

LA BEST BABIES NETWORK

LABBN Healthy Babies. Our Future.

2021-2024

IMPACT REPORT

Out of the pandemic and into the community



LA BEST BABIES NETWORK (LABBN)

LABBN is dedicated to strengthening organizations and systems so they can support families across Los Angeles County. With a focus on health equity, we work to ensure that all families with young children have access to the resources they need to enjoy health and wellness in every way.

Our history of providing support for various grant-funded perinatal health projects has helped us develop a network that is both broad and tightly-knit. It has also given us tools and strategies to maximize our partners' effectiveness so they can provide excellent service to their clients.

STAFF ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

All LABBN staff members contributed to this report — and, of course, to the accomplishments it highlights! — but these LABBN staff members led the writing, editing, and design of this publication: Amie Aguiar, Anna Ghukasyan, Helen Kontorousis, Laurel Murray, Lynnette Marquez, Sharlene Gozalians, Steve Nish, and Vanessa Perucho.



LABBN Director Sharlene Gozalians with California Hospital President Alina Moran

“

California Hospital Medical Center has had a long-standing partnership with LA Best Babies Network, and they are an integral part of our community benefit program. Their work is instrumental in ensuring that our families have access to perinatal health and early parenthood support services. The greatest strength of LABBN is that our services are provided by culturally-proficient staff who are committed to social justice and health equity for all.

— Alina Moran, MPA, FACHE, FAB
President, Dignity Health – California Hospital Medical Center

OUR PARENT ORGANIZATION AND FUNDERS

LABBN is proud to be a community benefit of Dignity Health – California Hospital Medical Center, and is grateful for the hospital's commitment to serving the community as a “hospital without walls.” LABBN is also grateful for the funding and partnership of First 5 LA, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and Department of Public Social Services, and the LA Partnership for Early Childhood Investment. Thank you for your support!



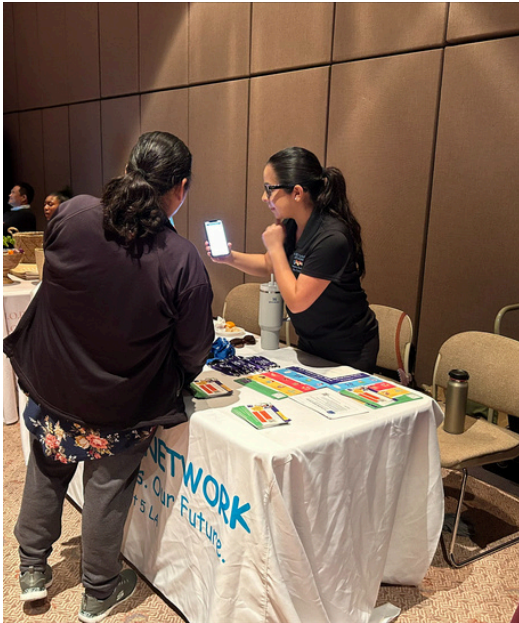


Table of Contents

Message From Our Director

1

Aligning With Our Strategic Plan

2

Highlights and Milestones

3

Defining Our Community

4

Training the Largest Home Visiting Network in the Nation

5

Supporting Ongoing Improvement Through Technical Assistance

6

Creating Database Infrastructure to Improve Outcomes

7

Communications

8

Supporting Partners to Support Families

9

And Now, We Present...
Sharing Our Work Beyond the Network

10

Annual Summit: Honoring and Uplifting Home Visiting Champions

11

Coming Together to Improve and Advance Home Visiting

12

Home Visiting Day

14

Our Roadmap to Serving the Community

15

Our Team

16

FROM OUR DIRECTOR



This report fills me with profound gratitude and admiration for each of you who has contributed to our cause. And because LABBN oversees and supports a vast network of home visiting organizations and hospitals in Los Angeles County, there are *a lot of contributors*. Your unwavering support, dedication, and collaboration are the cornerstone of our achievements.

This report highlights a variety of initiatives, and celebrates the successes of ongoing programs. Whether through meticulous data analysis or heartfelt testimonials, we see how this work changes lives and helps families thrive. This report underscores the vital role each stakeholder plays in building a more resilient, empowered, and compassionate society.

First, I extend my heartfelt thanks to our **invaluable funders** and to **California Hospital**, where LABBN is based. Your generosity provides the resources needed to sustain our programs, and your partnership demonstrates a shared commitment to improving lives. Without your trust and belief in our mission, none of our accomplishments would be possible.

To our **supporters and partners**, your belief in LABBN's vision and mission is inspiring – and helpful! Whether through direct support, guidance and thought partnerships, lifting our team, or advocating for our cause, you have amplified our impact and extended our reach far beyond what we could achieve alone.

