



## 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

### **Evaluation and Program Contact Info:**

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