

M Promoting Positive Father Engagement through an Innovative Parenting Program for Nonresident African American Fathers & Sons

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Promoting Positive Father Engagement”

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Background

- About 27% of all fathers (15-44) reported having at least one biological, nonresident child under age 18.
- 24% of African American men reported at least one nonresident child compared to 8% of White men.
- 67% of African American children will live apart from their biological father at some point in their life.
- An increase in nonresident father involvement with their children is evident in current family trends.
- White nonresident fathers more likely to provide economically than other racial/ethnic groups. African American nonresident fathers engage in different ways.
- African American fathers likely to stay involved with children with no romantic relationship with mom.

(Amato et al, 2009; CDC, 2013; Edin et al., 2010; King & Sobolewski, 2006; NCFMR, 2014)

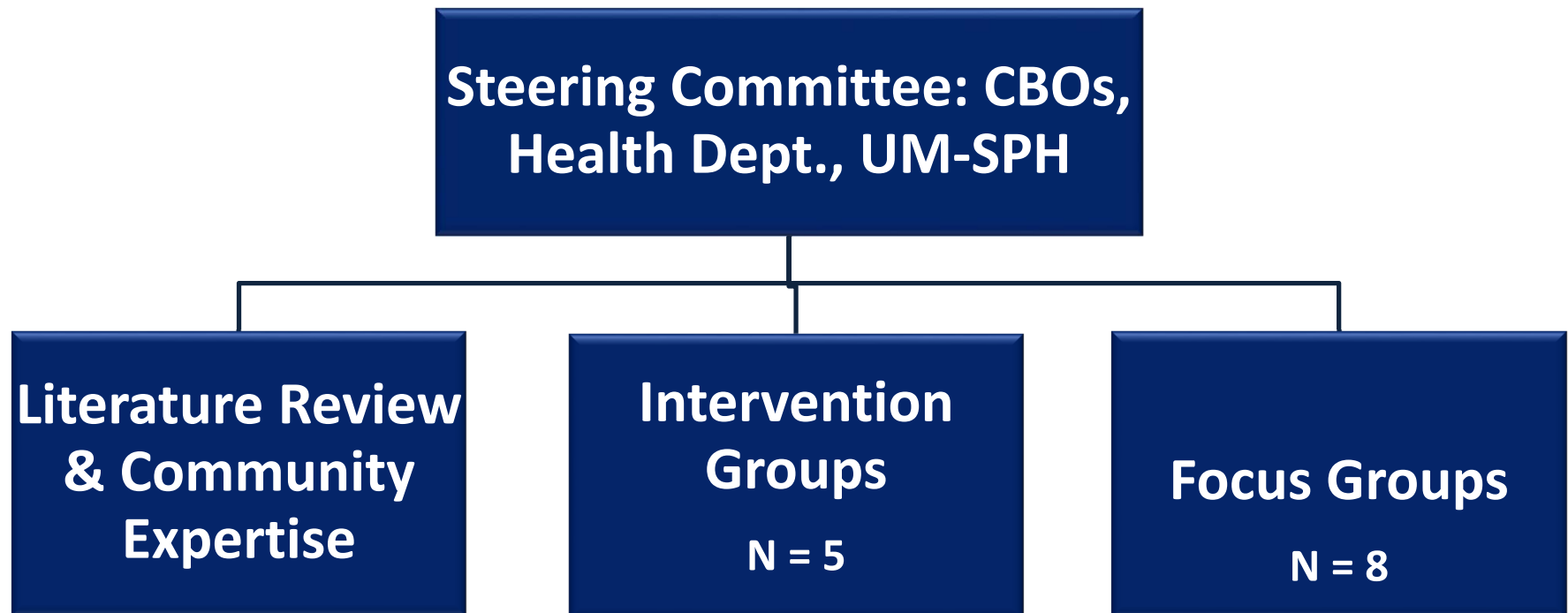




Evidence-Based Strategies

- ***Final Level of Evidence:*** Well-designed and implemented intervention programs in randomized controlled trials, preferably conducted in community settings, which produce sizable, sustained benefits to participants or society.
- ***Promising Level:*** The Fathers and Sons Program
 - Single community site vs. multiple site implementation
 - Quasi-experimental vs. experimental design
 - Replication needed to confirm successful findings
 - Long-term outcomes needed
 - Findings must be generalized in effectiveness tests
- New 5-year funding from NICHD/NIH
- Implementation effectiveness tests