Of course, there would be no impact to report without our network's **passionate and tireless staff**. You are the compassionate hearts and skilled hands behind every success story we celebrate today. From home visitors who provide crucial support to families, to administrative staff who ensure the smooth operation of our programs, every member of our team plays a vital role in driving positive outcomes. I am profoundly grateful for each of you.

Our strong workforce is a reflection of our commitment to equity and inclusion. By fostering diverse talent and providing opportunities for growth and advancement, we create pathways for individuals from all backgrounds to contribute meaningfully to our shared mission. In doing so, we not only enrich our organization, but also create a more representative and empowered workforce that mirrors the communities we serve.

Honestly, it is hard to measure the impact of home visiting programs – you never know where its influence stops. The ripple effect extends beyond the families our network serves. When parents are supported in nurturing the healthy development of their children, we set kids up for success. This moves through generations and throughout our community, enriching the lives of countless individuals and fostering a culture of support, resilience, and healthy living.

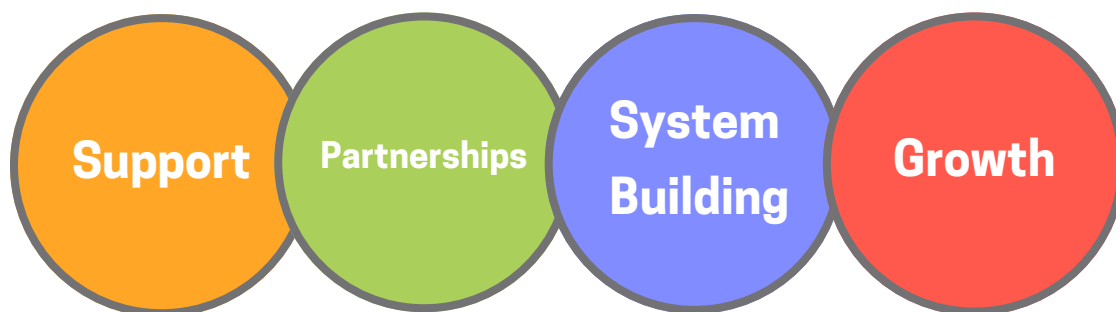
Every milestone reached, every life transformed, is a testament to the collective power of our community coming together to create meaningful change. As we continue on this journey, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to building a brighter, more inclusive future for all.

With deepest gratitude and warmest regards,

Sharlene Gozalians, DrPH, MPH, CHES

Director

LABBN's Strategic Goals



Whether it's training, technical assistance, data analysis, or support with outreach and communications, LABBN's strategy and goals are centered around four pillars: partnerships, system building, support, and growth.

The activities and accomplishments in this report are closely tied to these pillars, and all four of them keep LABBN focused on what matters most: giving kids the best start and strengthening families in Los Angeles County.

Support:

- Invest in strengthening our direct service providers' ability to design and deliver quality services that improve outcomes for families while increasing accountability.
- Improve and expand the quality and availability of our training, technical assistance, communications, and resource-sharing.
- Continually identify and deliver the right mix of high-quality trainings that incorporate current best practices, promote model fidelity and standardization, and meet the overall needs of current and future clients.

Partnerships:

- Increase and diversify our partnerships with organizations and agencies that focus on early childhood education and family strengthening.
- Strengthen connections between organizations so they can take advantage of each other's resources.

System Building:

- Improve our system's ability to expand its breadth and depth of programming to meet the needs of more families with new and modified services and service delivery mechanisms while maintaining model fidelity and quality.
- Support home visiting system stakeholders to increase system capacity for planning, delivering, and measuring equitable and accessible home visiting and complementary services.

Growth:

- Invest in strengthening LABBN's internal capabilities by promoting continual learning opportunities, performance improvement, and organizational culture and team development.

HIGHLIGHTS AND MILESTONES



2021



Purchased and distributed 200 laptops, hotspots, and gift cards to pay for Internet service for clients in need of virtual home visits. Funds provided by L.A. County.

2021



Published paper with First 5 LA documenting the shift from in-person to virtual home visiting services in Los Angeles County.

2022



Presented at Postpartum Support International Conference on including fathers in home visiting, and on home visiting's role in addressing perinatal mood and anxiety disorders.

2022-2023



Successfully transitioned to supporting and overseeing network staff in a hybrid format (mixing virtual and in-person trainings and meetings).

2022-2024



Supported the integration of four new funding sources into the network.

2023



Trained County departments, including leaders and all Juvenile Probation Officers, on referring families to home visiting.

2023



Convened leaders to plan a countywide "data lake," which will enable analysis of data from several distinct sources. Presented at the National Home Visiting Summit.

2023-2024



Supported First 5 LA and the American Institutes for Research in conducting a virtual impact study of Welcome Baby.

2024



Launched training for L.A. County Dept. of Public Health doula program.

