

Evaluating Prevention Programs in Alabama

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Introduction

Funding received from CBCAP by the Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention (ADCANP) was competitively awarded to 13 programs in Alabama and provide services to families through 3 types of programs:

1. Home visiting / Parent Education
2. Fatherhood
3. Respite Care



Respite Care

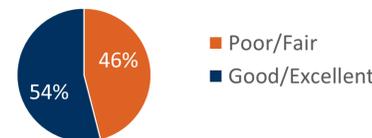
These programs fund respite care services and provide parenting information for parents of special needs children. One of the main aims of these programs is to provide temporary child care relief for parents of special needs children, freeing them to either relax or accomplish other daily tasks that may have been piling up. Other program objectives focus on several key areas that can serve as protective factors and reduce the risk of child maltreatment.



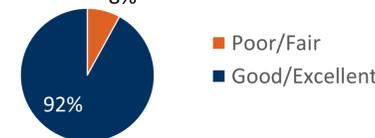
Results – Home Visiting / Parent Education

- Paired sample t-tests revealed statistically significant ($p < .05$) improvement across all 16 measured areas. Calculated Cohen's d effect sizes ranged from .34- 1.76 ($M = .97$) and were mostly large ($> .80$):
 - *knowledge and use of support services*
 - *stress management*
 - *parenting skills and child development knowledge*
 - *understanding various forms of child maltreatment*
 - *individual risk of maltreatment*
 - *positive view and knowledge of child*
 - *use of informal supportive social networks*
 - *medical care commitment*
- Examples below show percentages of participants reporting good / excellent functioning before and after receiving program services

Knowledge of Positive Disciplinary Practices - BEFORE



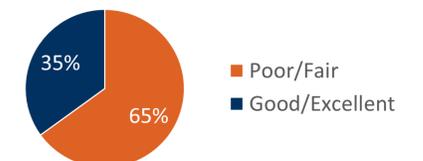
Knowledge of Positive Disciplinary Practices - AFTER



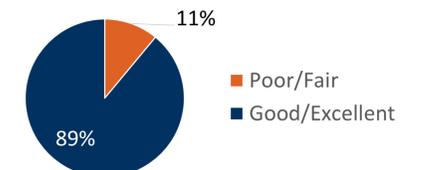
Results – Respite Care

- Paired sample t-tests revealed statistically significant ($p < .05$) improvement across all of the 10 measured areas. Calculated Cohen's d effect sizes ranged from .73-1.25 ($M = .96$) and were mostly large ($> .80$):
 - *knowledge and use of support services*
 - *stress management*
 - *parenting skills and child development knowledge*
 - *understanding various forms of child maltreatment*
 - *positive view and knowledge of child*
 - *use of informal supportive social networks*
- Examples below show percentages of participants reporting good / excellent functioning before and after receiving program services

Ability to Manage Stress- BEFORE



Ability to Manage Stress- AFTER



Home Visiting/ Parent Education

These programs provide parent education through hospital visits, group education, and home visits. Program objectives focus on several key areas that research has shown can serve as protective factors against the risk of child maltreatment, such as the use of support services, positive parenting skills and child development knowledge, stress and anger management skills, understanding of and knowledge of ways to respond to various forms of child maltreatment, use of informal supportive social networks

Sample

N= 169

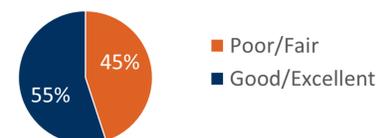
Adult/Parent Demographics

- 54% male; 46% female
- 54% African American; 37% European American; and 9% selected "other" when asked racial background. Of these participants, 5% reported a Hispanic ethnic background.
- 56% reported less than \$10,000 household income; 11% reported between \$10,000-\$19,000; 11% reported between \$20,000 - \$29,000; and 22% reported > \$30,000.

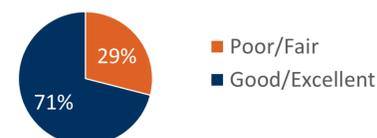
Results – Fatherhood

- Paired sample t-tests revealed statistically significant ($p < .05$) improvement across the majority (13) of the 15 measured areas. Calculated Cohen's d effect sizes ranged from .31-.69 ($M = .46$) and were moderate to large ($> .50$):
 - *cooperation with child support enforcement*
 - *work and educational commitment*
 - *involvement with child and family*
 - *parenting skills*
 - *coparenting relationship*
 - *knowledge and use of support services*
 - *individual risk of maltreatment*
- Examples below show percentages of participants reporting good / excellent functioning before and after receiving program services

Intentions to Comply with Child Support- BEFORE



Intentions to Comply with Child Support- AFTER



Fatherhood

These programs provide support to noncustodial fathers and encourage fathers to enhance their job skills, education, parenting knowledge, and involvement with their children, as well as to comply with child support obligations. Fathers meet with facilitators or case workers and other fathers and are involved in educational sessions that involve family activities that promote better father-child relationships.

Evaluation Methods

- The evaluation data were gathered via paper and pencil surveys
- Surveys measured participants' perceptions of changes from pre-program to post-program in individual and family functioning, family support, and other learning outcomes specific to the program type
- Paired-sample t-tests were used to assess statistically significant improvements in measured outcomes

Discussion

Participants' reports of changes reveal significant improvements across a variety of target outcomes including stress management, parenting skills, family functioning, economic stability, and social support.

Cohen's d effect sizes of documented changes are, on average, large ($M = .76$).

The evaluation provides evidence of enhanced protective factors for participating families in CBCAP programs

Given the high cost of child abuse and maltreatment (approximately \$520 billion per year according to a 2007 University of Alabama study), programs such as those funded by CBCAP represent a meaningful contribution to community well-being.