THE REPLICABILITY OF "NURSE HOME VISITATION PROGRAM" ACROSS COUNTRIES: A REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

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The effectiveness of home visiting interventions has been demonstrated in relation to reducing the risk of child maltreatment, improving the quality of parenting and of mother-child relationship, and improving the socio-economic status of single mothers (Olds et al. 1997; Sweet & Appelbaum, 2004). Moderators of effectiveness are the frequency of the visits, the level of experience and training of the professionals, and the level of risk of the targeted families (Olds & Kitzman, 1993). The American model "Nurse Home Visitation Program" (Olds et al. 1998) showed strong evidence of effectiveness in the US country. Although the program is one the most used in the world, very few studies evaluated the effectiveness of the model in other countries. The current review is aimed to compare the results of US studies reporting data on Olds’ effectiveness with other countries’ studies.

A systematic review has been conducted using three main databases: PsycInfo, PubMed and Web of Science. The keywords used were "Family Home Visiting" AND "Program". We included articles, meta-analyses and systematic reviews. 24 studies were carried out on the Olds effectiveness in US and 3 studies replicated this model in England, Australia and Germany. Studies conducted in US showed that the intervention was effective in reducing child maltreatment, improving the quality of life of mothers, improving the quality of parenting, improving intellectual functioning and reducing behavioral problems of children (Olds et al., 1998; Olds et al., 2004). The studies conducted in England and Australia reported small effects (Robling et al., 2015; Segal et al., 2018). The German study showed small, but significant, positive treatment effects on parental self-efficacy, and marginally significant effects on social support, and knowledge on child rearing (Sierau et al., 2015).

The discussion will be centered on the issue of transportability of and evidence-based model across cultures.