What do taxpayers get for their money when a state pays for SafeCare training and implementation? It turns out, quite a lot. A recent report from the highly respected Washington State Institute for Public Policy showed that SafeCare’s “return on investment” was $14.85 in cost savings for every $1 spent on training and implementation.

The authors of the report examined findings from the recent Oklahoma statewide trial, and used cost estimates from both Oklahoma and Washington State. They found that SafeCare costs $102 more per family to implement than standard family preservation services. However, based on the positive findings from the OK trial, SafeCare yielded $1501 per family in benefits. Thus, for every dollar spent per family, $14.85 were returned ($1501/$102 = $14.85).

Several other well-respected evidence-based programs were included in the report. Though many programs were found to have positive returns on investment (they yielded more benefit than they costs), SafeCare had the highest benefit to cost ratio of any child-welfare relevant program. For more information, click the link below.

What do these results mean? It means that SafeCare is not only good for families, it’s good for taxpayers and the economy, too. SafeCare saves money in the long run by keeping children out of the child protective service system and improving their quality of life.

-Dan Whitaker

Click [here](#) to access the full report.
Interested in doing some exciting summer reading? Take a look at the February 2012 issue of Child Maltreatment, http://cmx.sagepub.com/content/17/1.toc. This issue was co-edited by Daniel Whitaker and Shannon Self-Brown of NSTRC, along with colleagues David Kolko and Lucy Berliner, and focuses on research addressing the implementation of evidence-based child maltreatment intervention programs.

In all, eight data-based papers were published, along with two very interesting commentaries discussing field-related and research-related implementation topics. The papers presented in this special issue include implementation efforts pertaining to five evidence-based programs relevant to child maltreatment prevention and intervention (AF-CBT, SafeCare, PCIT, Triple P, TF-CBT, respectively), and address five of the six implementation stages identified by the National Implementation Research Network (http://nirn.fpg.unc.edu/).

While the papers in this special issue advance the current knowledge of the field, there remains much to be learned about how to best train providers in evidence-based practices, as well as how to sustain successful implementation efforts, in order to best serve families at risk. Our hope is that the innovative research presented in this issue, will facilitate future work that will ultimately result in evidence-based practices being the standard of care provided to the millions of families impacted by maltreatment each year.

~Shannon Self-Brown

SafeCare is now rated a 2 on the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse (CEBC) scientific rating scale of child welfare programs (see the scale definitions figure on the right). Previously rated a 3 on the scientific rating scale, the recent publication of an independently conducted rigorous randomized control trial in Oklahoma (Chaffin et al. 2011) provided enough substantial research evidence supporting SafeCare to increase our scientific rating to a 2! We also continue to hold the highest ranking in the “Child Welfare Relevance” scale. We are proud to announce our new ranking on such a renowned Child Welfare resource and will continue our research efforts in the attempt to have SafeCare ranked as a 1 on the CEBC scientific rating scale.

1: Well-Supported by Research Evidence
2: Supported by Research Evidence
3: Promising Research Evidence
4: Evidence Fails to Demonstrate Effect
5: Concerning Practice
NR: Not able to be rated

To view SafeCare’s page on the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse website click here.
Sometimes it's rewarding to know that the parents you work with are really listening when you engage them in the evidence-based SafeCare modules. I had just completed the health module with Judy. She was a natural...she read the health manual like it was a novel. When it came to going over health scenarios, she could identify, look up and determine the illness, then verbalize appropriate treatment in what seemed like one breath. "Wow, this is great," I thought, but can she put into action to what she has learned?

A few days after completing the training, Judy told me of an incident that happened when she was taking care of her niece, Kim, who is 3 years old. She said that she had fixed Kim some pizza for lunch, and then Kim went into the bedroom to play. It became too quiet so Judy went to check on her and found Kim skating barefoot in the bathroom across a layer of comet cleaning powder she had poured on the floor. Kim was eating a piece of pizza during her skate time, which Judy observed as having a mixture of comet and pepperoni covering the top of it. Judy said that she scooped Kim up, grabbed the health manual, read it, and called the poison control number. She was told by staff to give Kim plenty of fluids and watch her for the next couple of hours. Judy said that everything turned out fine, as Kim had apparently ingested only a very small amount of comet, and she was thankful to have had the poison control number on hand. Since this time we have moved on to home safety with no further incidents. You can probably make a good guess as to what the first item was that Judy put out of a child's reach.

By Janet Catts

Janet Catts has been a CCM with ROCMND youth services for the past ten years. Janet is a devoted worker who is dedicated to helping families achieve progress in their circumstances and learn new ways to keep their children safe in their home. Janet is a treasure to the OCS group of northern Oklahoma.

Warning: A New Safety Hazard

To many busy parents’ excitement in February 2012, a single-use Tide laundry detergent packet product was launched. But to a child’s eye, that doesn’t look like a cleaning product, but rather a tasty candy perhaps? The tiny size, bright colors, and glossy wrapping could easily be mistaken for an edible treat. Since the product’s release, there have been about 250 cases of child poisoning, according to poison control centers.

Unfortunately, the reaction of ingesting this concentrated product is quicker and more severe than the standard detergent poisoning.

Tide is currently working on releasing a new child-proof container for these packets, hopefully to be released this summer. The company is also working with poison control centers and advocacy groups to alert parents of the product’s risks to children.

For the full story, click here.
This story about a 15 year-old teen mom in foster care is by NSTRC Trainer, Avais Arkwright-Jones & was published as a DHS SafeCare Spotlight to providers:

This teen mom had some problems in the past with being a bit rebellious, angry, and mouthy (like most teens, I’d say). I went to Acworth a couple of times to work with the SafeCare home visitor (HV) and the teen, and it was obvious to me that the foster mom for some reason just did not like this girl and was trying desperately to have the mom kicked out and separated from her baby.

The foster mom would say that she was going to keep the baby, and this teen needed to go and she was not a fit mom.

The HV and I both spoke with the case manager (CM) on behalf of the teen mom, and the HV made sure to document all the changes she saw in the teen mom since she began doing SafeCare with her. The HV also continued to inform the CM of the foster mom’s behavior she observed each time she was in the home.

DFCS asked the HV to speak at the teen mom’s panel review and during her court hearing along with some other people who had seen a great change in her behavior. They all spoke of the big change in her and they were now advocating that she be reunited with her baby and removed from that foster home.

The HV said she spoke for about 20 minutes about SafeCare and telling the panel first, then again at court, about the great changes she had observed in the teen mom at each session.

Well, the judge decided to have the baby reunited with mom and removed from that home!! And what was so great was this was the same judge that placed the teen mom with this foster parent. He supposedly had great confidence in this foster parent and usually believes what she says.

This is what the foster mom was counting on. But the facts spoke louder this time.

SafeCare’s New Conference Exhibit

NSTRC exhibited for the first time at the 18th National Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect, hosted by ACYF’s Office on Child Abuse & Neglect.

There was a great interest in SafeCare by conference attendees, and some of our very own faculty, staff and affiliated researchers presented sessions about SafeCare! Thanks to all who stopped by our booth or attended our sessions, and we’d like to welcome all of those who recently subscribed to our newsletter!

For those of you attending the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children’s (APSAC) 20th Annual Colloquium in Chicago June 27-30th, stop by and see our exhibit and SafeCare presentations!