

ALABAMA FATHERHOOD PROGRAMS

REPORT



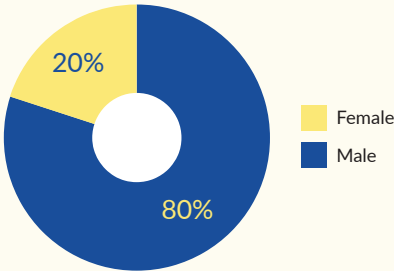
OCTOBER 2015 - JULY 2016

PROGRAMS

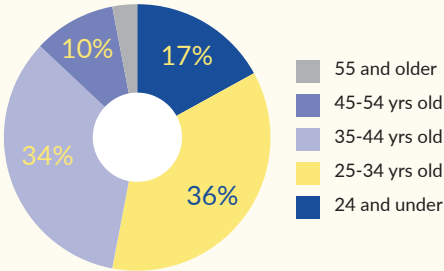
- Twenty programs** around the state funded through a partnership between the Alabama Department of Human Resources, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (DHR/TANF) and the Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention provided support and services targeting nonresidential fathers that included emphasis on **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 father-child relationships.
- Sites reported on the number of parents served as well as the amount of child support collected. From October 1, 2015 to July 31, 2016:
 - **1,582 non-residential parents were served** by the TANF-funded fatherhood programs.
 - **\$566,850.00 was collected in child support.**
- Participants completed evaluation surveys that document improvements in key outcomes. We provide here the results of the analyses of data collected during the reporting period.

