

An Evaluation Report on Video Home Training¹

With 548 Children (495 Families) in need of Services and at risk of Out of Home Placement

(Translation by Ton Stroucken, De Ambelt and Jane P. Nestel-Patt, SPIN USA, 1999)

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Effects of Video Home Training

In order to determine what the effects have been of Video Home Training, this research has categorized data in the following ways:

- Problems of children before and after VHT
- Problems of parents before and after
- Identified outcomes at termination
- Prognosis following termination
- 6 months, 1 year, and 2 year follow up

7.1 Categories of Problems - Before and After VHT

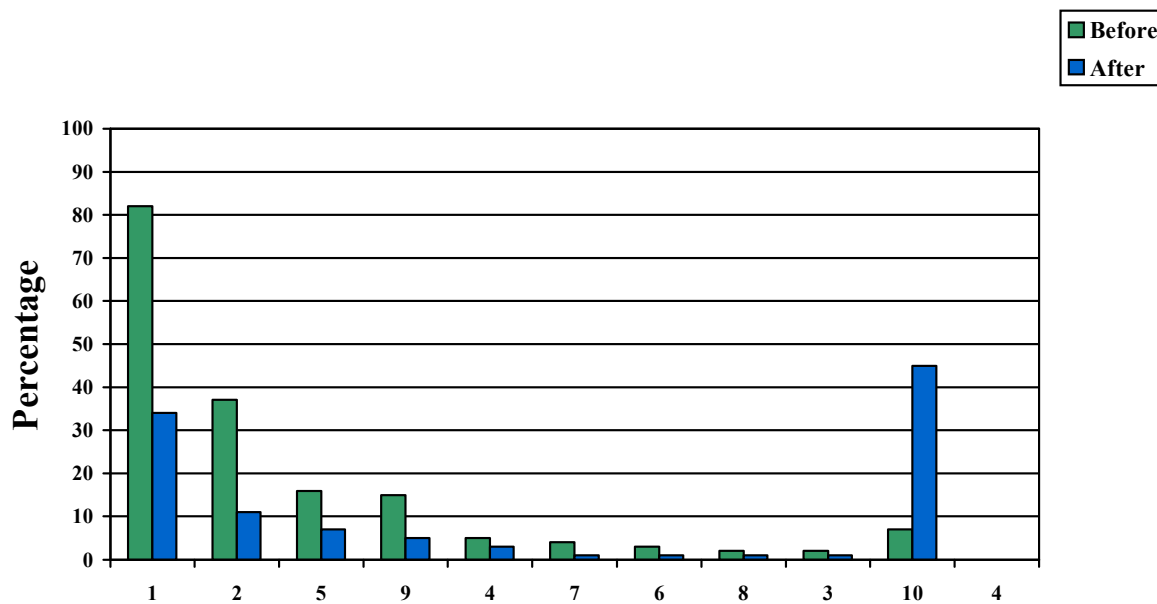
7.1.1 Children's Problems

(Table 26 reflects data that assigns assessment of problems to each child by selecting a maximum of three problems that best describe the needs of each child.)

Table 26

TYPE OF PROBLEM	BEFORE	AFTER
1. Behavior	82%	34%
2. School	37%	11%
3. Retardation	2%	1%
4. Medical	5%	3%
5. Psychological	16%	7%
6. Abandonment	3%	1%
7. Physical Abuse	4%	1%
8. Incest	2%	1%
9. Neglect	15%	5%
10. No Identified Problem	7%	45%
No Data	1%	13%

