation Field**

**Neil B. Guterman, Ph.D., M.S.W.**

Mose and Sylvia Firestone Professor  
School of Social Service Administration  
Chapin Hall Center for Children  
University of Chicago

[nguterman@uchicago.edu](mailto:nguterman@uchicago.edu)

## **Taking Stock of the Home Visitation Field**

- **The Rationale for and Character of Home Visitation**
- **Examining the Evidence Base**
- **The Future**

## The Core of Home Visitation Services

- Services provided in the home
- Initiated perinatally
- Parenting education
- Case management support
- Early identification via universal system
- Voluntary participation, proactive, family supportive



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## Home Visitation Engages Families in Services with Favorable Rates over Center-Based Programs

### Home Visitation

- **Engagement Rates:**  
71% - 92%
- **Retention Rates:**  
74% - 100% at 6 months  
49% - 92% at 1 year

### Center-Based

- **Engagement Rates:**  
60% - 72%
- **Retention Rates:**  
49% - 72% through 2 months

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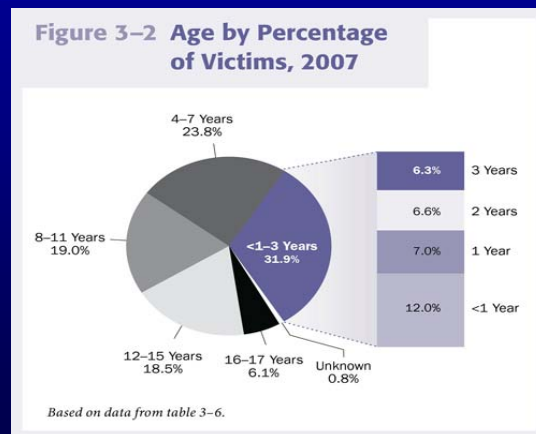
## Early Childhood: Window of Risk and Opportunity

- **Rapid neural and physiological development**
- **Development of primary attachments**
- **Family role reorganization**
- **Heightened vulnerability to physical abuse/neglect & its consequences**



## Percent of Child Maltreatment Cases by Age

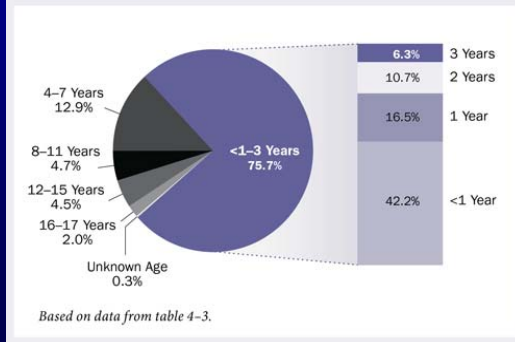
(Source: U. S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, 2007)



## Percent of Child Maltreatment Fatalities by Age

(Source: U. S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, 2007)

**Figure 4-1 Age of Fatalities by Age Group Percentage, 2007**

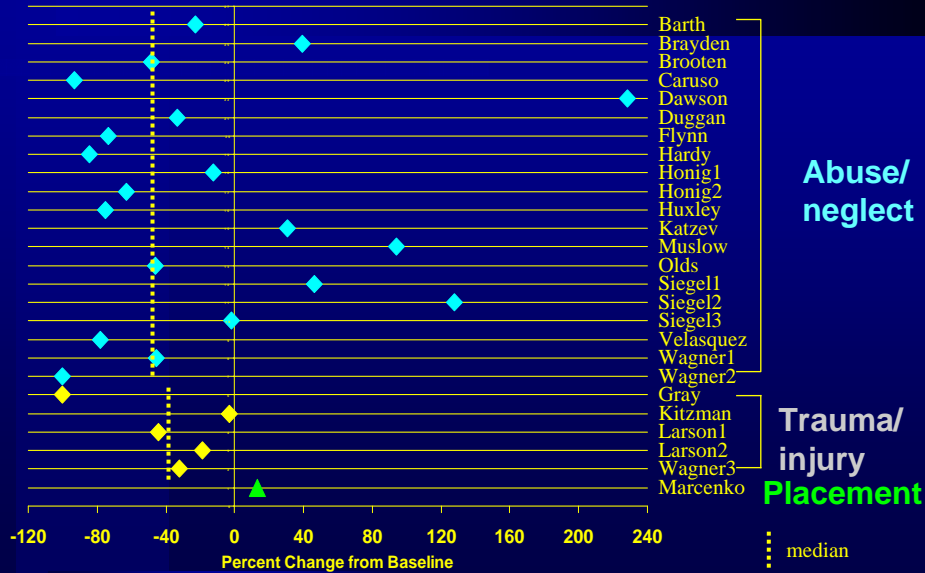


## Variations on Home Visitation Strategies

- **Service intensity and length**
- **Variations in direct service activities**
- **Composition and training of service providers**
- **Targeting of eligible families**
- **Adjunctive center-based activities**



## Weighing the Evidence: Outcome Studies (Source: CDC, 2003)



## What Works? Empirically-Supported Best Practices

- Parent education appears essential
- Linking families with supports essential
- Moderate/high intensity services favorable
- Prenatally initiated services favorable
- Universal intake over individualized screening
- Health education reduces medical risks
- Paraprofessionals vs. Nurses?

## The Future of Home Visitation

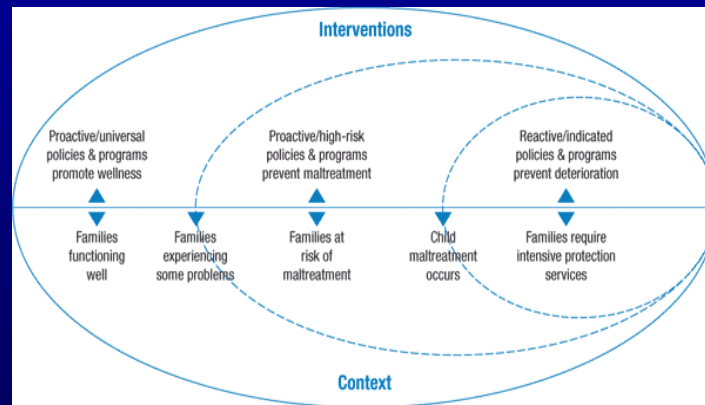


- **Improving the Fit Between Risk and Service**
- **Integration with Other Family Supports**
- **Continued Dynamic Growth of Home Visitation**

## Questions and Answers?

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# Socio-Ecological Understanding of Child Maltreatment and Prevention



Source: Australian Institute of Family Studies (from Prilleltensky, Nelson & Pearson, 2001)