



NYS Family Resource Center Evaluation: Results of the Protective Factors Survey

Family Resource Center participants show improvement over time in protective factors that are linked to reductions in child abuse and neglect. These improvements were visible among populations at historically greater risk for child maltreatment, including racial minorities and those with low incomes and less than a high school education.

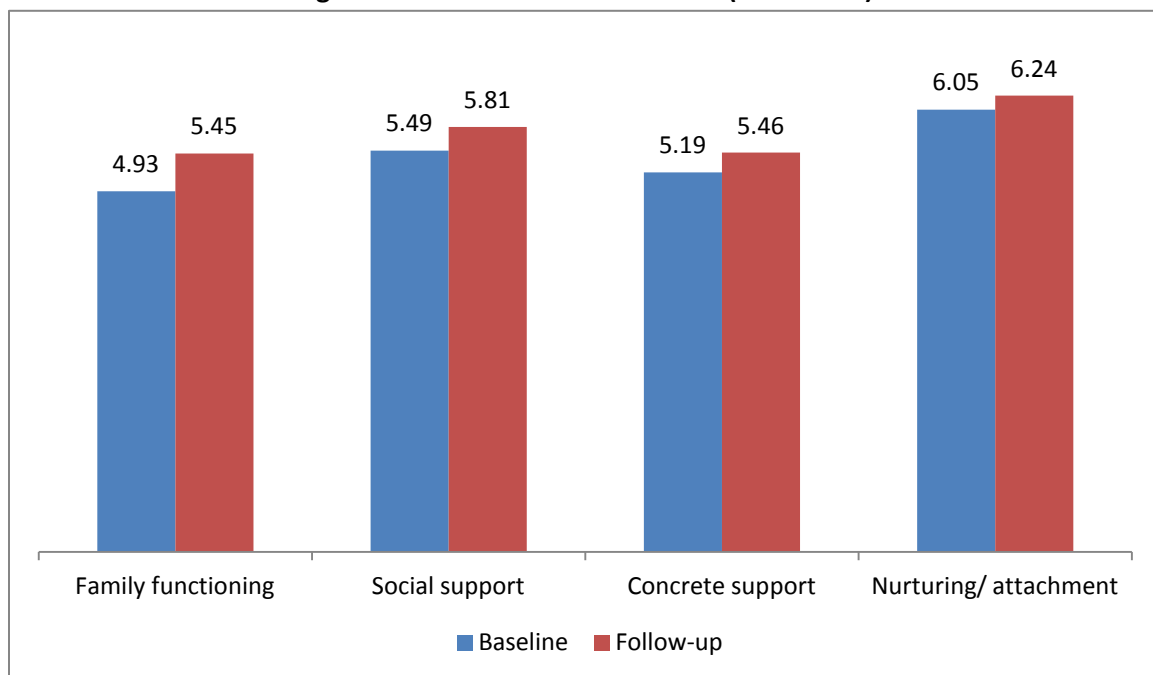
Background

New York State Family Resource Centers (FRCs) provide services and support for families in their communities with the goal of child maltreatment prevention. FRC participants were administered the Protective Factors Survey (PFS) before and after receiving services. PFS subscale scores measure participants' family functioning, social support, access to concrete support, and nurturing and attachment.

Results

Figure 1 shows that PFS scores increased for each subscale. These increases are statistically significant ($p < .05$).

Figure 1. Mean PFS subscale scores (2010-2011)



While change was seen among the entire population, different populations respond to services in different ways, so results were examined for participants of different incomes, races, and education levels. Positive improvements were seen among every population analyzed on every subscale, but some were not large enough to be statistically significant. (As more participants take the PFS this may change.) In Figure 2, each asterisk indicates a statistically significant positive result.

Figure 2. Statistically significant improvements between baseline and follow-up (2010-2011)

	Family Functioning	Social Support	Concrete Support	Nurturing/ Attachment
Entire sample (N=535)	*	*	*	*
White participants (N=297)	*	*	*	*
Black participants (N=102)	*	*		
Hispanic participants (N=51)	*			
Asian participants (N=39)	*	*	*	*
Participants with low baseline scores (N=110)	*	*	*	*
Participants without a high school diploma (N=119)	*	*	*	*
Participants with incomes under \$15,000 (N=252)	*	*	*	*

About Family Resource Centers

New York State Family Resource Centers (FRCs) are voluntary programs that offer services and support for families in their communities, with an emphasis on families with young children. FRCs are diverse in their program offerings and populations served, but all promote the strengthening of families through developing social support, increasing knowledge of effective parenting, fostering child development, and enhancing family functioning. Services include parent education classes and workshops, structured child playgroups, information and referral services, family social and recreational programs, supervised visitation, home visiting, and concrete services (e.g. food and clothing pantries).

About the Protective Factors Survey

The Protective Factors Survey (PFS) is a 20-item self-administered survey designed for use with caregivers receiving child maltreatment prevention services. It measures protective factors in five areas: family functioning/resiliency, social support, concrete support, nurturing and attachment, and knowledge of parenting/child development. The first four of these are each calculated as subscale scores. It has undergone four national field tests to establish its reliability and validity.

The PFS is administered to all new participants at Family Resource Centers when they begin receiving services. Follow-up surveys are administered three months later and every six months thereafter, though varying attendance patterns lead to deviations from that schedule. This analysis included 535 participants who took a follow-up PFS between 31 and 581 days after their baseline survey in 2010 or 2011. The median (average) number of days between baseline and follow-up was 92.