Effects of Video Home Training : The Problems of Children Before and After VHT

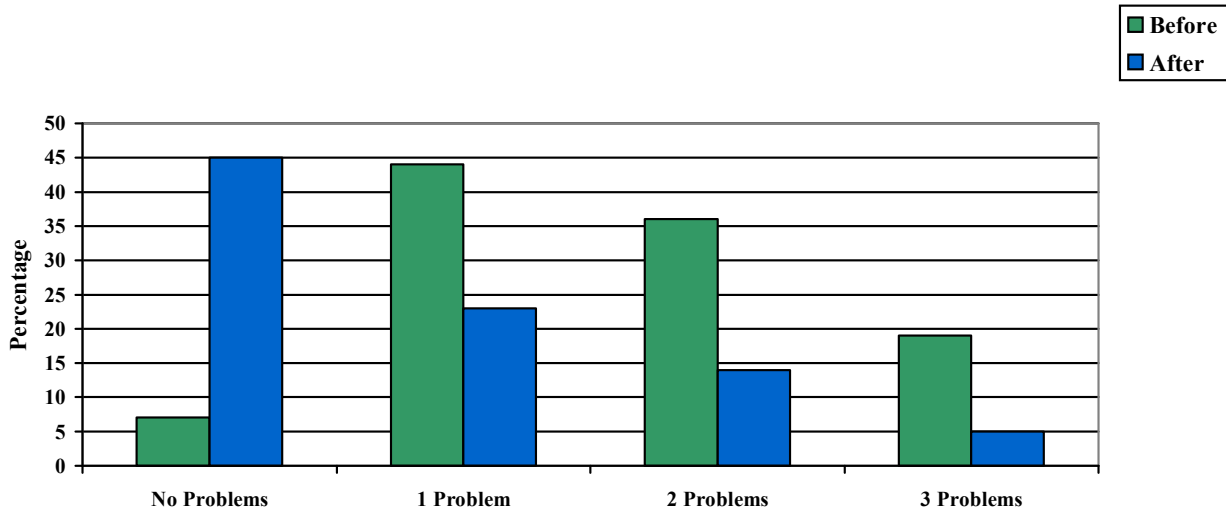


Because up to three problems could be identified, it is important to analyze the total numbers of problems as shown in Table 27. We see in this as significant to comparison of the before and after data.

Table 27

CHILD PROBLEMS	BEFORE	AFTER
No Problem/Not Applicable	7%	45%
1 Problem	44%	23%
2 Problems	36%	14%
3 Problems	19%	5%

Number of Child Problems Before and After VHT



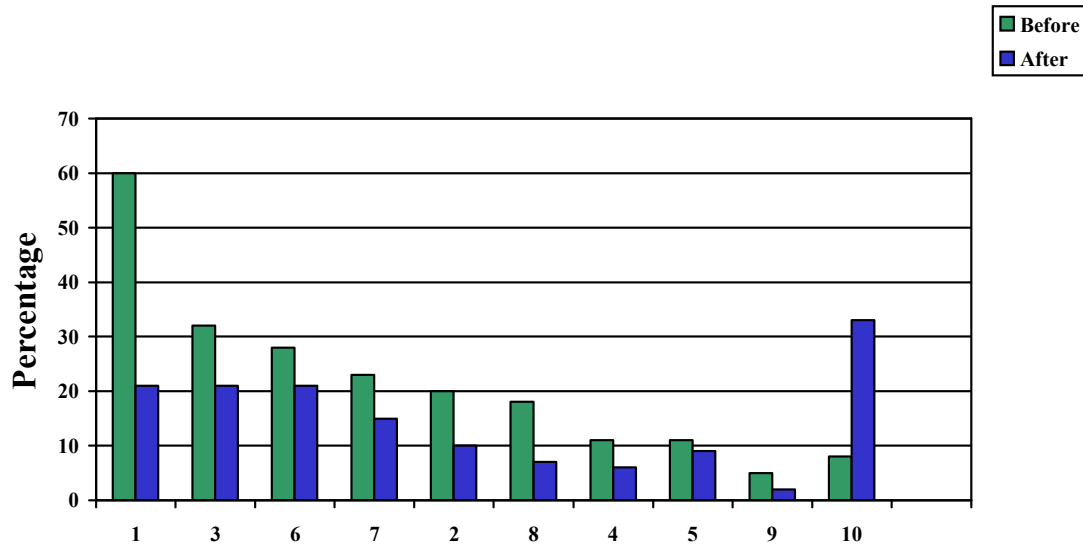
7.1.2 Categories of Problems of Parents, Before and After VHT

(Table 28 reflects data that assigns assessment of problems to parents by selecting a maximum of four problems that best describe the needs of each parent)

