



TO: Ellen Vieira, Executive Director
FROM: Catherine Adams Minicucci
RE: First 5 Plumas Evaluation Update 2010/11
DATE: February 28, 2011

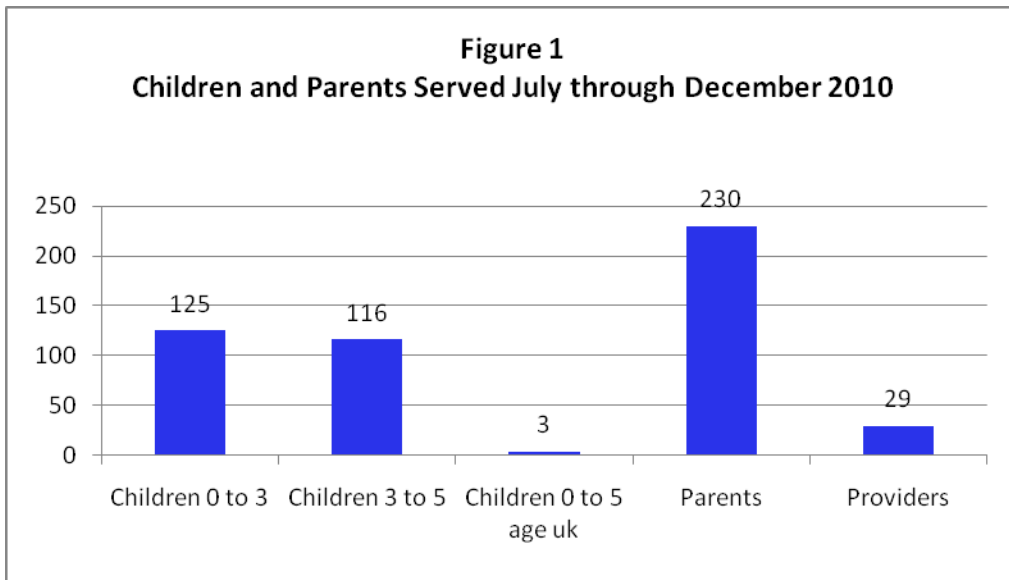
This is an evaluation update on the clients and services provided during the first six months of the 2010/11 program year (July 1, 2010 through December 31, 2011) for First 5 Plumas funded programs:

- Early Intervention
- Healthy Touch
- New Born House Calls (NBHC)
- NBHC Oral Health
- Roundhouse Council
- CARES

Raising-a-Reader information will be reported in a separate document. This brief report includes a summary of the children and families served, the services provided, and program highlights.

A total of 244 children ages 0 to 5 and 230 parents/guardians were served (Figure 1).

*1851 Heritage Lane Suite 111
Sacramento, Ca 95815
Tel (916) 920-7800 Fax (916) 649-3161
Email: cathy@minicucciassociates.net
www.minicucciassociates.com*



Forty-six of the children served had special needs. Fifty-one percent of children served were ages 0 to 3 years, 48% were ages 3 to 5 and 1% were children 0 to 5 whose age is unknown. In the first half of 2010/11, 7% of children were Spanish speakers and 7% of parents/guardians were Spanish speakers. Twenty-nine providers were served by the CARES program.

Figure 2 shows the children and families served by program. New Born House Calls serves the largest number of children and parents.

