

Supporting Reentering Fathers

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) 2020 Responsible Fatherhood Cohort

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CLIENTS' CHANGE OVER TIME

- Clients showed favorable changes from the beginning to the end of the program in several areas.
- Tables show clients' characteristics at the beginning and end of the program. Changes were statistically significant, except for whether fathers were in a relationship.
- The data show how participants changed over time, but only an impact study can determine whether RF programs caused the changes.



Parenting

More fathers had contact with their youngest child, oldest child, or both in the past month **67% → 70%**

Fathers reported feeling closer to their child(ren) (on a scale of 1 to 5) **4.4 → 4.5**



Relationships

Fathers reported a better coparenting relationship with mother(s) of their children (on a scale of 1 to 5) **3.4 → 3.5**

There was no change in whether fathers were in a relationship **47% → 47%**



Economic stability

More fathers had a job **21% → 27%**

More fathers participated in education or job training in the past month **20% → 32%**

BACKGROUND

- Responsible fatherhood (RF) programs are designed to support positive parenting, healthy marriage and relationships, and economic stability.
- The Office of Family Assistance in ACF funded grants to provide RF services from 2020 to 2025.
- This poster focuses on RF programs that served fathers who were within nine months of release from incarceration or were recently released.

AT A GLANCE



12 grant recipients in 10 states



**9,356 clients enrolled;
59% incarcerated at enrollment**

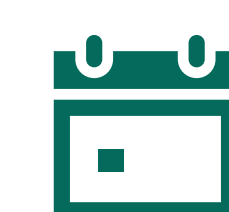


74% of enrolled clients completed the program



82% of enrolled clients who completed the exit survey rated the program as helpful

CLIENT PARTICIPATION



77 days: The mean number of days clients participated in any RF services



29 hours: The mean number of hours clients participated in workshops



5 contacts: The mean number of individual service contacts that clients received

CLIENT CHARACTERISTICS

Demographics

- » 38 years old on average
- » 96% male
- » 39% White, 23% Black or African American; 22% Hispanic or Latino

Family

- » 13% married; 23% in a steady, unmarried relationship
- » 2.3 children on average
- » 30% have a child age 5 or younger

PROGRAM OPERATIONS

Staffing (average)

- » 7 full-time, 2 part-time
- » 2 staff recruited clients full-time

Most common implementation challenges (% of grant recipients)

- » Getting clients to complete the program (42%)
- » Getting clients to attend regularly (30%)
- » Filling open staff positions (30%)

DATA SOURCES

- Performance measures that grant recipients collected and reported through the Information, Family Outcomes, Reporting, and Management (nFORM) 2.0 system from April 1, 2021 to September 29, 2025
- Includes three surveys that clients completed at enrollment and first and last workshops
- Exit survey data does not include incarceration status

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