Table 28

KIND OF PROBLEM	BEFORE	AFTER
1. Lacking child rearing skills	60%	21%
2. Parental Disagreements over how to raise the children	20%	10%
3. Psychiatric problems for 1 or both parents	32%	21%
4. Substance Abuse	11%	6%
5. Retardation	11%	9%
6. Social Problems	28%	21%
7. Relationship problems between parents	23%	15%
8. Divorce	18%	7%
9. Domestic Violence	5%	2%
10. No Problem	8%	33%

Effects of Video Home Training - Problems of Parents Before and After VHT

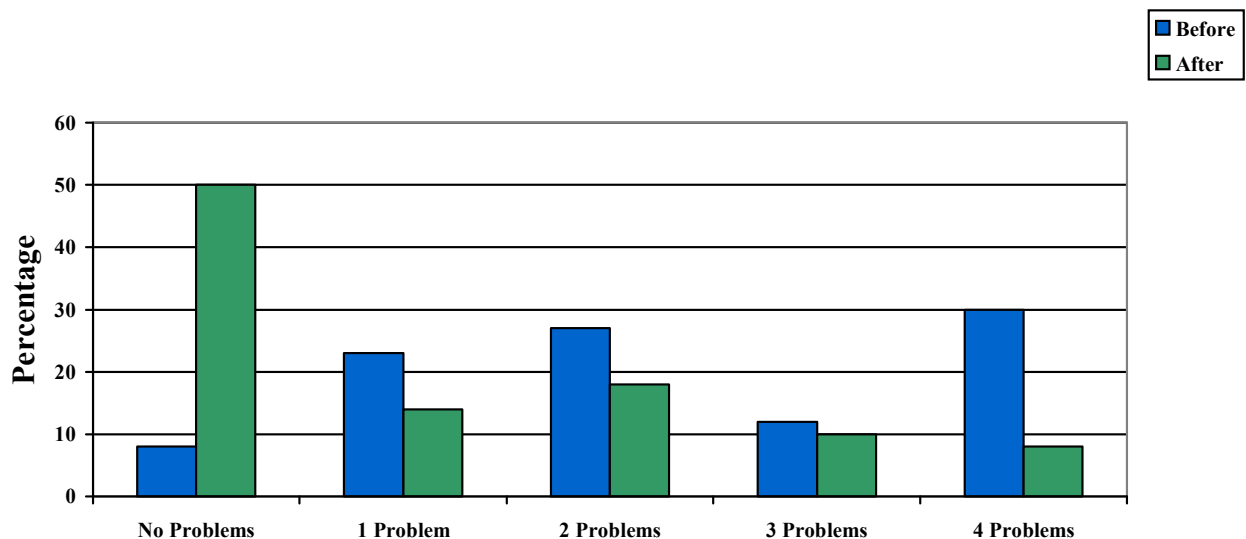


Regarding both the severity and number of problems at termination, the data shows a decrease for parents when before and after data are compared. Table 29 also indicates that the number of problems reported by the parents diminished. Not all the problems were gone, but the situation became less troublesome and more manageable.

Table 29

PARENTAL PROBLEMS	BEFORE	AFTER
No Problem	8%	50%
1 Problem	23%	14%
2 Problems	27%	18%
3 Problems	12%	10%
4 Problems	30%	8%

Number of Parental Problems – Before and After VHT



7.1.3 Categories of Problems in the Family - Before and After Video Home Training

(Table 30 reflects data that assigns assessment of problems to each family by selecting a maximum of three problems that best describe the needs of each family)

Table 30

TYPE OF PROBLEM	PERCENTAGE BEFORE	PERCENTAGE AFTER
1. Child rearing/Relational	81%	34%
2. Social	17%	11%
3. Family	22%	13%
4. Child Acceptance	16%	5%
5. Child Abandonment	1%	1%
6. Acute Crisis	15%	5%
7. Not Applicable	9%	39%
No Data	1%	13%

It's obvious that the nature and the urgency of the identified problems have been positively influenced by the Video Home Training. Before Video Home Training, the vast majority of the families reported child rearing and relational problems (81%). After VHT, the reported incidence was reduced to 34%. The number of families that report no family problems at all increased from 9% to 39%.

