BUILDING BRIDGES & BONDS | B3

Using Data to Understand Your Program

One approach to program improvement is to use data to help you learn about your program, identify areas for improvement, and set goals. Potential sources of data include your management information system, observations of your program, and reactions from staff members.[1] Data can help to answer questions about whom you are serving, what the content of each service is, and how many services clients receive. What you learn may help you identify an improvement strategy to apply to your program. Then you can monitor changes and continue reviewing data to learn about how the strategy is working. This infographic presents examples of how programs in the B3 study used data from different sources to gain insights. Based on these data, the next steps would be for the programs to identify specific opportunities to incorporate new strategies and to continue to monitor the data for improvement.

potential data sources

- Management information system
- Observations of the program
- Staff and participant program reactions

Who is participating?

Collect participant information at enrollment

EXAMPLE DATA:

- Household composition
- Income
- Personal goals, strengths, and risks

What services are delivered?

Observe program, solicit comments, and record services

EXAMPLE DATA:

- Delivery structure
- Curriculum fidelity
- Quality of staff-participant interactions and of service delivery

How much service is received?

participation

Track attendance and service delivery

EXAMPLE DATA:

- Clients enrolled
- Length of time to start
- Services attended and completed

THESE SOURCES OF DATA CAN HELP YOU ANSWER QUESTIONS LIKE...

Who is enrolling? Is it the target population?

What are potential barriers to participating?

Is the content delivered as expected?

Is the program operating as intended?

How do clients use services?

Are there points where participation drops off?

[1]Another source of data for program improvement is impact evaluations, like the B3 study, that compare the experiences and outcomes of program participants with those of similar populations who do not participate.

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OPRE

mdrc
BUILDING KNOWLEDGE TO IMPROVE SOCIAL POLICY

A Case Study: Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Justice Involved Individuals Seeking Employment (CBI-Emp)

TARGET POPULATION

Fathers with recent involvement in the justice system and medium to high risk of reoffending

CBI-Emp is a program designed to improve economic stability using cognitive behavioral techniques. CBI-Emp is currently being implemented and evaluated through random assignment as part of the Building Bridges and Bonds (B3) study.[2]

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

20 core sessions + 11 supplemental sessions → 5 topics

- Motivational engagement
- Cognitive restructuring
- Managing feelings and actions in the workplace
- Problem solving
- Success planning

Who is participating?

How have fathers been involved in the criminal justice system?

Incarcerated in the last 3 years

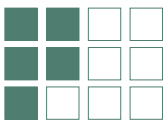
Currently on some form of community supervision

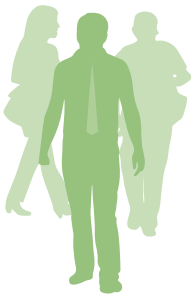
How long have fathers been at their current or most recent jobs?

Fathers working at the start of the study

Median time spent at current job

5 MONTHS





What services are delivered?

Were CBI-Emp sessions delivered as scheduled?

To what degree did the staff implement CBI-Emp with fidelity?

Periodic observations by coaches indicated that on average, facilitators adhered to the curriculum steadily throughout the program's implementation.

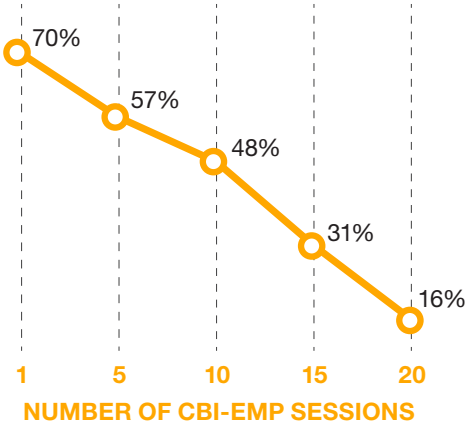
How much service is received?

Do fathers receive one-on-one services in addition to employment workshops?

66% of fathers received at least one one-on-one service

Where does CBI-Emp participation drop off?

Percentage of fathers who completed CBI-Emp sessions*



*Out of fathers randomly assigned to CBI-Emp.

SOURCE: Data presented are interim findings. Findings collected from the B3 baseline survey for CBI-Emp include fathers randomly assigned as of 1/28/2018. Findings collected from the B3 baseline survey for JB include fathers randomly assigned as of 2/9/2018. Findings collected from nFORM, the management information system used by federally funded fatherhood programs, include fathers randomly assigned as of 10/1/2018.

[2]CBI-Emp was implemented at three Responsible Fatherhood sites (Passages, Inc.; The Fortune Society; and The Kanawha Institute for Social Research and Action), supported in part by funding from the Office of Family Assistance.

A Case Study: Just Beginning

TARGET POPULATION

Fathers with children up to age 3

Just Beginning (JB) is a parenting program designed to enhance a father's early relationship with his children. It is currently being implemented and evaluated through random assignment as part of the Building Bridges and Bonds (B3) study.[3]

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

5 **sessions**

Approximately one session per week

3 steps per session

- LEARN with facilitator
- PLAY with child
- DEBRIEF with facilitator

Who is participating?

Do the fathers you serve live with their children?

48% of fathers do not live with their children

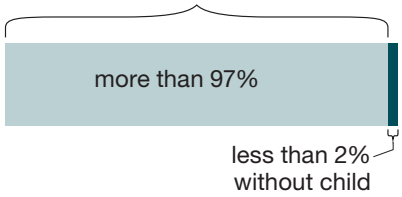
Do the fathers you serve have other children?

Number of children under 21

What services are delivered?

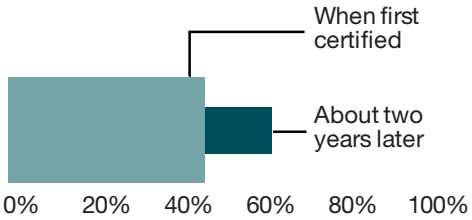
Will fathers and their children attend together?

Percentage of Just Beginning sessions delivered . . .



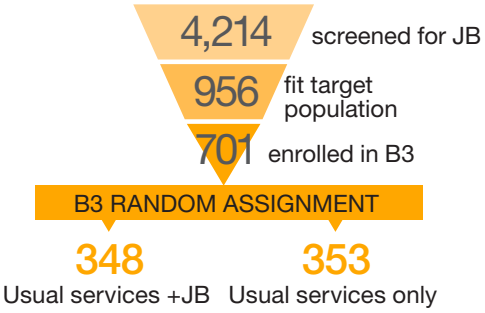
How often did the staff reinforce fathers' learning by referring back to concepts from earlier sessions?

Proportion of Facilitator Time Observed Spent Making Connections to Previous Sessions



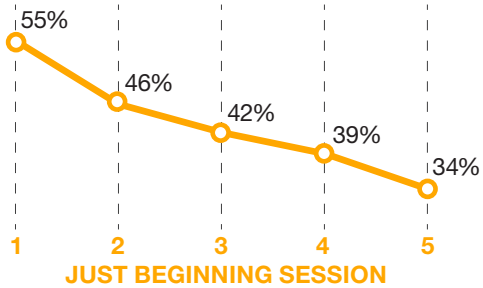
How much service is received?

Where do fathers drop off during enrollment?



Where does Just Beginning participation drop off?

Percentage of fathers who completed Just Beginning sessions*



*Out of fathers assigned to usual services + JB.

[3]**JB was implemented at three Responsible Fatherhood sites (Children's Institute, Inc.; People for People, Inc.; and Seedco with STRIVE and BronxWorks), supported in part by funding from the Office of Family Assistance.**

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