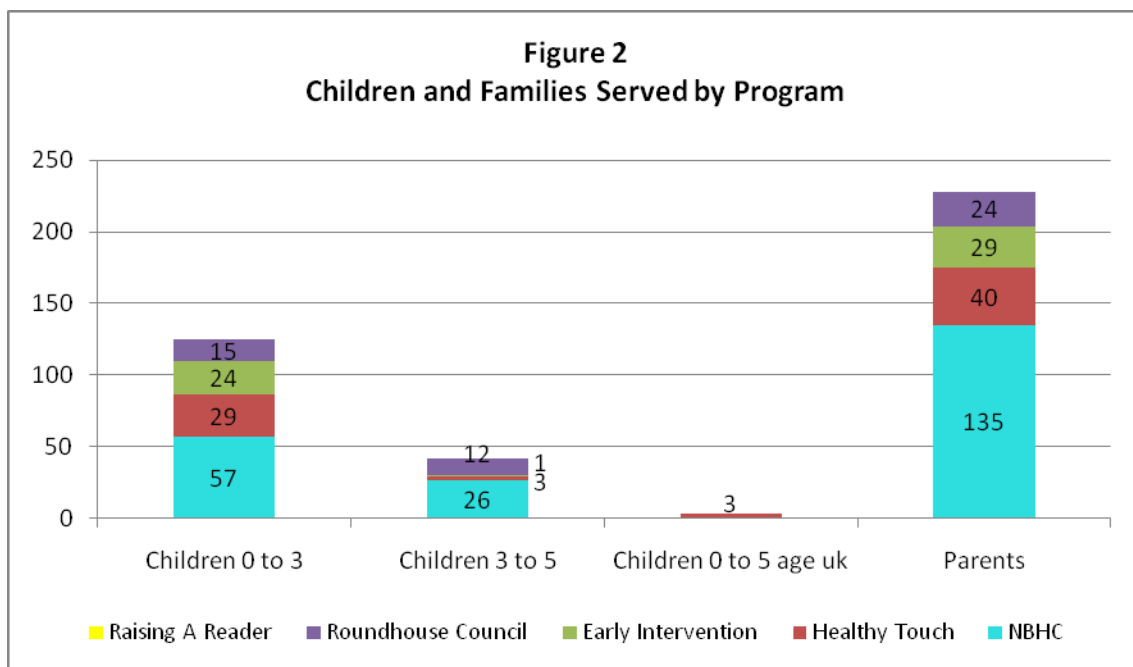
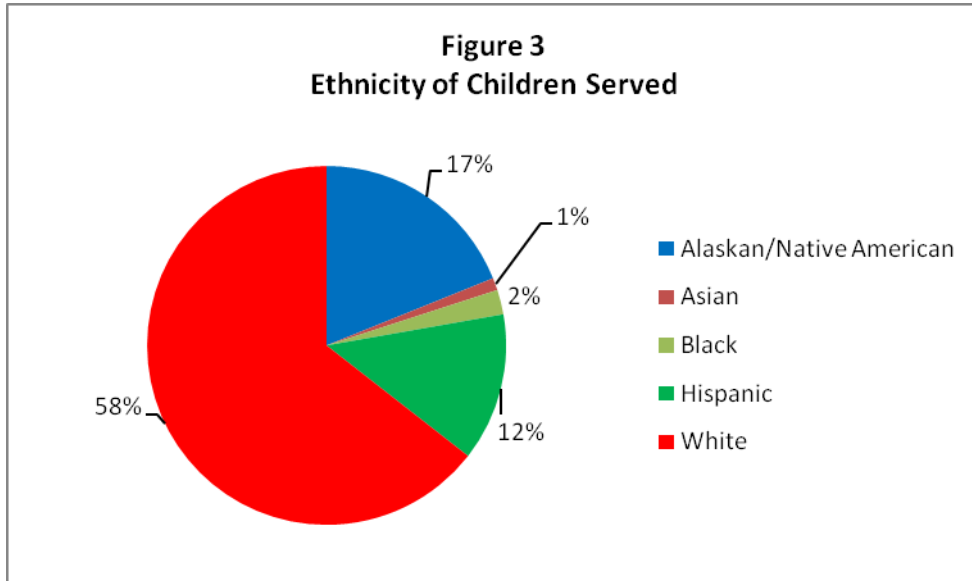
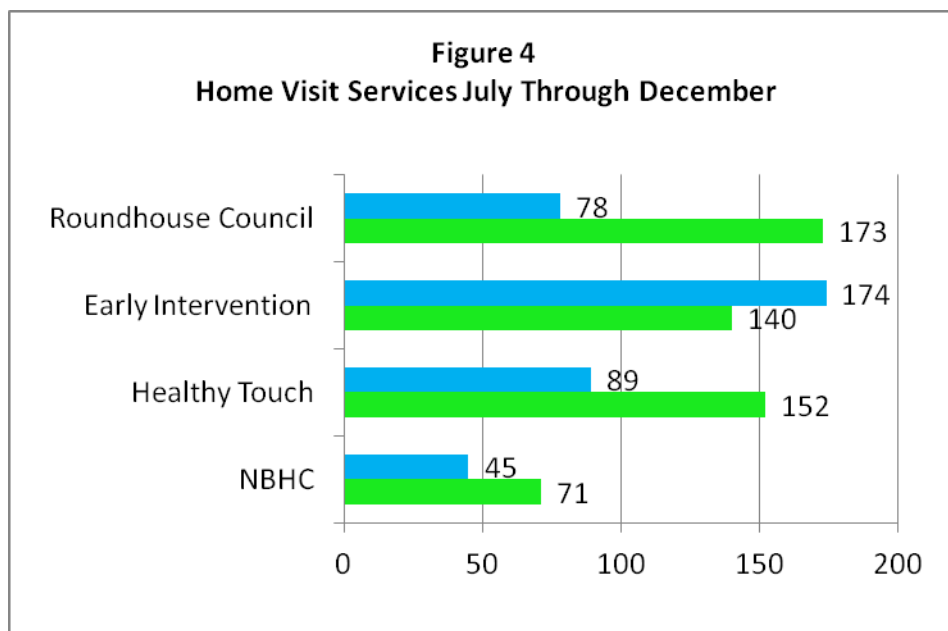


Figure 3 shows the ethnicity of children served by the programs. Ethnicity was identified for 90% of the children served, for 10% ethnicity was unknown. Among those with identified ethnicity, the largest proportion were white (58%), followed by Native American (17%) and Hispanic (12%), 2% Black, and 1% Asian.



