

The Children's Trust Fund
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2023-2024
Alabama Department of Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention
**Fatherhood Program
Evaluation Report**

2023-2024

Strengthening Families Through Fatherhood Initiative

Programs utilized the evidence-based curriculum 24/7 DADS

“

I decided to make a life changing decision this year. I signed myself up for the Work Force Program, it has helped my family so much! My children see their mother determined and trying to make sure they are going to have a great life. So, I am determined, and I worked super hard throughout the program, and I found a job through the end of the program which is an absolute blessing.

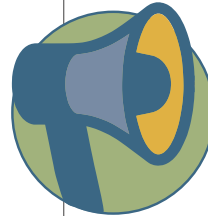
”



251 re-entry participants were served

24

fatherhood programs for parents were provided across the state of Alabama



Over **12,900** individuals impacted by public awareness activities



Nearly

\$4.4 million

awarded through a competitive grant process to community-based agencies to support fatherhood programs



1,539

participants enrolled in a new educational or skills training

570

participants who were referred by the court system



464

participants received a vocational training certificate

Partnerships:

Alabama Community College System

Alabama DHR Child Support Division

Alabama Bureau of Pardons and Paroles

Alabama Career Center System

Alabama Department of Mental Health

AlabamaWorks!

Auburn University College of Human Sciences

Children's Services

Feeding the Gulf Coast

Additionally, volunteers in roles such as tutors, mentors, and counselors provide services to program participants.



703

participants received other educational or skills certification

119

participants earned a GED



265

participants were **incarcerated or in a prison re-entry program** at time of participation

443

participants acquired **new employment** during the program

“

I have had the opportunity to complete the [fatherhood] course. I have met and networked with many different people that I probably would not have known otherwise. This class has helped me with communication skills and working together with others. I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of this program, and it has helped me reach my future goals.

”



2023-2024 Fatherhood Evaluation Report

The Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention (ADCANP), also referred to as the Children's Trust Fund (CTF), and the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR) Family Services, acknowledges the significant roles of mothers and fathers in childrearing.

The mission of ADCANP is to seek and secure resources to fund evidence-based community programs committed to the prevention of child maltreatment. They are an advocate for children and enhance the strengthening of families. The mission of DHR is to provide for the protection, well-being, and self-sufficiency of children and adults, as legislated by various state and federal codes. The mission and vision of both state agencies are aligned: to strengthen and enhance the lives of children and families across Alabama. ADCANP and DHR are at the forefront in both funding and the evaluation of fatherhood programs developed to strengthen families in the state.

Twenty-four programs around the state funded through a partnership between DHR, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and ADCANP, provided support and services targeting nonresidential fathers that emphasized job skills training, employment, compliance with child support payment obligation, as well as skills for effective parenting and coparenting relationships. Fathers met with facilitators or case workers one-on-one and in groups with other fathers. Mothers were also welcomed to attend. Group meetings were educational sessions that included family activities that promote better parent-child relationships.

Participants completed programs between October 2023 and September 2024 and responded to evaluation surveys that assessed information about the participants, their adverse and positive childhood experiences, their current functioning, and their experiences in the program. We provide here the results of the analyses of the data collected.

Central to the evaluation of program effects we provided on the survey a list of 29 possible perceived benefits that fatherhood program grantees target for impact. These potential benefits are grouped within the protective factors of the Strengthening Families™ Protective Factor Framework that suggests the benefits for children when parents have parent resilience, knowledge of parenting and child development, concrete support in times of need, social and emotional competence of children, and social connections.

