



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Greene County



Greene County Public Health

Melissa Howell MS, MBA, MPH, RN, REHS, Health Commissioner
Kevin L. Sharrett, MD, Medical Director

Press Release

For Immediate Release
June 18, 2024

Contact: Laurie Fox, Public Information Officer
937-374-5669 office | 937-283-5178 cell | lfox@gcph.info

GCPH's Nurse-Family Partnership® Changes Lives for Generations To Come

XENIA, OH – A better world starts with a great family. Greene County Public Health continues to provide the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) Program, an evidence-based, community health program with over 40 years of research showing significant improvements in the health and lives of first-time moms and their children affected by social and economic inequality. Hundreds of thousands of babies are born to vulnerable first-time moms facing serious challenges each year. NFP empowers first-time moms to transform their lives and create better futures for themselves and their babies.

For more than four decades, research has consistently proven that Nurse-Family Partnership succeeds at its most important goals: keeping children healthy and safe and improving the lives of moms and babies.

Nurse-Family Partnership works by having specially educated nurses regularly visit young, first-time moms-to-be, starting early in the pregnancy and continuing through the child's second birthday.

The expectant moms benefit by getting the care and support they need to have a healthy pregnancy. At the same time, new mothers develop a close relationship with a nurse who becomes a trusted resource they can rely on for advice on everything from safely caring for their child to taking steps to provide a stable, secure future for them both. Through the partnership, the nurse provides new moms with the confidence and the tools they need not only to assure a healthy start for their babies, but to envision a life of stability and opportunities for success for both mom and child.

“There is a magic window during pregnancy... a time when the desire to be a good mother and raise a healthy, happy child creates motivation to overcome incredible obstacles including poverty with the help of a well-educated nurse”, said David Olds, PhD, founder of nurse-family partnership and professor of pediatrics at the University of Colorado.

The goals of the NFP program include:

1. Improve pregnancy outcomes by partnering with moms to engage in good preventive health practices, including thorough prenatal care from their healthcare providers, improving their diets, and reducing any use of habit-forming substances;

-cont'd-

360 Wilson Drive • Xenia, Ohio 45385
(937) 374-5600 • toll free (866) 858-3588 • Fax (937) 374-5675
www.gcph.info



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Greene County



Greene County Public Health

Melissa Howell MS, MBA, MPH, RN, REHS, Health Commissioner
Kevin L. Sharrett, MD, Medical Director

2. Improve child health and development by assisting families provide responsible and competent care; and
3. Improve the economic self-sufficiency of the family by supporting parents to develop a vision for their own future, plan additional pregnancies (if desired), continue their education, and find work.

Research consistently proves that the partnership between a nurse and the mom is a winning combination that makes a measurable, long-term difference for the whole family. Data from the 15-year follow-up study to the Nurse-Family Partnership trial in Elmira, NY showed positive effects for nurse-visited families more than 12 years after the visits ended. Here are some of the long-lasting effects of the program:

- 48% less likely to suffer child abuse and neglect;
- 56% reduction in er visits for accidents and poisonings;
- 67% less likely to experience behavioral and intellectual problems at age 6;
- 72% fewer convictions of mothers (measured when child is 15);
- 35% fewer hypertensive disorders of pregnancy; and
- 82% increase in months employed.

To learn more about this program, visit www.nursefamilypartnership.org. Call Nancy Kessinger, Greene County Public Health NFP Program Manager, at 937-824-0889 or email nkessinger@gcph.info.

Greene County Public Health...
Your Trusted Local Public Health Authority since 1920

###

360 Wilson Drive • Xenia, Ohio 45385
(937) 374-5600 • toll free (866) 858-3588 • Fax (937) 374-5675
www.gcph.info