

Initiatives and Interventions Addressing Health and Social Indicators in the United States

National Association of Planning Councils Initiatives Survey Results – for www.socialindicators.com

Initiative title: **Comprehensive Health Investment Project of Norfolk (CHIP)**

City and state: **Norfolk, VIRGINIA and other area cities**

Indicators addressed: Immunizations at Age 2

Purpose, goals, and outcomes: CHIP has two goals:

- ? To improve the health status of children, which is measured by an increase in immunizations. A study conducted by CHIP indicated that at enrollment, 76% of the children enrolled in CHIP were up-to-date on the immunizations, but one year later 96% were, an improvement of 20 percentage points.
- ? To move families toward economic self-sufficiency, which is measured by an increase in parental employment. The study showed that at enrollment 16% of the mothers were employed, while one year later 24% of the mothers were employed, an improvement of 8 percentage points.

Description: CHIP, a nonprofit organization, provides comprehensive preventive and primary care and family support services, educating families in the effective use of health care and community services. CHIP of Norfolk has three components:

- ? Local pediatricians, family practitioners, community clinics, and The Norfolk Department of Public Health provide access to health care services 24-hours, 7-days a week
- ? Case Management services are provided by public health nurses, who do assessments and screenings to allow for early detection and intervention of health problems, such as low immunization levels and early childhood development
- ? Outreach Services are provided by an Outreach Worker, who assists with finding needed resources, such as assistance with education, social services, employment opportunities, and who makes referrals to various other community resources

Geographic area covered: Multi-city

Changes in the community condition as a result of this initiative: Children who were enrolled in CHIP's programs had higher levels of immunization and the amount of time they spent hospitalized and in the emergency rooms was less after their enrollment in CHIP. CHIP families had received assistance with a wide range of problems including housing, food, medical care, education, employment, parenting, and domestic relations either directly from CHIP nurses and home visitors or through referrals to other agencies. For the broader community, this means that children are healthier and parents have higher levels of economic security.

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