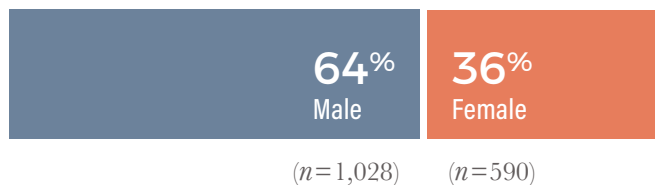


Fatherhood Programs

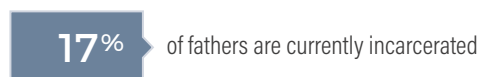
Fatherhood Programs Demographics

Average Age: **36**

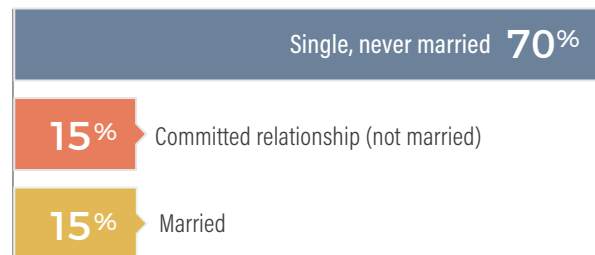
Gender:



Incarceration:



Relationship Status:

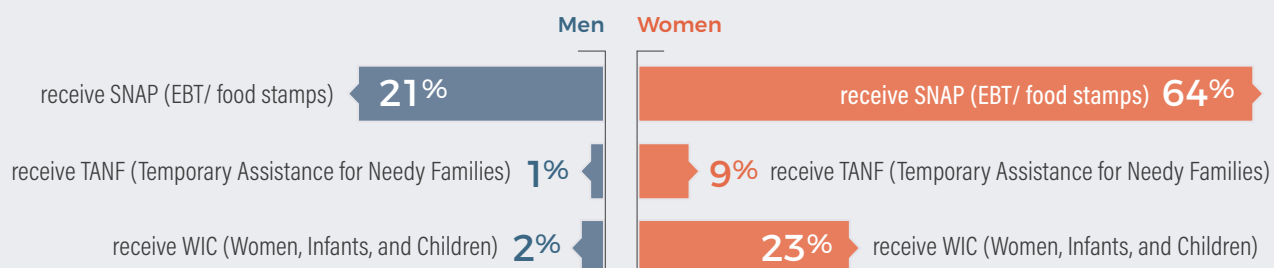


Additionally: 22% have been divorced

Of those with a child support obligation:



Public Assistance:



Race & Ethnicity:

60% are African American/Black
33% are European American/White
2% are Bi-racial
2% are Native American
1% are Asian American
2% identify as some other race

2% identified as Hispanic/Latino

Education Level:

23% Did not finish High School
63% High School/GED
8% Trade/Technical
3% Associate's degree
2% Bachelor's degree
1% Master's degree/advanced Degrees

Number of Children*:

8% have 0 Children
22% have 1 Child
25% have 2 Children
17% have 3 Children
11% have 4 Children
17% have 5 or more Children

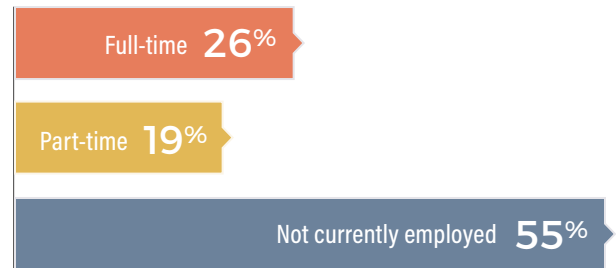
Of those who reported having children, 7% indicated having at least one child with special needs.

* Includes biological, step, adopted, foster, and grandchildren • 15% reported having stepchildren • 8% reported having grandchildren • Less than 1% reported having foster children • 2% reported having adopted children

