

# **Contemporary Evaluation of NFP Program Outcomes and Application to South Carolina PFS Project**



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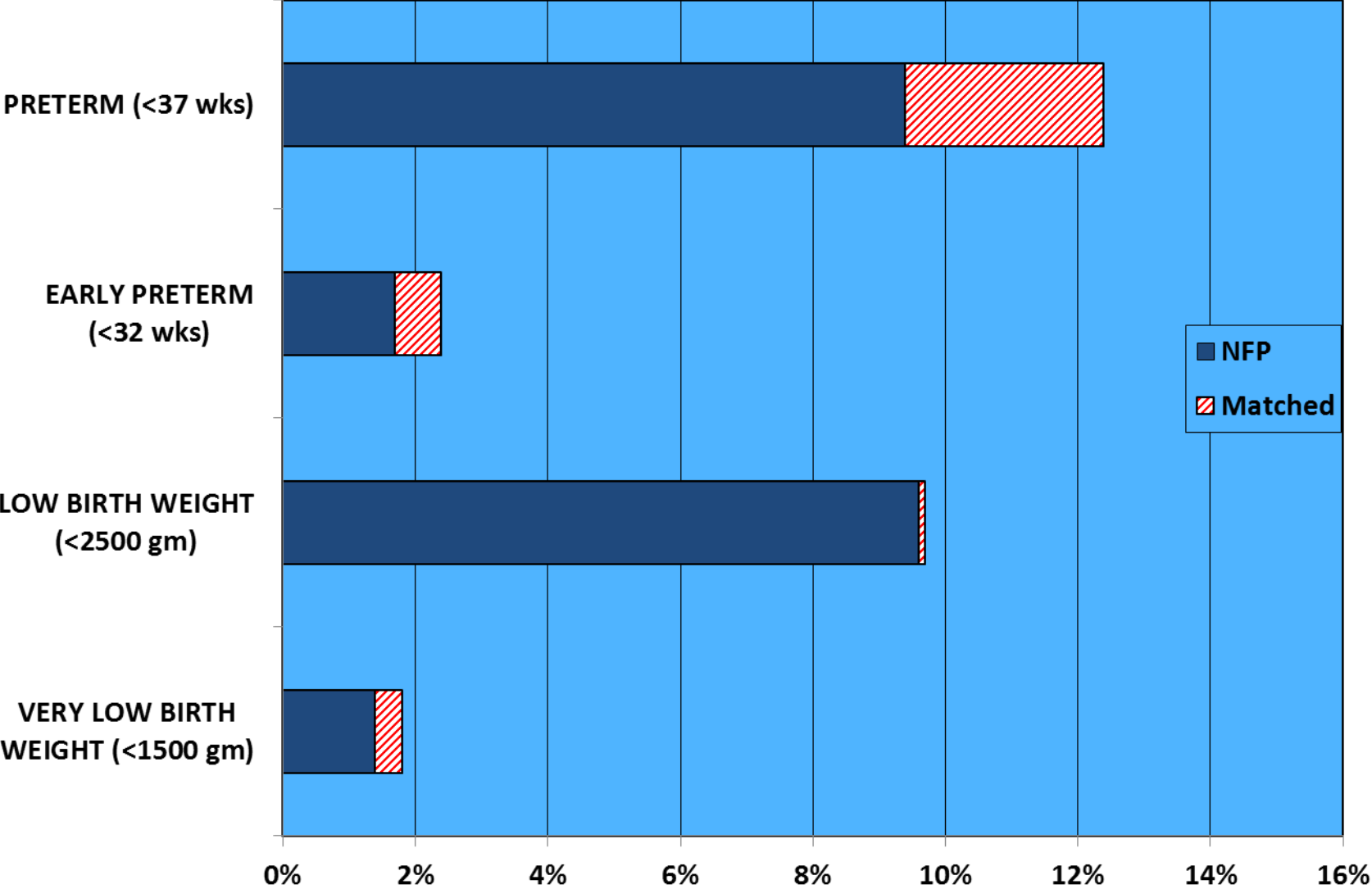
**Nurse-Family Partnership  
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# CONTEMPORARY EVALUATION OF PROGRAM IMPACT

