Home Visiting: Measuring What Happens in Visits to Get It Right the Second Time Around

Collaborative Science of Home Visiting Annual Meeting

Three Points

1. We are stewards of something unique.

2. We face some formidable challenges.

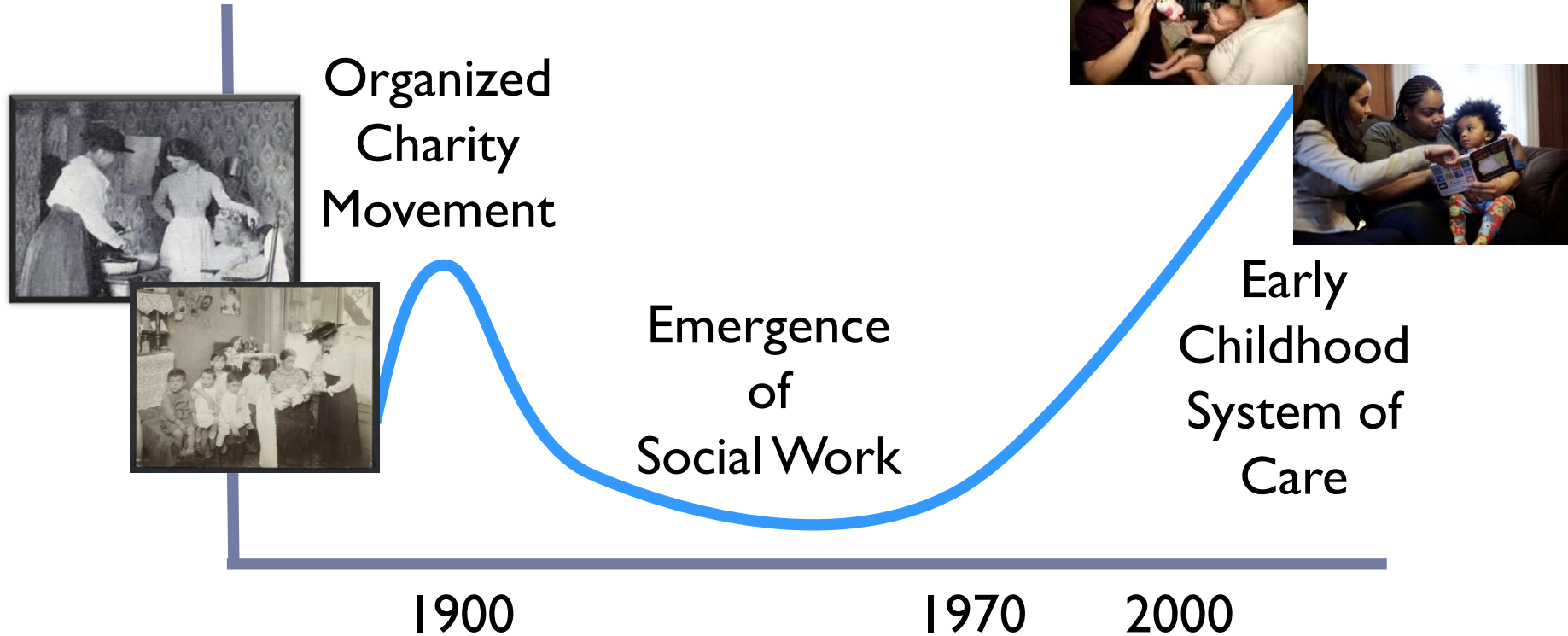3. To overcome them, we must understand what happens in visits.

1. We are stewards of Something Unique
Home visiting is different from all other services, because we cross the threshold into family life.

We are stewards in a time of scale up.

Organized Charity Movement

Emergence of Social Work

Early Childhood System of Care

1900

1970

2000

We face formidable challenges.