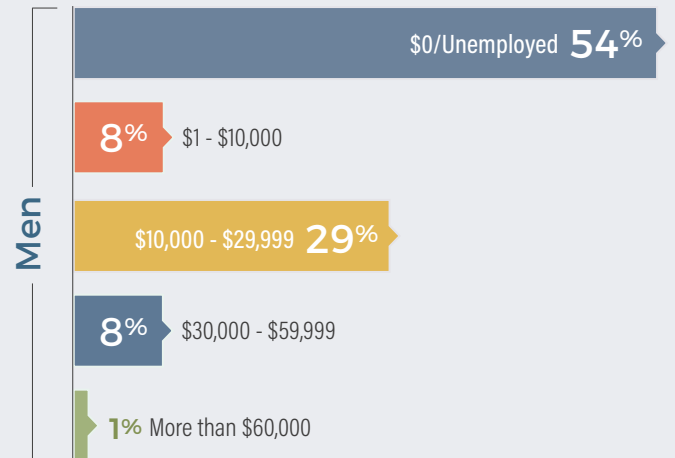
Fatherhood Programs Demographics



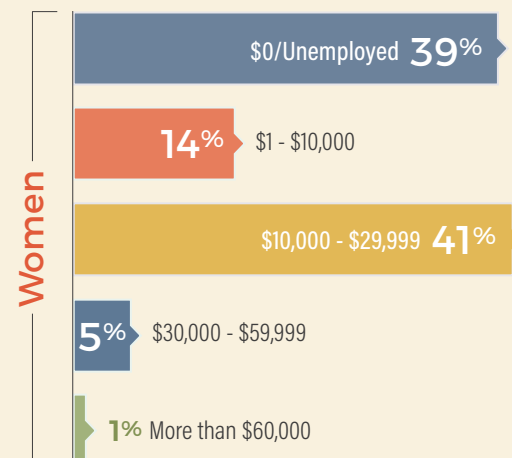
Job Status:



Annual Income:



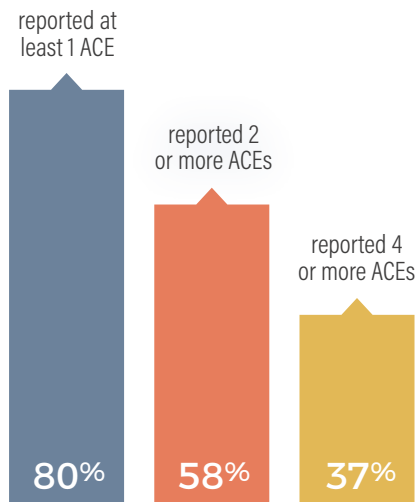
Annual Income:



Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are potentially traumatic events that occur before the age of 18, and include events such as abuse, neglect, parental incarceration, and household challenges (CDC, 2022). These experiences can make it more challenging in adulthood to maintain mental and physical health, stable relationships, and economic self-sufficiency. A national survey (Child Trends, 2018) suggests that 27% of children in Alabama experienced 2 or more ACEs; however, participants in CTF-funded fatherhood programs represent an even more vulnerable population, with 58% of parents reporting they experienced 2 or more ACEs.

ACEs Score Totals:



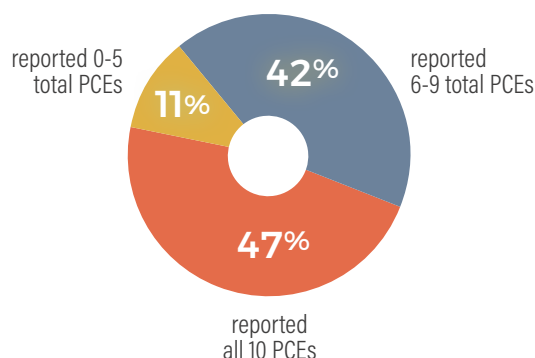
Using the standard 10-item Adverse Childhood Experiences Scale, we found that:

- 65% experienced parental divorce
- 35% experienced verbal abuse
- 28% experienced emotional abuse
- 26% experienced physical abuse
- 16% experienced sexual abuse
- 17% experienced neglect
- 26% experienced witnessing family violence
- 37% experienced exposure to substance abuse
- 31% experienced family member with mental health challenge
- 31% experienced a family member being incarcerated

Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs)

While it is valuable to document the challenges that fatherhood program participants have experienced, it was recognized by the evaluation team that completing the Adverse Childhood Experiences Scale (ACEs) can be difficult for individuals and requires focus on past challenges, trauma, and deficits. Using a strengths-based approach, the evaluation team also expected that participants experienced important positive experiences in childhood as well. Participants responded to items on the Positive Childhood Experiences Scale (PCEs) and reported on their own childhood experiences that foster growth and well-being and serve as a protective factor in the prevention of ACEs for their own children (CDC, 2022).

