



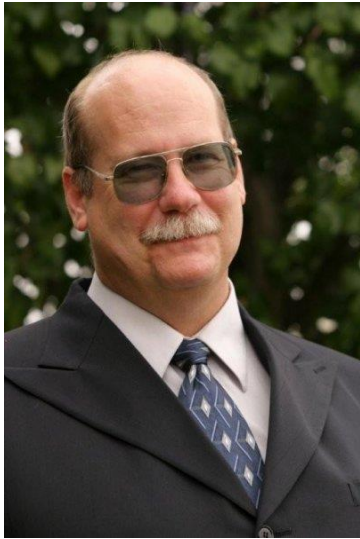
Supporting Healthy Coparenting and Intimate Relationships in Fatherhood Programs

May 23, 2022

Webinar Overview

- Coparenting and Healthy Relationship and Marriage Education for Dads (CHaRMED) Study Overview
- CHaRMED study findings
- Moderated Discussion
- Audience Q&A

Presenters



Don
Mansfield
NewDay Services



Calvin Williams
Talbert House



Joey Keefer
It's My Community
Initiative



Nolan Tsingine
JHU Azhe'é Bidziil

Presenters



Millicent
Crawford
Administration
for Children and
Families



Nicole
Constance
Administration for
Children and
Families



Andrea
Vazzano
Child Trends



Mindy Scott
Child Trends



CHaRMED Background and Overview



Study Objectives

- Better understand the approaches that fatherhood programs use to support fathers' healthy coparenting and intimate relationships
- Explore fathers' perceptions of and needs around relationship programming
- Examine whether and how programs respond to those needs

Study Methods

- Conducted a qualitative study with nine fatherhood programs, which consisted of phone interviews with:



Staff (24)



Fathers (36)



Coparents (6)

Study Sample – Programs (9)

Located in **four regions across the United States**, including Midwest (3), South (3), West (2) and Mid-Atlantic and Northeast (1)



Served fathers with a **variety of racial and ethnic identities** including serving a majority who identified as Black (3), White (3), Hispanic or Latinx (2), and American Indian or Alaska Native (1)



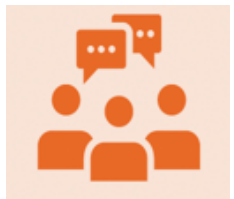
5 programs operated in **urban settings**, 2 operated in **rural settings**, and 2 operated in both urban and rural settings



6 programs **received funding** through OFA Responsible Fatherhood grants



7 programs **engaged coparents or spouses** in some way



Study Sample – Fathers (36)

The majority of fathers were either **married** or **currently in an intimate relationship** (58%) at the time of the interview



Most fathers reported **having 1-2 minor children (63%)**; Nearly one quarter of fathers reported having **3-4 children (23%)**



Over half of the fathers reported **coparenting minor children with one mother (56%)**; over a third reported **coparenting minor children with two or more mothers (36%)**



One third of fathers reported that **all of their children lived with them all or most of the time (34%)** while another third were **living apart from all of their children (34%)**





Study Findings

Key Findings



Fatherhood programs support healthy relationships through multiple services and strategies



Fathers engage in healthy relationship content once they feel connected to the program



Safe group spaces invite discussions around healthy relationships

Key Findings



Staff and participants view healthy relationship content as relevant and useful for fathers' coparenting relationships







Meaningful engagement of coparents in relationship programming is seen as beneficial, but with important tradeoffs and logistical challenges



Fathers see access to children as a key challenge in their lives, which is complicated by challenging coparenting relationships and legal and social systems

Considerations for Fatherhood Programs

-  Focus on relationship skills that are applicable across different types of relationships
-  Build comfort and camaraderie among fathers and staff before discussing healthy relationships
-  Consider models of coparent engagement that protect the fathers-only space
-  Provide supports for fathers navigating contentious coparenting relationships and systemic challenges



Voices from the Field: A Moderated Discussion

Wrap-up

- CHaRMED
Dissemination Products
- Acknowledgements

Report Released in December 2021



Coparenting and Healthy Relationship and Marriage Education for Dads (CHaRMED): *Results from a Qualitative Study of Staff and Participant Experiences in Nine Fatherhood Programs*

Andrea Vazzano, Samantha Ciaravino, Mindy E. Scott, April Wilson, Lisa Kim, Isabel Griffith, Huda Tauseef, Sydney Briggs, Michael Bradley, Victor St. John, Anushree Bhatia, and Heather Wasik

October 2021

OPRE Report 2021-196

Additional CHaRMED Products

- A **brief** of lessons learned from COVID-19 (Feb 2022)
- A **short article** highlighting study findings relevant for child welfare and other social service agencies (Jun 2022)
- A collection of **three resources** for fatherhood programs looking to better support fathers' relationships (Aug 2022)
- A **brief** providing considerations and practice-based strategies for fatherhood programs serving AIAN fathers (Aug 2022)
- A **brief** on stigma and discrimination, with practice-based resources (Aug 2022)

Acknowledgements

The CHaRMED team would like to thank everyone who has provided input on today's webinar and throughout the CHaRMED study!

Thank You!

Child Trends:

Mindy Scott (mScott@childtrends.org)

Andrea Vazzano (avazzano@childtrends.org)

OPRE:

Nicole Constance (nicole.Constance@acf.hhs.gov)

Kathleen Mccoy (kathleen.Mccoy@acf.hhs.gov)

CHaRMED project page:

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/project/coparenting-and-healthy-relationship-and-marriage-education-dads-charmed>

Other team members from Child Trends: April Wilson, Sam Ciaravino, Deana Around Him, Liz Karberg, Lisa Kim, Abigail Wulah, Isabel Griffith, Vic St. John, Mike Bradley, Sydney Briggs, Jenita Parekh, and Ilana Huz