- Family engagement
- Determinants of visit content
- Fidelity to core components
- Home visitor burnout and turnover
- Challenges in earning trust
- Addressing sensitive issues

CHALLENGE: Variable success in engaging families

Family Retention by Implementing Agency Hawaii HSP RCT, 1994-96
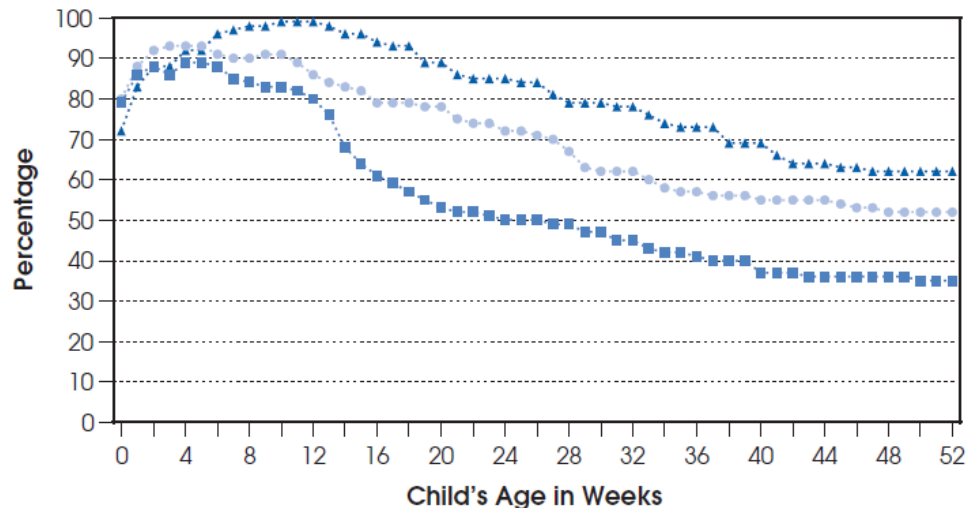
Family Retention Alaska HFA RCT, 2000-03

Retention Rate	All Sites	Site Range
6 months	75%	70-84%
12 months	54%	40-62%
24 months	32%	14-46%

Graph: Duggan et al., *Future of Children*, 1999; Table: Duggan et al, *Child Maltreatment*, 2007

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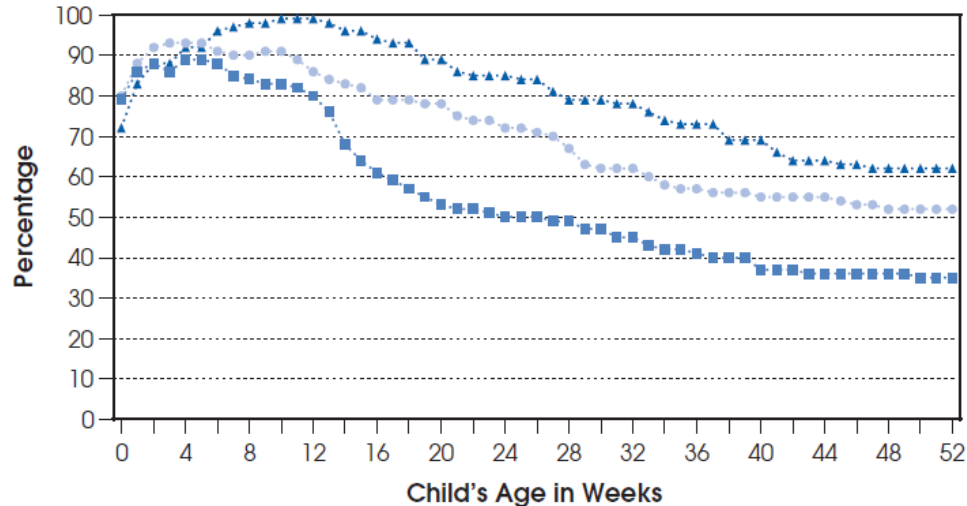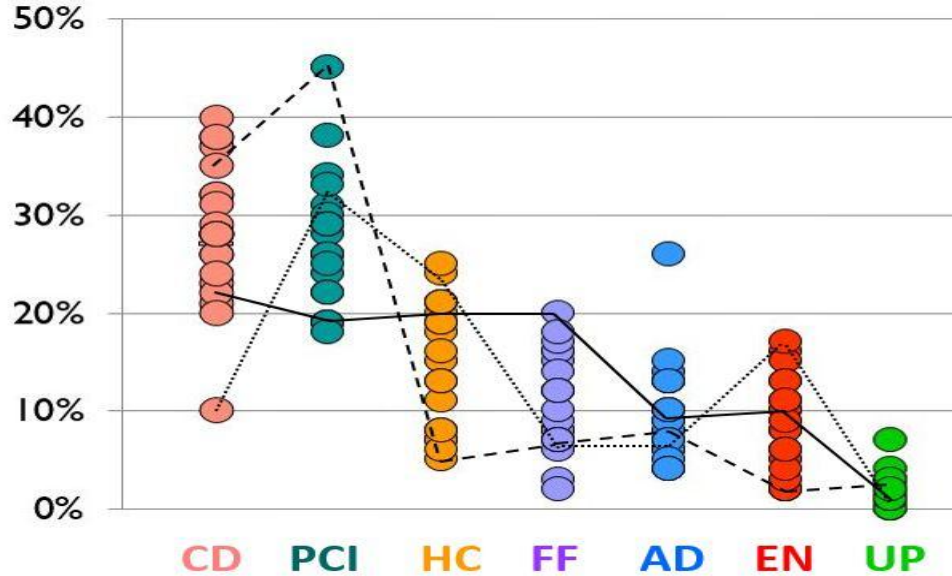
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Alaska HFA RCT, 2000-03

