

# THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT PREVENTION

## Evaluation Report

### Executive Summary



#### Impact On Adult Participants

**19,114 adults** in Alabama received services through five types of ADCANP/CTF-funded programs: parent education, home visiting, respite care, fatherhood, and public awareness and training. The population served were primarily parents of lower resources, based on work status, education level, and income reported. An additional **319,528 parents and professionals** participated in community awareness programs.

Four primary funding sources provide support: The Community Based Child Abuse Prevention Program (CBCAP), The Children First Trust Fund (CFTF), The Education Trust Fund (ETF), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

An independent Evaluation Team from Auburn University's Human Development and Family Science Department documented the outreach and effectiveness of these programs.

- 73%** of the participants were women
- 50%** were European American/White
- 42%** were African American/Black
- 34** was the median age of the adult participants
- 46%** reported a gross income of less than \$10,000
- 44%** reported not working for pay
- 19%** reported not completing high school
- 51%** reported a high school degree/GED as their highest level of education

Analyses of data revealed statistically significant improvements ( $p < .05$ ) on many relevant measures of commitment, skill, and knowledge based on average scores at pre-program and post-program.

The outcomes are indicators of protective factors that reduce the risk of child maltreatment and promote individual and family strengths.

**ADCANP/CTF-funded programs reduced the likelihood of adults in Alabama engaging in child abuse/neglect and enhanced the likelihood of current and future strong and stable families.**

#### POTENTIAL COSTS VS. INVESTMENT IN PREVENTION

**\$368,416** Average taxpayer cost in Alabama per child abused or neglected.\*

**\$27** Average cost of prevention programming per adult participant.\*\*

Funding prevention work has the potential to reduce not only the social, emotional, and achievement costs to our youth and families, but also to reduce the real financial costs associated with intervention.

\* Report from the University of Alabama released in 2021

\*\* Based on amounts of grants awarded (\$9,117,500) and number of adult participants

#### PARENT EDUCATION & HOME VISITING

75 parent education and home visiting programs provided support and educational programs to parents. **An assessment of 7 targeted outcomes with 4,295 participants revealed statistically significant improvements in average scores for:**

- Stress Management Skills
- Skills to Manage Maltreatment Risk
- Understanding of Various Forms of Maltreatment
- Medical Care Commitment
- Parenting Skills & Child Development Knowledge
- Knowledge and Use of Support Services
- Use of Informal Support Networks

#### RESPITE CARE

7 respite care programs provided respite services and parent education. **An assessment of 4 targeted outcomes with 346 participants revealed statistically significant improvements in average scores for:**

- Stress Level
- Positive View of Child
- Knowledge and Use of Support Services
- Use of Informal Support Networks

#### FATHERHOOD

20 fatherhood programs provided educational sessions and support to non-residential fathers. **An assessment of 19 targeted outcomes with 911 participants revealed statistically significant improvements in average scores for all but one outcome (i.e., financial responsibility):**

- Couple Relationship Quality
- Conflict Management Skills
- Coparenting Conflict
- Coparenting Quality
- Dating Abuse Prevention Skills
- Parenting Efficacy
- Positive Parenting Behavior
- Parent Involvement
- Parent Child Relationship Quality
- Perception of Economic Stability
- Cooperation with Child Support Personnel
- Commitment to Pay Full Child Support
- Knowledge of Community Resources
- Child Adjustment
- Hope for the Future
- Stress Management Skills
- Anger Management Skills
- Income Level





## Impact On Youth Participants

**44,289 youth** in Alabama in grades 3-12 were served through 46 ADCANP/CTF-funded programs. These programs offered classes and mentoring services in schools and communities. An additional **80,698 youth** participated in community awareness programs.

All were focused on enhancing life skills, school performance, overall well-being, and reducing risks for children of maltreatment. Program objectives included: improved social competence, improved emotion knowledge, improved self-confidence, improved abuse awareness and resourcefulness, increased cooperative behavior, enhanced assertiveness, and avoidance of delinquent behaviors.

Funding for youth programs came primarily from two funding sources: The Education Trust Fund (ETF) and The Children First Trust Fund (Tobacco settlement dollars).

- 39%** of youth were in grades 3-5
- 61%** of youth were in grades 6-12
- 49%** of the participants were boys
- 51%** of the participants were girls
- 41%** were African American/Black
- 42%** were European American/White
- 3%** were Native American
- 1%** were Asian American
- 13%** reported "other" when asked race
- 10%** identified as Hispanic/Latino

Analyses of data revealed statistically significant improvements ( $p < .05$ ) on relevant measures of commitment, skill, and knowledge based on average scores at pre-program and post-program.

The outcomes are indicators of the protective factor: social and emotional competence of children, that reduces the risk of child maltreatment and promotes individual and family strengths.

## GRADES 3-5 YOUTH PROGRAMS

46 youth focused programs provided educational sessions to youth participants. **An assessment of 6 targeted outcomes with 2,865 3rd-5th grade participants revealed statistically significant improvements in average scores for:**

- Social Skill Development
- Abuse Awareness
- Improved Self-Confidence
- Emotion Identification and Regulation
- Enhanced Assertiveness
- Cooperative Behavior

## GRADES 6-12 YOUTH PROGRAMS

46 youth focused programs provided educational sessions to youth participants. **An assessment of 7 targeted outcomes with 4,489 6th-12th grade participants revealed statistically significant improvements in average scores for:**

- Emotion Knowledge of Self
- Emotion Knowledge of Others
- Self-Confidence
- Social Competence
- Commitment to Avoid Risky & Delinquent Behavior
- Cooperative Behavior
- Abuse Awareness & Resourcefulness

## POTENTIAL COSTS VS. INVESTMENT IN PREVENTION

**\$368,416**

Average taxpayer cost in Alabama per child abused or neglected.\*

**\$19**

Average cost of prevention programming per youth participant.\*\*

Funding prevention work has the potential to reduce not only the social, emotional, and achievement costs to our youth and families, but also to reduce the real financial costs associated with intervention.

\* Report from the University of Alabama released in 2021

\*\* Based on amounts of grants awarded (\$2,316,000) and number of youth participants



The 2021-2022 Evaluation Report prepared by the Auburn Evaluation Team documented the combined effort and effectiveness of program offerings through an evaluation of funded programs.