The Texas Fragile Families Initiative (TFF)

OVERVIEW
From 2000 to 2004, the Texas Fragile Families Initiative (TFF) was a statewide demonstration project based on the Partners for Fragile Families model. TFF was designed to improve community-based services that helped fathers support their children emotionally, physically, and financially. TFF included employment assistance, case management and help with child support orders, and peer support groups that used a fatherhood-development curriculum. The sites also could offer other services, such as GED preparation and crisis intervention. Eleven sites participated in TFF, and four of used an enhancement called Project Bootstrap, which added cash stipends for participating in job training.

See OPRE Report 2011-20 Catalog of Research: Programs for Low-Income Fathers (December 2011) for more information.

Focus
Responsible Fatherhood

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Target Population
Unmarried fathers between 16 and 25 years old

Service Delivery Unit
Individuals

Curriculum
Fatherhood Development: A Curriculum for Young Fathers

Dosage

Setting
Community-based organizations, schools, reproductive health centers, and workforce service centers

Location
Texas

Adapted and/or Created for Hispanic Population
No

Demographics of Population Served
- Fathers were between 12- and 41-years-old
- 55% were Latino
PROGRAM EVALUATION

Evaluated Population
A total of 1,112 fathers were included in some portion of the study.

Study Design
- Quasi-experimental
- Correlation design; examined associations between length of participation and participant outcomes

Outcomes
Employment; Child support; Father-child interactions; and Partner conflict

Results
- Employment
  - The percentage of fathers employed was higher among those participating in the program at 12 months compared to at enrollment.
- Child Support
  - Fathers who participated longer in TFF were more likely to establish child support orders than those who participated for a shorter time; the statistical significance of this finding was not reported.
- Father-child interactions
  - Fathers who participated longer in TFF were more likely to increase father-child interactions than those who participated for a shorter time; the statistical significance of this finding was not reported.
- Partner conflict
  - Fathers who participated longer in TFF were more likely to decrease conflict with a partner than those who participated for a shorter time; the statistical significance of this finding was not reported.

Results for Hispanic Subgroups
None reported

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