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Reasons: Family recruitment? What happens in visits?

▶ Graph: Duggan et al., *Future of Children*, 1999; Table: Duggan et al, *Child Maltreatment*, 2007

CHALLENGE: Variable content by site within model.

Time Distribution in Visits

CD   Child Development
PCI   Parent-Child Interaction
HC   Health Care
FF   Family Functioning
AD   Administrative
EN   Environmental
UP   Unplanned

Lines show 3 sites' profiles.

►   Source: NJ HFA MIS Data 2011-2012 Postnatal Visits, First 6 Months of Enrollment

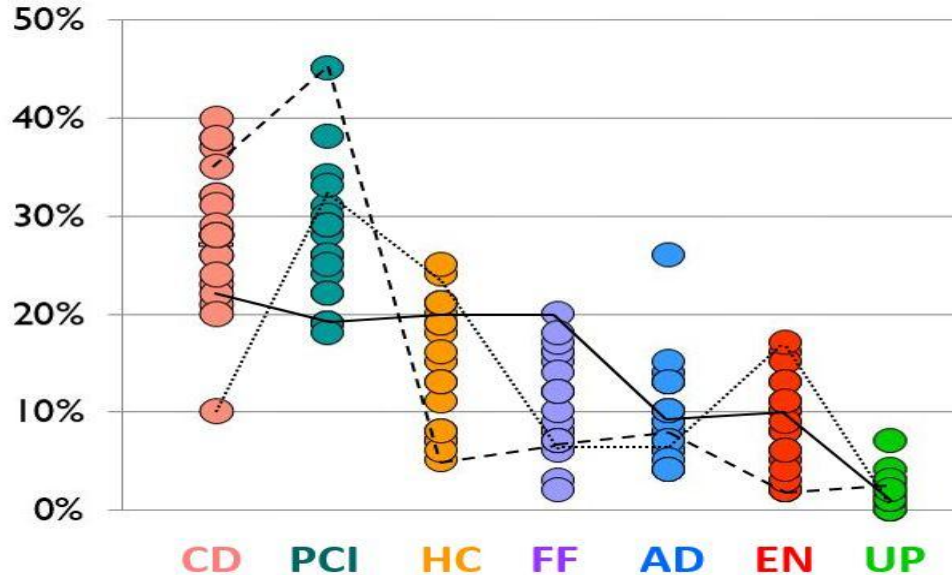# CHALLENGE: Variable content by site within model.

Time Distribution in Visits

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Lines show 3 sites' profiles.

Reasons: Family *vs.* home visitor *vs.* site preferences?

CHALLENGE: Variable delivery of intended services

HFA Alaska RCT, 2000-5

Process Indicator	All Sites	Site Range
Individualized Family Support Plan Used	62%	40-80%
Developmental Screening Carried Out	48%	38-58%
MH Discussed with PMH+ Families	59%	18-100%
MH Referral for PMH+ Families	38%	9-100%