2024

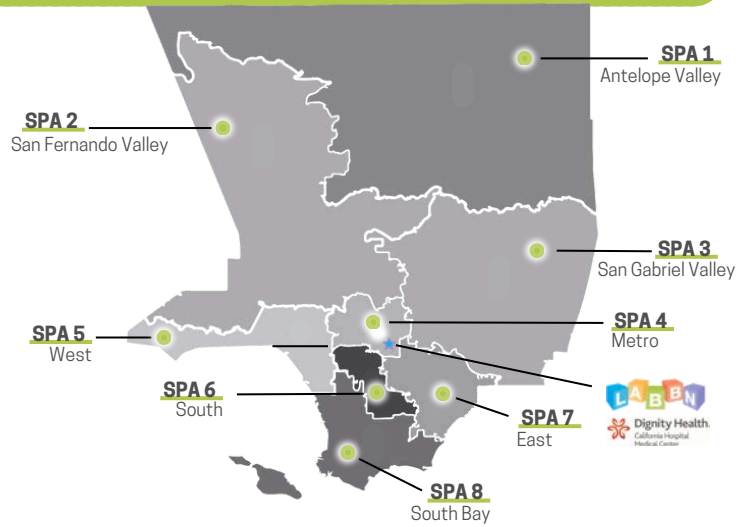


Presented total of seven posters and two lectures at the Zero to Three LEARN Conference and the Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma Summit.

DEFINING OUR COMMUNITY

With over 9 million residents and about 95,000 births, Los Angeles County has the largest population of any county in the nation. Spanning 4,300 square miles, it is divided into eight geographic regions, known as Service Planning Areas (SPAs).

LA Best Babies Network is proud to support over 35 hospitals and organizations providing home visiting services to families across the county. We call this the Family Strengthening Network.



Hospitals and Organizations Supported and Guided by LABBN (2020-2024)

SPA 1 - Antelope Valley

- Antelope Valley Partners for Health (HFA, WB)
- Child and Family Guidance Center (HFA)
- Child Care Resource Center (PAT)

SPA 2 - San Fernando

- Child Care Resource Center (PAT)
- El Nido Family Centers (PAT)
- Northridge Hospital Medical Center (WB)
- Pacific Asian Counseling Services (HFA)
- Providence Holy Cross Medical Center (WB)
- Valley Presbyterian Hospital* (WB)

SPA 3 - San Gabriel

- Emanate Health – Queen of the Valley Hospital (WB)
- Foothill Family Service (HFA)
- SPIRITT Family Centers (HFA)*
- The Whole Child (PAT)

SPA 4 - Metro

- All for Kids (formerly Children’s Bureau of Southern California) (HFA)
- El Nido Family Centers (PAT)
- California Hospital Medical Center – Maternal and Child Health Access (WB)
- Children’s Institute, Inc. (HFA)
- Plaza Community Services (PAT)
- Wellnest (HFA)
- White Memorial Medical Center (WB)

SPA 5 - West

- Richstone Family Center (PAT)
- St. Mary Medical Center – Families in Good Health (HFA)
- The Children’s Clinic (HFA)

SPA 6 - South

- Children’s Institute, Inc. (HFA)
- Lundquist Institute for Biomedical Innovation at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center/South LA Health Projects (SLAHP)
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital (WB)
- Richstone Family Center (PAT)
- SHIELDS for Families (HFA, PAT)
- St. Francis Medical Center (WB)
- Wellnest (HFA)

SPA 7 - East

- Human Services Association (PAT)
- Wellnest (HFA)
- The Whole Child (PAT)

SPA 8 - South Bay/Harbor

- Centinela Hospital Medical Center* (WB)
- Children’s Institute, Inc. (HFA)
- MemorialCare Miller Children’s and Women’s Hospital Long Beach (WB)
- Pacific Asian Counseling Services (HFA)
- Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center – San Pedro (WB)
- Richstone Family Center (PAT)
- St. Mary Medical Center – Families in Good Health (HFA, WB)
- The Children’s Clinic (HFA)
- Torrance Memorial Medical Center (WB)

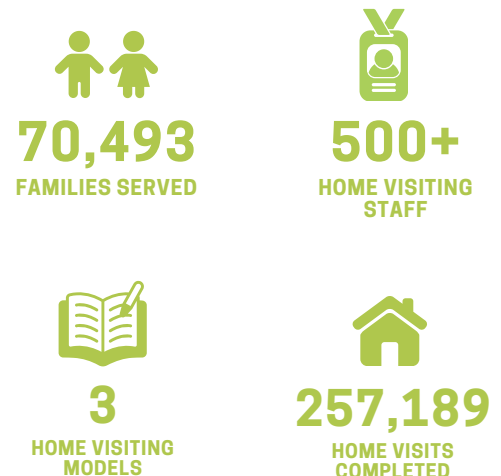
Home Visiting Models: HFA: Healthy Families America | PAT: Parents as Teachers | WB: Welcome Baby
*No longer part of the Family Strengthening Network

Family Strengthening Network

The Family Strengthening Network formed in 2013 and includes all the organizations and hospitals in L.A. County that provide free home visiting services using either the Welcome Baby, Healthy Families America, or Parents as Teachers models. With some 500 home visiting program staff at 12 hospitals and over two dozen community-based organizations, this is the largest home visiting network in the nation.

