As you know, this fall the TeleFamilies study entered its final year. Each month a number of families will complete their final survey and exit the study. We will be sorry to see them go and have truly appreciated their participation in the study and the data collection process.

We want to take this opportunity to share some of the information the project has compiled so far.

- In total TeleFamilies has enrolled 169 families into the project. This includes 115 families in the two intervention groups (i.e., those working with Mary) and 54 families in the usual clinic care group.
- The age range for children in the study ranges from two years to 15 years. We have 12 families with two children enrolled in the study.
- Most families are from the Twin Cities area, however we do have participants from as far away as 150 miles and some families from western Wisconsin.
- 83% of families have returned their baseline survey.
- 57% of responding families report needing special medical equipment in the past 12 months.
- The number of health care appointments for each child per month varies. Over the first 28 months of data collection, the number of clinic appointments per month ranged from zero to eight — with three being the typical number of visits in a month. Approximately 31% of these appointments occurred at the Children’s Pediatric Clinic and 69% at other specialty clinics. The number of therapy appointments per month ranged from zero to twenty — with two being the typical number of visits in a month.

We have used the data collected so far to publish several articles and numerous abstracts which have been presented at conferences. This information was always presented as group data—no individual is ever identified. We have also shared our findings with the administration at Children’s and with Minnesota legislators who have an interest in health care and children with special health care needs.

In addition to the project staff, TeleFamilies benefits from the contributions of several University of Minnesota students. Jocelyn Bessette Gorlin, a PhD student in nursing; Hana Mattern, an undergraduate student majoring in Family Social Science; and Yanrong Zhu a Biostatistics and Biomedical and Health Informatics graduate student have assisted with data collection and analysis for the TeleFamilies study. We want to acknowledge their efforts and thank them for their assistance.
Meet Stan Finkelstein, PhD

Stan Finkelstein directs the TeleFamilies study. He is a Professor of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology/Health Informatics with a background in biomedical engineering. His research interests are in patient remote monitoring in chronic diseases and home telehealth. His work emphasizes the development of patient-centered home based programs and moving them from the research laboratory to clinical application. Dr. Finkelstein is a Fellow of the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering.

In his non-academic life he was a regular jogger around the Minneapolis lakes until his knees “told him” to cut back, so he is now an avid walker around the same lake trails. He follows the local sports teams, but as a ‘Brooklynite’ none compare to his recollection of the old Brooklyn Dodgers, who sadly were never the same once they moved to Los Angeles. He is an avid reader of the news from a variety of sources, and delights in visits and discussions with grandchildren, who all live out-of-state.

“Life is not measured by the number of breathes we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.”
— Maya Angelou

The TeleFamilies Team:

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  Project Director
- Ann Garwick, PhD, RN
  Study Investigator
- Wendy Looman, PhD, RN
  Study Investigator
- Carrie Pettey, MD
  Study Investigator
- Anne Kelly, MD
  TeleFamilies Consultant
- Hongfei Guo, PhD
  Biostatistician
- Scott Lunos, MS
  Biostatistician
- Mary Erickson, DNP, RN
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- Rhonda Cady, PhD
  Post-doc Research Fellow
- Margaret Celebrezze
  Study Coordinator
- Cathy Erickson
  Heidi Goeders
  Sara Romanski
  Research Assistants
- Lizzie Berndt
  Student Intern

Kids Corner

Start

OCTOBER


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