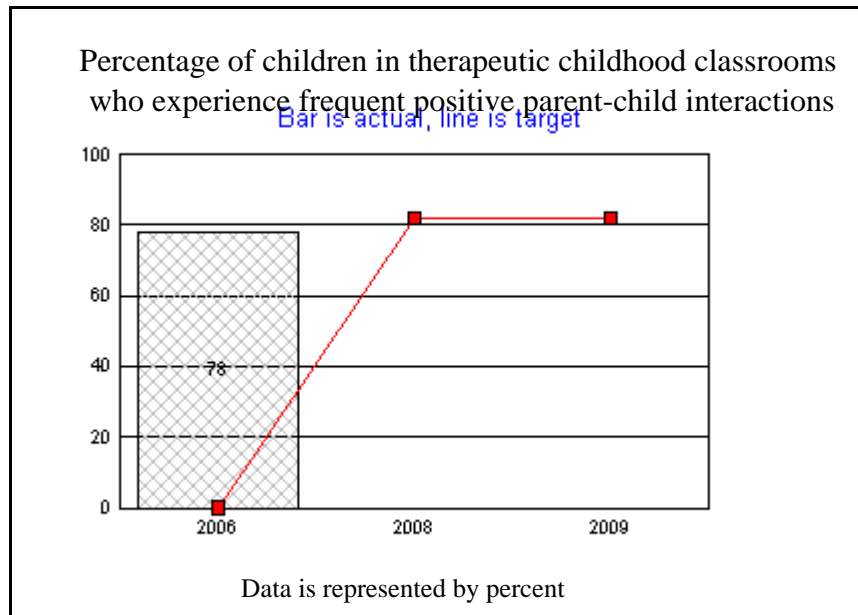


KPM #6	RELIEF NURSERIES - Percentage of children in therapeutic childhood classrooms who experience frequent positive parent-child interactions.	2007
Goal	RELIEF NURSERIES: This KPM links to the OCCF's goal to "fund services that promote positive outcomes for children and their families consistent with the local plan."	
Oregon Context	Reduce Child Maltreatment [OBM 51], Improve Readiness to Learn [OBM 18]	
Data Source	OCCF Data System, NPC Research and Evaluation	
Owner	Pat Pitman, pat.pitman@state.or.us, 503.378.4658	



1. OUR STRATEGY

The Relief Nursery model seeks to stop the cycle of child abuse and neglect through intervention that strengthens parents, builds successful and resilient children, and preserves families by offering comprehensive and integrated support services. Services are targeted to families most

at-risk of abusing or neglecting their children.

2. ABOUT THE TARGETS

Targets were set in consultation with the Oregon Legislature and the Oregon Department of Administrative Services. The desired direction is up.

3. HOW WE ARE DOING

After only 6 months of participation in Relief Nursery services, participants significantly improved both overall family functioning and the quality of their parent-child interactions. After 6 months in the program:

- The number of families demonstrating positive family functioning increased from 36% to 78%
- The number of families demonstrating positive parent-child interactions increased from 46% to 78%

This represents significant change and is very nearly reaching target after only 6 months of intervention. Positive parent-child interaction is positively associated with several child development outcomes including cognitive and language development.

Historical rates are below future targets.

4. HOW WE COMPARE

No comparable agency is known. However, services that Relief Nurseries provide improve parent-child interaction and reduce risk factors in families that are indicators of risk of maltreatment. The outcome of Relief Nursery services is tied to research for improving child development, including cognitive and language development, and reducing the risk of maltreatment.

The average number of risk factors per family entering Relief Nurseries is 17. This indicates a very high level of risk. However, when assessed again at program exit, families showed a significant reduction in their number of risk factors, lowering risk by an average of two mutable risk factors per

family. Further, results found that the greater the level of risk reduction for families, the less likely it was that children would be involved in child welfare or placed in foster care homes subsequent to Relief Nursery participation. Specifically:

- For every two risk factors reduced over time, the risk of maltreatment is cut in half.

Both of these findings imply potential benefits for families as well as potential cost savings for taxpayers.

5. FACTORS AFFECTING RESULTS

A module in the OCCF web-based database is under development and will provide infrastructure support that will improve cross-site data collection and management. It has been difficult for multi-site, individualized programs like the Relief Nurseries to implement adequate data collection systems that collect standardized data sets across all program areas.

6. WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

Continuation of current evaluation and additional analysis to include long term returns on investment and long term results for families is needed to help Relief Nurseries and decision makers identify the most effective program elements.

7. ABOUT THE DATA

Oregon Fiscal Year