From 2020-2024, the network served over 70,000 families and completed over 250,000 visits.

LABBN provides the training, database and communications infrastructure, and administrative support to help these organizations serve families and change lives.



Data from 2020-2024

TRAINING THE LARGEST HOME VISITING NETWORK IN THE COUNTRY

Over the last decade ...



1,200+
Trainings hosted



40+
Organizations trained



1,500+
Individuals trained



200+
Partnerships



Before home visitors see families, LABBN makes sure they have in-depth training on a wide range of topics. We coordinate and facilitate this training throughout the year, and then follow up by offering continuing education, peer-to-peer learning, and collaborative meetings.

LABBN's trainings emphasize trauma-informed and healing-centered approaches. New staff receive up to 200 hours of initial training on topics that include: prenatal/postpartum care, infant development, family planning, positive parenting, and screenings/assessments. The result: high-quality perinatal care and social support for families.

Beyond our network ...

In addition to training our network's home visiting program staff, LABBN has hosted and led trainings for various L.A. County partners, including: the Department of Public Health's Nurse-Family Partnership and its African American Infant and Maternal Mortality (AAIMM) Doula Program, the Department of Children and Family Services, Juvenile Probation, LAUSD, and MAMAs Neighborhood.

In the last couple years, we've added new training sessions on engaging fathers in home visits, preventing compassion fatigue, and helping families and providers cope with grief and loss.

Year	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
Staff Trained	633	541	547	498
Welcome Baby	252	237	144	146
Healthy Families America	207	162	175	151
Parents as Teachers	174	142	228	201

“

LABBN's work has not only improved the lives of countless families, but has also set a benchmark for Work2Live to strive to provide the highest quality services to the staff in our network. LABBN's inspirational leadership is a motivating factor in the work we do each day.

— Teresa McKee
CEO, Work2Live Well



Work2Live Well's Melissa Sims and Teresa McKee, with LABBN's Sharlene Gozalians

SUPPORTING ONGOING IMPROVEMENT THROUGH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



LABBN’s oversight and support helps Welcome Baby, Healthy Families America, and Parents as Teachers programs meet requirements set by their funders and national program models. In 2020-2024, we did this by:

- Conducting annual program audits for each First 5 LA-funded Welcome Baby program to measure program fidelity, highlight successes, and explore areas of improvement
- Producing and maintaining protocols for the First 5 LA-funded WB, HFA, and PAT programs
 - 40 programmatic protocols completed and updated annually based on feedback from staff and funders
- Hosting six monthly, 2-hour confidential reflective practice coaching groups that provide WB, HFA, and PAT leaders with tools and resources to host effective weekly group and individual reflective supervision sessions for their home visiting staff
- Developing program assessment tools, including client satisfaction surveys for the WB programs
- Hosting regular professional development meetings for each role to help them continually improve their service to families. These include monthly meetings for WB, HFA, and PAT program managers.
- Hosting bi-weekly Family Strengthening Oversight Entity (FSOE) calls, where First 5 LA, LABBN, and Work2Live discuss developments affecting the network and how to promote more effective service.
- Hosting oversight retreats to align us in the work.

Reflective Practice Builds Resilience and Buffers Against Workplace Stress

Staff in our network often see trauma – acute, chronic, systemic – as they support and advocate for the most vulnerable in our community. To buffer against workplace stress, staff receive individual and group reflective supervision.

LABBN conducts bi-annual confidential surveys to assess the quality of the reflective supervision they receive. Over 94% of staff usually report feeling safe, nurtured and supported during these sessions.

“ REFLECTIVE PRACTICE AND SUPERVISION

Over the past year, I’ve worked with LABBN to envision and commence activities that center and celebrate the voices and wisdom of persons with direct experience providing reflective supervision in HFA, PAT, and WB home visiting programs. This has included coordinating and providing mentorship to BIPOC co-facilitators – with current or past experience as supervisors in HFA, PAT, or WB – to lead LABBN cohort trainings in Reflective Practice and Supervision. This is an invaluable opportunity for newly onboarded home visiting staff to learn directly from those with wisdom and experience delivering and supervising LABBN-supported programs.

