

# H.A.T.C.H.: Helping All to Come Home

Chelsey Wilhite, PhD; Ayesha Bhatia, MPH; Peggy Maclean, PhD

UNM Center for Development & Disability, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, USA



## INTRODUCTION

- Neonatal period a time of rapid change and development
- Follow-up care is significant for NICU and high-risk infants
- Low rates of follow-up engagement
- Infant attachment is essential
- Natural process of attachment can be disrupted
- Very few interventions have focused on development and attachment

## PURPOSE

- To address concerns regarding high-risk infants at the University of New Mexico NICU and concerns related to follow-up engagement with referred services
- To provide support to parents during & after their child's NICU hospitalization focused on the newborn's developmental needs and parenting support relating to the parent-child relationship

## CONTENT/ACTION

- Facilitated Attuned Interactions (FAN) Approach
- Parental support from hospitalization to home
  - Service engagement
  - Understanding newborn cues
  - Newborn Behavioral Observation (NBO) tool
- Support to NICU staff
  - Training & Strategies
  - Burn-out risk
  - Reflective capacity
  - Family engagement skills

## Participation in the H.A.T.C.H. program leads to increased follow-up engagement that increases positive health outcomes in children.

Demographic Categories	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
Hispanic/Latino	33	20.12%
<b>Race</b>		
White/Anglo	220	76.92%
Black/African American	18	6.29%
Native Hawaiian/Other pacific Islander	14	4.90%
Asian	12	4.20%
American Indian/Alaska Native	9	3.15%
Unknown	13	4.55%
<b>Income</b>		
0-24999	45	25.14%
25000 - 34999	29	16.20%
35000 - 49999	24	13.41%
50000 - 74999	26	14.53%
75000-99000	14	7.82%
100000 or more	41	22.91%
<b>Family Size</b>		
1	0	0.00%
2	10	3.97%
3	104	41.27%
4	53	21.03%
5	43	17.06%
6	22	8.73%
7 or more	20	7.94%

## LESSONS LEARNED

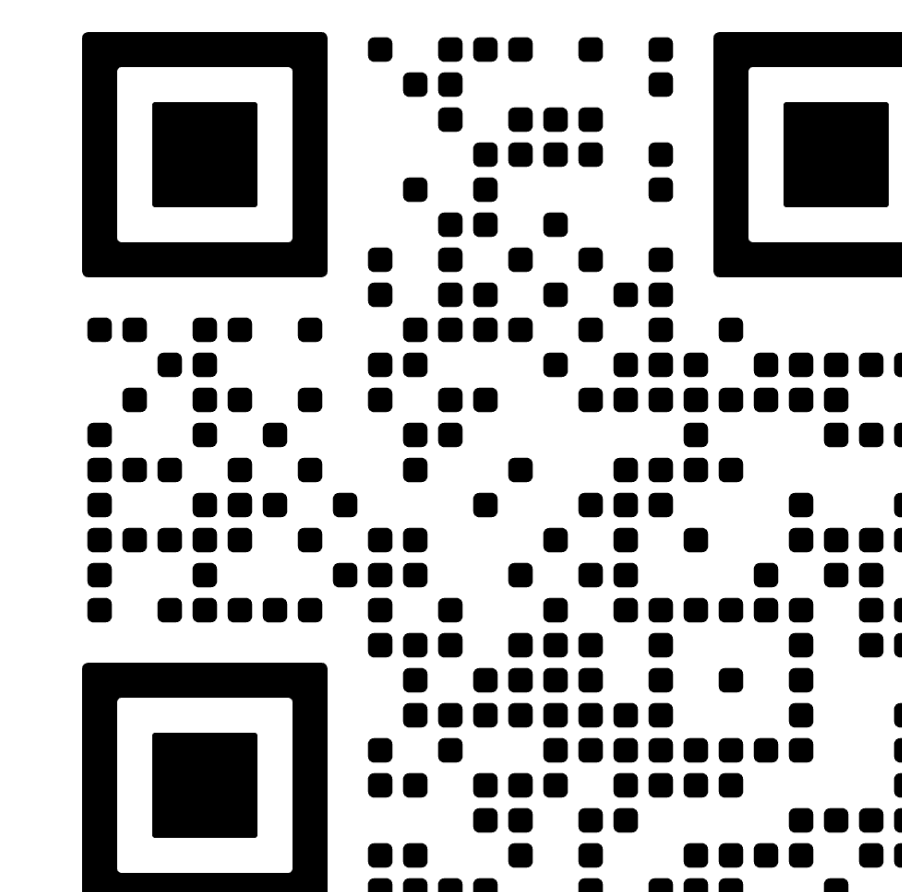
- Challenges in working with different NICU's
- Understanding and impacting NICU culture
- Important to embedded relational practices to support the parent-child relationship
- COVID-19 Impact
  - NICU environments changed
  - NICU policies changed
  - Parental engagement
  - Provider burn-out
  - Service follow up decreased
  - Decreased access for vulnerable families

## IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE

- Importance of supporting the parent-child relationship
- Impact of NICU hospitalization and birthing experience on the family and provider relationship
- Importance of supporting NICU medical professionals
- Early support to the parent-child relationship will assist the parent-child attachment experience
- Early interaction with families will lead to future follow-up engagement

## CONTACT US

Website



Contact

