

Pathways to Responsible Fatherhood

REPORT



OCTOBER 2014 - SEPTEMBER 2015

OVERVIEW

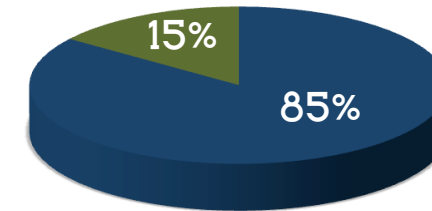
Pathways to Responsible Fatherhood is funded by a 4-year grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Family Assistance. It is currently a partnership between The Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention and 14 community-based organizations around the state who help fathers improve their relationship with their spouses, significant others, and/or the mothers of their children, become better parents, and contribute to the financial well-being of their children through job training. The positive changes among adult participants are outlined in areas of healthy marriage, responsible parenting and economic stability.



METHODS

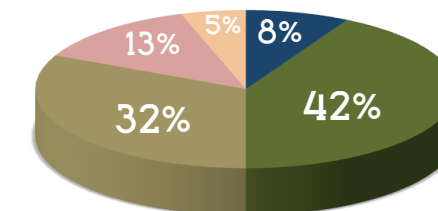
Participants. The sample for these analyses is drawn from the 3,363 participants who participated in the relationship education classes provided by grantees of the Fatherhood Initiative between October 2014 and September 2015. The sample is diverse and consists of:

GENDER



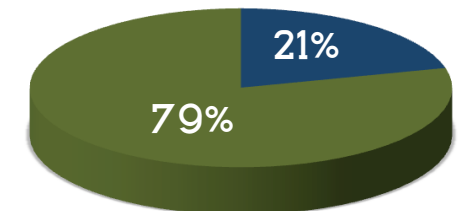
Female
Male

AGE



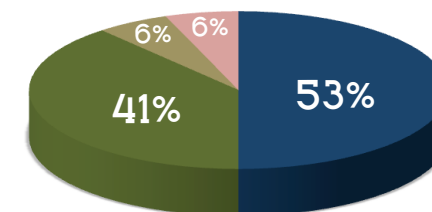
55 and older
45-54 yrs old
35-44 yrs old
25-34 yrs old
24 and under

MARITAL STATUS



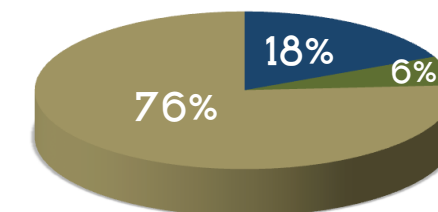
Not Married
Married

RACE



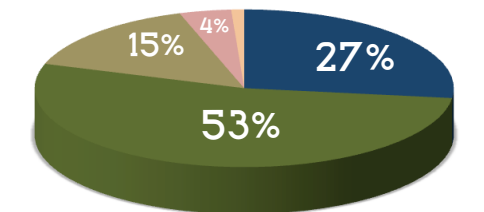
Hispanic (of any race)
Biracial or Other
Caucasian
African-American

JOB STATUS



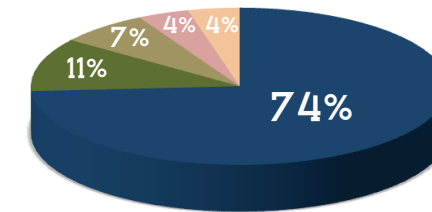
Did Not Work For Pay
Part Time
Full Time

