Making it Add Up

Using a Common Framework to Aggregate Impact Across Prevention Programs
Speakers

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History and Mission of the Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention (ADCANP) & Prevent Child Abuse Alabama (PCAA)

- Public Policy Advocacy
- Public Education and Awareness
- Community-Based Prevention Programs
- Network of Grantees (140-160 annually)–
  - Annually awarded competitive grants
  - 4 program categories + Community Awareness:
    - Parenting and Home Visitation
    - Fatherhood
    - Respite Care
    - Youth Programs
The world is moved along, not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker.

- Helen Keller
Evaluation Key Elements

- Earn buy-in and empower grantees to “tell their story” through valid documentation of numbers served and outcomes
- Co-create assessment items
- Allow for variation/autonomy in program delivery models but assess common objectives centered on CSSP Protective Factor Framework
- Aggregate data allows us to analyze change across programs
- Conduct basic statistical analyses of reported change
- Feature user-friendly infographics and descriptions of changes in reports
- Turn-around information quickly: in hand 2-3 months after PY close
Efficient and Valid Assessment

- Explicitly assess participants’ view of change and benefit – due to the program
- Given at conclusion of program to assess retrospective pre-program ratings and post-program ratings
- Matched data without the task of matching separate pre/post surveys
- This design has been validated (e.g., Pratt et al., 2000)
  - effective and efficient strategy
  - less susceptible to response bias and social desirability than traditional methods of baseline and post-program assessments
- Data sent to central evaluation team for processing
  - Labor reduction for agencies
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Participant Numbers & Demographics

Data on numbers of participants in ADCANP/CTF funded programs were taken from master lists of individuals who spent time in a program, demographic reports that most participants provided, and from presentation reports that documented the numbers of individuals who participated in community awareness activities provided by grantees in all program areas, including the Community Awareness program area. 34,321 adults and 52,638 youth were served in participating programs.

Community Awareness
- 320,892 individuals (youth and adults) participated in a community awareness event or presentation and learned more about prevention of child maltreatment.
- Helpful information also was provided through media and social media.
- Approximately 2,478,381 exposures/impressions were generated.
- Programs provided multi-session services to adults and children in all 7 congressional districts in Alabama during the one year period.

Adult Demographics

Data on adult demographics come from across the program types: parent education, home visiting, fatherhood, and respite. Parents are racially diverse and predominantly of lower socio-economic status, based on work status, education level, and income reported. Note: Adults who participated only in community awareness programs did not provide demographic information.

Age
- Median age: 33
- 18-24: 17%
- 25-30: 22%
- 31-40: 36%
- 41-40: 23%
- 41+: 14%

Number of children*
- 0: 52%
- 1: 23%
- 2: 23%
- 3-5: 33%
- 5 or more: 14%

* Includes biological, step, adopted and foster children.

Gender
- 65% Female
- 35% Male

Work Status Pre-Program**
- Not working for pay: 52%
- Part-time: 13%
- Full-time: 35%

Race & Ethnicity
- European American/White: 63%
- African American/Black: 42%
- 1st Asian American: 8%
- 1st Native American: 6%
- Other Race: 3%
- Identified as Hispanic/Latino: 2%

Education Level Pre-Program**
- No High School: 19%
- High School/GED: 50%
- Some College: 8%
- Trade/Technical: 8%
- College: 11%
- Advanced Degrees: 6%

Income Level Pre-Program**
- Less than $10,000: 46%
- $10,000-$29,999: 26%
- $30,000-$59,999: 19%
- $60,000 or more: 8%

** For participants (excluding students) over the age of 18.
A sample of Parenting participants (n=3,360) responded to an assessment of 7 goals using a scale of 1-4. Analyses of measures (some using multi-items, Cronbach’s α range from 0.76 to 0.81) using paired t-tests revealed statistically significant (p<0.001) improvements for participants, on average, in ALL targeted areas. The effect sizes ranged from 0.76 to 1.18. The average magnitude of the effect sizes for these improvements was 100 and can be considered large (i.e. 25 small effect, 50 moderate effect, 75 large effect).

### Key Changes

While the pre/post average score comparisons are required to test for statistically significant change, we also descriptively examined what percentage of participants showed improvement in their individual scores from pre-program to post-program. We found a majority of parents rated themselves as improved in each area assessed.

#### Parental Resilience

- **Stress Management Skills**
  - Pre-test: 2.4
  - Post-test: 3.4
- **Skills to Manage Maltreatment Risk**
  - Pre-test: 3.1
  - Post-test: 3.7

#### Knowledge of Parenting & Child Development

- **Understanding Various Forms of Child Maltreatment**
  - Pre-test: 2.9
  - Post-test: 3.6
- **Medical Care Commitment**
  - Pre-test: 3.2
  - Post-test: 3.7
- **Parenting Skills & Child Development Knowledge**
  - Pre-test: 2.5
  - Post-test: 3.5

#### Concrete Support in Times of Need

- **Knowledge of & Use of Support Services**
  - Pre-test: 2.3
  - Post-test: 3.4
- **Use of Informal Support Networks**
  - Pre-test: 2.6
  - Post-test: 3.5

*Paired-sample t-test tables with results for testing mean score differences from pre-program to post-program are located on page 36 in the appendix.*
Youth Demographics

Data on youth demographics come from school-based, non-school based/after school, and mentoring programs and indicate that participants were diverse in age, race, and gender. Note: Youth who participated only in community awareness programs did not provide demographic information.

