

An initial report to the child abuse registry during a child's first five years, no matter the outcome of the reported incident, is the strongest predictor of subsequent reports and involvement in the child welfare system.

REDUCING FUTURE CHILD ABUSE REPORTS

The findings of researcher Emily Putnam-Hornstein, Ph.D., director of USC's Children's Data Network, spurred First 5 Orange County in 2015 into establishing the Neighborhood Resource Network (NRN). In partnership with the Orange County Social Services Agency, the NRN's mission is to build family resilience and reduce future reports of child abuse and neglect in families who have a least one child age 0-5.

NRN SERVICE PROVIDERS

Community service providers conduct evidence-based family strengthening programs:



NRN CURRICULUM

NRN offers two evidenced-based curriculums that were determined to deliver the greatest population-level-based outcomes on reducing child maltreatment and neglect and reducing out-of-home foster care placement.

Triple P: Positive Parenting Program



Triple P is a parenting and family support system designed to prevent – as well as treat – behavioral and emotional problems in children. The program equips parents with the skills and confidence to be self-sufficient and encourage children to realize their potential.

Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)



PCIT is a combination of play therapy and behavioral therapy for young children and their parents. Parents learn and practice new skills and techniques for relating to children, including improving physical and verbal exchanges with their children.

REACHING FAMILIES WHERE THEY LIVE

NRN engages Family Resource Centers as the best community-based platform to connect and offer services to identified families. Three Family Resource Centers located in neighborhoods in Anaheim and Santa Ana that have high rates of substantiated child abuse now offer Triple P parenting classes.

Families referred from the Social Services Agency to the NRN that choose not to visit a Family Resource Center or do not live in these neighborhoods are offered voluntary in-home visitation services.

Families are also constantly being connected to supporting services and resources to address additional stressors such as food insecurity, housing instability, access to health care and benefits, and more.

THE IMPACT OF FIRST 5 ORANGE COUNTY INVESTMENT

The family strengthening supports provided by the Neighborhood Resource Network are designed to avoid recurring child abuse reports and investigations and entrances into the child welfare system for Orange County's youngest and most vulnerable children. Currently, the county spends \$1.3 billion a year on child abuse and maltreatment cases. Success in reducing reports and investigations results in significant cost savings to the system and, most important, improved outcomes for children and families.

For families served by the Neighborhood Resource Network, the outcomes are significant:

As of December 2018, a total of 98 families have completed the program.

60 of those families are **SIX MONTHS** post-completion of program services

92% of them have not had a child abuse subsequent report

38 of those families are **12 MONTHS** post-completion of program services

89% of them have not had a child abuse subsequent report

Although the sample size of participants to date is small, data shows that the Neighborhood Resource Network is yielding positive results on reducing child abuse, maltreatment and neglect, and keeping families with young children from reentering the child welfare system. The work of the Neighborhood Resource Network is an important driver for countywide system level changes to better protect and support families with young children.