

The New Mexico Young Fathers Project

OVERVIEW

Founded in 1999, the New Mexico Young Fathers Project operates in 11 teen parenting program sites throughout the state. The program aims to promote social and family stability by improving relationships between fathers and their young children and preventing repeat pregnancies.

See [Elements of Promising Practice in Teen Fatherhood Programs: Evidence-Based and Evidence-Informed Research Findings on What Works](#) for more information.

Focus

Responsible Fatherhood

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Target Population

Young men under the age of 26 who are the biological fathers of children born to teen mothers or are the partners of teen mothers

Service Delivery Unit

Individuals

Curriculum

The program includes educational and vocational support, guidance and referral, parenting skills, life skills training, sexuality and contraceptive education, and peer education training

Dosage

Unknown

Setting

Teen parenting program sites

Location

New Mexico

Adapted and/or Created for Hispanic Population

No

Demographics of Population Served

- Mean age was 18.8
- 82% were Latino
- 86% had never been married
- 25% were incarcerated
- 49% lived with their parents

- 44% lived in an urban area, 32% in a rural area, and 24% in the suburbs

PROGRAM EVALUATION

Evaluated Population

- Fathers who received services and completed an intake assessment at two or more follow-up assessments in 2007 (n=23)
- Fathers who completed the program anytime since 1999 who completed intake and at least one follow-up assessment

Study Design

- Pre-post test
- Program participants were assessed at intake and then again every six months for as long as they participated in the program.

Outcomes

- *Fathers:* Education and career plan; sexual behavior; and other issues, like health and substance abuse
- *Children:* paternity establishment; contact; child support; and court order

Results

- Fathers:
 - *Education and career plan*
 - The percentage of participants who attained a high school diploma or higher increased significantly from 24% at intake to 43% at follow-ups.
 - *Sexual behavior*
 - The average number of children increased significantly from 1.4 at intake to 1.8 at follow-up in 2007.
 - The average number of pregnancies caused by the participants increased significantly from 1.4 at intake to 1.7 at follow-ups throughout program.
 - The average number of children per participant increased significantly from 1.2 at intake to 1.4 at follow-ups throughout program.
 - The percentage of participants who reported using birth control during last intercourse increased significantly from 40% at intake to 58% at follow-ups throughout the program.
 - *Other issues*
 - The average number of problems reported by participants increased significantly from 1.2 at intake to 2.2 at follow-up in 2009, with the proportion including 'anger' as a problem increasing from 19% to 48%.
- Children:
 - *Paternity establishment*
 - No statistically significant differences in paternity establishment were found between intake and follow-up in 2007.
 - The percentage of children with established paternity increased significantly from 52% to 66% throughout the program.
 - *Contact*

- The percentage of children having some contact with their fathers increased significantly from 53% at intake to 62% at follow-ups throughout the program.
- The percentage of fathers having some contact with their children increased significantly from 56% at intake to 73% at follow-ups throughout the program.
- The percentage of fathers having overnight contact with their children increased significantly from 39% at intake to 49% at follow-ups throughout the program.
- *Child support*
 - The percentage of fathers providing child support to at least one of their children increased significantly from 6% at intake to 28% at follow-up in 2007.
 - The percentage of children receiving child support increased significantly from 4% at intake to 31% at follow-up in 2007.
 - The percentage of fathers providing child support to at least one of their children increased significantly from 10% at intake to 20% at follow-ups throughout the program.
 - The percentage of children receiving child support increased significantly from 10% at intake to 22% at follow-ups throughout the program.
- *Court order*
 - The percentage of fathers with court orders increased significantly from 6% to 19% throughout the program.

Results for Hispanic Subgroups

None reported

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