Fathers and Sons CBPR Input Chart



Theory of Reason Action: Elicitation Interviews

Focus Group Composition

- 2 Nonresident Father
- 2 Nonresident Son
- 2 Mother Groups
- 2 Family Groups

A total of 77 participants



Intervention Content Areas

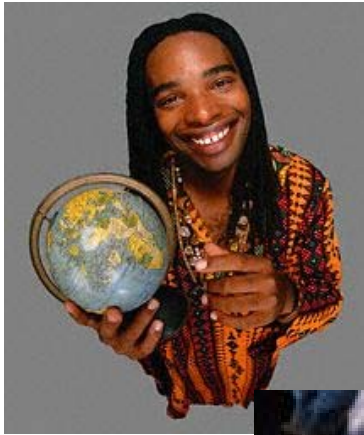
- Diversity among families
- Personal relationships & responsibilities
 - parental monitoring, role modeling, racial socialization, culture & history, culture & health
- Parent-child communication
 - general & risky behaviors
- Social support – within & outside family
- Enhance parenting & refusal skills

[Caldwell, C.H., Zimmerman, M.A., & Isichei, A.C. (2001). Forging collaborative partnerships to enhance family health: An assessment of strengths and challenges in conducting community-based research. *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice*, 7, 1-9.]

Intervention Curriculum

- ❑ 15 sessions over 2-months
- ❑ 2 times per week
- Total 45 total contact hours
 - Intervention sessions (32h)
 - Homework (9h)
 - Community events (4h)
- One 4-month booster session



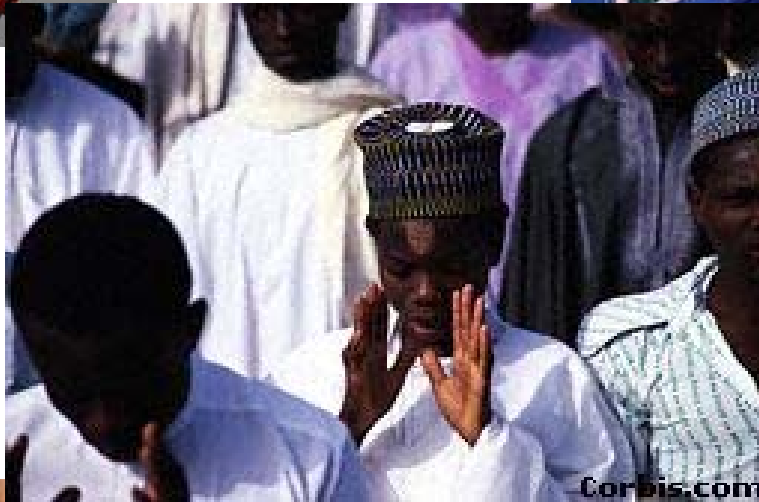


Think
about
your
Strengths



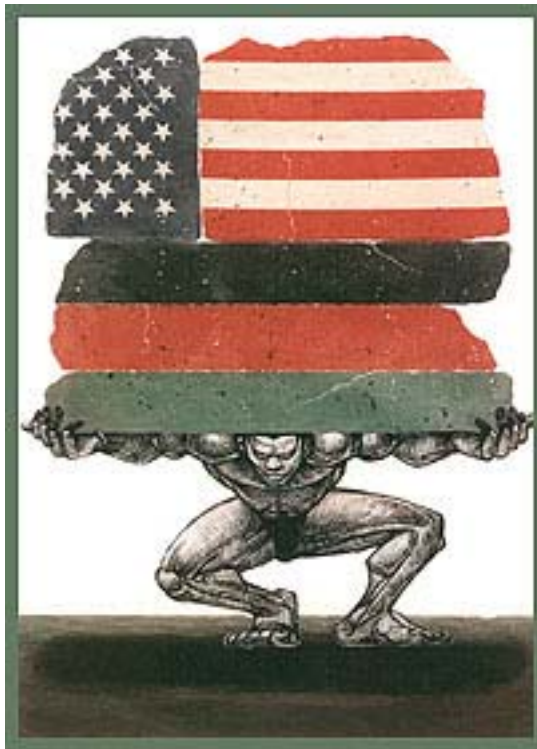
Be
Proud
of You!