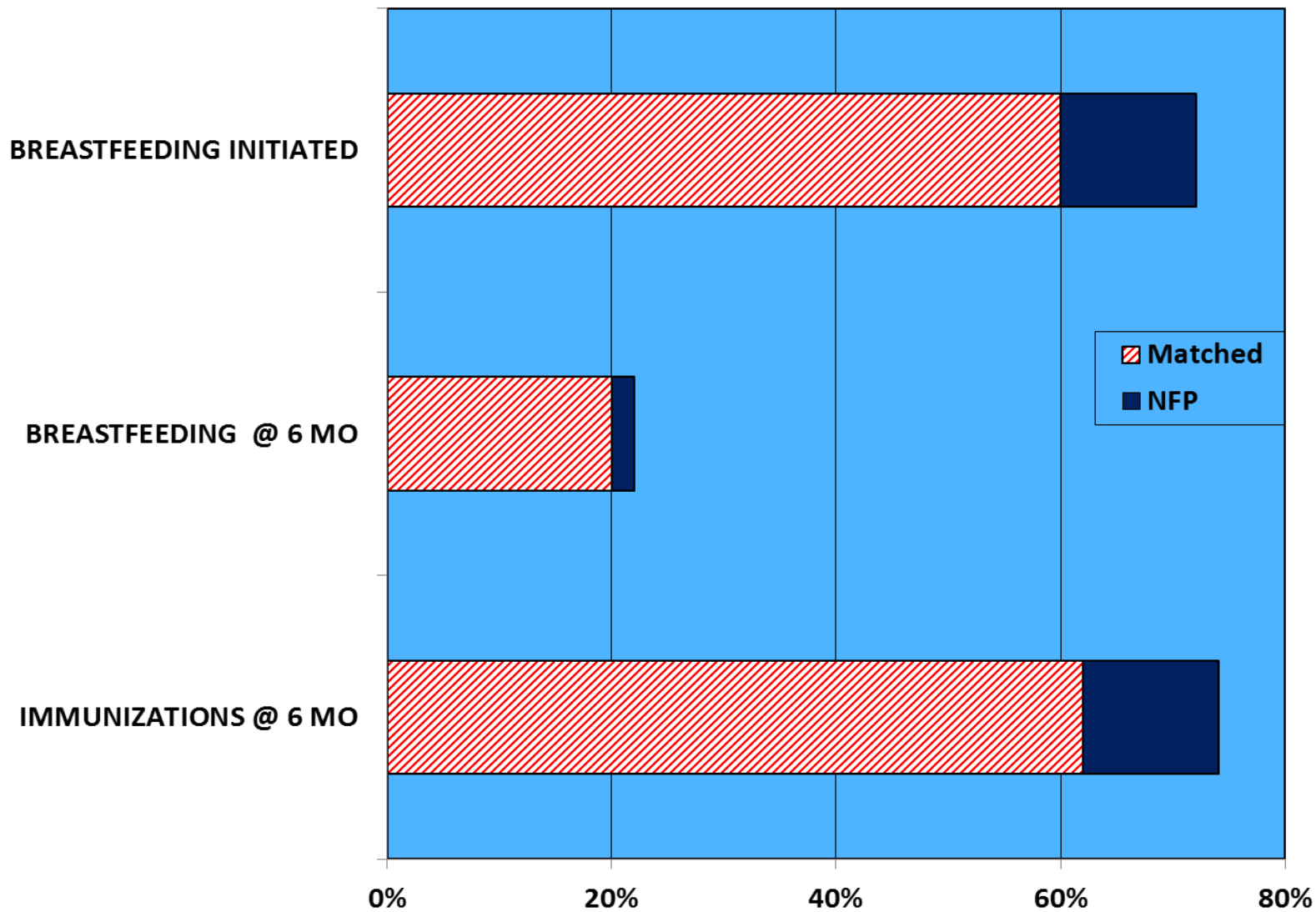


- Quasi-experimental Estimates of Program Impact
  - Outcomes: Birth, Child Development, Maternal Life Course
- 3-Year Cohort of Program Participants
- “Controls” Generated from Secondary Data
  - Vital Records, National Immunization Survey, National Child Health Survey, American Community Survey
- Propensity Score Matching or Regression Adjustment
  - Age, Race-Ethnicity, Education, Economic, Marital Status, Smoking

