

# Translational Research in Child Maltreatment Prevention

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Crossing Boundaries Conference  
Chicago, April 27, 2012



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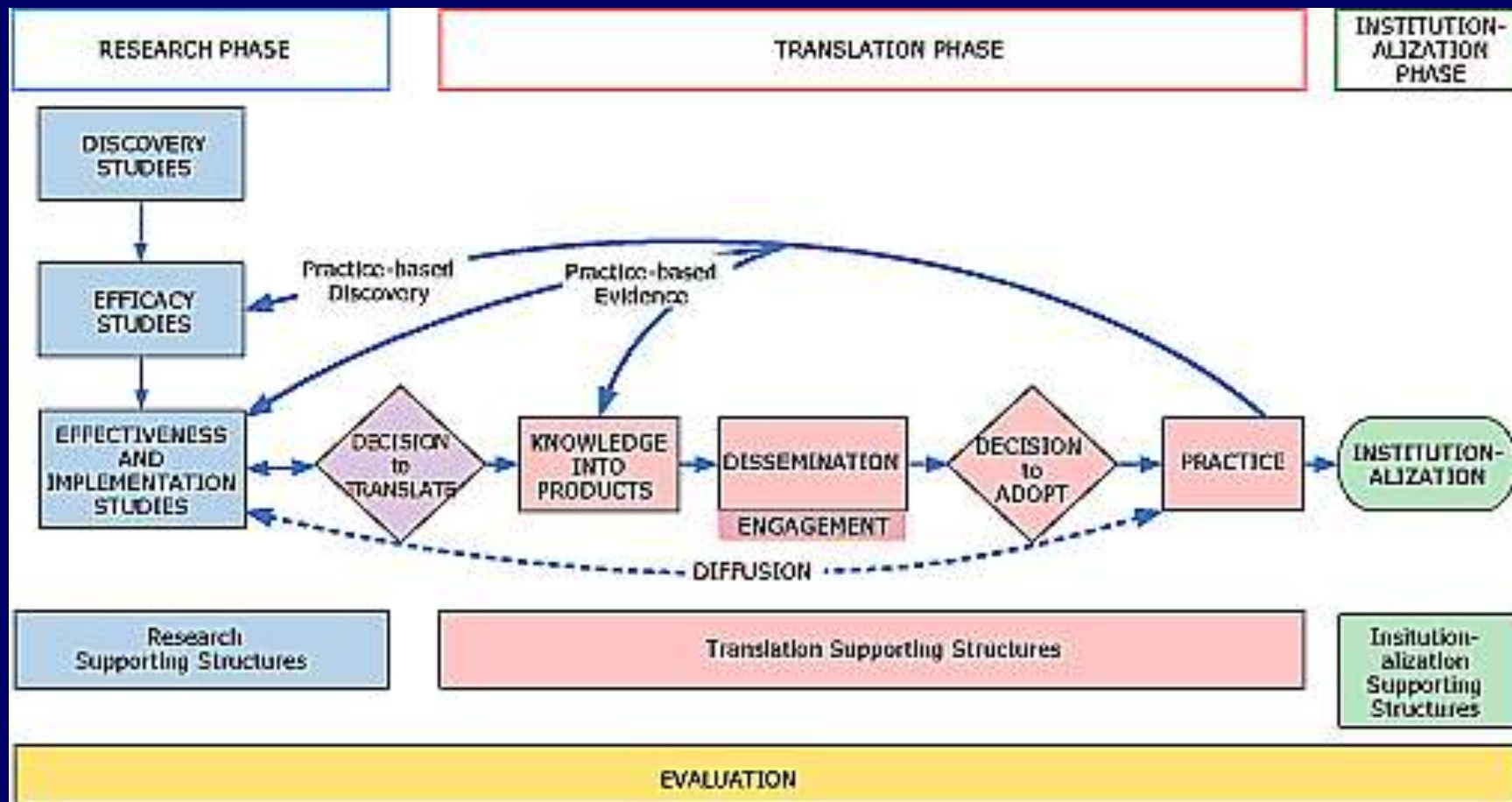