More than one problem could be reported. Again the **number** of problems was reduced.

Effects of Video Home Training:

The nature of the problem in the family - Before and After VHT

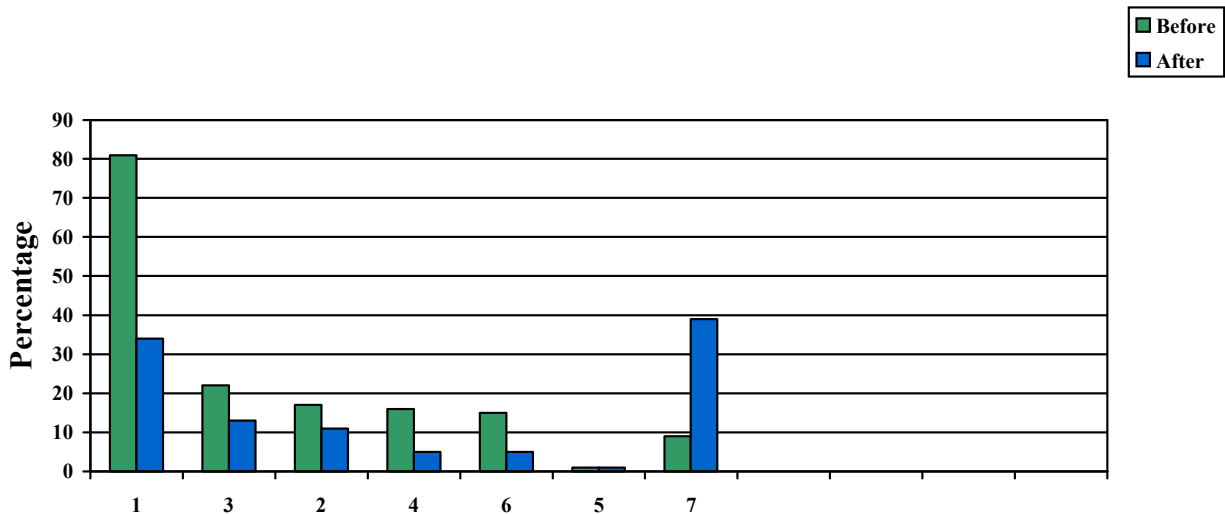
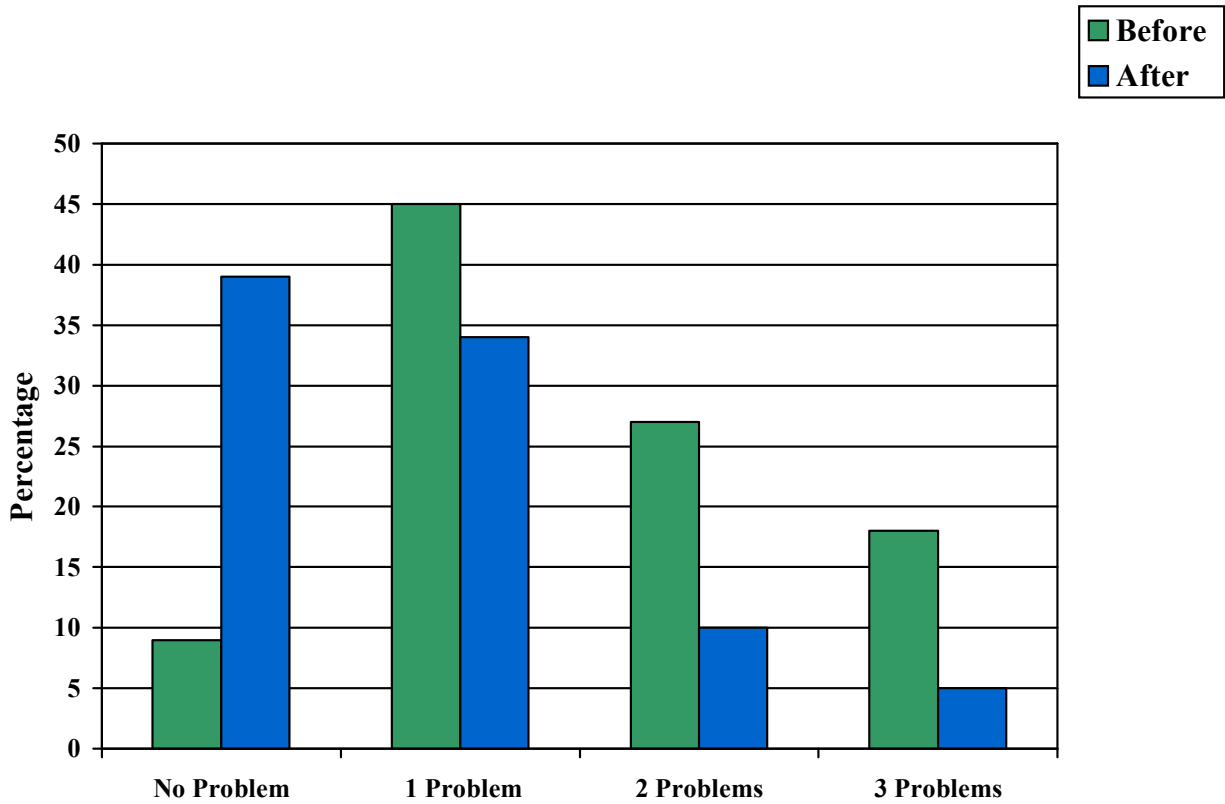


