

Starting Off Right

A Quarterly Newsletter from
Healthy Start Coalition of Jefferson,
Madison & Taylor Counties, Inc.

FALL 2017



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25 years
Celebrating
SERVING MOMS & BABIES

1992 - 2017



healthystartjmt.org

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Prevention Partner, Service Leader

The last fiscal year was one of pain and promise for Healthy Families Seven Rivers. Staff turnover and experiments with cross-training were challenging, although the process resulted in better practices, especially in a climate of tight budgets and increased caseloads.

Change is inevitable, and it served to make us a stronger team. Service delivery improved, as home visitors become experts in the new curriculum. They are more confident in their ability to help parents navigate services, including specialized skills, such as breastfeeding. The children we serve are entering toddlerhood, and families must become more self-sufficient, while their protective factors develop.

We look forward as improvements to the Healthy Families Model are implemented, which coincide with the completion of the first accreditation cycle of HFSR within the Healthy Families Florida network. Child abuse prevention services in Jefferson, Madison and Taylor counties continue to build, and we are committed to serving our communities for many years to come.

Rebecca Severin
HFSR Program Manager

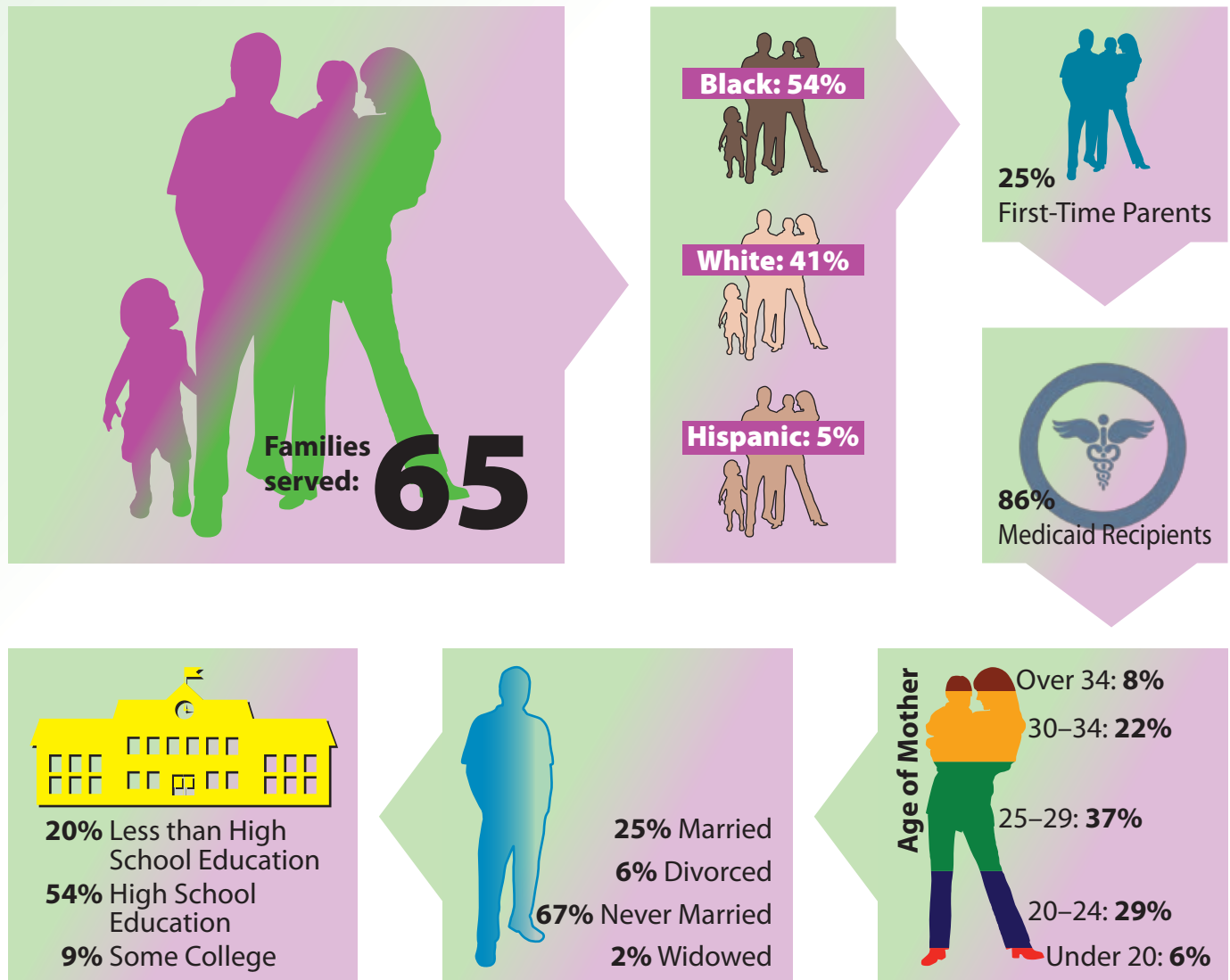


Plan Your Work and Work Your Plan

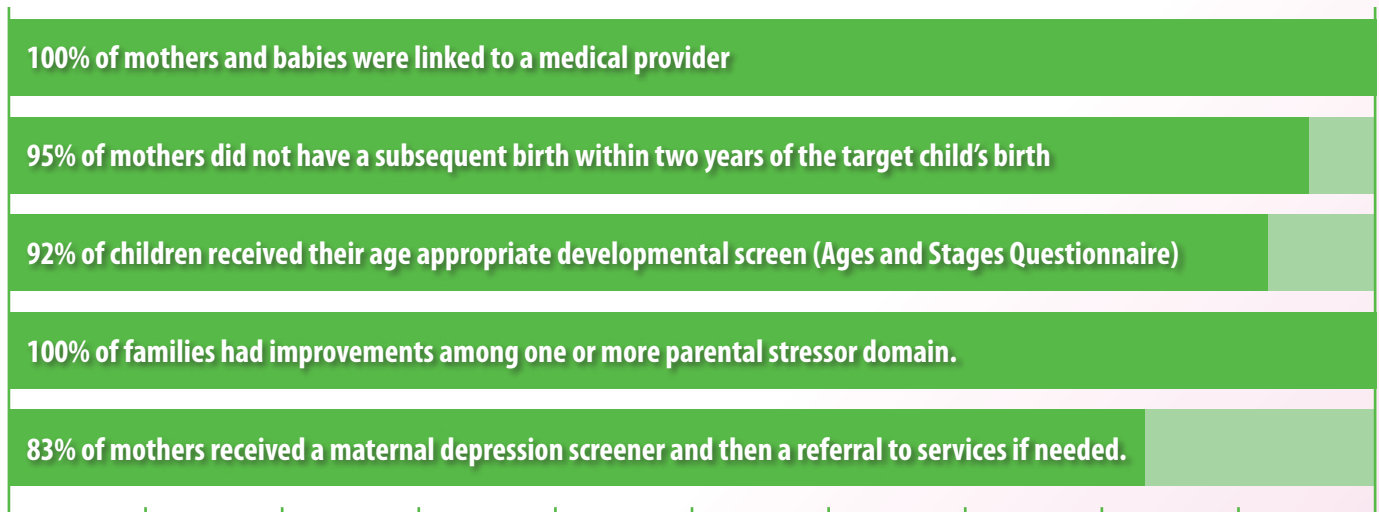
As the new year launches, HFSR is committed to maintaining the accomplishments outlined on pages two and three of this newsletter, while the following three outcomes are our top priorities for the 2017-18 program year:

- ❶ Home visit completion
- ❷ Participant and staff retention
- ❸ Increasing participant self-sufficiency

2016-17 Program Year:



Teamwork resulted in the following highlights:



2017-18 Goals and Systems:

There are several anticipated upgrades to the Healthy Families Model that allow more flexibility in service delivery to parents, while facilitating better supervision and staff development. Some of these improvements include:



1 Changes in the "program leveling system" to allow pregnant mothers to receive more frequent, supportive visits, as they move closer to their delivery date.

2 A new addition: A valid and reliable observation tool that measures Parent and Child Interaction (PCI), which is the basis for good attachments and bonding. This tool allows home visitors to build on parent strengths and support them in areas of improvement.