# Translational Research

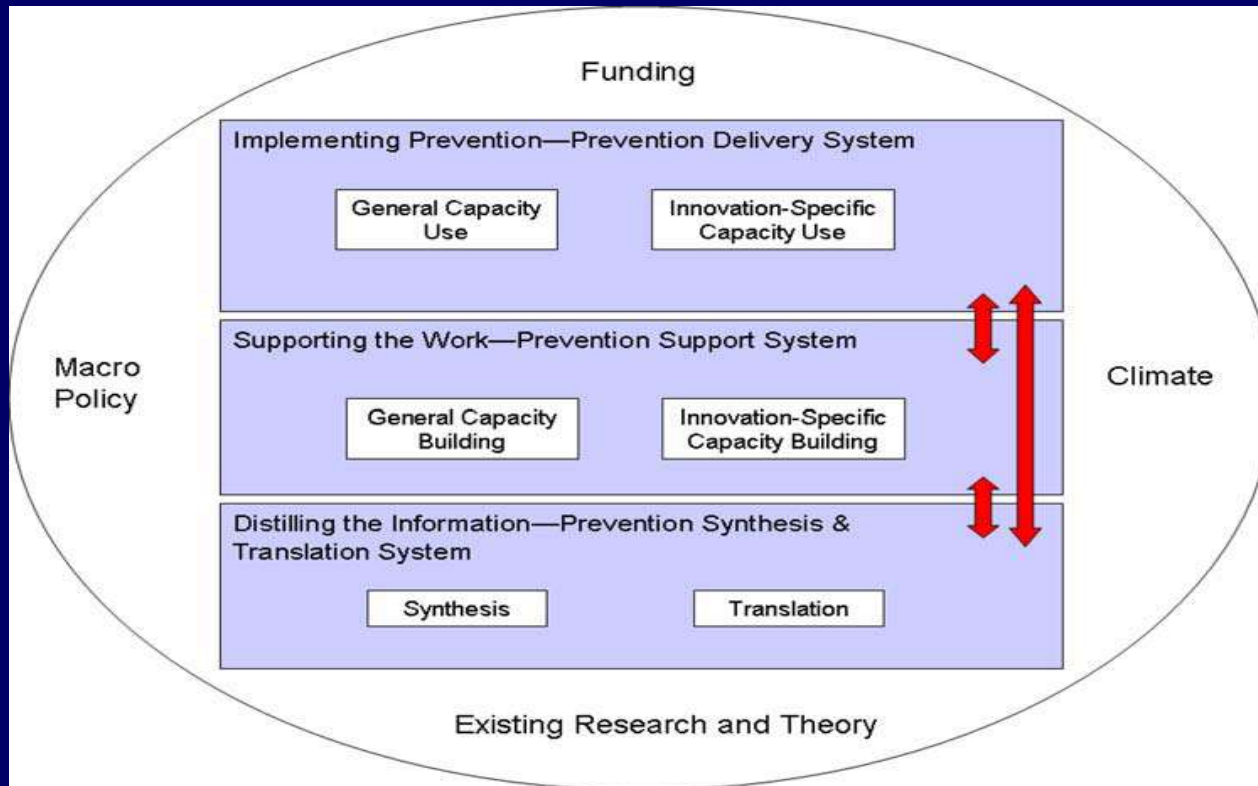
Multi-phased process by which research-generated knowledge directly or indirectly relevant to health outcomes serves the general public

# Knowledge to Action Framework (CDC)

(From: Prev Chronic Dis. 2011 March; 8(2): A46.)