Table 31

FAMILY PROBLEMS	BEFORE	AFTER
Not Applicable	9%	39%
1 Problem	45%	34%
2 Problem	27%	10%
4 Problem	18%	5%

Also according to Table 31, the data shows that after termination of VHT, when the before and after comparison of the family data is made, there is a significant reduction in the number of identified problems.

Number of Family Problems: Before and After Video Home Training



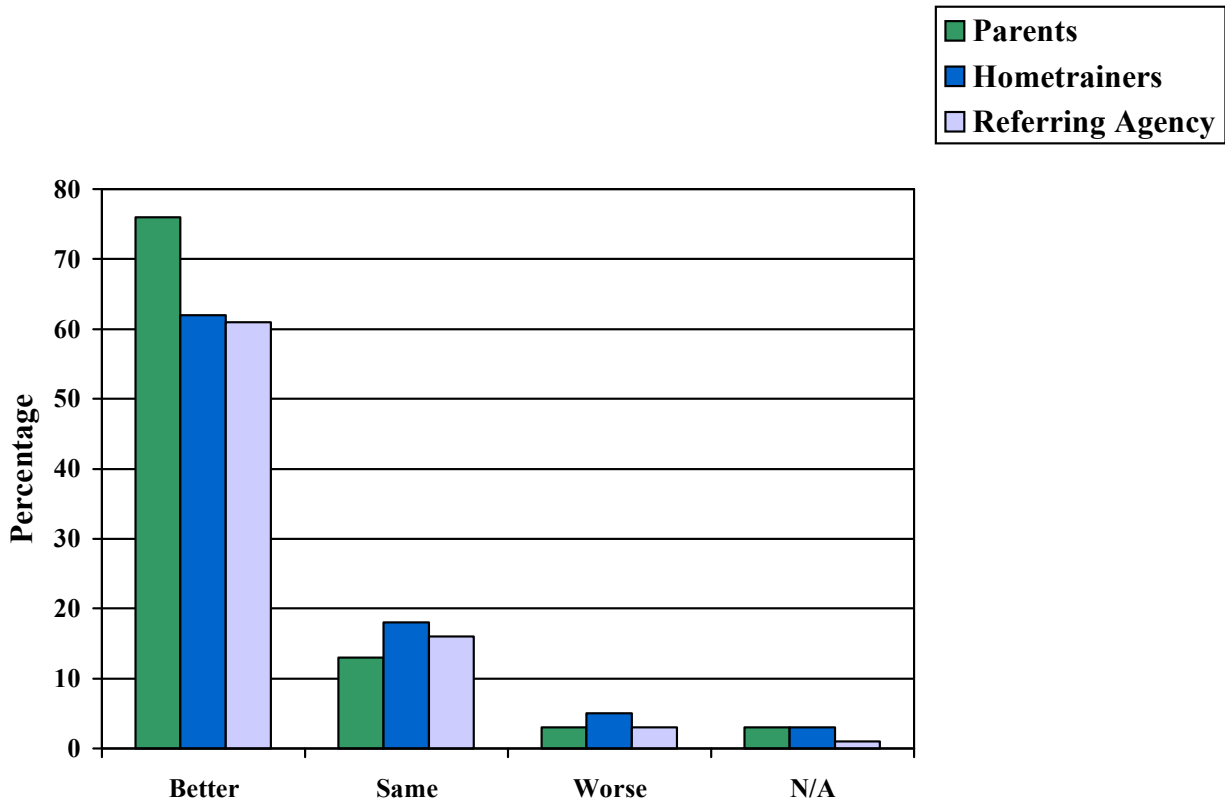
7.2.2 Effects of Video Home Training – Comparison of data from Video Home Trainers, State Agencies, and Parents