PCEs Score Totals:



Using the standard 10-item Positive Childhood Experiences Scale, we found that:

- 93% had at least one parent or caregiver with whom they felt safe
- 92% had at least one good friend
- 84% had beliefs that gave them comfort
- 71% liked school
- 85% had at least one teacher who cared about them
- 85% had good neighbors
- 89% had opportunities to have a good time
- 81% liked themselves or felt comfortable with themselves
- 79% had a predictable home routine, like regular meals and a regular bedtime
- 83% had another adult (not a parent or caregiver) who could provide them with support and advice

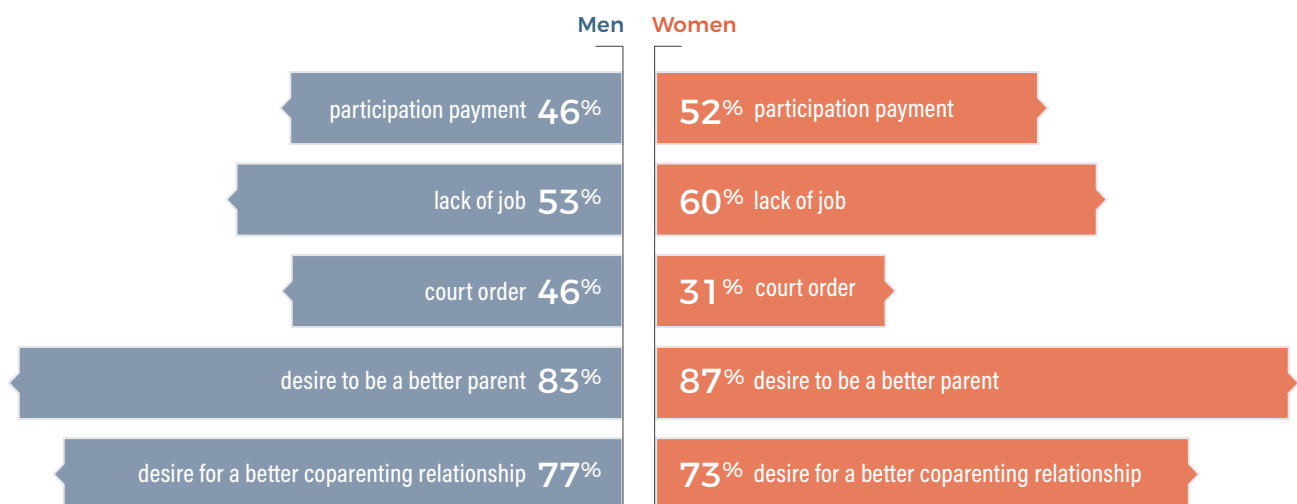
Fatherhood Programs Results



After program completion, participants were asked to select from a list of possible benefits received from the program.

Factors that Influenced Participants' Decision to Participate in Program

(respondents could pick more than one)