# The Interactive Systems Framework for Implementation and Dissemination



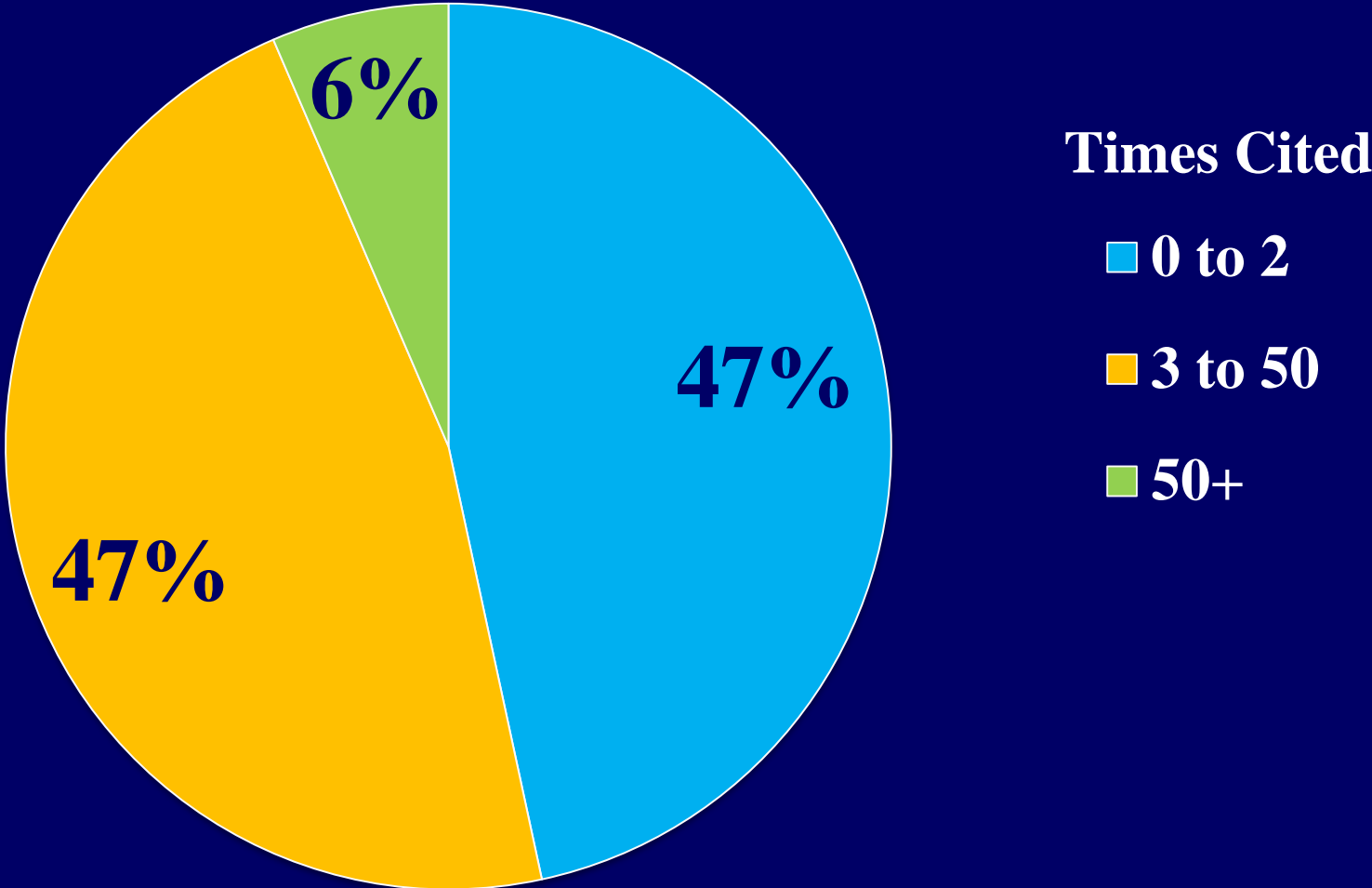
Wandersman et al. (2008). Bridging the gap between prevention research and practice: The interactive systems framework for dissemination and implementation, *AJCP*, 41, 171-181.

# Stages of Research Uses by Various Stakeholders

- Transmission of research
- Cognition of findings
- Reference made to significant studies
- Efforts made to operationalize findings
- Influence seen on decisions
- Application to policy or practice

Adapted from: Davies, H.T.O. & Nutley, S.M. (September 2008). Learning More about How Research-Based Knowledge Gets Used: Guidance in the Development of New Empirical Research. William T. Grant Foundation, New York, NY.