▶ Duggan et al, *Child Maltreatment*, 2007; RCT Final Report, 2005

CHALLENGE: Variable delivery of intended services

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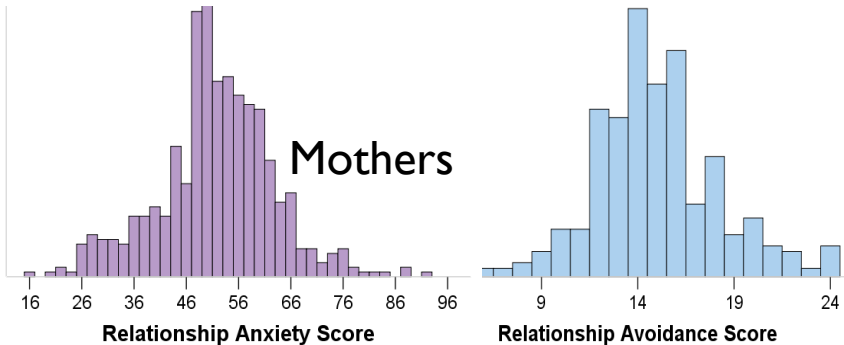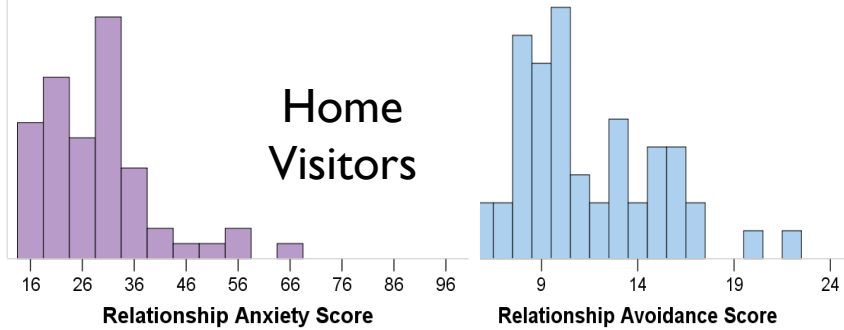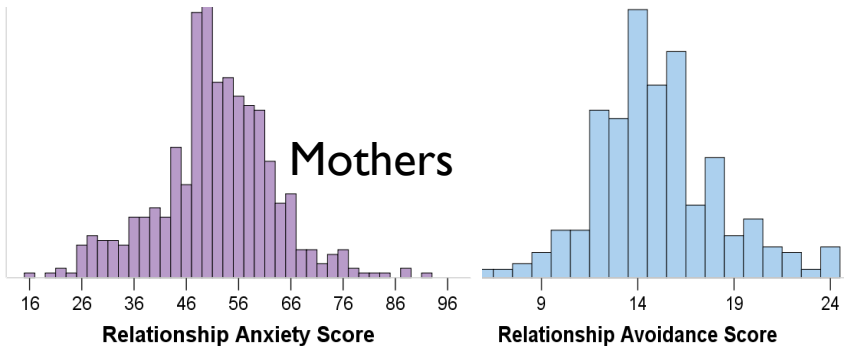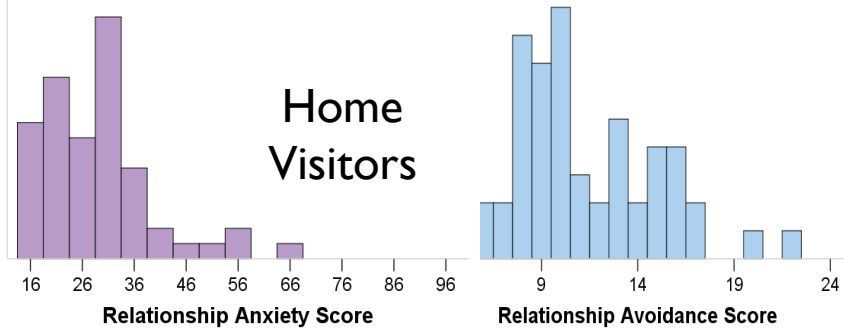| Process Indicator	All Sites	Site Range
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Reasons: Site support? Visitor perceived role, self-efficacy?

Duggan et al, *Child Maltreatment*, 2007; RCT Final Report, 2005

CHALLENGE: Relationship style, burnout and turnover

Home Visitors

Relationship Anxiety Score

Relationship Avoidance Score

Mothers

Relationship Anxiety Score

Relationship Avoidance Score

Work Attitudes	Anxiety	Avoidance
Personal Accomplishment	**-.33**	-.22
Emotional Exhaustion	**.35**	.24
Depersonalization	**.36**	.12
Job Satisfaction	-.15	**-.32**
Likely to Leave	.10	**.26**

▶ Burrell et al., *J. of Human Behavior in Social Environments*, 2009

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Reasons? Implications for what happens in visits?

▶ Burrell et al., *J. of Human Behavior in Social Environments*, 2009

CHALLENGE: Variable success in earning trust.