DEMOGRAPHICS

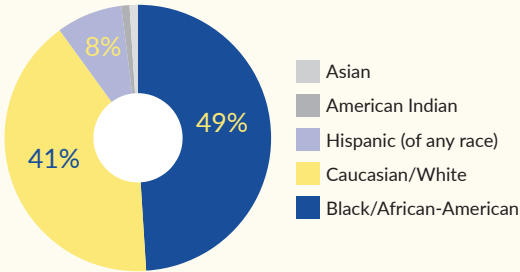
GENDER



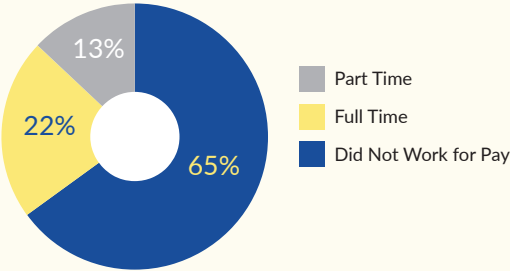
AGE



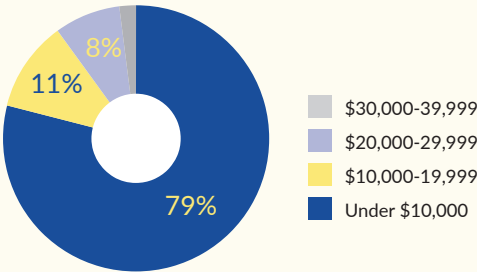
RACE



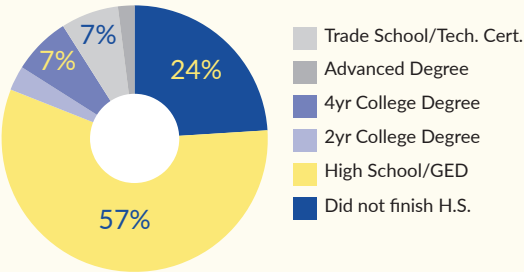
JOB STATUS



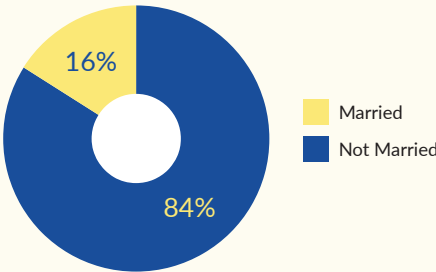
INCOME



EDUCATION



MARITAL STATUS



RESULTS



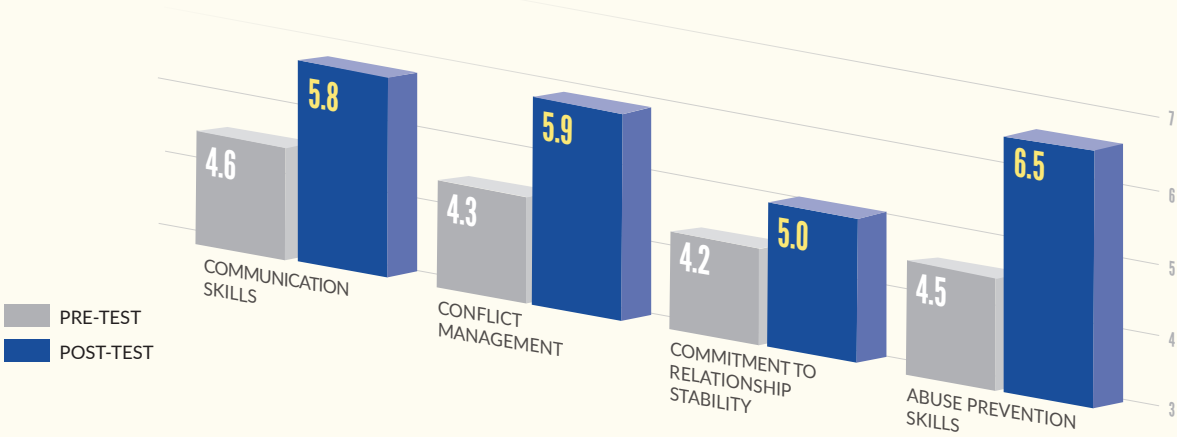
Statistical tests of pre-program and post-program average scores revealed **statistically significant ($p < .001$) improvements^a in ALL targeted areas: greater financial responsibility; greater commitment to paying child support; higher value for the fathering role; better communication skills; more positive parenting skills; better parent-child relationship quality; enhanced ability to identify an abusive relationship; enhanced coparenting relationship.** There were also **significant improvements in challenges that parents face.** The magnitude of the changes also were assessed through calculated effect sizes. **These shifts can be considered large** changes (i.e., Cohen's $d = /> .70$) from pre- to post-program.

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

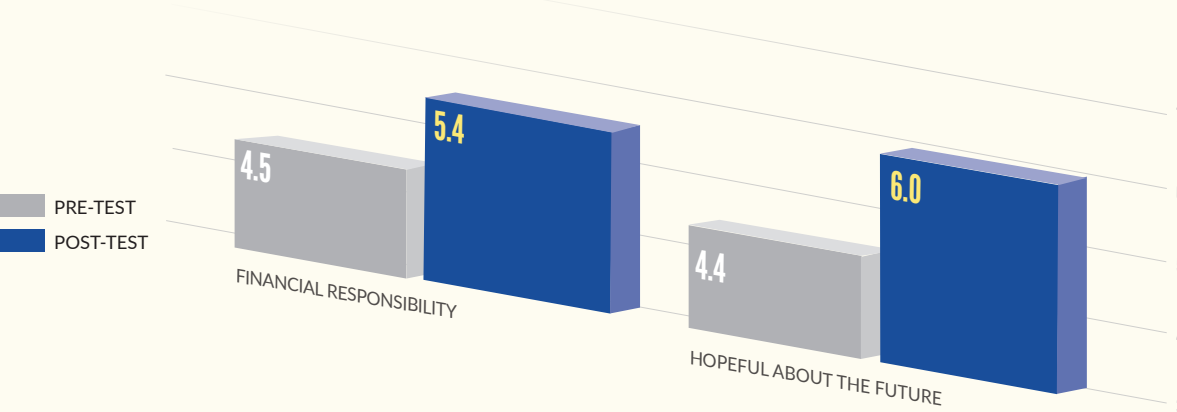
	Pre-Test		Post-Test		df	t	Cohen's d
	M	SD	M	SD			
RELATIONAL SKILLS							
Communication	4.56	1.47	5.79	1.48	156	-11.16***	.89
Conflict Management	4.33	1.47	5.85	1.29	161	-14.59***	1.16
Commitment to Relationship Stability	4.22	1.60	5.00	1.96	113	-5.40***	.52
Abuse Prevention Skills	4.45	1.33	6.50	3.18	153	-7.53***	.66
INDIVIDUAL STRENGTHS							
Financial Responsibility	4.54	1.18	5.38	1.09	165	-9.61***	.75
Hopeful About Future	4.40	1.36	5.96	1.06	163	-14.35***	1.14
PARENTING							
Relationship Quality	4.98	1.48	5.89	1.39	114	-9.59***	.90
Cooperation with Child Support Personnel	3.69	1.53	5.27	1.78	69	-10.67***	1.10
Positive Parenting Behavior	5.05	1.35	6.16	1.13	129	-11.37***	1.01
Commitment to Pay Full Child Support	3.77	1.48	5.49	1.57	91	-11.50***	1.20
Commitment to Fatherhood	4.80	.94	5.64	1.00	146	-9.14***	.76