EDUCATION



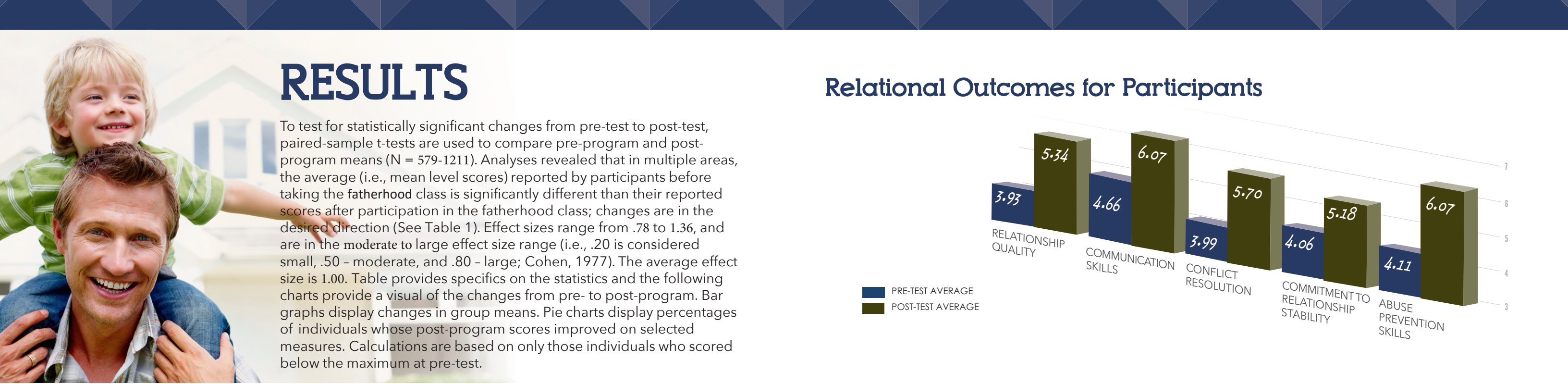
Advanced Degree
4yr College Degree
2yr College Degree
High School/GED
Did not finish H.S.

INCOME



\$40,000 and Higher
\$30,000-39,999
\$20,000-29,999
\$10,000-19,999
Under \$10,000

Measures. The adult intake and post-program questionnaires include demographic questions and multi-item measures to assess individual and couple functioning (i.e., knowledge, attitude, skills, relational quality), financial management skills, and parenting skills.



RESULTS

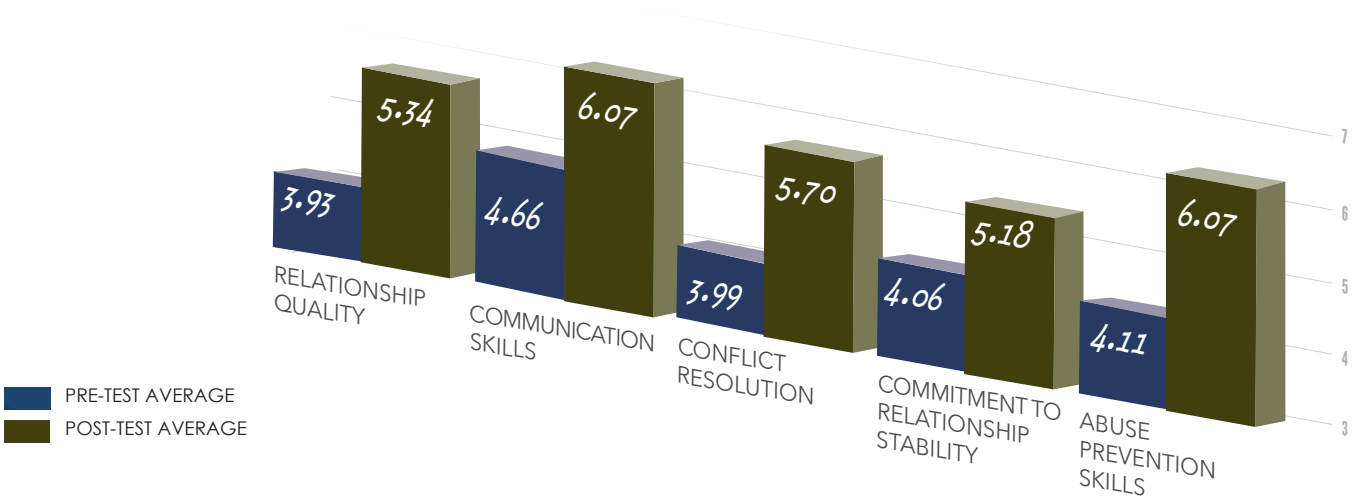
To test for statistically significant changes from pre-test to post-test, paired-sample t-tests are used to compare pre-program and post-program means (N = 579-1211). Analyses revealed that in multiple areas, the average (i.e., mean level scores) reported by participants before taking the fatherhood class is significantly different than their reported scores after participation in the fatherhood class; changes are in the desired direction (See Table 1). Effect sizes range from .78 to 1.36, and are in the moderate to large effect size range (i.e., .20 is considered small, .50 - moderate, and .80 - large; Cohen, 1977). The average effect size is 1.00. Table provides specifics on the statistics and the following charts provide a visual of the changes from pre- to post-program. Bar graphs display changes in group means. Pie charts display percentages of individuals whose post-program scores improved on selected measures. Calculations are based on only those individuals who scored below the maximum at pre-test.