Maternal Trust in HV as a Function of Relationship Anxiety

▶ McFarlane et al. (2010) J Community Psychology 38(5):541-556
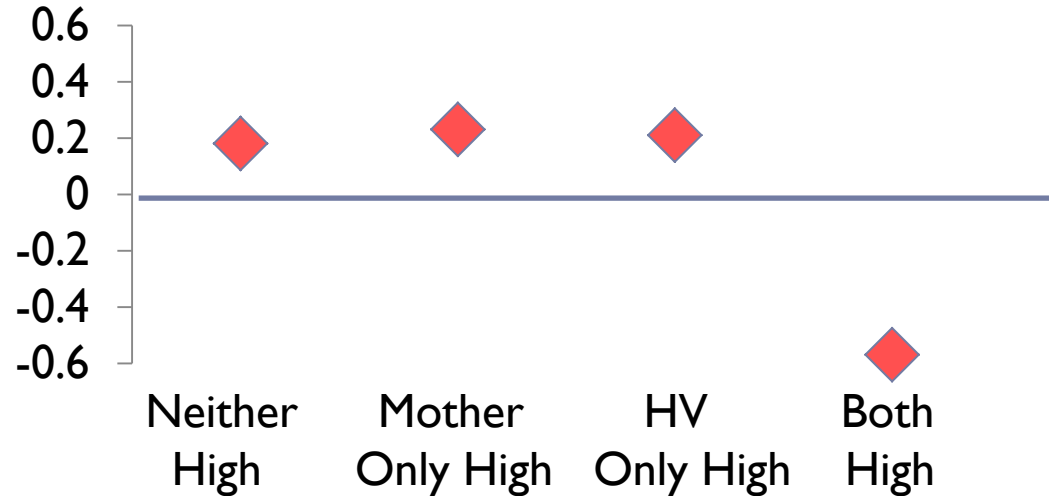
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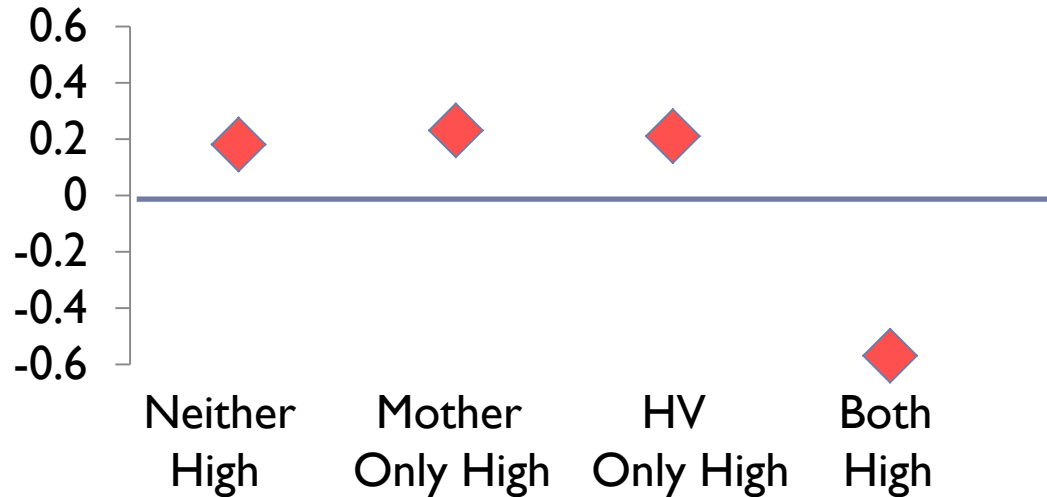
Reasons: A reflection of what happens in visits?

▶ McFarlane et al. (2010) J Community Psychology 38(5):541-556

What Happens in Visits – Relevance for the Research Agenda

What happens in visits related to all priorities, but especially these four.

Top Ten HV Research Priorities (HVRN, 2013)

1. Strengthen and broaden home visiting effectiveness
2. Identify core elements of home visiting
3. Promote successful adoption of home visiting innovations
4. Promote successful adaptation of home visiting innovations
5. **Promote fidelity in implementing home visiting/**
6. **Build a stable, competent workforce.**
7. **Promote family engagement in home visiting**
8. Promote coordination with other services for families
9. Promote the sustainment of effective home visiting
10. **Build home visiting research infrastructure**