

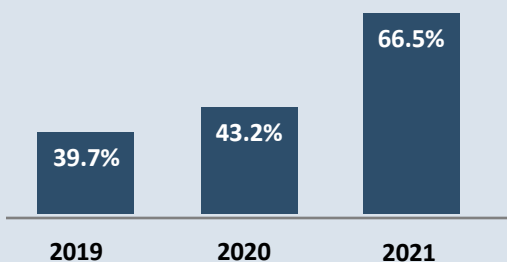
# HOME VISITING IN MONTANA - FY 2021

## SPOTLIGHT ON EARLY LITERACY

By age 3, a child's vocabulary can be predictive of 3rd grade reading proficiency.

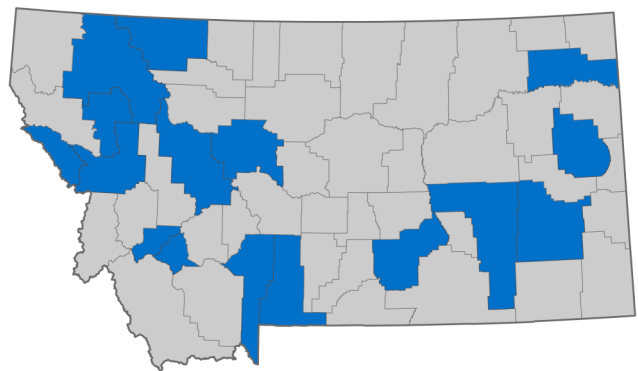
Healthy Montana Families seeks to improve outcomes for families and young children through Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) processes. In FY 2021, HMF sought to improve the percent of children who were read to every day in a typical week. Local Implementing Agencies used a variety of strategies to engage families in early literacy activities. Between 2020 and 2021, the percent of children who were read to every day increased 23.3 percentage points from 43.2% to 66.5%.

Percent of Children Engaged in Early Literacy Activities Everyday



## HEALTHY MONTANA FAMILIES HOME VISITING

Healthy Montana Families (HMF), Montana's Maternal, Infant & Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program, provides voluntary, evidence-based home visiting programs for pregnant women and families with children through kindergarten entry living in communities at risk for poor maternal and child health outcomes. HMF implements 4 home visiting models through 18 local public health departments and non-profit organizations in 16 counties, including 3 tribal communities.



**2,186**  
PARTICIPANTS



**1,101**  
HOUSEHOLDS



**12,127**  
HOME VISITS



# AT-RISK FAMILIES

HMF families face challenges in their every day lives. HMF home visitors help families reach their health and parenting goals.



**52%** Low- Income



**42%** Tobacco Use in the Home



**8%** Pregnant or parenting under age 21



**32%** Low Student Achievement



**48%** History of Child Abuse or Neglect



**22%** Potential Developmental Delay



**33%** History of Substance Abuse



**9%** Military Service

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

## CHILD MALTREATMENT PREVENTION

Starting in FY 2018, Healthy Montana Families served an increasing number of families referred by local and regional Child Protective Services Offices. By FY 2020, 40% of all referrals into Healthy Montana Families came from Child Protective Services. Home visitors work with families to improve the quality of parent-child interaction, assess safety practices, address challenging child behaviors and access additional supports.

## SERVICES DURING COVID-19

The State of Montana executed an 8-week shelter in place order in March, 2020 in order to curb the spread of COVID-19 infections. HMF providers were able to pivot quickly and provide services to families virtually. In April 2020, 75% of all home visits were conducted virtually. As the pandemic progressed, the percentage of virtual visits decreased, but providers continue to provide flexible options to best meet family needs. Between April 2020 and December 2021 over 8,800 virtual visits (54% of all visits) were provided to families.