



For Immediate Release

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Nonprofit Home Visiting Professionals Worry About Limited Resources for Virginia Families

New survey highlights impact of home visiting on Virginia parents, but providers indicate ongoing challenges with housing, mental health and substance use

Richmond, Va. (November 28, 2023) – A dual survey of nonprofit family support professionals and the families they serve finds ongoing challenges with meeting the needs of Virginia parents while emphasizing the positive outcomes connected to home visiting, programs that connect expectant parents as well as families with young children to local support specialists trained in early childhood development.

The survey, conducted by Early Impact Virginia, a nonprofit alliance for early childhood home visiting, found that three in four (76%) home visitors cited their top challenge as “limited community resources” available to families, with almost 84% of respondents saying there were not enough resources.

Seventy-two percent of home visiting professionals report working in “crisis mode” to help with basic needs as their most pressing challenge.

Close to 90% of home visitation workers agreed that the top three increasing needs among families are housing stability, anxiety/depression and substance use. In open-ended responses by home visitors, affordable housing was cited as the No. 1 need for Virginia families.

Yet 72% of families engaged in home visiting agree or strongly agree that they have the resources they need to achieve their goals.

Parents also reported that their lives have gotten “better/much better” in the areas of transportation (45%), safe and affordable housing (50%) and access to healthy, nutritious foods (59%) over the past two years with home visitation.

Early Impact Virginia fielded the survey of home visiting professionals and the families they serve in October for insights into progress and current struggles facing caregivers today. More than 120 families and 140 home visitors participated in the survey.

“It’s critical we listen and lift up these insights,” said Laurel Aparicio, Early Impact Virginia Executive Director. “Home visiting professionals have a firsthand look at the barriers facing families because they’re working alongside parents inside their homes. While today’s families continue to face complex challenges, we know home visiting works and is an effective intervention that equips parents and children for success.”

[National and state studies](#) show that home visiting is one of the most effective tools for improving maternal and child health, bolstering school readiness and strengthening families.

And families agree, with 82% of respondents saying that home visitors were their “most trusted” person in the community, ahead of doctors and healthcare providers at 76%.

Three quarters (75%) of parent respondents in the Virginia survey said that over the past two years, they have been able to spend more time “playing with and enjoying [their] children.” While one-third (34%) of parents said “feeling loved” was their most important wish for their children.

At 43%, worries about their family’s mental health and “being happy” was the top cited future worry among parents.

Aparicio added: “We’re making transformative strides and we can’t slow down. What the latest responses show us is that investing in home visiting creates positive changes for Virginia parents and kids. We must continue this momentum or risk sending families backwards.”

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About Early Impact Virginia

Early Impact Virginia is a statewide collaboration of early childhood home visiting programs and partners that serve families with children, from pregnancy through age

five. Across Virginia, there are eight home visiting models with 72 local programs. In 2022, 572 family support professionals served nearly 7,000 families and children through 65,000 home visits.