# Citation of Child Maltreatment Articles Published Between 1988-2008



Number of Articles = 19867

# **Types of Child Maltreatment Preventive Interventions**

- **Home visitation programs**
- **Parent-training programs**
- **School-based programs**
- **Shaken-baby prevention programs**
- **Enhanced pediatric care**
- **Community-level interventions**

## **Sources of Information on Child Maltreatment Prevention**

- **Primary research articles reporting evaluations of individual programs**
- **Review articles/reports (e.g. 2009 Lancet series; Cochrane reviews; Bilukha, et. al, 2005)**
- **Meta-analyses (e.g. Geeraert et al., 2004; Sweet & Appelbaum, 2004)**
- **Lists or registries reporting “effective” programs (e.g. CA Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare; Blueprints for Violence Prevention; CDC Community Guide)**



## **Evidence Criteria for Highest Ranking in California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare**

- **No evidence of risk of harm**
- **Program explicitly described in manuals**
- **Program supported by at least 2 RCTs in different settings with results published in peer-reviewed journals**
- **In at least 1 RCT effects were sustained for at least 1 year**
- **Outcome measures valid and reliable**
- **If multiple outcome studies conducted, the overall weight of the evidence supports the benefits of the practice/program**

## **Evidence for Effective Child Maltreatment Prevention**

- **Home visitation programs: mixed evidence – best for NFP and Early Start, some emerging for HFA**
- **Parent-training programs: some promising results with Triple-P with small RCTs**
- **School-based programs: mainly SA – increases in knowledge – but unknown if they prevent SA**
- **Shaken-baby prevention programs: some promising findings from recent trials (hospital + community focus)**

## **Evidence for Effective Prevention (cont.)**

- **Enhanced pediatric care: increasing physician skills**  
– some modest initial results – needs more testing
- **Community-level interventions: Triple-P trial in U.S. shows some positive outcomes**
- **Preventing recurrence: some evidence for Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) for PA only**



# U.S. Policy Initiative

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- Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010
- Includes \$1.5 Billion over 5 years in mandatory funding for an innovative Home Visitation Grant Program for States
- Main scientific evidence for this policy came from the Nurse Family Partnership program results

# Outcome Domains Considered in HHS/Mathematica Review of Home Visiting Programs (2010)

- Child health
- Maternal health
- Child development
- Reductions in child maltreatment
- Reductions in juvenile delinquency and crime
- Positive parenting practices
- Economic self-sufficiency

# TRIALS OF PROGRAM

**Elmira, NY  
1977**



**N = 400**

- Low-income whites
- Semi-rural

**Memphis, TN  
1987**



**N = 1,138**

- Low-income blacks
- Urban

**Denver, CO  
1994**



**N = 735**

- Large portion of Hispanics
- Nurse versus paraprofessional visitors



## **FAMILIES SERVED**

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- **Low income pregnant women**
  - Usually teens
  - Usually unmarried
- **First-time parents**





## **THREE GOALS**

- 1. Improve pregnancy outcomes**
- 2. Improve child health and development**
- 3. Improve parents' economic self-sufficiency**

## Enduring Effects on Low-Income, Unmarried Mothers' Behavior Elmira 15-Year Follow-up

- **79% fewer verified reports of child abuse and neglect**
- **32% fewer subsequent births**
- **30 fewer months of welfare use**
- **44% fewer behavioral problems due to alcohol & drug abuse**
- **69% fewer arrests**