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

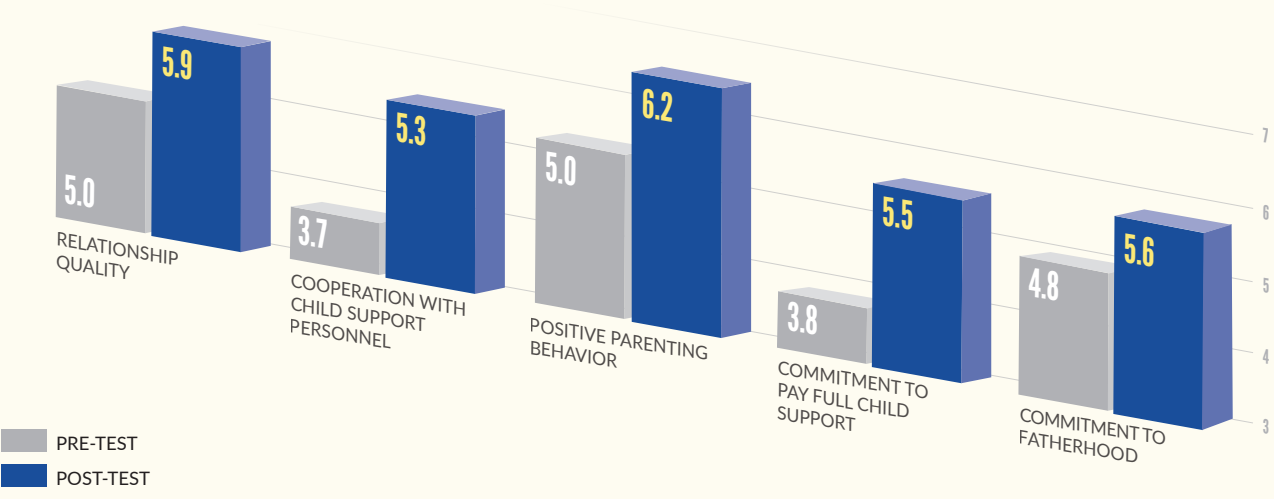
RELATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR PARTICIPANTS



