



Innovative Responsible Fatherhood Activities: Early Implementation Findings from the Building Bridges and Bonds Evaluation

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B STUDY GOALS


- Launch *three* innovative service approaches in responsible fatherhood programs
- Build knowledge in three areas:
 - Employment
 - Parenting and co-parenting
 - Program engagement
- Sponsored by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (OPRE/OFA).





PROGRAM APPROACHES DESIGNED FOR B₃

 Just Beginning sites

 CBI-Emp sites



Parenting Services:
Just Beginning

Father Engagement:
Mobile/
Smartphone
Application

Employment Services:
Cognitive
Behavioral
Intervention



HOW IS JUST BEGINNING INNOVATIVE?

- JB draws on current knowledge of strong parenting programs
 - Targets fathers with young children
 - Multiple modes of learning
 - Explanation by facilitator
 - Demonstration with Sesame Street videos
 - Practice with child
 - Feedback
 - Emphasizes positive reinforcement of father's behaviors





THE JUST BEGINNING APPROACH



Learn

- Father and facilitator discuss simple parenting approaches
- View Sesame Street video clips to illustrate them

Do

- Father applies parenting approaches he just reviewed through a play session with his child
- Facilitator observes

Reflect

- Father reflects on the play session
- Receives feedback and encouragement from facilitator



MAKE A SPACE FOR PLAY SESSIONS



Before



After



PRESENTATION GOALS

- How has early implementation varied across different contexts and program structures?
 - Could this work with fathers who have limited access to their children?
 - Could this innovation be established in a community-based setting (not in a prison)?
 - Could the innovation be delivered with fidelity by existing fatherhood program staff?
- What are the program participants' perceptions of the activities?
- What are the barriers to participating?



SITE IMPLEMENTATION OF JB

- 1st time JB implemented in non-prison setting at any scale
- Staffing: specialized staff not required to operate with fidelity
- JB is added to existing set of services
 - No significant changes made to basic 5 session structure



Children's Institute Inc (Los Angeles)

Multiple sites around LA



People for People (Philadelphia)

One location in North Philly



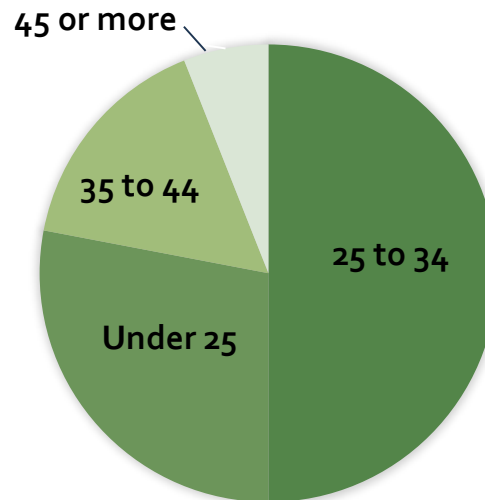
SEEDCO (New York City)

With STRIVE and Bronx Works

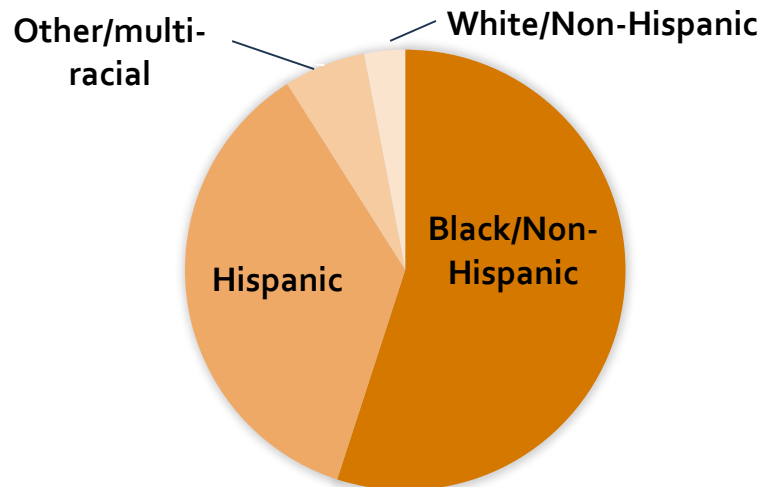
Two sites: Harlem and the Bronx

Participant Characteristics

Age (years)