Table 1. Paired Sample T-test for mean change over time.

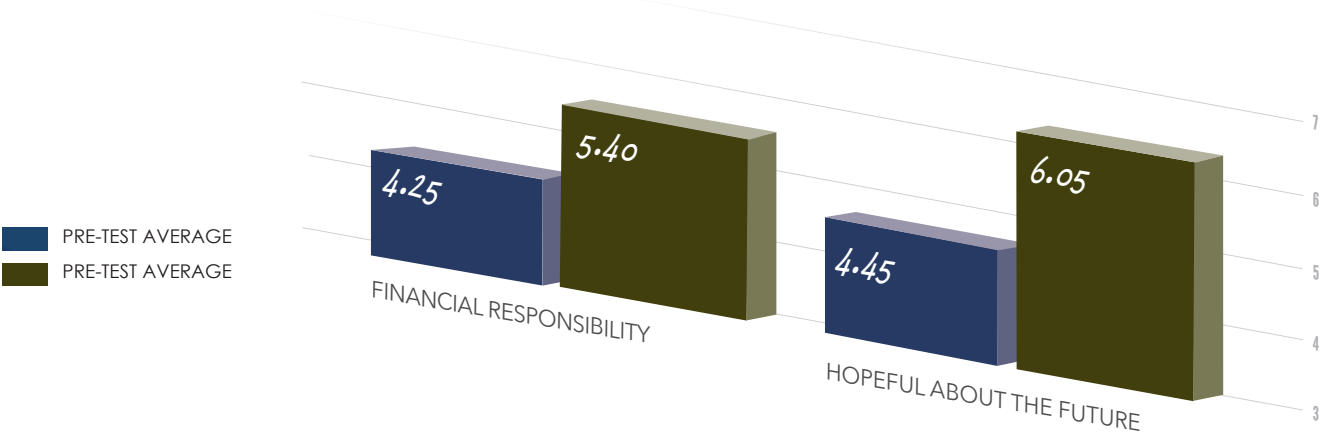
	Pre-Test		Post-Test		df	t	Cohen's d
	M	SD	M	SD			
Relational Skills							
Relationship Quality	3.93	1.64	5.34	1.70	659	-23.74***	.92
Communication	4.66	1.34	6.07	.93	792	-30.15***	1.07
Conflict Resolution	3.99	1.46	5.70	1.17	836	-32.61***	1.13
Commitment to Relationship Stability	4.06	1.57	5.18	1.69	749	-20.93***	.76
Abuse Prevention Skills	4.11	1.48	6.07	1.12	578	-29.12***	1.21
Individual Strengths							
Financial Responsibility	4.25	1.24	5.40	.99	1210	-30.69***	.88
Hopeful About Future	4.45	1.41	6.05	1.05	1036	-35.75***	1.11
Parenting							
Cooperation with Child Support Personnel	3.93	1.68	5.23	1.87	668	-20.29***	.78
Positive Parenting Behavior	4.88	1.35	6.11	1.19	988	-30.23***	.96
Commitment to Pay Full Child Support	3.64	1.56	5.12	1.98	684	-22.22***	.85
Commitment to Fatherhood	4.87	1.18	6.43	1.00	710	-36.13***	1.36

a. Mean level scores differed in the expected, desired direction and were statistically significant;
*** p < .001. Cohen's d reported in absolute values.