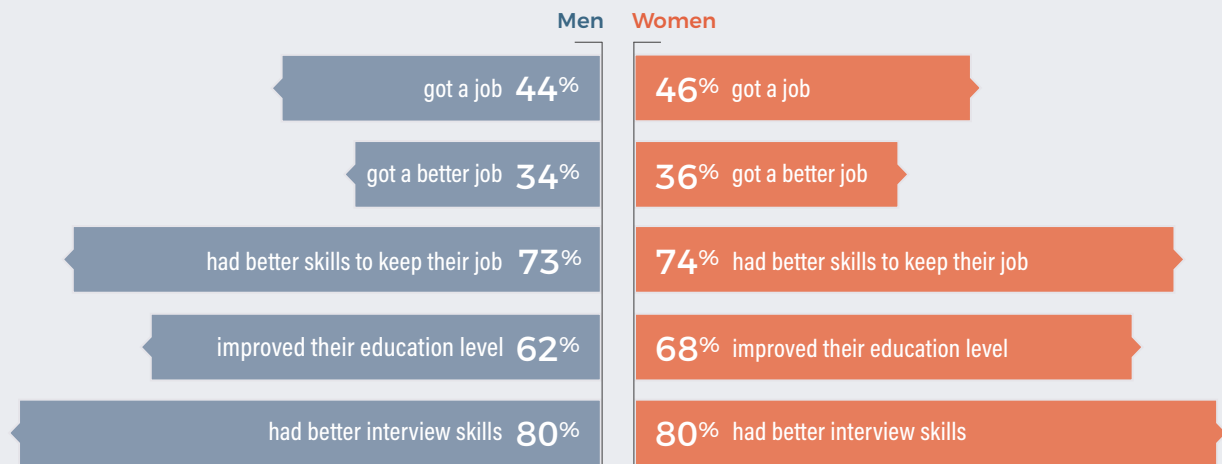




Workforce Development Improvement

87% Fathers & 90% Mothers

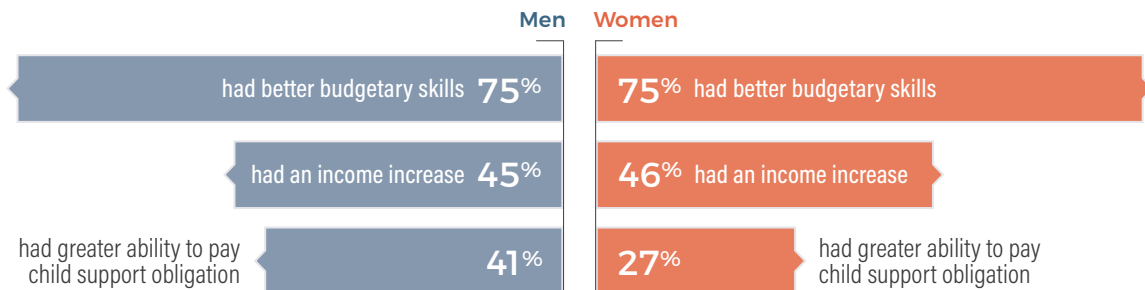
Experienced Workforce Development Improvement. Specifically:



Financial Benefit

80% Fathers & 78% Mothers

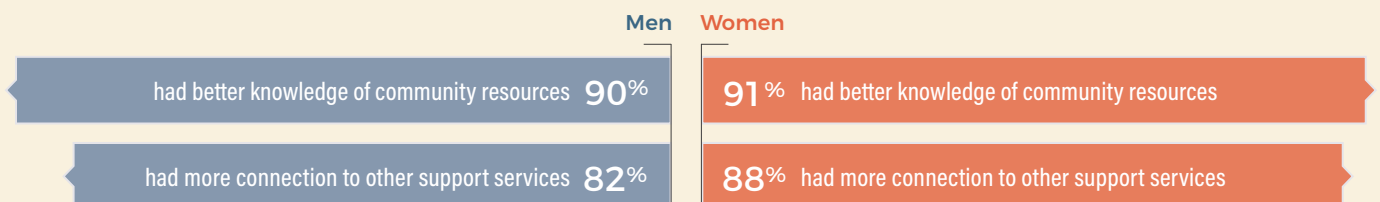
Experienced Financial Benefit. Specifically:



Greater Access to Community Resources

92% Fathers & 93% Mothers

Experienced Greater Access to Community Resources. Specifically:

