



Investing in Care of Pregnant Women Yields Healthier Babies and Reduces Costs

Return-On-Investment data for CHIP of Virginia and Partners in Pregnancy

Through a grant provided by The Commonwealth Fund, CHIP worked with Sentara Health System on a quality enhancing initiative, Partners in Pregnancy (PnP), to improve outcomes for high risk pregnant women and their infants. Claims data were analyzed for the mothers’ prenatal care, delivery and the infant’s first year of life and were compared with a risk-matched control group from the same geographic regions. The pregnant women receiving CHIP had similar claims, utilization measures, and inpatient days to those in the control group. **But, with the additional CHIP services provided at a modest cost, major savings were identified for the infants during their first year of life.**

- CHIP babies spent *44% fewer days in the hospital* than the control babies.
- NICU days per 1,000 were 3,086 for CHIP babies and 6,417 for the control group.

Independent researchers at the University of North Carolina determined that savings were sufficient to offset the investment and operating expense for a **positive Return on Investment of 1.26** for Sentara. This does not even take into account any long-term costs avoided such as the reduced need for early intervention, special education, and costly life long medical care associated with preterm and/or low birth weight babies.

CLAIMS:		
Cost per pregnant women:	CHIP Mom	Control Mom
6 months of claims	\$ 2,594	\$ 2,479
6 months of CHIP prenatal services	\$ 1,200	\$ -
Cost per baby:	CHIP Baby	Control Baby
12 months of claims	\$ 2,864	\$ 6,466
Prenatal/delivery thru age 1	Total Costs \$ 6,658	\$ 8,945
Net savings per pregnancy to age 1 = \$2,287.		

CHIP of Virginia is a statewide network of 11 local programs offering voluntary parent education and health focused home visiting for low-income pregnant women, young children and their families. CHIP reaches out to families whose children face serious threats to a healthy future: poverty, chronic medical conditions, lack of insurance. While improvement of child health is a primary goal, CHIP’s approach is holistic, believing that helping parents gain knowledge, skills and confidence in their performance as parents is essential to child success. The nurses and outreach workers who make up the home visiting teams offer families a wide range of assistance, including health screenings, disease management, help signing up for insurance, and referrals to medical and community services in this two generational approach. CHIP teams work hand-in-hand with community-based programs such as early intervention and Head Start, as well as with local doctors who give “CHIP kids” an all-important medical home.

CHIP of Virginia Partners in Pregnancy: Return on Investment

