



Safe Families *for* Children

Imagine

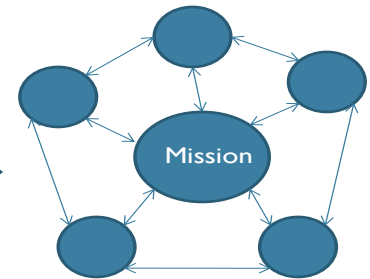
Imagine being in a desperate situation, perhaps a medical emergency, such as learning you have cancer and needing treatment. Imagine facing financial crisis because of extended unemployment or foreclosure and being unable to provide food or shelter for your children. *What would you do?* Who would you call for help while you remedied your situation? Family members, close friends, or someone in your church?

Now imagine you have no one to call. Imagine there is *not* one person in your life who is willing or able to help. It seems impossible, however, there are countless parents, who, if they lost a job or their home, had a medical emergency, needed drug or alcohol treatment, or were experiencing other types of crisis, would have no one to call.

What is Safe Families for Children™?

Safe Families for Children hosts vulnerable children and creates extended family-like supports for desperate families through a community of devoted volunteers motivated by compassion to keep children safe and ultimately together with their families.

The SFFC movement is based on the perspective that the safety and health of our community children are the responsibility of each one of us and that parents are the key to providing long term safe environments for their children.



Network centered around the mission

What Safe Families for Children is NOT:

- Replacement for foster care
- A place to “hide” children from parents *or* authorities
- Not usually for chronic or severe issues (mental health, substance abuse)
- Re-homing

The Goal

- *Child welfare deflection:* Safe Families for Children provide a safe alternative to prevent child welfare custody, thus reducing the number of children entering the child welfare system.
- *Child abuse prevention:* Providing an overwhelmed and resource limited parent with a safe, temporary place for their child without the threat of losing custody can avert potential abuse/neglect episodes.
- *Family support and stabilization:* Many parents struggle because of limited informal social supports and unavailable extended-family. Many host families become the extended-family that a parent never had.

Evidence Informed Practice

The Safe Families for Children model is based on the protective factors of the Strengthening Families Framework. This is an evidenced based best practice framework for preventing child abuse and promoting protective factors in families at elevated risk of child abuse or neglect.

Innovation:

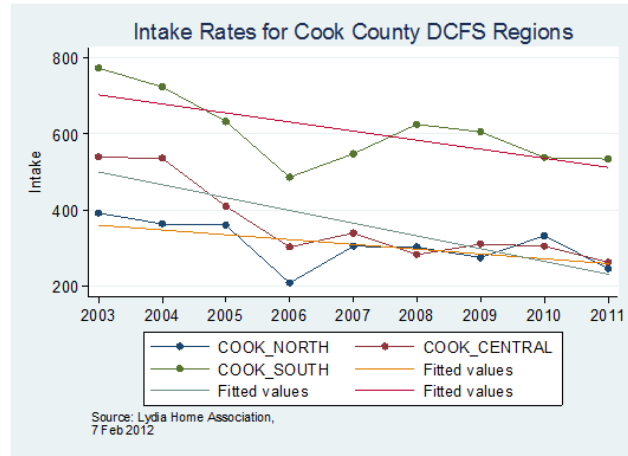
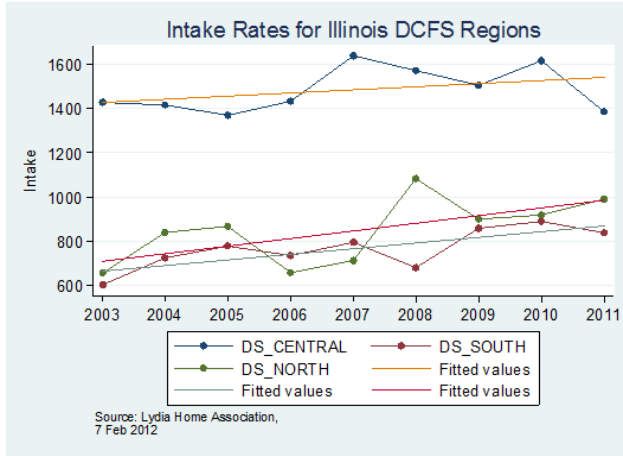
What do you believe is impossible to do in your field, but could fundamentally change the way you do business?



Safe Families for Children

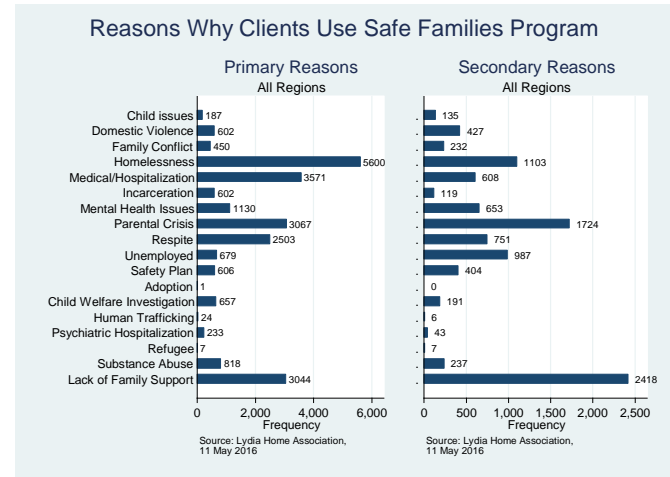
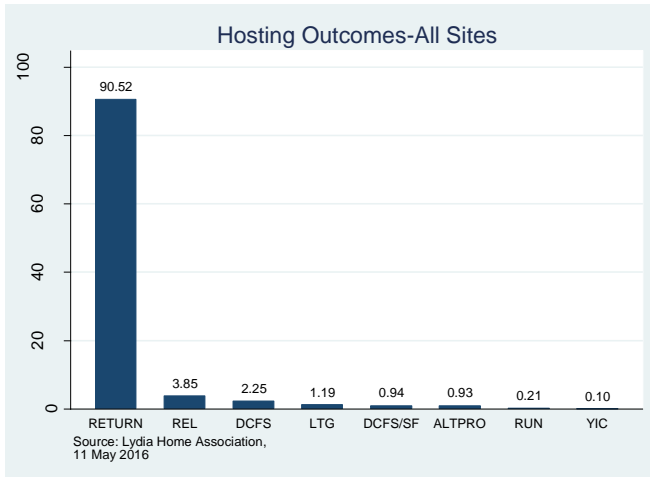
Impact: Case Sample – Illinois

The first graph plots results for the three state regions (where SFFC is not active) and the second graph plots the results of the three Cook County regions (where SFFC is active). Consider the cost benefit analysis of preventing X number of children from entering Foster Care.



Outcomes (Data Extracted on 5 May, 2016)

The impact of preventative services and support to children and families in crisis, versus a reactive approach to addressing a crisis is staggering. Safe Families for Children tracks the reunification rates of children and families following a voluntary and non-coercive intervention through relationship and mentoring.



Ongoing Research & Evaluation

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill – Double Blind Randomized Control Group. Research ongoing.

Dartington Social Research Unit; United Kingdom – Randomized Control Group. Research ongoing.

Additional Information:

www.safe-families.org