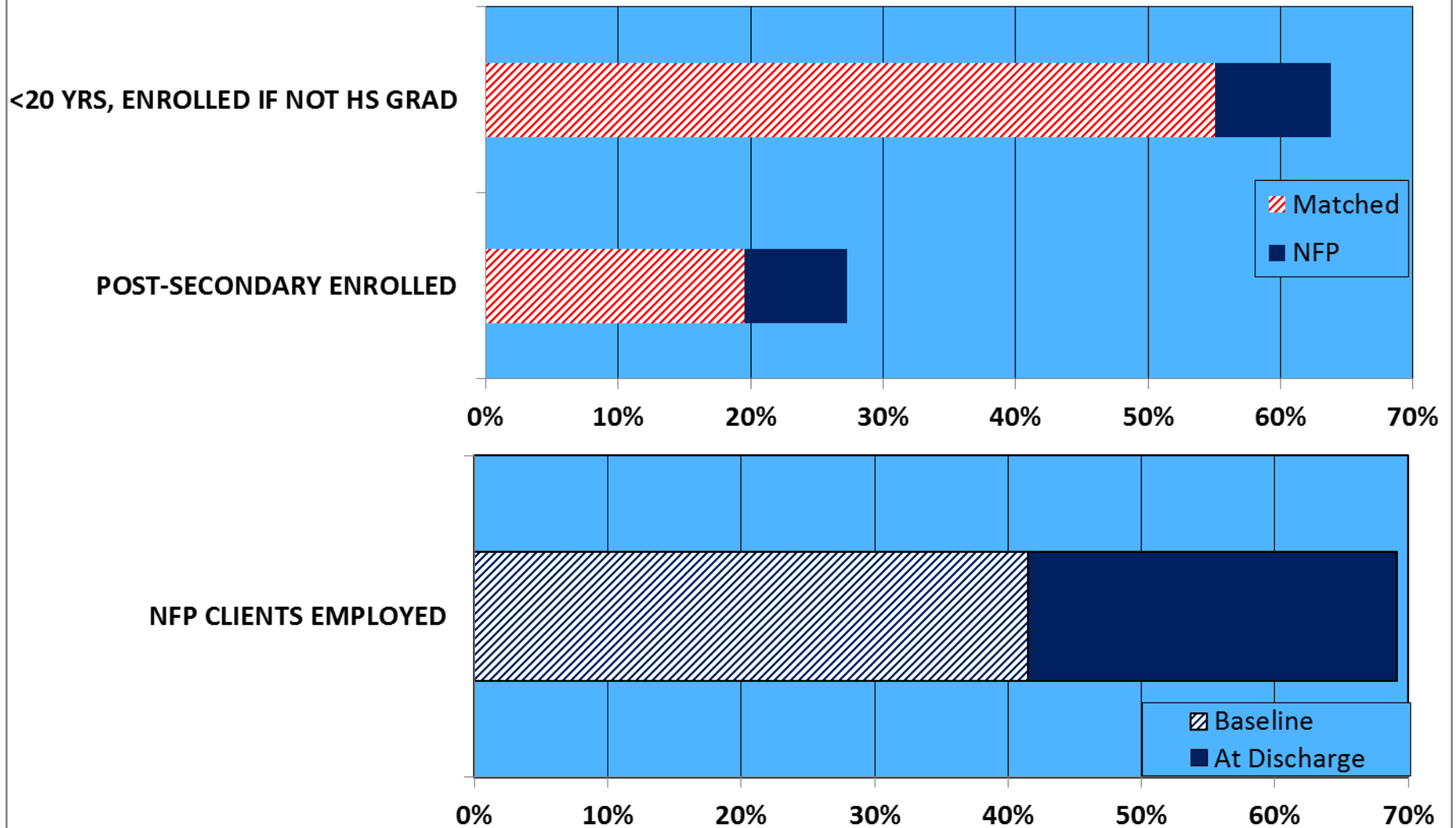
# BIRTH OUTCOMES



# CHILD DEVELOPMENT METRICS



# MATERNAL LIFE COURSE METRICS



# CONCLUSIONS REGARDING PROGRAM IMPACT



Within the limits of quasi-experimental evaluation designs, there was substantial evidence of NFP program effectiveness.

Additional areas for potential quality improvement initiatives were also identified.

# PAY-FOR-SUCCESS / SOCIAL IMPACT BOND PROJECTS



Fundamental Challenge:

Investors are only reimbursed if the service provider meets or exceeds pre-agreed levels of program impact.

# SELECTION OF PFS METRICS



- Alignment of State's Interests and Evidence of Program Impact
- Outcomes Achievable within Project Timeframe
- Potential Impacts of Substantial Monetized Value
- Outcomes Validly Measured within Cost Constraints of Project
- Impact Reliably Measured within Sample Size Constraints



# CONSIDERATIONS FOR ESTIMATES OF IMPACT



- Prior Measures of Impact (Historical Evidence)
- “Adjustment” for Local Demographics of Clients
- Recognition of Emerging Influences on Controls

# RISKS AND LIMITATIONS : PFS/SIB EVALUATION DESIGNS



- Selected Metrics May Not Reflect Full Value of Program
- Sample Size May Under-Power Detection of True Impact of Program
- Baseline Conditions May Shift Over the Project Timespan
- Control Group Contamination Can Undermine Impact Measures
- Requires Achieving Impact Target, Not Just a Statistical Difference
- RCT Designs Pose Substantial Challenges for Recruitment
- Quasi-Experimental Designs Pose Challenges for Baseline Equivalence

# EVALUATION COMPONENT OF PFS / SIB PROJECTS



- Service Provider Must Have Robust Evidence Base
- Can Be Costly Due to Added Resource Requirements
- Requires Clarity in Defining the Appropriate Research Question
- Multiple Threats Can Undermine Corresponding Evaluation
- Risks are Inherent to Each Stakeholder in the Deal

**SOUTH CAROLINA PAY FOR SUCCESS  
OPERATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF STUDY EVALUATION**



**LESSONS FROM THE FIELD**

# Elements of the SC Pay for Success Project



- Serve more mothers and babies in South Carolina
- Expand to more hard to reach areas of the state
- Measure outcomes

# How Evaluation Impacts Daily Operations



- Buy-in from NFP Implementing Agencies
- Training & Support of Nurse Home Visitors
- Regular communication – multi-layered
- Marketing & Outreach
- Tracking progress