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The Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) studies Administration for Children and Families (ACF) programs and the populations they serve through rigorous research and evaluation projects. These include evaluations

Greetings!

Thank you for your interest in the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE).

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Building Evidence on Preventing Child Abuse

The promotion of positive and healthy parent-child relationships is at the heart of child abuse prevention. OPRE is currently sponsoring rigorous evaluations of projects designed to support and strengthen parenting among low-income families, whose circumstances place them at risk for high levels of stress that may thwart positive family functioning:

1. The [Early Head Start University Partnerships Grants on Buffering Toxic Stress](#) are implementing promising parenting interventions in Early Head Start settings that aim to improve outcomes for the most vulnerable infants and toddlers. This research will build knowledge about the role Early Head Start can play in helping parents buffer children from toxic stress.
2. The [evaluation of the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting program](#), MIHOPE, will examine implementation and impacts of four evidence-based models that are being scaled up in communities across the nation: Healthy Families America, Early Head Start, Nurse Family Partnership, and Parents as Teachers. Approximately 5100 families in 85 local home visiting program sites in 12 states are expected to participate in the study.

Release of Data from Multi-Site Evaluation of Foster Youth Programs

The [National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect](#) (NDACAN) at Cornell University released a dataset from the [ACF Multi-Site Evaluation of Foster Youth Programs](#). ACF's Children's Bureau and OPRE contracted with the Urban Institute and its partners-the Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago and the National Opinion Research Center-to conduct an evaluation of selected programs funded through John Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP). This evaluation, using a rigorous, random assignment design, was called for in the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999. The evaluation

of existing programs, evaluations of innovative approaches to helping low-income children and families, research syntheses and descriptive and exploratory studies.

examined the effects of Independent Living Programs funded under CFCIP outcomes including education, employment, interpersonal and relationship skills, non-marital pregnancy and births, and delinquency and crime rates.

A full description of the dataset and ordering information is available at the NDACAN [dataset description page](#). There is no charge to obtain these data. All reports from the study are available on the [OPRE website](#).

Dataset Title: Multi-Site Evaluation of Foster Youth Programs (Chafee Independent Living Evaluation Project), 2001-2010

Investigator(s): Mark E. Courtney., Matthew W. Stagner, Michael Pergamit

Dataset Number: #161

Other News

Forecasted OPRE Funding Opportunities

OPRE recently forecasted a funding opportunity announcement:

[The Head Start University Partnership: Dual-Generation Approaches](#)

All other forecasted and published OPRE funding opportunities were included in a recent [OPRE E-alert](#).

Advancing Subgroup Analysis: A Special Issue of Prevention Science

Given the challenges around subgroup analysis in prevention science and the growing attention to the use of evidence to inform policy decision making, OPRE organized a special issue of *Prevention Science* that presents cutting edge thinking about subgroup analysis. The volume includes multiple perspectives on subgroup analysis and continues the discussions begun at a 2009 meeting that OPRE sponsored along with federal partners. Check out the [April 2013 issue of Prevention Science](#) and view the presentations from the 2009 meeting on OPRE's [Research Connections](#).

Recently Released Reports



Portfolio of Research in Welfare and Family Self-Sufficiency

OPRE released its Portfolio of Research in Welfare and Family Self-Sufficiency for Fiscal Year 2012. This document provides detailed summaries of OPRE's ongoing welfare and family self-sufficiency research efforts along with brief overviews of past projects. It also describes OPRE's efforts to disseminate rigorous research on welfare and family self-sufficiency topics.

[> Read Full Portfolio](#)



Advancing the Self-Sufficiency and Well-Being of At-Risk Youth: Conceptual Framework Report and Brief

To help vulnerable youth become well-functioning, self-sufficient adults, programs can benefit from learning about evidence-informed interventions to foster youths' resilience and human capital development. As part of the [Youth Demonstration Development Project](#), OPRE recently released a [report](#) that presents a research-based framework for efforts to help at-risk youth enter a career workforce trajectory and a [summarizing brief](#). The report is authored by Robin Dion, et al. and the brief is authored by Robin Dion. Mathematica Policy Research and Chapin Hall Center for Children are conducting the project.

[> Read Full Reports](#)