Grade

- 45% Grades 3-5
- 55% Grades 6-12

Gender

- 50% Female
- 50% Male

Race & Ethnicity

- 43% African American / Black
- 42% European American / White
- 2% Native American
- 2% Asian American
- 1% Other Race
- 10% identified as Hispanic/Latino
Statistical test info presented (details in Appendix) AND easy-to-understand descriptive information
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ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT PREVENTION
ADCANP — MAKING A DIFFERENCE — 2018-2019 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

IMPACT ON ADULT PARTICIPANTS

34,321 adults in Alabama received services through four types of ADCANP/CTF-funded programs: Parent Education, Home Visiting, Respite Care, and Fatherhood. The population served were primarily low-resource parents. An additional 66,743 parents and professionals participated in Community Awareness programs.

Four funding sources provide support: The Community Based Child Abuse Prevention Program (CBCAP), The Children First Trust Fund (CTF), The Education Trust Fund (ETF) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

An outside Evaluation Team from Auburn University’s Human Development and Family Studies Department documented the effort and effectiveness of these programs.

$ 46% reported a gross income of less than $10,000
33% was the median age of the adult participants
65% of the participants were female
53% were European American/White
42% were African American/Black
52% reported not working for pay
19% reported not completing high school
50% reported a high school degree/GED as their highest level of education

PARENT EDUCATION & HOME VISITING
57 Parent Education and Home Visiting programs provided parent education. An assessment of 7 targeted outcomes with 3,360 participants revealed statistically significant improvements in:
— Stress Management Skills
— Skills to Manage Maltreatment Risk
— Understanding of Various Forms of Maltreatment
— Medical Care Commitment
— Parenting Skills & Child Development Knowledge
— Knowledge & Use of Support Services
— Use of Informal Supportive Networks

RESPITE CARE
7 Respite Care programs provided respite services and parent education. An assessment of 4 targeted outcomes with 334 participants revealed statistically significant improvements in:
— Stress Level
— Positive View of Child
— Knowledge & Use of Support Services
— Use of Informal Supportive Networks

FATHERHOOD
28 Fatherhood programs provided educational sessions and support to non-residential fathers. An assessment of 14 targeted outcomes with 1,850 participants revealed statistically significant improvements in:
— Commitment to Couple Relationship Stability
— Conflict Management Skills
— Communication Skills
— Co-Parenting Conflict
— Dating Abuse Prevention Skills
— Hopeful About Future
— Financial Planning
— Parenting Knowledge
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Also see:
AU Press Release
Fatherhood Program Target Outcomes

Social Connections
• Commitment to couple relationship stability**
• Conflict management skills**
• Communication skills**
• Coparenting conflict**
• Dating abuse prevention skills**

Parental/Family Resilience
• Hopeful about future**

Social and Emotional Competence of Children
• Child academic adjustment**

Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development
• Positive parenting behaviors**
• Father involvement**
• Parent-Child relationship quality**

Concrete Support in Times of Need
• Financial responsibility**
• Perceived Economic stability*
• Commitment to cooperate with child support personnel**
• Commitment to pay full child support
• Monthly income**
• Job status**

**Statistically significant improvement at 6 months and 1-year
*Marginally significant improvement at 6 months
Fatherhood Programs: Considering Contextual Influences

- Rural fathers, particularly White rural fathers, may benefit from added attention to couple, coparenting, and parent-child relationships.

- Urban fathers and Black/African American fathers may benefit from added attention to practical and economic/employment challenges.
  - Call for additional focus on institutional barriers to employment and economic self-sufficiency for these fathers.

- Evidence that *offering case management prior to classes*:
  - Higher attendance and completion rates
  - Greater change in family-focused target outcome areas
  - For financial responsibilities, case management offered after classes increased the benefits.
Summary and Implications

- There is value in investing in some form of effectiveness evaluation for all programs.
- Program evaluation can be conducted across programs that vary in design but are similar in outcome goals.
- Basic outreach numbers and outcome data can be collected efficiently and effectively using an evaluation team to minimize labor burden on program staff.
- Buy-in from community agencies and participants is critical for quality data; use an empowerment approach.
- Turning results quickly into easy-to-understand brief reports are key to informing stakeholders of the value of the programs.
- More in-depth assessment of specific programs can happen simultaneously.
- Both quantitative and qualitative (testimonials) help “tell the story” of program experiences.
Resources

- ACANP 2018-2019 Research Brief
- Fatherhood Research and Practice Network Evaluation Report
- Strengthening Families Protective Factor Framework

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Discussion

Q&A