

Nurture Connection 2025 Survey Results

Survey Respondents

Organizations

- Community-based non-profits or organizations: 44%
- National networks or organizations: 28%
- Research, foundations, donors, government: 45%

Type of work with children 0-3

- Program managers or system leaders: 70%
- Work directly with parents or caregivers: 34%
- Worked directly with children: 24%
- Parents: 13%

Survey Respondents

Professional Role

- Early care and education 34%
- Mental or behavioral health 26%
- Pediatric or family health care 21%
- Home visiting 20%
- Early intervention 19%
- Community Health Worker 7%
- Doula services 4%
- Other 34%
 - Systems-level change 9%
 - Family or peer support services 5%
 - Coaching or training 5%
 - Research and Evaluation 4%
 - Philanthropy 3%
 - Other services 4%

How respondents learned about the survey



64% from an email from Nurture Connection



17% from the Nurture Connection newsletter



9% from a related network

Campaign for Grade Level Reading
BUILD
Pritzker Community Network
Reach out and Read

Use and understanding of Early Relational Health

62% of respondents said they used the term Early Relational Health in their work or community engagement *sometimes, often or almost always*.

80% said they noticed people becoming *more familiar* with the term Early Relational Health

Nurture Connection's North Star Statement:

"All communities thrive because every caregiver and young child flourishes from authentic parent partnership approaches and culturally-aligned practices, policies, and agreements."



64% said they saw their work reflected a *lot* or a *great deal* in the statement



53% said the statement inspired them to promote greater awareness of ERH a *lot* or a *great deal*

Nurture Connection's Impact Statement:

“The principles of early relational health have been integrated into communities across the U.S. that are committed to fostering and sustaining positive, thriving connections. As a result, families and young children, along with the systems and practitioners that serve them, benefit from connection, repair and healing through family-community partnerships, and family-centered practices and policies, ultimately leading to flourishing children and families.”

Impact Statement



65% said they saw their work reflected a *lot or a great deal* in the statement



62 % said the statement inspired them to promote greater awareness of *ERH a lot or a great deal*

Nurture Connection Activities and Influence



Broad support for many policies

54% favored promoting federal, state and local policies

48% want to support elevating Bright Spots (best practices, etc.)



A large majority felt that NC was having the greatest impact by expanding the knowledge base (75%)



Strong support for maintaining an up-to-date learning hub and exerting the influence of the network (40%)

Nurture Connection Resources

Respondents selected the [Nurture Connection Website](#) as the most valuable resource, followed by the [Newsletter](#) and the [Blog](#)

Information Sources

Information about Early Relational Health came from a broad range of sources, without any one source demonstrating a significant difference over another.

About one-third said they received information about ERH from

- Family Support Programs
- Early care and education
- Child health providers

Identified Bright Spots

Integrating into
existing systems
and programs

Professional
training and
workforce
development

Parenting and
caregiver
engagement

Cross-sector
collaboration

Framing and
messaging
opportunities

Research, tools
and resource
development

Opportunities for advancing Early Relational Health

Settings

- 59% Early Care and Education centers
- 56% Health Care clinics
- 50% Home visiting

Policies

- 66% Paid family leave
- 45% State and local early childhood hub structures
- 40% Expansion of Doula and community health worker workforce

Family Partnerships

We asked about the level of family engagement within their organization.

Responses were relatively evenly distributed, with about 30% in the following categories:

- *Informing*
- *Engaging*
- *Partnering*
- *Participating*



Challenges to family partnership development



Current thoughts on uncertainty



Reframing language



Staying the course



Expanding community partnerships



Exploring alternative funding
opportunities



Program adjustment or redesign

Summary 1/2

- Respondents were engaged and highly responsive to the survey, offering high-quality insights and suggestion
- Knowledge and usage of the term Early Relational Health appear to be growing
- Both the North Star and Impact Statement are considered inspirational to the majority of respondents
- Respondents saw great value in Nurture Connection's ability to expand the knowledge base and share information and resources

Summary 2/2

- Family engagement is happening on many levels, yet challenges exist in growing these relationships
- Respondents endorsed paid family leave as a policy most likely to have a substantial impact on improving Early Relational Health
- There was more variation among respondents about the best settings to expand this work with Early Childhood Centers, Health Care and Home Visiting supported equally.
- Despite the political uncertainty, respondents were determined to continue doing the work in new and creative ways.



Thank You

Learn more about Nurture Connection at nurtureconnection.org

Sign up for Nurture Connection's monthly newsletter [at this link](#).