

FRIENDS National Advisory Network (NAN)

Cycle 1 Data Summary

Between November 5 and 30, 2010, twenty-five members of the FRIENDS National Advisory Network responded to the Cycle 1 survey for the NAN process. The data covered a wide range of perspectives and opportunities, but the following themes emerged and will be used to structure the questions for Cycle 2.

Trends and Opportunities

In Cycle 1, NAN members identified a number of trends that will influence protective factors in the next decade. For the most part, members' responses cited negative effects of these trends.

- The economic environment will continue to deteriorate, affecting family income and assets, market and social stability, funding for public programs, and contributions to charitable causes.
- The demographic makeup of the US will continue to change and contribute to growing economic and social disparities. An aging population, increasing diversity, immigration, access to technology, and urbanization will shape family and community experiences in the future.
- Technology to support information access, entertainment, and social networking will continue to improve and expand.
- Younger generations of parents will reflect the values and interests of their peer groups (e.g., Gen X, Gen Y, Millennials). Global interests, technological savvy, instant communications, and an emerging sense of community will shape the experience of families in the future.
- The Federal Affordable Care Act will provide more families with reliable, affordable, and accessible physical and mental health care.
- Coordination, collaboration, and partnerships are integrating streams of funding and service delivery as well as interdisciplinary research and practice for public and private, formal and informal institutions.

Systemic Causes

Across responders and protective factors, a few key causal factors were cited as influences of child abuse and neglect.

- Attitudes and perceptions perpetuate the conditions for child abuse and neglect. Parents are stigmatized for seeking help; traditional expectations for children and their needs persist; racism and classism divide communities; outmoded assumptions and corruption result in low-quality services and delivery methods; family trauma reverberates for generations; partisan politics distort the public discourse; deficit-based models predominate practice.
- Isolation magnifies stress for families and parents and sets the conditions for child abuse and neglect to emerge and to continue.
- Insufficient infrastructure (e.g., accessible and qualified systems of care, housing, and transportation) contribute to instability for children and their families.
- Many specific, local causes influence the protective factors for child abuse and neglect, including, domestic and neighborhood violence, teen pregnancy, single parenthood, culture of independence and family autonomy, parental mental health, substance abuse, knowledge and skills of parents, special demands of high needs children
- A variety of factors were also listed that strengthened protective factors, including, involvement of faith communities, asset-based programs and policies, involvement of fathers, parent leadership in policy and implementation of programs, quality childcare, home visiting programs, evidence-based practice, corporate support for parents and social programs.