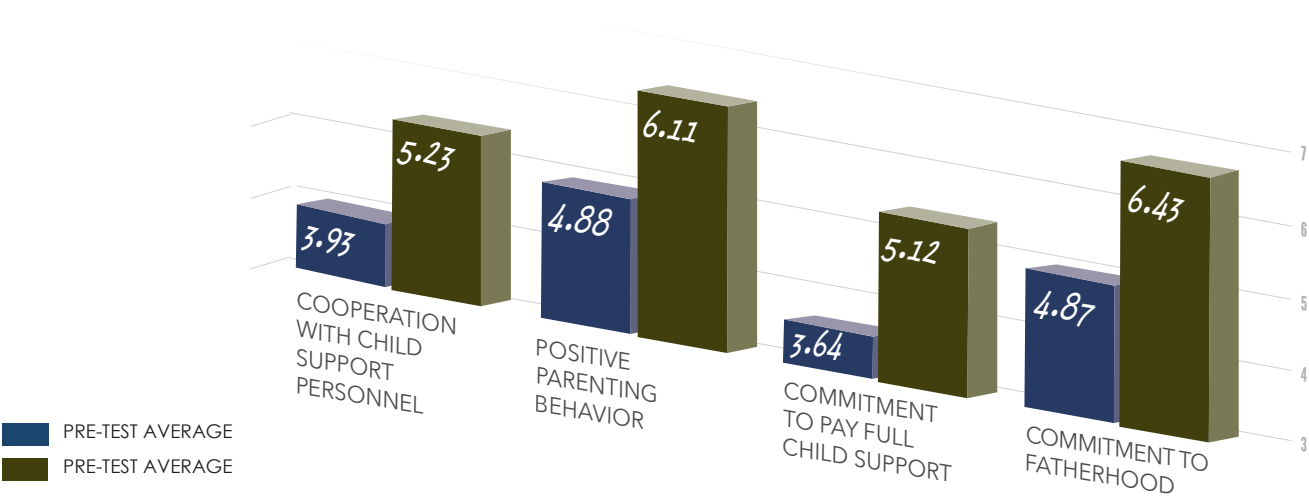
Relational Outcomes for Participants



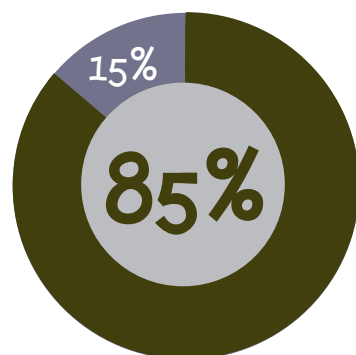
Individual Outcomes for Participants



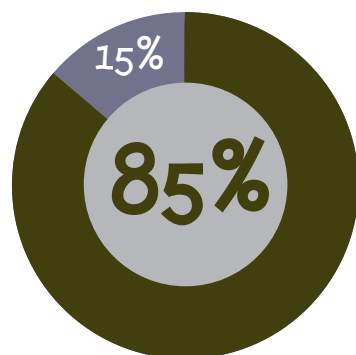
Parenting Outcomes for Participants



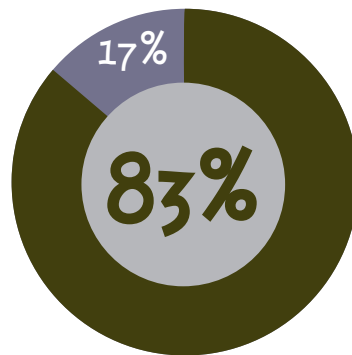
Communication



Conflict Resolution



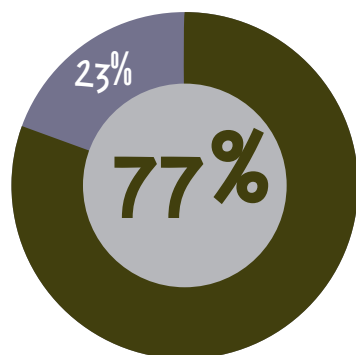
Abuse Prevention



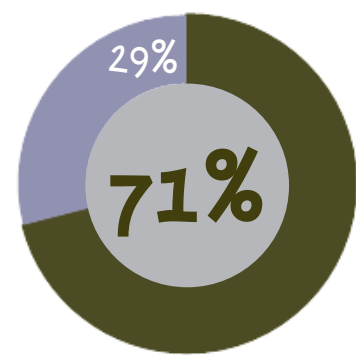
DISCUSSION

Results provide empirical evidence that participants showed *statistically significant improvements in a number of targeted outcome areas: commitment to fatherhood and paying child support; understanding of abuse prevention, understanding of child support enforcement, financial responsibility, parenting knowledge and skills, quality of relationships with their children and coparents, overall family functioning, and hopefulness for the future.