INDIVIDUAL OUTCOMES FOR PARTICIPANTS



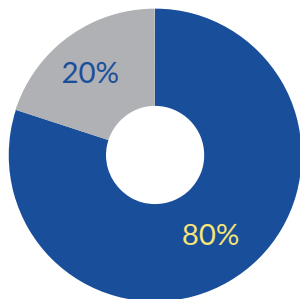
PARENTING OUTCOMES FOR PARTICIPANTS



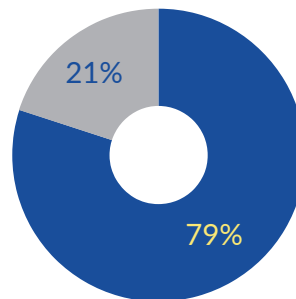
KEY CHANGES

■ % who *changed* in the desired direction
■ % who maintained pre-program level

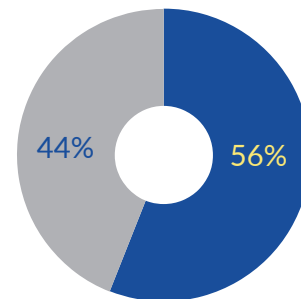
COMMUNICATION



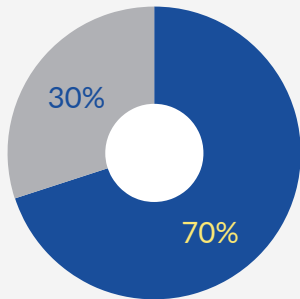
CONFLICT MANAGEMENT



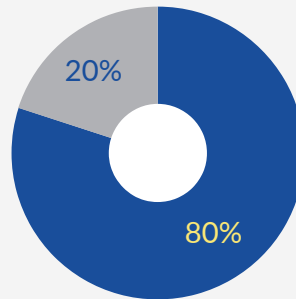
COMMITMENT TO RELATIONSHIP STABILITY



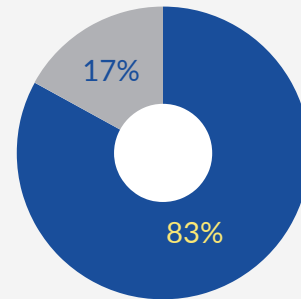
ABUSE PREVENTION SKILLS



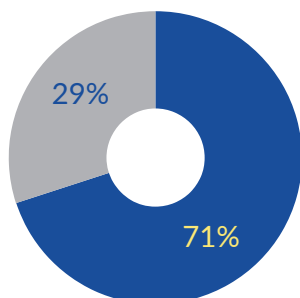
FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



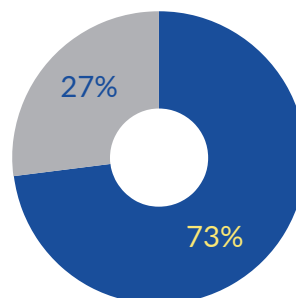
HOPEFUL ABOUT FUTURE



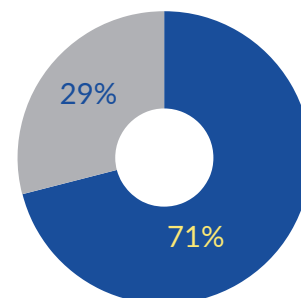
RELATIONSHIP QUALITY



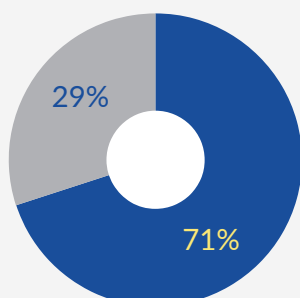
COOPERATION WITH CHILD SUPPORT PERSONNEL



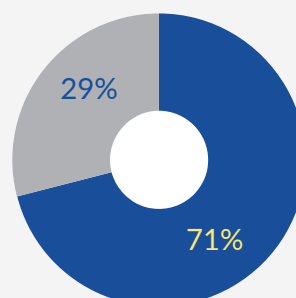
POSITIVE PARENTING BEHAVIOR



COMMITMENT TO FATHERHOOD



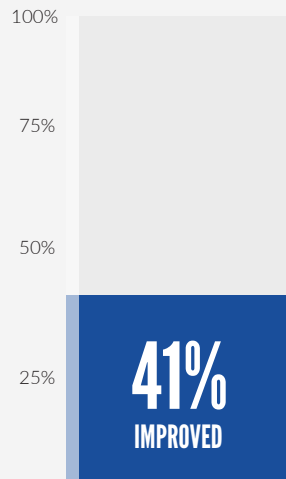
COMMITMENT TO PAY FULL CHILD SUPPORT





REDUCED CHALLENGES

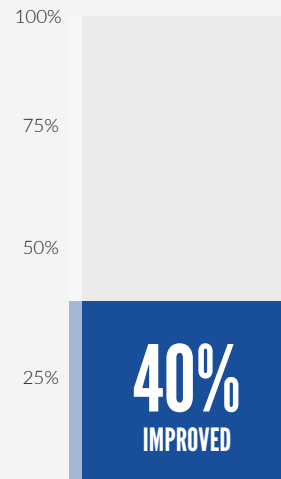
Employment



Almost half of participants (41%) who reported having challenges with finding employment* **reported improvement after** receiving program services.

