

The Safe Start National Demonstration Project

Evaluating an Initiative for Children Exposed to Violence: Diverse Approaches



Association for the Study and Development of Community



Purpose:

- Develop a demonstration initiative to reduce the impact of family and community violence on young children (primarily from birth to 6 years of age).

Purpose Continued

- Create a comprehensive service delivery system by helping communities to expand existing partnerships among service providers in the following fields:

Purpose Continued

- Early childhood education/development
- Health
- Mental health
- Family support and strengthening
- Domestic violence
- Substance abuse prevention and treatment
- Crisis intervention
- Child welfare
- Law enforcement
- Courts
- Legal services

Purpose Continued

- Improving access to, delivery of, and quality of services for young children who have been exposed to violence along with their families, and their caregivers, at any point of entry into the system.

Evaluating Safe Start

- Levels of Analysis
 - Point of Service Change
 - Agency Change
 - Cross-Agency (or System) Change
 - Community Change

Evaluation Continued

- Point of Service Change
 - Improved identification
 - Improved assessment
 - Improved referral
 - Improved follow-up by staff within each agency/system

Evaluation Continued

- Agency Change
 - Supportive policies, procedures, protocols
 - Improve service delivery within agency

Evaluation Continued

- Cross-Agency (System) Change
 - Improved service coordination
 - Improved service integration
 - Improved cross-agency collaboration

Evaluation Continued

- Community Change
 - Increased community awareness of impact of exposure and community resources
 - Changed community norms regarding violence