



Quarterly Update

Latest developments in the evaluation

Spotlight on two programs

February 2015

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Study Overview

The Parents and Children Together (PACT) Evaluation is a formative evaluation of four responsible fatherhood programs and two healthy marriage programs, documenting and examining grantees' experiences in operating their programs, the needs and experiences of participants, and the effectiveness of services. PACT also includes a sub-study of program strategies and adaptations used by responsible fatherhood programs serving Hispanic fathers; four additional programs are participating in this component. For more information, please see the [PACT](#) website.

Study Progress

Enrollment of fathers and couples into PACT continues. As of December 31 2014, 7,926 individuals (fathers and members of couples) were enrolled in the impact study across the four PACT responsible fatherhood programs and the two PACT healthy marriage programs. Study enrollment will continue through spring 2015.

Follow-up data collection for the impact study continues. Follow-up telephone interviews with study participants in the responsible fatherhood and healthy marriage programs continue. Program and control group members who enrolled in PACT approximately 12 months earlier are being interviewed about their parenting, couple relationships, and economic circumstances. This information will be used to assess program effects, especially in the areas of parenting, healthy relationships, and employment.

Initial findings regarding the implementation of the responsible fatherhood programs are being documented. Based on findings from the first round of implementation data collection, evaluation staff are summarizing initial findings on the implementation of the responsible fatherhood programs in PACT. A brief highlighting emerging lessons for program providers will be available in early 2015; a report will follow later in 2015 containing detailed profiles of each program.

Data on the implementation of the healthy marriage programs are being analyzed. Evaluation staff are developing program profiles of the two healthy marriage

programs in PACT and identifying common themes. In early 2015, a practitioner-focused brief will present emerging lessons learned, followed by a report later in 2015 discussing initial implementation.

The final round of implementation data collection in the responsible fatherhood programs has begun. The research team is in the field for a second time, interviewing program staff and conducting focus groups with participants in the four responsible fatherhood programs participating in PACT's formative evaluation. Final reports summarizing program implementation throughout the PACT evaluation for both the responsible fatherhood and healthy marriage programs will be available in 2016.

A report on the qualitative study findings is in progress and the second round of in-depth interviews with fathers is underway. A report on findings from the first round of in-depth interviews with fathers in responsible fatherhood programs will be available in spring 2015. The research team is also attempting to contact the same fathers for a second interview. In this second round of interviews, fathers are asked to reflect on their current circumstances and how their relationships with their children and their children's mother(s) have changed since the last interview. A report on the findings from the second round of interviews will be available in 2016.

Program Spotlights

Responsible Fatherhood Programs Featured in the PACT Hispanic Fatherhood Study

The PACT Hispanic Fatherhood Study has two key purposes: (1) to learn how a number of federally-funded responsible fatherhood programs serving Hispanic populations developed and implemented culturally-relevant programs; and (2) to gain insights on participating fathers' program experiences. Four programs were invited to participate in the study, and site visits were completed in June 2014. A report on findings is planned in 2015. In the October 2014 PACT newsletter, we described two of these four programs: Southwest Key (in San Antonio, TX), and The Children's Institute, Inc. (in Los Angeles, CA). In this

newsletter, we describe the remaining two programs that participated in this study.



Imperial Valley Regional Occupational Program (IVROP) (El Centro, CA)

IVROP provides Project Padres to custodial and non-custodial adult fathers in Imperial County, California—a large, rural, high poverty, agrarian community bordering Mexicali, Mexico. Nearly 70 percent of program fathers are unemployed.

Program overview. Project Padres offers a menu of services: a 30-hour fatherhood workshop, a 15-hour healthy marriage workshop, a 10-hour parenting workshop, a 10-hour job readiness workshop, and a five-hour financial literacy class. It also offers case management and job placement assistance by job development specialists. Fathers can also attend booster sessions and may be eligible for subsidized employment. Participants need to provide proof of U.S. and Imperial County residency to receive job placement services. About 36 percent of participants are married or live with a partner. The importance of family unity and personal accountability for one's actions are core messages.

Hispanic population(s) served. About 90 percent of program participants are of Hispanic origin; most self-identify as Mexican American. Participants include first-generation immigrants and migrant and seasonal workers. About 40 percent are monolingual Spanish-speakers, the remaining are bilingual in Spanish with varying levels of English fluency.

Cultural-specific program features. IVROP uses the *Siempre Papá* curriculum—an adaptation from the developers of the *24/7 Dad* curriculum—that addresses gender stereotypes and cultural values such as *machismo*, and includes culturally-relevant expressions, concepts, and examples. *Siempre Papá* workshops are offered in both English and Spanish (using the street/frontier Spanish spoken in the area). Program staff share the social, cultural, linguistic, and ethnic background of the population served, and many face similar challenges, such as limited English proficiency and child support issues. Facilitators use simple language, highlight cultural values, and share personal experiences. Staff have an intimate understanding of the migrant family's situation and the challenges these parents face raising children because they have experienced similar challenges.



The East Los Angeles Community Union (TELACU) (Los Angeles, CA)

TELACU is an intermediary agency coordinating the provision of fatherhood services targeting Hispanic fathers through nine community partners in four Southern

California counties (Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Los Angeles). The program serves low-income fathers, including fathers already connected to their community partners in local neighborhoods, re-entering fathers, and fathers in residential treatment for substance abuse.

Program overview. TELACU and its nine community partners offer a menu of services: a 24-hour fatherhood workshop, an eight-hour or 16-hour healthy relationship workshop for fathers, an eight-hour healthy relationship workshop for couples, an eight-hour employment readiness workshop, and an eight-hour financial literacy class. Additional services include job training and case management.

Hispanic population(s) served. Across all TELACU community partners, about 80 percent of fatherhood program participants are of Hispanic origin, primarily second-generation immigrants from Mexico. However, there are some differences in the populations served by each partner. For example, whereas two-thirds of fathers served across all TELACU partners are monolingual English-speakers, at one partner location, participants are Mexican-born and primarily monolingual Spanish speakers or Spanish language dominant.

Cultural-specific program features. TELACU's community partners employ facilitators of Hispanic origin, predominantly of Mexican descent. Each partner offers the *Siempre Papá* curriculum, the Spanish adaptation of *24/7 Dad*. Some program partners offer workshops only in Spanish; others offer workshops in both Spanish and English. Community partners who offer workshops primarily in English have bilingual facilitators who translate the curricula as they teach, relying on their own cultural/linguistic knowledge. There is no minimum educational requirement for program staff, and some facilitators were previous program participants.

To find out more about the PACT Evaluation:

- Contact the federal project officer at ACF: Seth Chamberlain (seth.chamberlain@acf.hhs.gov); or
- Contact the evaluation contractor, Mathematica Policy Research: Robin Dion (rdion@mathematica-mpr.com) or Heather Zaveri (hzaveri@mathematica-mpr.com)



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