— Diane Reynolds, LMFT, IFECMHS, RPF II
Infant-Family Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist

When staff and leadership participate in reflective practice and supervision:



Staff reflective capacity deepens



Work satisfaction and self-efficacy increases



Organizations are better prepared to respond to workplace and community needs



Staff are more likely to stay on the job



Program quality improves, along with child and family outcomes



Staff are better prepared to serve

CREATING DATABASE INFRASTRUCTURE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES



LABBN maintains a vast database that organizations in the Family Strengthening Network use to track activity and outcomes. By providing comprehensive training and technical support, LABBN also helps its partners fulfill requirements for data collection and confidentiality. We also bring data to life with rigorous analysis and reporting, so it can guide our network's relentless pursuit of continuous quality improvement.

Along with First 5 LA and County agencies, LABBN has worked to standardize how home visiting programs collect data. LABBN also helps programs create their own reports, along with providing support for their overall database operations.

LABBN is excited to be leading a project that will consolidate and synthesize home visiting data from a variety of sources so that we can look more broadly and deeply at services across our county. This Home Visiting Data Lake will help us see beyond the activities of Welcome Baby, Healthy Families America, and Parents as Teachers in L.A. County. (See box above.)

Data Lake Project

LABBN, First 5 CA, First 5 LA, and other partners in Los Angeles County are working to build a repository of home visiting data across funding streams, multiple databases, and program models. The goal: to facilitate the compiling and analysis of data that will inform countywide planning efforts and show the collective impact of home visiting.



This data lake will also improve our ability to develop targeted strategies to reach underserved populations, identify service gaps, and engage more families.

The project is expected to be completed by June 2025.

Tableau Conference



At the 2021 Tableau Conference, LABBN's Manager of Data and Evaluation Delisa Culver (top right) and Senior Data Analyst Monica Charles (top left) participated on a panel where they shared how our network uses Tableau for reporting, monitoring, and continuous quality improvement.

300+

Database trainings hosted for home visiting staff

1,800+

Stronger Families Database support requests answered

54

Updates made to the Stronger Families Database

240+

Data visualization reports created for funders, home visiting models, and agencies

Data from 2020-2024

COMMUNICATIONS

LABBN works to raise awareness about home visiting, and supports organizations and hospitals with outreach and recruitment. We create custom marketing materials, blogs, social media, and websites to facilitate referrals. We also produce the Welcome Baby book and maintain an online library of resources for parents.



LABBN facilitates monthly meetings for Welcome Baby outreach teams to connect with each other and discuss successes and challenges in enrolling families. We also hold quarterly webinars on topics related to their role.



Welcome Baby Outreach Specialist Tina Wong explains Welcome Baby to a new dad.

The Welcome Baby Book

helps program participants learn about pregnancy, postpartum, and parenthood. LABBN updates the book and makes it available online in English and Spanish for anyone: LABestBabies.org/Book and LABestBabies.org/Libro

The Parenting Resource Library

is an online collection of up-to-date handouts and guides that supplement the Welcome Baby book. Also available in Spanish, it aligns with the book's chapters: LABestBabies.org/Parenting and LABestBabies.org/Familias

WelcomeBabySupport.org

LABBN launched this site during the pandemic when in-person outreach shifted to virtual. The website explains the Welcome Baby program, and features testimonials from clients and a section for providers to make referrals.

The L.A. County Home Visiting eDirectory

is an online tool that LABBN created to help connect families to local home visiting programs. Available in multiple languages, it asks families (or providers making referrals) a few questions, and then shows which programs are available in their area. The eDirectory includes over 50 community organizations and hospitals that provide home visiting or doula services. LABBN continually updates the eDirectory, and works with partners to help them use it to make referrals. eDirectory.HomeVisitingLA.org



The Communications team gave a presentation on the eDirectory at the Zero to Three LEARN early childhood conference in Long Beach on August 1, 2024.



Scan to visit the eDirectory



SUPPORTING PARTNERS TO SUPPORT FAMILIES

LABBN delivers! As part of the Welcome Baby program, families receive items like breastfeeding pillows, picture books, cabinet latches, outlet protectors, developmental toys, and healthcare kits (toothbrush, nasal aspirator, medicine dropper, thermometer, alcohol wipes). We maintain an online ordering system where our partners request these items.

We also help our partners connect families to basic necessities. During the pandemic, LABBN worked with First 5 LA and others to distribute one million diapers in L.A. County. To help home visitors learn about various opportunities for clients, we send weekly emails listing upcoming events and post these on the Stronger Families Blog.

125,000+

Program materials delivered in 2021-2024

- 28,000 Welcome Baby Books (English and Spanish)
- 34,500+ Boppy Pillows
- 11,000+ Crinkle Books
- 5,900+ Cabinet Latches
- 5,300+ Outlet Plug Protectors
- 28,700+ Healthcare Kits
- 11,500+ Toys



Making Connections With Families

When virtual visits replaced in-person meetings, our partners said many families did not have reliable access to technology and the Internet, so we decided to help. In April 2021, we distributed technology bundles, including a Chromebook and wi-fi hotspot, to 200 families in L.A. County.



