

Effect of Maternal-Child Home Visitation on Pregnancy Spacing for First-Time Latina Mothers

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OBJECTIVES: We examined the impact of a maternal-child home visitation program on birth spacing for first-time Latina mothers, focusing on adolescents and women who identified as Mexican or Puerto Rican.

METHODS: This was a retrospective cohort study. One thousand Latina women enrolled in the Pennsylvania Nurse-Family Partnership between January 1, 2003, and December 31, 2007, were matched to nonenrolled Latina women using propensity scores. The primary outcome was the time to second pregnancy that resulted in a live birth (interpregnancy interval). Proportional hazards models and bootstrap methods compared the time to event.

RESULTS: Home visitation was associated with a small decrease in the risk of a short interpregnancy interval (≤ 18 months) among Latina women (hazards ratio [HR] = 0.86; 95% confidence interval [CI] = 0.75, 0.99). This effect was driven by outcomes among younger adolescent women (HR = 0.80; 95% CI = 0.65, 0.96). There was also a trend toward significance for women of Mexican heritage (HR = 0.74; 95% CI = 0.49, 1.07), although this effect might be attributed to individual agency performance.

CONCLUSIONS: Home visitation using the Nurse-Family Partnership model had measurable effects on birth spacing in Latina women.

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