



Worcester Healthy Start Initiative

Healthy Start is a federal program designed to reduce infant mortality and eliminate perinatal health disparities.

There are 104 Healthy Start programs nationwide.

The Worcester Healthy Start Initiative has been funded since 1999 by the Maternal & Child Health Bureau of HRSA.

The Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center serves as the grantee organization.



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Worcester Healthy Start is a citywide program.

WHSI case managers are located in four sites:

- * Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center
- * Family Health Center of Worcester
- * Pernet Family Healthy Services
- * UMass Memorial Health Care



Worcester Healthy Start Initiative Core Components:

- Outreach & client recruitment
- Case management
- Health education & training
- Depression screening & referral
- Interconceptional care
- Community Consortium



WHSI Citywide Model of Care

- 14 case managers located in four sites throughout Worcester
 - Represent diverse community we serve
 - Bilingual/bicultural
- Assure clients receive necessary medical care from their medical provider
- Conduct Psychosocial Risk Assessments throughout prenatal and postpartum periods
- Services Provided:
 - Depression Screening & Referral
 - Smoking cessation
 - Prenatal education
 - Prenatal dental prophylaxis
 - Transportation
 - Stress reduction
 - Insurance eligibility
 - And more!

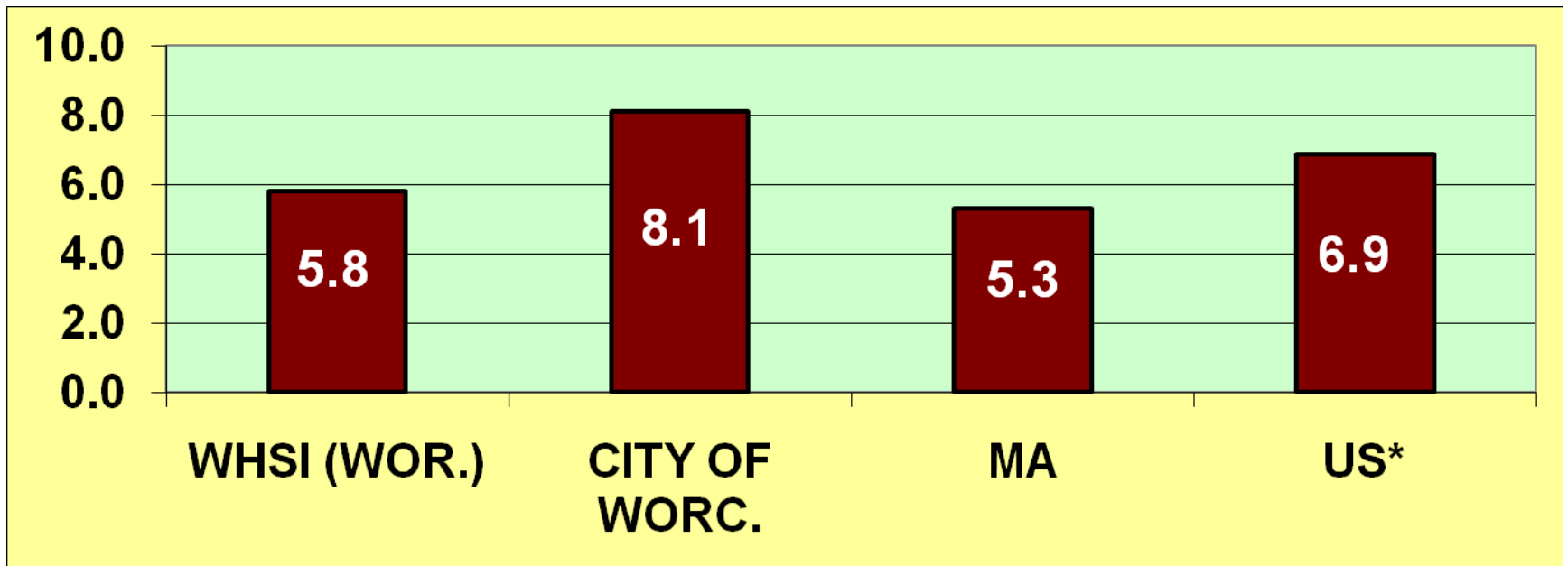


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The Worcester Healthy Start Initiative has served over 10,000 families in Worcester since the program began in 2000.

Case managers average 12,000 encounters with WHSI participants every year!

Infant Mortality Rates: WHSI, City of Worcester, Massachusetts, and U.S.: 2000-2007



** The data for U.S. is only available up to 2005.*