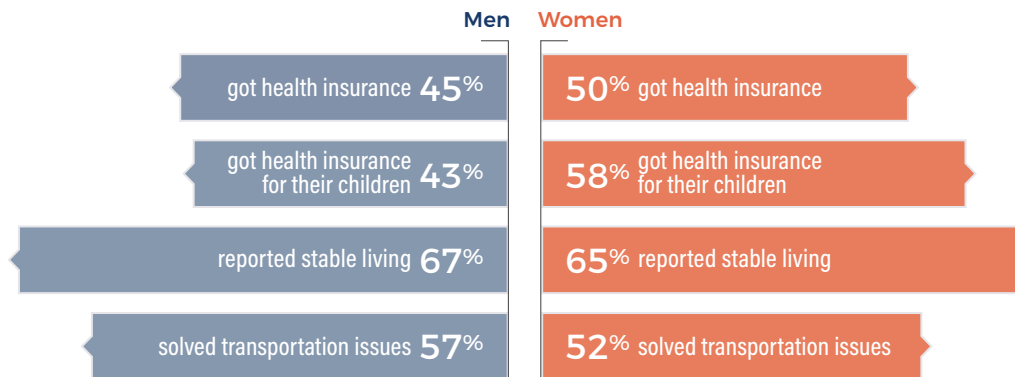




Improved Basic Needs

78% Fathers & 73% Mothers

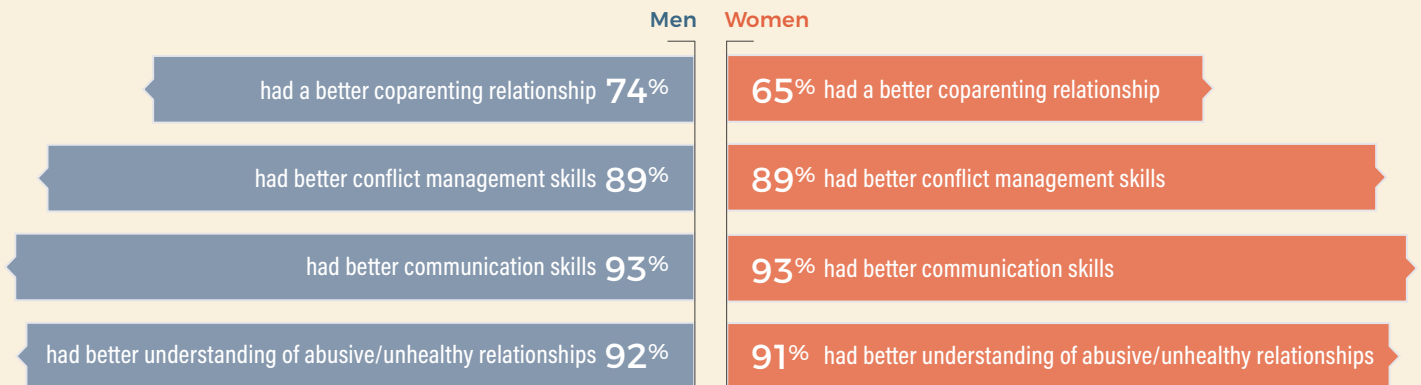
Experienced Improved Basic Needs. Specifically:



Better Adult Relationship Skills

96% Fathers & 95% Mothers

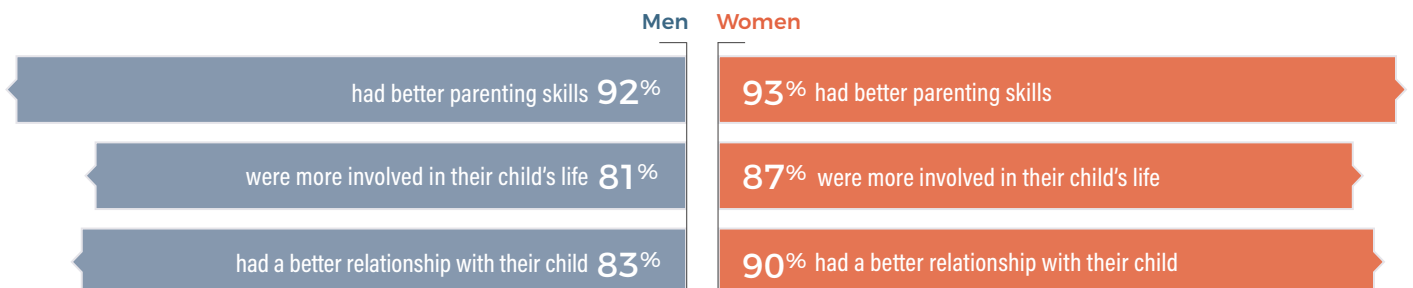
Experienced Better Adult Relationship Skills. Specifically:



Improved Parenting

92% Fathers & 93% Mothers

Experienced Improved Parenting. Specifically:

