Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness Reporting Guide for Study Authors

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This document provides guidance about how to describe randomized controlled trials and matched comparison group design studies and report their findings in a way that is clear, complete and transparent. Reporting the information described below is considered a best practice in general, but can also help reviewers from the Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness (HomVEE) review assess the appropriate rating to assign to the study.[1]

I. Study Characteristics

A. Intervention Condition	Describe the home visiting model in sufficient detail for readers to know what is being tested. Clearly define any core components of the model. Describe qualities such as frequency, intended duration, intensity, content and delivery; required and available training and assistance for home visitors (and the source of that training or other implementation support); caseload size and supervision for home visitors. If the model includes services in addition to home visits, describe the duration and intensity of each type of service. Describe the actual implementation of the home visiting model studied, including adaptations of content, level and variation in duration and intensity, and home visitor training and assistance received. Include details about the model, such as the current or any former name of the model, how long the model had been operating when the study began.
B. Comparison Condition	Indicate, in both the abstract and the study itself, how the comparison group was formed (such as through random assignment or a matching procedure). Describe the comparison condition on dimensions similar to those described for the intervention condition. If it includes an intervention, describe the comparison intervention and provide details on the actual implementation experience in the comparison condition.
C. Setting	Describe the location of the study, including indicators of the characteristics of the setting such as region and urbanicity.
D. Participants	Include as much of the following as possible in the study itself, with a summary of participant information in the study abstract: • Indicate the number of people in the study sample. • Describe the characteristics of the study participants before program services began (at baseline), including: – Race and ethnicity, including any tribal or indigenous affiliation. – Age of participants, both parents and children. – Socioeconomic status (SES). Specific economic well-being measures (e.g., income, earnings, or poverty levels according to federal thresholds) are the preferred measures of SES. Alternative measures of SES, such as mean-tested assistance, maternal education, and employment of at least one member in the household, are sufficient if at least two of those alternative measures are provided. – Baseline measures of the outcomes of interest, if they are feasible to collect. (For instance, child outcomes are not feasible to collect at baseline if the sample enrolls during the mother's pregnancy.)

[1]This author reporting guide is modeled after and includes language from an author reporting guide developed by the What Works Clearinghouse (WWC), a project of the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences. The HomVEE review is grateful to the WWC for introducing the concept of an author reporting guide and for having published the guide on which this is modeled.

D. Participants *(continued)*	• Indicate whether **all** families or participants in the study sample are members of any of the following populations:[2] – Families who are pregnant women who have not attained age 21. – Families that have a history of child abuse or neglect or have had interactions with child welfare services. – Families that have a history of substance abuse or need substance abuse treatment. – Families that have users of tobacco products in the home. – Families that are or have children with low student achievement. – Families with children with developmental delays or disabilities. – Families who, or that include individuals who, are serving or formerly served in the Armed Forces, including such families that have members of the Armed Forces who have had multiple deployments outside of the United States
E. Funding source and author affiliation	Describe the source of support for research on the model and any author(s)' affiliation as a developer of the model.

II. Study Design and Analysis

A. Sample Formation	Describe how the study sample was identified, including eligibility for the study and for the home visiting intervention, if that differs from eligibility for the study in general. Clearly state the unit of assignment, especially if it differs from the unit of analysis (for instance, counties assigned to different conditions in a study where children's outcomes rather than county averages are analyzed). For randomized controlled trials, describe the random assignment process and any anomalies in it. For matched comparison group designs, describe the characteristics on which the intervention and comparison groups were matched.
B. Measures	In the abstract, indicate the key outcomes that the study was testing. In the study itself, for each outcome measure used in the study and for variables describing participants' characteristics, describe the measure, how it was collected, when it was collected, and how to interpret it if necessary. For each measure note whether it has been standardized and normed.
C. Analytic Approach	Describe the analytic models and methods used to estimate the effects of the home visiting program and, where relevant, the method used to calculate reported effect sizes. Describe the unit of analysis.
D. Statistical Adjustments	Include controls for race/ethnicity, SES, and any measures of the outcomes that were feasible to assess at baseline. Describe all control variables used in the analyses (definitions, means, and standard deviations); where relevant, also describe adjustments made to standard errors to account for clustering of the sample (e.g., within counties) and adjustments made to statistical significance levels to account for the analysis of multiple outcomes within the same domain or use of the same intervention or comparison groups in multiple analyses of the same outcomes.
E. Missing Data	Describe the method for addressing missing data (e.g., case deletion, nonresponse weights, imputation) for both outcomes and control variables and, if relevant, the method to adjust the standard errors of the impact estimates to account for the missing data.