There were a total of 536 home visits provided by Early Intervention, Healthy Touch, NBHC, and Roundhouse Council. Figure 4 shows the number of home visits provided by the programs in 2009/10 and 2010/11 at the mid point of the program year. In 2010/11, programs conducted 39% more home visits than in 2009/10.



Program Highlights

Early Intervention

The Early Intervention Project assessed six children during the period July 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010. The Project provided a total of 140 home visits which include physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and parenting education using the Parents As Teachers curriculum. The number of home visits declined compared to last year at this time due to a variety of factors including illness of infants and the coordinator. Staff drew on Parents As Teachers to help parents formulate goals for their child's Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP). Project staff implemented Raising-a-Reader with six children. Project staff were an integral part of the Longitudinal Study of the Early Intervention Project, assisting with data collection at the district office and collaborating with the evaluation consultant on analysis strategies.

Healthy Touch

The Healthy Touch program provided a total of 112 home visits to mothers and infants to provide in-home communication and infant touch services to promote bonding and attachment. The communities served were Portola, Chester/Lake Almanor and Quincy. In addition, 6 mothers received breastfeeding support. Project staff conducted two series of four classes for parents on infant attachment and bonding, infant massage and parenting education. The classes were held in Ukiah and Indian Valley.

The Healthy Touch program collaborates with Early Intervention Project by providing infant massage services to children with special needs. Healthy Touch collaborates with Newborn House Calls, receiving referrals of mothers who need breastfeeding support.

New Born House Calls

New Born House Calls is the largest grant funded by First 5 Plumas. The Public Health Department implements the program, which span coordination, leadership and direct services to families.

1. Direct Service

The NBHC program provided a total of 71 home visits that included 23 prenatal, 39 postnatal, and nine with children 3-5 years old. This represents a 58% increase in the number of home visits over this time last year and reflects additional Spanish-speaking home visiting staff. All home visits utilized Parents as Teachers components.

Seventy-nine (79) Kits for New Parents (KNP) were given to medical providers and partners for redistribution and 50 KNP were distributed directly to families. Sixteen KNP recipients (32%)

were 21 and under.

Twenty-nine Early Learning Kits were given to children 1 to 4 years old in 21 families, with 9 of their families receiving the kit in a NBHC office visit, and 15 families in a home visit.

Promoting breastfeeding and education, New Born House Calls collaborated with MILC Coalition members, and provided 29 breastfeeding support services to mothers, 23 in-home visits. NBHC made 18 referrals to WIC/Birth Partners and Healthy Touch.

A new oral health component was added this year to New Born House Calls Project. Children enrolled at Head Start sites in Quincy and Portola, and state preschools in Chester and Indian Valley received dental outreach prevention oral hygiene kits. Also, a partner dentist conducted a dental screening for 16 children and fluoride varnish treatment and prophylaxis to 15 children.

2. Coordination and Leadership

The project staff provided coordination for the School Readiness program including convening the Home Visiting Coalition. The NBHC project staff provided a training to the Home Visiting Coalition on the Ages and Stages Questionnaire.

Roundhouse Council

Roundhouse Council offers group activities to children ages 0 to 5 and their parents: Learning Readiness meetings with children ages 0 to 5 and their mothers, Early Learning Group which meets twice a week at two locations, the Greenville Library and at Roundhouse Council, Family Nights for family socialization, and Reading Readiness sessions. The following number of group activities was held during the first six months of 2010/11:

- Learning Readiness-- 5 meetings
- Early Learning Group-- 10 meetings
- Readiness Readiness --30 sessions
- Playgroup-- 8 meetings

Roundhouse Council staff conduct home visits, a total of 173 home visits were provided to families between July 1 and December 31, 2010. Home visits include in-home parenting education using the Parents As Teachers curriculum, assistance with health access including applications for MediCal and Healthy Families and assistance with accessing oral health care. Roundhouse Council staff used the Ages and Stages Questionnaire to help parents understand developmental milestones. Roundhouse Council integrates the work of other First 5 funded programs, such as Healthy Touch infant massage classes, helping to make them available to families in Indian Valley. Roundhouse Council staff implement Raising-a-Reader with children served in home visits.

CARES

Project staff is working with child care providers who have applied to receive CARES stipends in 2010/11. The coordinator conducted three orientation meetings for child care providers, one each in Quincy, Portola and Chester. Twenty-nine providers have submitted applications and Action Plans for CARES. Action plans have been completed with 23 applicants based on needs identified in their Environmental Rating Scales assessments.