

Family Strengthening Initiatives in Oklahoma

Two Parent Families as a Child Poverty Reduction Strategy

Presented by:
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Presented to:
2011 Marriage & Relationship Education
Peer Learning for State Leaders
Kansas City, MO
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Outline of Presentation

- * **Why Focus on Two Parent Biological Families?**
- * **Social Services Demand Reduction**
 - * No Child Support Cases
 - * Reduce Childhood Poverty
- * **Health**
 - * Biological Parental abandonment is an Adverse Childhood Experience
- * **Explosion of Non-marital Births is a root problem**
- * **What is Marriage, Marriage Education and Family Expectations?**
- * What we are learning: The **Unmarried Couples Quadrant**
- * Lessons from **Centenarians**

SOCIAL SERVICES DEMAND REDUCTION

- * Current demands exceed our capacity to meet them.
- * Record levels of SNAP participation
- * Record levels of Medicaid participation
- * Record
- * BUDGET CUTS are a continuing reality
- * Two parent families have less social services needs
- * NO CHILD SUPPORT CASES FOR COUPLES WHO ARE TOGETHER

2009 Census Child Poverty Rates

Table 4. Poverty Status of Families, by Type of Family, Presence of Related Children, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1959 to 2009

Year and Characteristic	All Families		Married-Couple Families		Male Householder No Wife Present		Female Householder No Husband Present	
	Total	Below Poverty Level Number Percent	Total	Below Poverty Level Number Percent	Total	Below Poverty Level Number Percent	Total	Below Poverty Level Number Percent
ALL RACES - With and Without Children Under 18 Years	78,867	8,792 11.1	58,428	3,408 5.8	5,082	842 16.9	14,897	4,441 29.9
ALL RACES - With Children Under 18 Years	38,820	6,630 17.1	26,119	2,161 8.3	2,829	670 23.7	9,872	3,800 38.5
WHITE ALONE - With and Without Children Under 18 Years	64,145	5,994 9.3	50,180	2,684 5.4	4,196	620 15.0	9,769	2,671 27.3
WHITE ALONE - With Children Under 18 Years	33,119	4,413 13.3	21,713	1,687 7.8	2,100	554 26.1	6,300	2,272 36.1
WHITE ALONE, NOT HISPANIC - With and Without Children Under 18 Years	64,481	5,994 9.3	50,180	2,684 5.4	4,196	620 15.0	9,769	2,671 27.3
WHITE ALONE, NOT HISPANIC - With Children Under 18 Years	33,119	4,413 13.3	21,713	1,687 7.8	2,100	554 26.1	6,300	2,272 36.1
BLACK ALONE OR IN COMBINATION - With and Without Children Under 18 Years	23,589	2,553 10.8	17,582	854 4.9	1,550	286 18.5	4,449	1,412 31.7
BLACK ALONE OR IN COMBINATION - With Children Under 18 Years	8,600	2,183 25.4	5,244	1,156 22.0	496	156 31.5	4,264	1,569 36.8
BLACK ALONE OR IN COMBINATION - With Children Under 18 Years	5,877	1,767 29.9	3,544	1,114 31.4	341	116 33.7	3,079	1,365 44.3
BLACK ALONE - With and Without Children Under 18 Years	3,367	2,125 63.1	4,276	366 8.6	939	234 25.0	4,152	1,524 36.7
BLACK ALONE - With Children Under 18 Years	1,690	2,150 126.6	1,787	304 17.0	1,244	156 12.5	1,324	412 31.1
ASIAN ALONE OR IN COMBINATION - With and Without Children Under 18 Years	3,742	359 9.6	2,857	239 8.0	1,000	34 3.4	481	87 18.0
ASIAN ALONE OR IN COMBINATION - With Children Under 18 Years	2,072	238 11.5	1,658	153 9.0	100	21 20.7	274	64 23.4
ASIAN ALONE - With and Without Children Under 18 Years	1,576	220 13.9	1,156	145 12.5	145	92 63.4	248	56 22.6
ASIAN ALONE - With Children Under 18 Years	5,877	1,726 29.4	4,397	876 19.9	606	183 30.2	2,055	945 46.0
HISPANIC (of any race) - With and Without Children Under 18 Years	10,422	2,369 22.7	6,593	1,054 16.0	1,081	249 23.0	2,748	1,066 38.8
HISPANIC (of any race) - With Children Under 18 Years	7,058	2,004 28.4	4,397	876 19.9	606	183 30.2	2,055	945 46.0