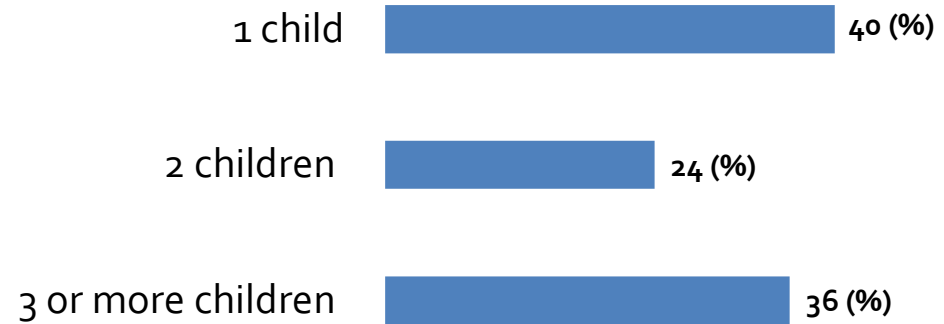


Race/ Ethnicity

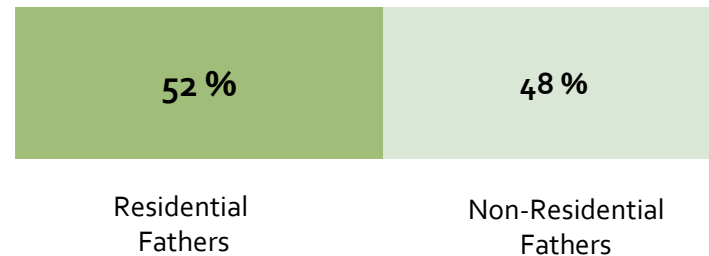


Participant Characteristics

Number of Children Under 21

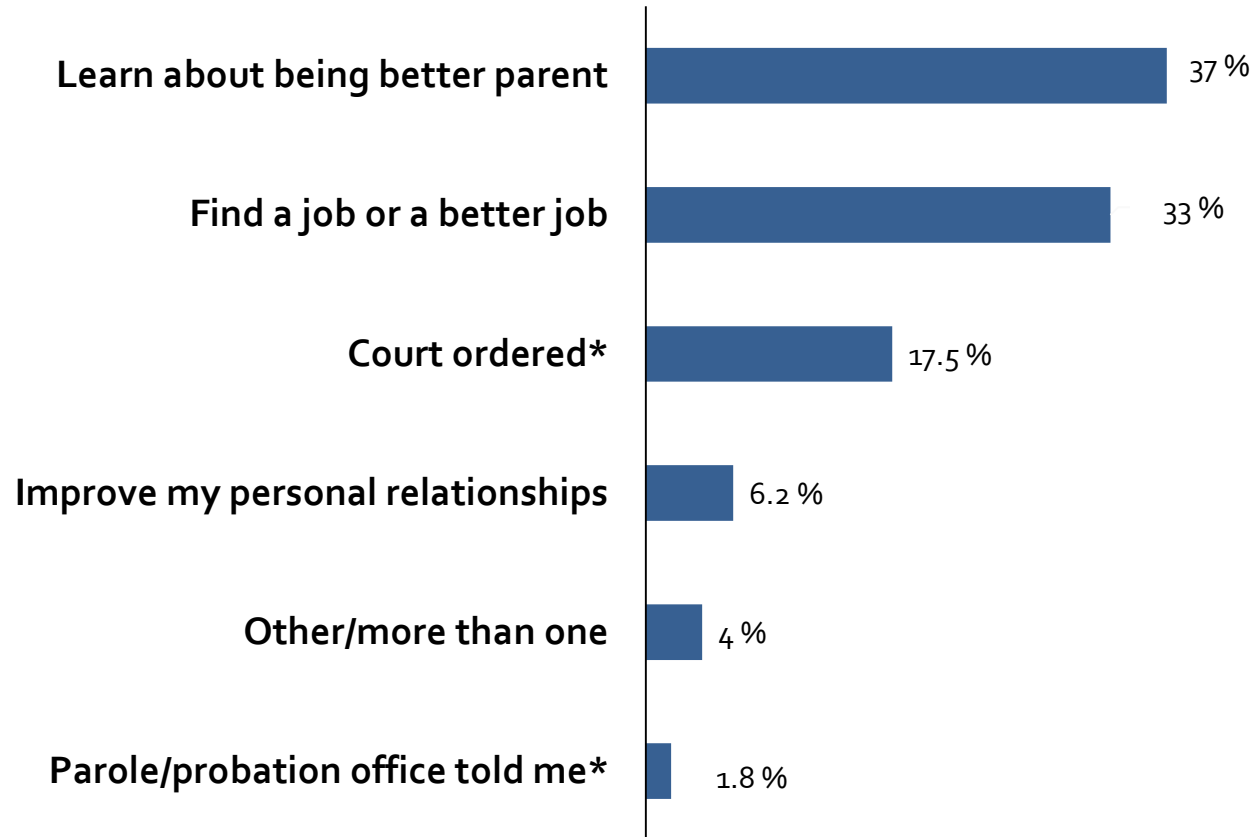


Residential Fathers



Participant Characteristics

Father's self-reported reason for enrollment, reported at baseline

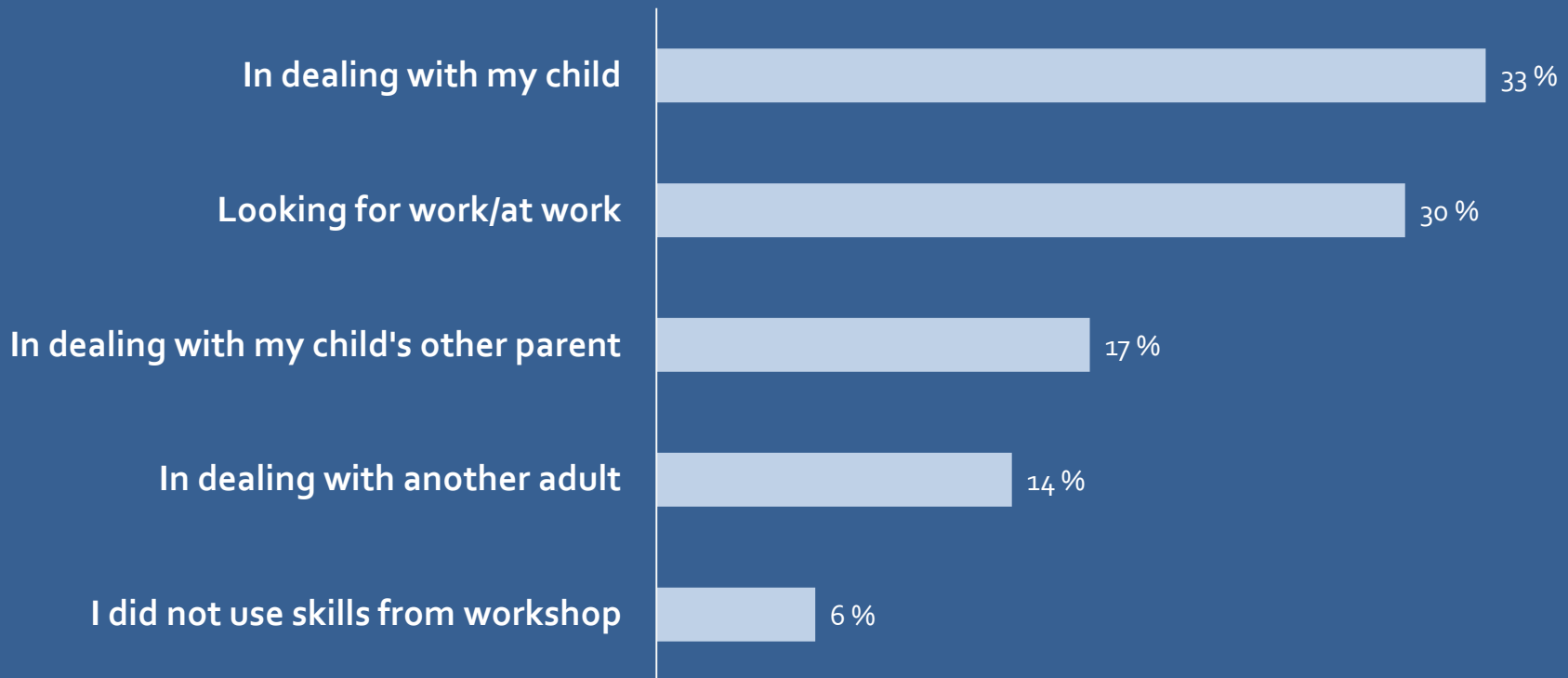


* Fathers were told by the court or their parole/probation office to participate in a program of their choosing; participation in any federally-funded Responsible Fatherhood program is always voluntary.



PARTICIPANT PERSPECTIVES

Where you have most used skills from fatherhood program?



Represents 64 text message survey respondents out of 266 possible respondents.



BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATING & STRATEGIES

Fatherhood Services Overall

- **Transportation**
 - Programs give public transportation passes
- **Other program or system requirements**
 - Coordinate with other program case managers, courts, etc.
- **Getting a job**

Specific to Just Beginning

- **Access to Child**
 - Facilitators adjusted curriculum delivery - fewer times the father has to bring child
 - Facilitator meets father/child in a more convenient location or time (weekends to accommodate working fathers)
 - Coordination with co-parent, child caregiver or CPS

QUESTIONS WE WILL BE ANSWERING IN THE COMING YEAR

- How MDRC collaborated with fathers and staff to develop a smartphone application
- Additional early implementation findings for Just Beginning and Cognitive Behavioral Employment
- Final impact results expected in 2021

For access to project publications: www.mdrc.org/b3 or <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/research/project/building-bridges-and-bonds>

For a copy of this presentation: <https://www.mdrc.org/members/presentations>

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