

Strengthening Implementation of Responsible Fatherhood Programs

Client: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,
Administration for Children and Families

Overview

Research demonstrates a connection between a father's involvement in his child's life and the development and well-being of the child across behavioral, social-emotional, and cognitive domains. Small but growing evidence suggests the effectiveness of federally funded responsible fatherhood programs in improving fathers' nurturing behavior, their engagement in age-appropriate activities with their children, and increased length of time fathers are continuously employed. However, implementation challenges—such as program recruitment, retention, and engagement—make it difficult to develop rigorous data on program effectiveness.

Rapid cycle learning techniques offer a data-driven approach to testing varied implementation of service delivery programs in a relatively short time, which could improve the feasibility and rigor of large-scale effectiveness evaluations.



This project seeks to use rapid learning methods to identify and test promising practices for addressing implementation challenges to strengthen fatherhood programs for future evaluations.

Working with MDRC, Insight is in the process of—

- Identifying implementation challenges and promising practices to address them
- Developing and testing promising practices for addressing implementation challenges
- Producing and disseminating briefs and reports summarizing findings of rapid cycle tests
- Developing recommendations for summative evaluation sites

Products

Briefs, reports