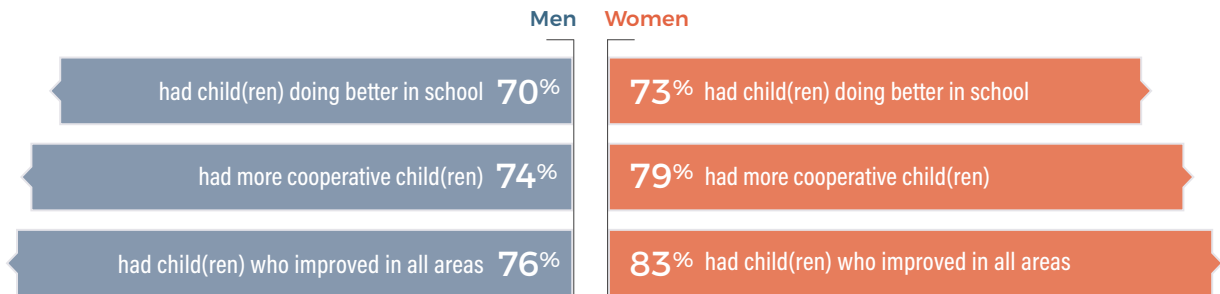




Improved Child Functioning

80% Fathers & 86% Mothers

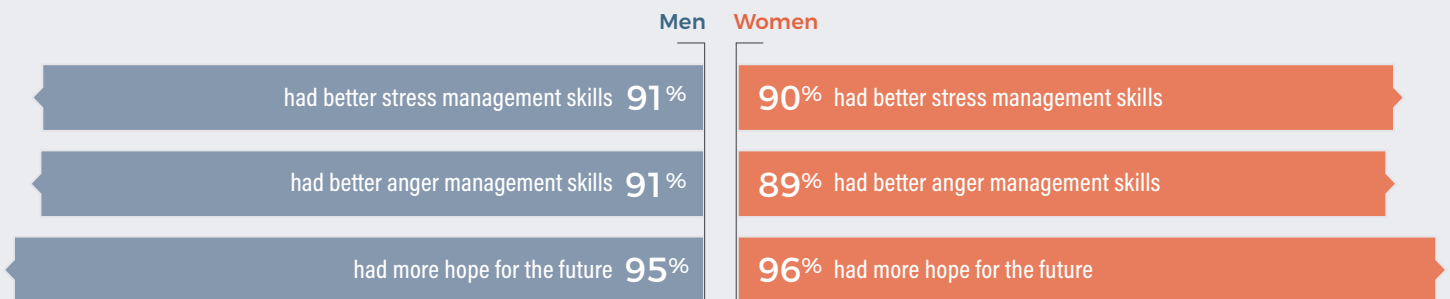
Experienced Improved Child Functioning. Specifically:



Better Coping Skills

96% Fathers & 96% Mothers

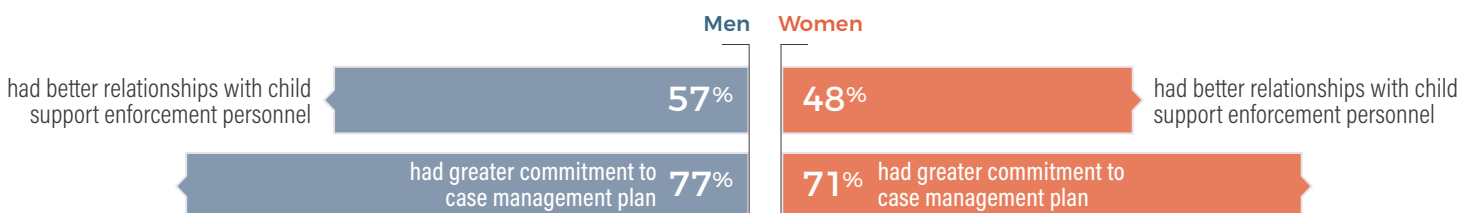
Experienced Better Coping Skills. Specifically:



Cooperation with Court System

79% Fathers & 73% Mothers

Improved Cooperation with Court System. Specifically:



2023-2024 TANF Evaluation Report

submitted in January 2025 by:

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