Clients in the Parents as Teachers program at SHIELDS for Families receiving their tech bundles. Scan this code to read more about this.



Diaper Day event in partnership with Antelope Valley Partners for Health, Child & Family Guidance Center, and L.A. Care on December 2021

During the pandemic, sites held drive-through distributions, food pantries, and other events to help meet families' needs. Some of these events continue to be held regularly.



“

My baby and I are doing much better now. We had no one to call for help. My home visitor made sure we received emergency donations (Pedialyte, fever reducing medicine, thermometer, calamine lotion, disinfectant wipes, spray, etc.) when we were in isolation for COVID-19. I will never forget how she helped us. I thank her for what she did, and I am glad I joined the program.

— Mom in a local HFA home visiting program

AND NOW, WE PRESENT ...

Sharing Our Work Beyond the Network

Working with county agencies and partners in our network, LABBN has helped lead and coordinate a variety of innovative projects. From research studies to client recruitment to tools that help track outcomes, they have all helped move the needle forward for the home visiting field.

LABBN is proud to share this work by giving presentations at various conferences and by having it highlighted in national publications.

From 2021 to 2024, LA Best Babies Network had ...



5 lecture presentations at conferences in 2022 and 2024



10 poster presentations at conferences in 2023 and 2024



1 paper published in the 2021 issue of the *Maternal Child Health Journal*



1 virtual panel discussion at the Tableau Conference in 2021



In addition to a lecture presentation, LABBN staff presented six poster showcases at the 2024 Zero to Three LEARN conference in Long Beach, California.



LABBN's Kathryn Ewing presents at the 2024 Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma (IVAT) Conference



LABBN's Martha Bock presents at the 2022 Postpartum Support International Conference

ANNUAL SUMMIT: HONORING AND UPLIFTING HOME VISITING CHAMPIONS

For the last decade, LABBN has organized an annual summit to highlight and celebrate Family Strengthening Network staff and programs across the county.

At the event, we hear from parents whose lives have been changed by this work, and from LABBN's data analysts, who present numbers that prove the impact. Keynote speakers like Shola Richards (2022) and Dr. Sade Burrell (2024) have joined us at these events to inspire and honor the staff for the life-changing work they do daily. LABBN also delivers a gift package to each of the over 500 staff members who attend.

Each year, a theme for the event helps shape the agenda. These are the themes for the event since 2021:

- 2021: #HomeVisitingWorks: Honoring the Changemakers
- 2022: Standing Strong With Families in L.A. County
- 2023: Creating Connections: Building an Inclusive Home Visiting Village
- 2024: Rising Up to Meet the Moment: Honoring Progress, Shaping Tomorrow

See highlights of these summits at LABestBabies.org/Summits or scan this code. →

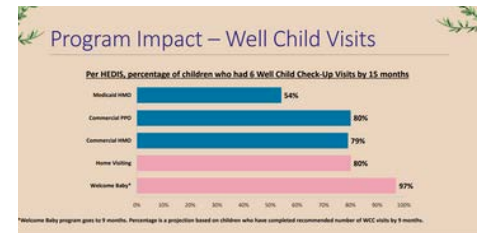


Scan this code to see video highlights of the awards ceremony. This video was played during the 2024 summit to honor these veteran home visiting champions.

What motivates you to do this work?



At the 2022 summit, attendees reflected on the reason they work in the home visiting field.



Data presented at the 2023 summit



At the 2024 summit, Whitney Hammock, a former client of the Healthy Families America program at South Los Angeles Health Projects, shared how home visiting helped her and her kids — and how it led to a new job helping other families.

LABBN organized a service award ceremony a few weeks before this year's summit to recognize home visiting staff who have been part of the network for a decade or more. Hosted at First 5 LA on May 21, 2024, the event honored more than 90 dedicated people from all over L.A. County.

Starting with one Welcome Baby program in 2009 — a partnership with California Hospital and Maternal and Child Health Access — our network now includes a dozen Welcome Baby programs and over two dozen HFA and PAT home visiting programs at community-based organizations.

COMING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE AND ADVANCE HOME VISITING



The Consortium

Managed by LABBN, the Los Angeles County Perinatal and Early Childhood Home Visitation Consortium brings together early childhood home visiting programs, family and child health organizations, advocacy groups, and other stakeholders. In all, the Consortium is made up of over 60 organizations across Los Angeles County. Their collective goal: strengthening community resources, promoting systemic change, and ensuring equitable access to services for diverse populations.

Consortium Workgroups

The Consortium includes six workgroups that collaborate to enhance home visiting services and support for families. Each workgroup focuses on a specific area. Through regular meetings and collaboration, these workgroups help L.A. County's home visiting programs be as good as they can be.