* Because comparison groups were not utilized, we cannot say definitively that these patterns of change were solely due to program participation; however, the average effect size of 1.00 is large and can be interpreted as a “practical” and “meaningful” shift following participation in a short-term educational program (i.e., > .25; Wolfe, 1986). Empirically documented shifts in these key areas of individual and family functioning point to the value of offering fatherhood programs within Alabama communities.

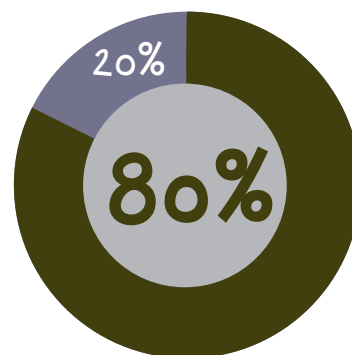
Financial Management



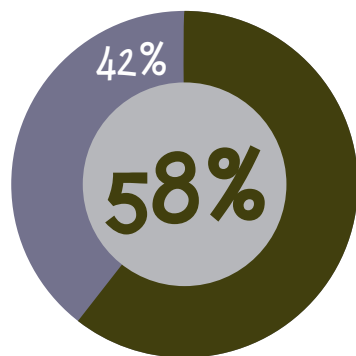
Relationship Stability



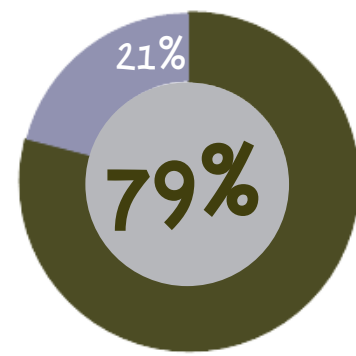
Hope for the Future



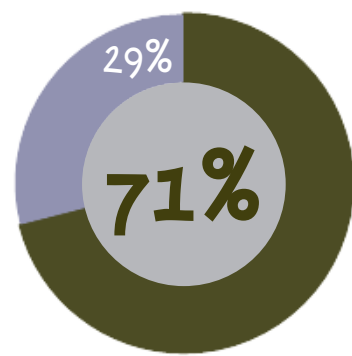
Commitment to Child Support



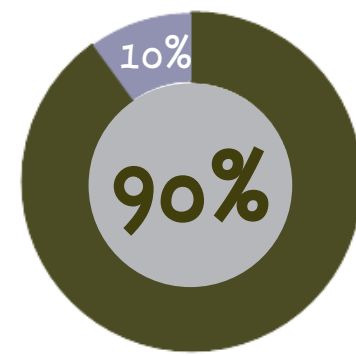
Positive Parenting Behavior



Partner/Co-Parent Relationship Quality



Commitment to Fatherhood



 % who changed in the desired direction
 % who did not change in desired direction





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