Recognize
your
contributions
to society!



Learn about your
culture

Know your cultural roots. . .



Learn from the past to build for the future

Recruitment Goal & Participation Rate



- ❑ Recruitment goal = 300 families
- ❑ 287 families participated
- 158 Intervention families
 - Response rate = 85.4%
 - 77.2% of fathers and 79.6% of sons attended 11+ sessions
- 129 Comparison group families
 - Response rate = 69.4%
- Overall response rate = 77.4%

Recruitment & Retention Strategies

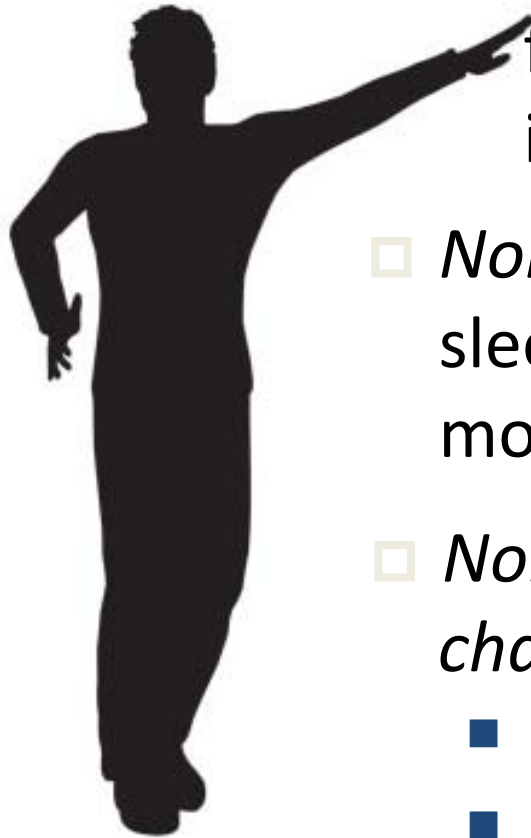
Defining Nonresident Fathers

□ *Father: Self-identified African American / Black, biological fathers of 8-12 year old boys in intervention.*

□ *Nonresident: sons did not sleep-over at fathers' home more than half the time.*

□ *Nonresident fathers' characteristics:*

- Nonresident to some children
- Resident to other children
- Marital status
- Living arrangements with sons



Recruitment Strategies

- Schools best recruitment resource
- Recruited through mothers
 - Mothers must consent for sons as custodial parent
 - Mothers identified nonresident biological fathers
- Invited fathers to participate separately
- Held family orientation meetings before program
- Engaged community partners working with families
- Implemented at convenient locations and times
- Used brochures, flyers, media, word of mouth
- Provided financial incentives



Retention Strategies

- Provided meals for evening programming.
- Provided transportation when needed.
- Encouraged sons to assume program leadership roles.
- Sent weekly reminder notices of meetings.
- Made follow-up calls for missed meetings.
- Sent birthday and holiday cards from project.
- Provided \$5 incremental increases for completing each evaluation questionnaire + bonus for all questionnaires.
- Maintained memory books throughout program.
- Collected feedback forms at end of every session.
- Session 6 is a focus group to obtain input for adjustments.
- Received graduation certificate at end of program.

Replication, Policy, Practice & Evidence

- Intervention Replication Studies

- CDC YVPC Fathers & Sons Study

- Ruth Mott Foundation Fathers & Sons Physical Activity & Nutrition Study

- RCT Chicago Replication Study

- The Fathers & Sons Policy Study

- The Fathers & Sons Clinical Translation Study

- Evidence-Based National Model



Thank You