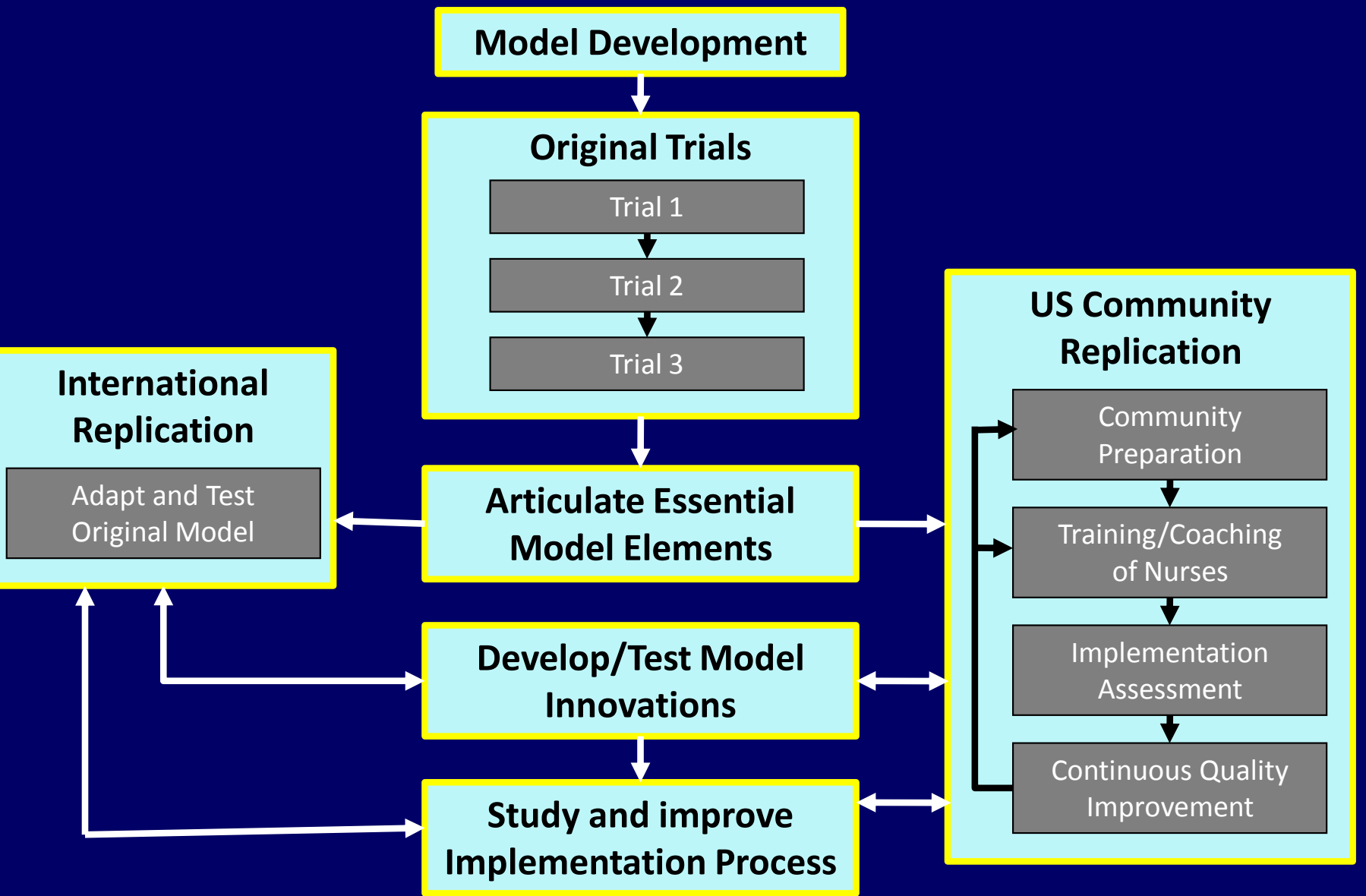
Olds, D., Eckenrode, J., Henderson, Jr. C., et al. (1997). Long-Term Effects of Home Visitation on Maternal Life Course and Child Abuse and Neglect: 15-Year Follow-Up of a Randomized Trial. *JAMA*, 1997; 278: 637-643.

# CONSISTENT RESULTS ACROSS TRIALS

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- **Improvements in women's prenatal health**
- **Reductions in children's injuries**
- **Fewer subsequent pregnancies**
- **Greater intervals between births**
- **Increases in fathers' involvement**
- **Increases in employment**
- **Reductions in welfare and food stamps**
- **Improvements in school readiness**





# Next Steps for Advancing the Child Maltreatment Translational Research Agenda

- Improve the basic research base supporting prevention research – e.g. identify risk factors that are most strongly linked to CA/N, are most prevalent, and most subject to change
- Synthesize and disseminate that research
- Improve science of CA/N prevention – e.g. apply standards of evidence from broader prevention field; pilot testing prior to full-scale trials; enhance integrity of trials

## Next Steps (cont.)

- Build integrated approaches that address multiple targets (risks, people, communities) – e.g. financial instability and parenting knowledge
- Research on how CA/N prevention knowledge actually get used (or not used) by practitioners and policy makers
- Conduct more implementation research around CA/N prevention efforts – e.g. the fidelity vs. adaptation debate
- Further develop a prevention infrastructure to building capacity at the state and local levels

(Eckenrode, J. (2011). Primary prevention of child abuse and neglect. In M. P.Koss, J. W. White, & A. E. Kazdin (Eds.), *Violence against women and children: Consensus, critical analysis, and emergent priorities* (p. 71-91). Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association.)

# Research Team

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