*51% of all participants reported having challenges with finding employment before receiving program services.

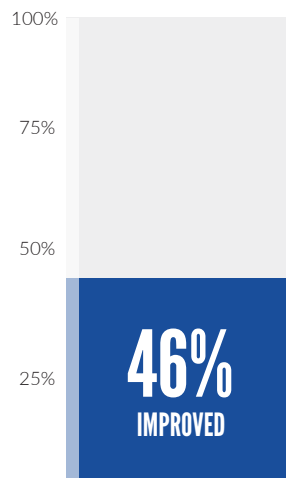
Anger Management



Almost half of participants (40%) who reported having challenges controlling their anger* **reported improvement after** receiving program services.

*17% of all participants reported having challenges controlling their anger before receiving program services.

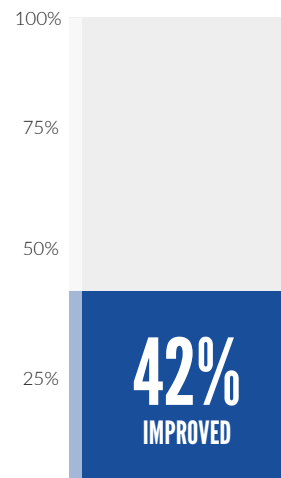
Financial: Paying Bills



Almost half of participants (46%) who reported having challenges paying their bills* **reported improvement after** receiving program services.

*42% of all participants reported having challenges paying their bills before receiving program services.

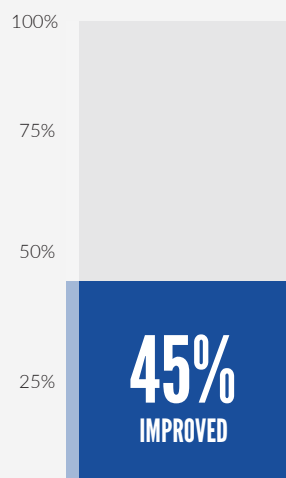
Financial: Providing for Children



Almost half of participants (42%) who reported having challenges due to not having enough money to buy things for their child(ren)* **reported improvement after** receiving program services.

*42% of all participants reported having challenges buying things before receiving program services.

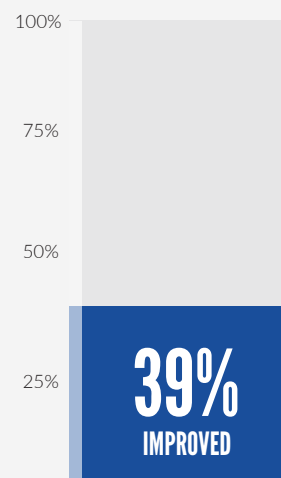
Financial: Money for Food



Almost half of participants (45%) who reported having challenges in having enough money to buy food* **reported improvement after** receiving program services.

*26% of all participants reported having challenges in buying food before receiving program services.

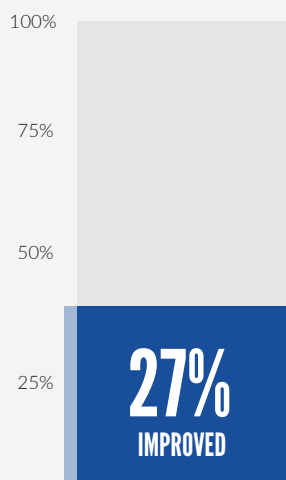
Housing



Over one third of participants (39%) who reported having challenges finding housing* **reported improvement after** receiving program services.