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Child Poverty for all Married Couples with children: 8.3%

All Male Headed households with Children: 23.7%

All Female Headed households with Children: 38.5%

Lowest Female Headed household with children: Asian: 22.5%

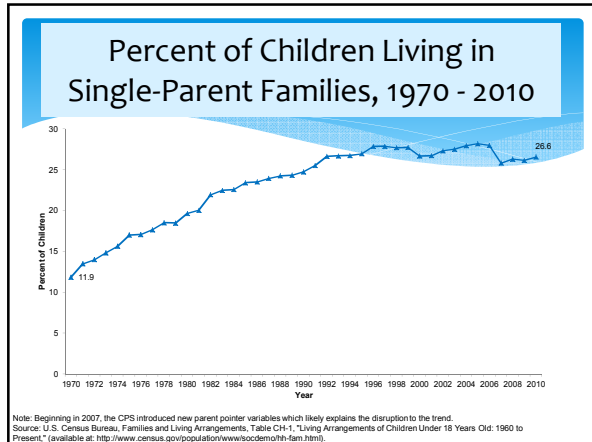
Highest Child Poverty for Married Couples with children: Hispanics: 19.9%

Differences in Non-marital Births by Mother's Education and Ethnicity, 1968 or 1969 – 2008

Differences: Education

Differences: Ethnicity

Source: (Education) Author's tabulations from the March Current Population Survey. (Ethnicity) Data prior to 1994 are from Stephanie J. Ventura and Christine A. Bachrach, "Nonmarital Childbearing in the United States, 1940-99," National Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 48, No. 16, October 2000 (available at: <http://cdc.gov/nchs/data/mr/mr48n16.pdf>). Data for 1994 through 2008 are from the National Vital Statistics System, National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control (available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/ndof/ndof.htm>). Note: Values prior to 1980 are estimated. See Ventura and Bachrach (2000) for further details.



HEALTH: www.theACEstudy.com

Loss of a Biological Parent in Childhood: An Adverse Childhood Experience

What happened to your father?
(Patient has lost 158 lbs in Weight Program)



What is

- * **Marriage**
 - * Focus on **outcomes for children** who get the benefit of **BOTH biological parents**
 - * CORE Keys:
 - * **Cash:** Employment means marriageable
 - * **Commitment:** A promise that survives many technical defaults
 - * **Communication:** A teachable skill – teaching each other the importance of FEELING heard

What is

- * **Marriage Education**
 - * Prevention and Relationship Education Program (PREP)
 - * Used by all branches of the military for more than 30 years.
 - * Train the Trainer Model
 - * Widely studied internationally
 - * Only curriculum recognized by SAMSA as a promising practice for Marriage and Relationship Education (MRE)

What is

What We Are Learning: The Research FOCUS: Child Well-Being and Health

- * **The Research Journey** of finding Answers to Child Well-being and childhood poverty reduction for the next generation of children:
 - * Abecedarian:
 - * Adverse Childhood Experiences
 - * The Fragile Families Studies
 - * THE FOCUS GROUP – THE PLAN – “Becoming Parents”
 - * THE UNMARRIEDS STUDY – BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES
 - * THE MARRIEDS STUDY - HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS & MARRIAGE

What We Are Learning: Working Thesis of Family Expectations

- * **Pregnancy is a teachable moment**
- * **Pregnancy should NOT be considered primarily a medical procedure, but, SHOULD BE a “FAMILY CREATING EVENT”**
- * Most (80%) low income unmarried pregnant couples want to have a healthy family, even want to marry, but, don’t see how they can get there.