Table 35

EFFECT/ACCORDING	REPORTED BY HOME TRAINER	REPORTED BY STATE AGENCY	REPORTED BY PARENTS
Better	62%	61%	76%
Same	18%	16%	13%
Worse	5%	3%	3%
Not Applicable	3%	1%	3%
Unknown	12%	19%	5%
Data	311 -	39 -	38 -

The reports of the Video Home Trainer are added later to the OZHT database. Therefore, only percentages are calculated since the 'n' differs for each reporting category. This table clearly shows that parents are much more positive (less critical) than the professional in their assessment of their own prognosis. Confidence in the future and perceived relief regarding their own ability to better manage the family situation seem to predominate, especially for the parents.

The Effects comparing the follow-up data from each reporting category: Parents, Referring Agency and Video Home Trainer



7.3 Follow-up data

The follow-up data are even more significant than the data reported directly after the termination of VHT. This is so because the data (since it is self-report or observational reporting) can be affected by the desire of the helping professionals and/or the parents to report improvement. The data also clarify that the families are more confident in their future than the professionals. The situation of longer term, when the family also functions on their own strengths for a period of time, is therefore much more powerful indicator. AT 6 months, one year and two years respectively , following VHT, we did a follow-up study and found the following:

Table 37a - "Where does the child now reside?"

RESIDENCE OF CHILD	AFTER ½ YEAR		AFTER 1 YEAR		AFTER 2 YEARS	
Total Number	182		169		136	
At Home	173	95%	155	92%	109	80%
Outplacement	4	2%	8	5%	10	7%
Unknown	5	3%	6	4%	17	13%

Although there are some changes over time, we can conclude that on longer term, the results of the effects of Video Home Training are quite positive. The majority of the children can still be maintained at home in an environment that is determined to be safe. (The follow-up data is based on families who received Video Home Training two or three years previous. Given this fact, it was the beginning of the implementation and integration of VHT in the region and, therefore, the VHT work was being done by staff who were still in training to become certified Video Home Trainers. This clearly underscores the even greater potential for positive impact with highly skilled, seasoned Video Home Trainers. Even the model itself, applying Video Home Training to work with multi-problem families, was being refined to maximize effectiveness with this population.)

Translators Note

This is a translation of research results for Video Home Training, published in a report from the Den Haag region of the Netherlands as part of research conducted by the National Ministry of Youth Services regarding demographic, evaluation and follow-up data for every family receiving Video Home Training in the Netherlands.

Regions of Den Haag and Amsterdam collaborated on the development and implementation of a computer database for the collection and comparison of data.

Data was collected using the newly developed database OZHT (Onderzoek Home Training) which means Research of Home Training. The evaluation was launched April 1, 1994 and involved 548 clients (children) living in 495 families. (Some families had more than one child identified by the region as in need of services and at risk of out of home placement.) In the same period in Amsterdam, another 549 families received Video Home Training with outcome data that paralleled the data reported here.