ADVOCACY WORKGROUP

Goal: Empower and coordinate the Consortium membership to change systems through narrative shifts, policies, funding, and services that center families.

Recent highlights:

- Created home visiting talking points members can use when connecting with policymakers and health audiences
- Launched an Advocacy Toolkit for community-based organizations to use
- Signed on to 37 letters of support for bills affecting families and children 0-5



AFRICAN AMERICAN HOME VISITING ENGAGEMENT WORKGROUP

Goal: Develop tools, strategies, and resources that raise consciousness, build trust, and change practices within home visiting agencies that foster the recruitment and retention of more African American home visiting staff and increase enrollment of African American families.

Recent highlights:

- Added as a Consortium workgroup in 2020.
- Produced a best practices hiring and retention guide in an effort to increase the number of African American home visiting staff in L.A. County. The guide has been piloted at two home visiting agencies.
- Worked to strengthen the relationship between L.A. County's doula programs and home visiting programs by hosting an informational Doula 101 webinar. Eighty-three people attended the live session.
- Launched Home Visiting Day in L.A. County in 2022. The day raises awareness of home visiting and celebrates staff and families. (See page 13.)



BEST PRACTICES

Goal: Partner with families and providers to elevate the quality of home visiting and integrate racial equity.

Recent highlights:

- Hosted webinars for home visiting staff, including one about the support services available through L.A. County's regional centers and others on Medi-Cal coverage, domestic violence red flags, and immigrant rights. Over 150 people attended each webinar.
- Developed a Parent Voice subgroup to elevate the voices of home visiting participants in improving the quality of services.





DATA WORKGROUP

Goal: Serve as a community of practice that uses home visiting data to develop practices that track outcomes, monitor disparities, and reveal gaps.

Recent highlights:

- Published updated infographic about home visiting programs' capacity and the needs of L.A. County families.
- Collected new data on descriptive and outcome indicators — including breastfeeding rates, depression and anxiety screenings, prenatal and postpartum care, and well-child visits — from home visiting programs implementing at least one of seven home visiting models. Published a comprehensive report detailing this information.
- Laid groundwork for the data lake project.



REFERRALS WORKGROUP

Goal: Build and strengthen pathways and linkages to home visiting services and other community resources for L.A. County families, while advocating for systemic improvements to home visiting programs' eligibility and access.

Recent highlights:

- In 2024, hosted a virtual housing panel where four L.A. County housing agencies provided 150 home visiting staff and early childhood educators with resources to help address housing instability for their clients. Attendees were from all over L.A. County.
- Hosted two virtual focus groups with 22 home visitors to understand how they overcome barriers when connecting families with community services.



FATHER ENGAGEMENT WORKGROUP

Goal: Develop and promote practices, and policies, that intentionally support fathers' engagement in home visiting.

Recent highlights:

- Became a Consortium workgroup in 2021.
- Coordinated an event for home visiting staff focusing on the importance of father involvement in home visits in June of 2023.

DADS MATTER TOO: STRENGTHENING THE VILLAGE OF HOME VISITING SUPPORT FOR FATHERS

The Consortium coordinates various events to support home visiting staff members' professional and personal development. On June 13, 2024, at the California Endowment, the Consortium hosted an event to promote father engagement in home visiting.

Topics included:

- Male/father bias as a barrier in getting dads to participate in home visiting
- The importance of culture/tradition in home visiting as it pertains to father inclusion, and what cultural barriers currently exist
- Strategies to include and engage non-residential fathers in home visits
- Strategies to include fathers when a family is dealing with domestic violence, substance use disorders, or mental health problems
- The extent to which home visiting program policies and protocols invite and encourage father participation



HOME VISITING DAY

Home Visiting Day is an annual event highlighting the importance of free, voluntary in-home support services for pregnant people and families with young children. A project of the Consortium, the day highlights the benefits that children and families receive from home visiting programs. It also recognizes and celebrates the work of our county's dedicated home visitors.

Highlights Since the 2022 Launch ...



Some LABBN staff with the Home Visiting Day proclamation from the City of Los Angeles in April 2024



Supervisor Solis introduces her motion to proclaim Home Visiting Day in L.A. County

2022

- Inaugural Home Visiting Day celebration on April 8th
- Home Visiting 101 webinar: hosted by the LA County Perinatal and Early Childhood Home Visitation Consortium's referrals workgroup
- First-ever L.A. County Board of Supervisors proclamation, sponsored by supervisor Hilda Solis, passes unanimously
- Launch of official Home Visiting Day website (HomeVisitingDay.org), with resources, including a social media toolkit to promote the day

2023

- Home Visiting Day officially set to take place on the third Friday of April each year
- Launch of video recording tool for clients and staff to talk about home visiting
 - 15 videos total submitted
 - HomeVisitingDay.org/record now available throughout the year to collect testimonials from clients and staff



