



Strengthening Families Program

- ☒ 14-session family skills training program for high-risk, 6-12 year old children and their parents
 - Designed to increase family protective factors (family organization, communication, relationships and parenting skills, stress management, problem solving).
 - Aims to decrease risk factors (substance abuse, depression, violence and aggression, delinquency, school failure).
- ☒ Parent and child training components with learning modules and family activities.





Study Design: Community Study

Study Design: Pre-post Evaluation

Objectives:

- Description of participating children and families
- Description of short-term program impacts.

Outcome levels:

- Children's individual and social adjustment levels as reported by their parents
- Parent reported family functioning and parenting skills

Sample: n=18 parents (based of pre and post test completion).

Description of participants

☒ Parents:

☒ single (and joint custody 80.9%); ID 3 BDC /CS6 cs 0.2s

Significant Parent & Family Findings

Scales		

The Context of SFP Implementation

- ⊕ Implementation process shaped by community and organizational context
 - Low levels of bridging and formal social capital
 - Unstable community organizations
 - Limited development resources

- ⊕ Long term implementation of prevention program
 - Formal development of community organizations
 - Access to institutionalized resources
 - Prioritization of community/organizational goals and outcomes

Social Capital

- ☒ “The aggregate of the actual or potential resources which are linked to possession of a durable network of more or less institutionalized relationships of mutual acquaintance or recognition.” Bourdieu (1985,1980)
- ☒ Collective resources embedded in social networks
Portes (1998)
 - ☒ Depends on trust and reciprocity
 - ☒ Can flow from both “strong” and “weak ties”
 - ☒ Can be purposively developed
- ☒ Social Capital enhances capacity for:
 - ☒ Exercise of social control
 - ☒ Provision of informal social support
 - ☒ Access to resources

Key Concepts in Social Capital Theory

- Ⓒ Bonding social capital – resources flowing from within-group ties, which serve as “glue” to hold a community together. (Putnam 2000)
- Ⓒ Bridging social capital – resources flowing from between-group ties which provide linkages to external assets and information. (Putnam 2000)
- Ⓒ Informal social capital - resources flowing from kinship and friendship networks or from loosely organized groups of people with common interests. (Putnam & Gross 2002)
- Ⓒ Formal social capital – resources flowing from organizations with recognized officers, membership requirements, dues, meetings, etc. (Putnam & Gross 2002)

Montreal's Black Anglophone Community

☒ Major changes starting in late 1960s/1970s

☒ Shifts in immigration policies open doors to Black immigrants.

- ☞ Population growth (Torczyner & Springer, 2001)
 - ☞ 50% of Montreal's Black community immigrated after 1975
- ☞ Diversification of population & communities
 - ☞ Influx of Anglophone Caribbean Islanders, Haitians, Africans . . .
- ☞ Geographic expansion
 - ☞ beyond community traditionally centered in Little Burgundy

☒ Changes in language laws cement position as "double minority."

- ☞ ~20% of Black Montrealers speak English only (Torczyner & Springer, 2001)

☒ Diminished emphasis on unifying goals.

Limitations on Bridging & Formal Social Capital

☒ Bridging social capital

- ☒ Fragmentation of diverse “Black community” (communities)

- ☒ Limited access to francophone institutional resources

☒ Formal social capital Reliance on volunteers & individual leaders


- ☒ Reliance on community generated resources

- ☒ Informal management/administrative culture

☒ Result: pattern of unstable community organizations and networks

ACDPN Member Organizations

- ⊕ Despite ACDPN membership requirements, development/formalization of member organization



Supporting Simultaneous Community Development & Prevention Programming

- ☒ Funding organizations, as well as projects
- ☒ Implementation time frames that allow for multiple levels of development work (network, organization)
- ☒ Development of formal mechanisms for moving from pilot project to long-term institutionalization
- ☒ Emphasis on community, in addition to family/individual, outcomes
- ☒ Recognition of bridging social capital role of evaluation



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