3 Flexibility in the frequency of case file reviews between the supervisor and home visitors to allow more effective planning in service delivery for families. In the end, the Healthy Families Model continues to be an evidence-based home visiting model. The upgrades simply enhance the home visiting experience for both participants and staff members; Implementation should be complete by Fall 2018



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Taylor County Members:

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Healthy Families Resources for Parents and Partners

Building Better Practices: Home Visiting Improving Health Outcomes



Parenting Tools and Tips

Please visit http://www.ounce.org/parent_tips.html to access tools and tips useful to parents:

- Understanding Healthy Sexual Development: What to Expect as Your child Grows and Matures
- Stimulating Development in a Disabled Child
- Home Safety Checklist
- Choosing a Responsible Caregiver
- Choosing Child Care
- Choosing After-School Care
- Choosing a Summer Camp
- When to Leave Your Kids Home Alone
- Child Passenger Safety
- Coaching Your Kids from the Sidelines
- Just for Dads
- Co-Parenting: Learning to Work Together
- Coping with Crisis
- Parenting During Homelessness
- Dealing with Deployment
- Helping Kids Cope with Stress
- Easy Phone Reference Sheet
- Babysitter's Emergency Checklist

3rd Annual Winter Clothing Giveaway

Date: Friday, Dec. 15, 2017

Time: 10 am–12 noon

Place: 1336 SW Grand St., Greenville, FL 32331

Free, warm winter clothing (coats, sweaters, long sleeves, and much more); snacks; fun; and vendors offering useful information and resources.

ATTENTION VENDORS: Healthy Families Seven Rivers is hosting this clothing drive for the residents of Greenville and surrounding communities. Needed items include:

- **Primarily** ~ infant, toddler and children's coats, sweaters, long sleeve shirts, jeans, pants, scarves, beanie caps, boots, and other closed toe shoes
- **Secondarily** ~ women and men's coats, sweaters, long sleeve shirts, jeans, pants, scarves, beanie caps, boots, and other closed toe shoes

Agencies are invited to be present at the event to provide pertinent social service and health information. Please share this information with your co-workers, family, and congregation to help us collect clothing. We are accepting donations Nov. 1–Dec. 11. Thanks for your help!

Agencies wishing to participate or donate clothing, which can be dropped off at the Coalition office or scheduled for pick up, please call Program Manager Rebecca Severin at (850) 948-2741, or email her at rseverin@healthystartjmt.org.