Antelope Valley Partners for Health Home Visiting Day video



2024

- City proclamations from Lancaster, Palmdale, Long Beach, and Los Angeles issued for the first time
- L.A. County Board of Supervisors proclamation passes unanimously, for third year in a row
- Launch of mailing list for Home Visiting Day updates: HomeVisitingDay.org/join

2025

- Save the date: **April 18!**

IN THE NEWS

The day caught the attention of L.A.'s Spanish news outlet Telemundo 52. They aired a story in May 2024 about a home visiting client named Daisy and her one-year-old son, who participated in a program at Child Care Resource Center in the San Fernando Valley. Scan to watch



OUR ROADMAP TO SERVING THE COMMUNITY

California is shifting its approach to child welfare, moving “from a child protection and foster care system to a child well-being system within a reimagined child and family well-being continuum.” That’s according to *California’s Five-Year State Prevention Plan*, which also notes that the state’s Department of Social Services envisions “an integrated state-wide system that supports families to provide safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for their children.”

That’s exactly what our network does in L.A. County.

We are working closely with County agencies to make sure families have easier access to these in-home support services that help kids get the best start.

And we are expanding our support — training, resource-sharing and technical assistance, data management, and outreach and communications — so that our partners can do more and better work to uplift families.

We’re proud to be a trusted leader in our county’s plan to *prevent* bad outcomes. But our focus will remain on *promoting* strengths — and we’re grateful to be working with so many strong partners who do this every day with the families they serve.



Staff of LABBN, First 5 LA, and Work2Live Well at a retreat in 2023.



“

First 5 LA has partnered with LABBN for more than a decade. They have served as critical partners in developing a high-quality network of home visiting programs across L.A. County. LABBN brings extensive expertise in everything from programming to technical assistance, database oversight, and marketing. Their focus on meeting customer needs — along with their superb skills — has resulted in an unparalleled network of more than 30 entities, including hospitals and community-based-organizations, that successfully implement different home visiting models. LABBN continually brings strategic, system-wide thinking and approaches that elevate the quality and level of services that thousands of families receive every year — a feat First 5 LA could not achieve alone.

— Diana Careaga, Director of Family Supports, First 5 LA

OUR TEAM

(October 2024)



Sharlene Gozalians, DrPH, MPH, CHES
Director



Amie Aguiar, BA
Communications Specialist



Helen Chan, BS
Data Analyst



Monica Charles, MPH
Senior Data Analyst



Delisa Culver, MA
Manager of Data and Evaluation



Kathryn Ewing, BA
Public Health Research Associate



Patrick Flippin-Weston, BA
Public Health Research Associate & Training Coordinator



Genesis Garcia-Henriquez, BS
Office Coordinator



Anna Ghukasyan, MPH
Senior Policy Research Associate



Jonathan Jimenez, BA
Senior Data Analyst



Jennifer Jimenez, BS
Public Health Research Associate



Helen Kontoroussis, BS
Communications Specialist



Osvaldo Lopez, BS
Database Trainer & Support Specialist



Larisa Malek, BS
Manager of Operations & Grants



Lynnette Marquez, BA
Policy Assistant



Laurel Murray, BS
Policy Specialist



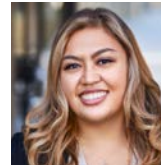
Steve Nish, MA
Manager of Communications & Outreach



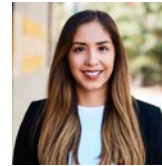
Vanessa Perucho, BS, CHES
Public Health Research Associate



Printess Pickens, MHA, MBA
Database Quality Assurance & Project Specialist



Terrie-May Ruiz, BS
Public Health Research Associate & Training Coordinator



Faith Soltero, MS
Public Health Research Associate & Training Coordinator I



Arcenia Ochoa Vega, MHA
Administrative Coordinator



LA Best Babies Network holds two staff retreats per year as a way to bring everyone together outside of the office. We participate in team-building activities to strengthen our communication, trust, and overall culture. Past retreats include painting and cooking classes, pedal boats in Echo Park Lake, and an escape room. These retreats give staff the opportunity to pair up with coworkers from other teams and interact in a new environment.

LA Best Babies Network also holds annual retreats with our funder, First 5 LA, for our Family Strengthening Oversight Entity (FSOE). These events are a way to improve communication between LA Best Babies Network, Work2Live Well, and First 5 LA, to discuss common goals, and reflect on our work.



LA BEST BABIES NETWORK



Healthy Babies. Our Future.

LA Best Babies Network

California Hospital Medical Center, Leavey Hall
320 W. 15th Street, Suite 311
Los Angeles, CA 90015
(213) 250-7273

LABestBabies.org

[@LABestBabies](https://www.instagram.com/LABestBabies)