*30% of all participants reported having challenges in finding housing before receiving program services.

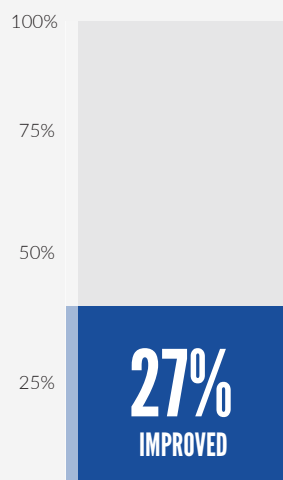
Drug/Alcohol Abuse



One quarter of participants (27%) who reported having challenges with drug and/or alcohol abuse* **reported improvement after** receiving program services.

*27% of all participants reported having challenges with drug and/or alcohol abuse before receiving program services.

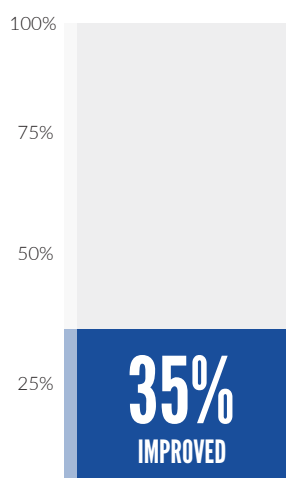
Transportation



Over one quarter of participants (27%) who reported having challenges with transportation* **reported improvement after** receiving program services.

*38% of all participants reported having challenges with transportation before receiving program services.

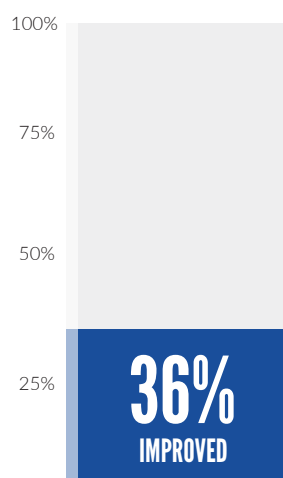
Physical Health



Over one third of participants (35%) who reported having physical health challenges* **reported improvement after** receiving program services.

*49% of all participants reported having physical health challenges before receiving program services.

Health Insurance



Over one third of participants (36%) who reported having challenges in having health care for themselves or their child(ren)* **reported improvement after** receiving program services.

*32% of all participants reported having challenges with having health care before receiving program services.





SUMMARY

Results provide empirical evidence that participants showed *statistically significant improvements in all targeted outcome areas: financial responsibility, commitment to paying child support, value for the fathering role, communication skills, positive parenting skills, parent-child relationship quality, ability to identify an abusive relationship, and coparenting relationship*. 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 .92 is large and can be interpreted as a “practical” and “meaningful” shift following participation in a short-term education 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.

****TANF funded Programs and Agencies**

ACES -Hope Place Family Resource Center ~ Brewton, AL
Mobile County Health Department ~ Mobile, AL
The Family Center ~ Mobile/Daphne, AL
Alabama Parent Education Center ~ Wetumpka, AL
Organized Community Action Programs ~ Troy, AL
Family Services Center of Coffee County ~ Enterprise, AL
Family Support Center ~ Prattville, AL
Alfred Saliba Family Services Center ~ Dothan, AL
Family Guidance Center of Alabama ~ Montgomery, AL
Sylacauga Alliance for Family Enhancement ~ Sylacauga, AL
Jasper Area Family Services Center ~ Jasper, AL
Family Services of North Alabama ~ Guntersville, AL
Gadsden State Community College ~ Gadsden, AL
National Children's Advocacy Center ~ Huntsville, AL
Community Action Agency of Northwest Alabama ~ Florence, AL
Vineyard Family Services of Central Alabama ~ Shelby County, AL
IMPACT Family Counseling ~ Birmingham, AL
Children's Policy Council of Dallas County ~ Selma, AL
Pickens County Family Resource Center ~ Pickens County, AL
Tuscaloosa Family Resource Center, dba. TOP ~ Tuscaloosa, AL



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