III. Study Data *(see associated tables on page 3)*

A. Pre-Intervention Data, Baseline Sample (Table 1)	If the design is a randomized controlled trial, provide sample sizes for key background characteristics (including race/ethnicity and SES) and for baseline measures of the outcomes or closely associated variables (if feasible to collect at baseline) for the sample that was randomly assigned. If the unit of assignment to condition is not the same as the unit of analysis, provide sample sizes at both the level of group assignment (e.g., counties) and level of analysis (e.g., mother or child). If multiple samples are analyzed, provide this information separately for each study group within each sample.
B. Pre-Intervention Data, Analysis Sample (Table 2)	Provide sample sizes, means, and standard deviations for race/ethnicity and SES and for baseline measures of the outcomes (or closely associated variables) for the sample that was analyzed.
C. Post-Intervention Data and Findings (Table 3)	For each outcome measure used in the study, and for each follow-up period assessed, provide means and standard deviations for the intervention and comparison groups, along with the *p*-value. HomVEE prefers adjusted means, unadjusted standard deviations, and adjusted *p*-values, but will rely on whatever authors submit and clear labeling of what has and has not been adjusted is helpful. HomVEE also prefers to report author-calculated effect sizes, if available, but this is not a requirement

[2]The study populations listed are priority populations in Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting statute (42 U.S.C. § 711 (d) (4)).

Tables like the examples below can be used to report the study data described in section III on page 2.

Table 1. Pre-Intervention Sample Sizes and Characteristics for the Baseline Sample (see III.A.)

	Intervention Group		Comparison Group	
	Sample Sizes		Sample Sizes	
Baseline Measures	Unit of Assignment	Unit of Analysis	Unit of Assignment	Unit of Analysis
Measure 1				
Measure 2				
Measure 3				

*Table 1 contains information on **sample sizes** for the **baseline sample**, for both the intervention and comparison groups. This information is useful for determining **sample attrition** in randomized controlled trials.*

Table 2. Pre-Intervention Sample Sizes and Characteristics for the Analytic Sample (see III.B.)

	Intervention Group				Comparison Group			
	Sample Sizes		Sample Characteristics		Sample Sizes		Sample Characteristics	
Baseline Measures	Unit of Assignment	Unit of Analysis	Mean	Standard Deviation	Unit of Assignment	Unit of Analysis	Mean	Standard Deviation
Measure 1								
Measure 2								
Measure 3								

*Table 2 contains information on **sample sizes** and **pre-intervention characteristics** for the **analytic sample**, for both the intervention and comparison groups. This information is useful for determining **baseline equivalence of the intervention and comparison groups; it is also used in conjunction with information in Table 1 to determine sample attrition for randomized controlled trials**.*

Table 3. Post-Intervention Outcomes for the Analytic Sample and Estimated Effects (see III.C.)

	Intervention Group		Comparison Group		Estimated Effects		
Outcome Measures	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean Difference	*p*-value (0.XXXX)	Effect Size
Measure 1							
Measure 2							
Measure 3							

*Table 3 contains information on **post-intervention** outcomes for the **analytic sample**, for both the intervention and comparison groups, along with information useful for determining t**he magnitude and significance of mean differences in outcomes between the intervention and comparison groups**. Reporting of the effect size as well as statistical significance is preferred, but not required.*