What We Are Learning: The Family Expectations Intervention

- * Couples get a “life coach” or “case manager” until child turns one.
 - * Employment; substance abuse; etc.
- * 30 hours of class for moms AND dads, whether married or not taught in cohorts of 12 to 15 couples
 - * Ten week nights of three hours or six weekends of five hours
 - * “Makeup classes” liberally available
 - * “Dose” matters
 - * 12 hours of PREP, the Prevention, Relationship Enrichment Program (the only MRE curriculum designated by SAMHSA as a “promising practice”
 - * Curriculum fidelity is monitored
 - * Child Support services explained
 - * Fatherhood explained
 - * On site child care
 - * Family Budgeting
 - * Infant care for dads
- * Supporting your partner – understanding post partum experiences including depression and planning the care of the child

What We Are Learning: The Family Expectations Randomized Studies

- * OKC site is the only site in both studies
 - * Building Strong Families (BSF) – Unmarried couples
 - * Healthy Relationships and Marriage (HRM) – married couples
 - * <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/project/strengthFamilyProjects.jsp>
- * OKC site oversampled
 - * 500 **unmarried** couples in a “control group”
 - * 500 **unmarried** couples in an “intervention group.”
 - * 500 **married** couples in a “control group”
 - * 500 **married** couples in an “intervention group
 - * 2,000 children will be assessed at age three
 - * All participants have been identified, served and are now being tracked
 - * Services continue to non-study involved couples to sustain the going concern value of the intervention

What We Are Learning: Initial Findings From BSF in Oklahoma

- * 15 months after enrollment an assessment of the unmarried couples
- * http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/strengthen/build_fam/reports/unmarried_parents/15_impact_exec_summ.pdf
- * OKC site is the only site among unmarried couples that showed statistically significant results 15 months after enrollment
 - * 82% of intervention couples were still together
 - * 75% of control group couples were together
 - * Relationship quality is significantly different
 - * KEY: How well do relationships survive after 36 months AND;
 - * How do the children of the two groups do?

What We Are Learning: Unmarried Couples Services Quadrant Assessment Tool

The diagram is a 2x2 grid with 'Family Expectations; Marriage' in the top-right quadrant and 'Co-Parenting and Child Support' in the bottom-left quadrant. The top-left quadrant is labeled 'Interventive Parents: Couples with no Parental Relationship, Both Parents Involved with Child' and the bottom-right is 'Couples in Relationship, Both Parents Involved with Child'. The bottom-left quadrant is labeled 'Prosecute Paternity and Child Support' and the bottom-right is 'Really?: Need More Assessment'.



- ### Learn More: Other Resources
- * www.familiesok.org
 - * www.marriageok.org
 - * http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/strengthen/build_fam/reports/unmarried_parents/15_impact_exec_summary.pdf
 - * [Promises I can keep; Why low income women choose motherhood over marriage](#) by Kathy Edins (Harvard University Professor) from her work with the Fragile Family study
 - * [Generation at Risk](#) by Paul Amato (Penn State University sociologist) -- Children of divorce have the highest rates of cohabitation

Lessons from Centenarian Couples

Roy Adams
Age: 101
October 30, 1905

Bertha Nally Adams
Age: 102
August 30, 1905
Pryor, Oklahoma

Longest Married
Married: July 18, 1927
80 years

Bertha's secret to a happy marriage: "He's the boss sometimes. Sometimes he isn't."

John Haskell Gower
Age: 99
September 9, 1907

Helen Vap Gower
Age: 103
July 20, 1903
Ponca City, Oklahoma

Married: 73 years in January 2007

Mr. Gower: "We never had any problems we couldn't agree on. It's very important to marry the right woman. If you had to do it over, would you marry me again?"

Mrs. Gower: "Three or four times more."

Hal Zachary
Age: 101
August 5, 1906

Mickey Campbell Zachary
Age: 100
March 21, 1907
Cement, Oklahoma

Mr. Zachary is the former Cement School Superintendent. He quotes poetry and scripture to Mrs. Zachary. They are still very much in love.