

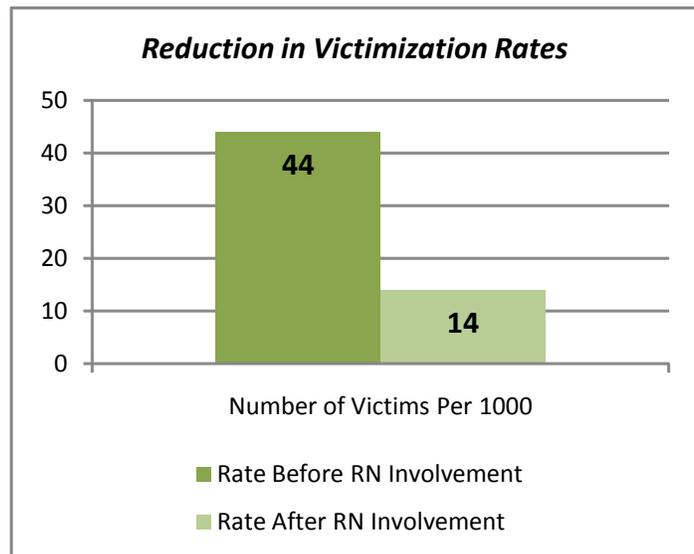
Key Findings:

2008-2010 Oregon Relief Nurseries Child Welfare Outcomes

A recent evaluation by Portland State University documented the Oregon Relief Nurseries' role in preventing and reducing children's involvement in the child welfare system. Results in two areas were particularly striking: Families that received Relief Nursery services had (1) fewer child welfare reports and (2) fewer foster-care placements after receiving services, compared to before entering the program (see figure at right).

Child Welfare Reports Are Reduced

Data on substantiated reports of abuse and neglect showed that Relief Nurseries may reduce the likelihood of abuse and neglect for children receiving services. Victimization rates for Relief Nursery families after enrolling in services (14 victims per 1000) dropped below the rate for children 0-5 in the general population (18/1000). This is particularly striking given the extremely high-risk profile presented by the Relief Nursery families, and the vulnerability of children ages 0-5 for child abuse and neglect (48% of victims statewide).



Overall, 98.6% of families served by the Relief Nurseries were free from abuse or neglect.

Foster Care Placements Are Reduced

After enrolling in Relief Nursery services, dramatically fewer foster care placements occurred in families that had needed such placements in the past. Additionally, the amount of time that children spent in out-of-home placements was considerably less after families enrolled in the Relief Nurseries.

	Prior to Relief Nursery Services	After Relief Nursery Services
Days spent in out-of-home placements	394 days	179 days
Number of new out-of-home placements	57 placements	5 placements

In summary, Relief Nurseries appear to play an important role in reducing children's risk for maltreatment in Oregon. With the opening of 4 new sites in 2010 and 2011, the Nurseries hope to show even greater demonstrable results in future biennia.

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