



# **Building a Stronger Team: Engaging Fathers in CBCAP Programs**

# Session Objectives

- Provide an operational definition for fatherhood engagement and an engaged father
- Provide national data related to the costs and benefits for fatherhood involvement
- Have a nonpartisan discussion about how policies might impact Fatherhood engagement and the subsequent impact on families with children 0-3.
- Identify data, possible stigmas, and potential barriers that effect fatherhood engagement of children 0-3.
- Identify potential strategies that could shape policies which foster fatherhood engagement in states across the country that intentionally impact families.
- Provide space for panelist to share their personal stories related to their fatherhood involvement journey

# Definitions

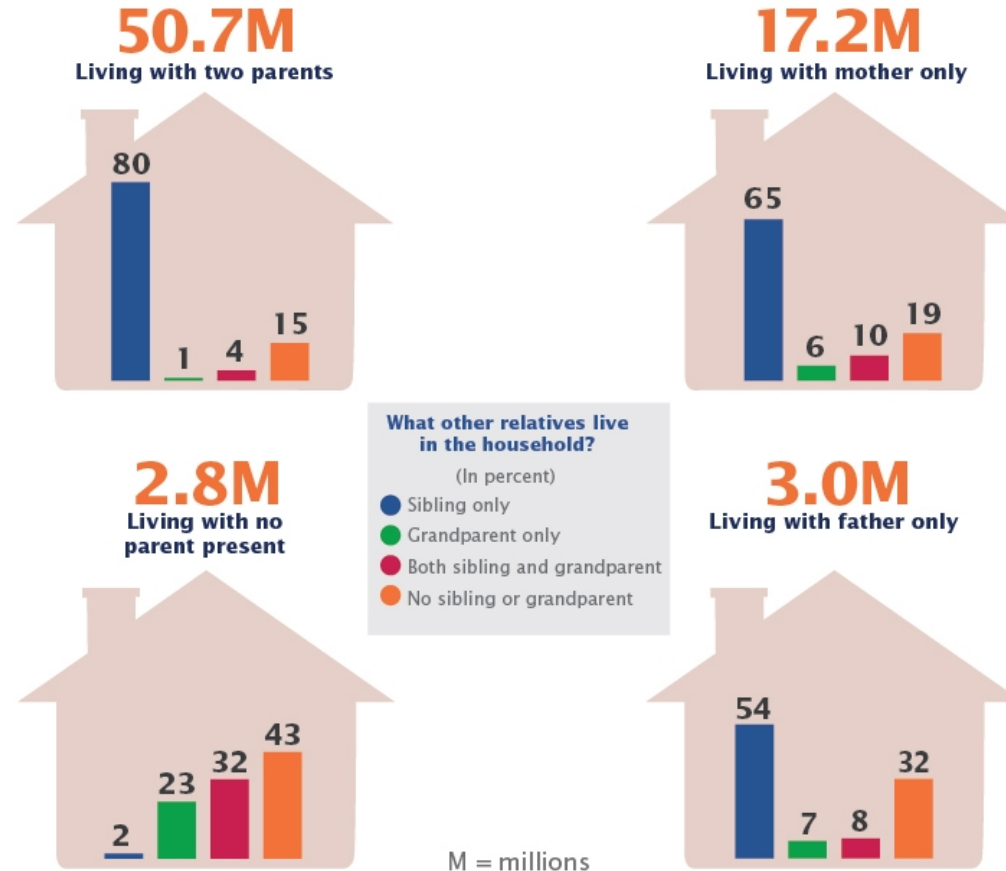
- ***Fatherhood Engagement*** - “aiming to increase fathers’ active and positive engagement in their children's lives” through policies.  
(CEBC.org )
  - Direct interaction services (i.e. fatherhood groups, therapy, services, etc.)
- An ***Engaged Father***- a father who feels (takes ownership) responsible for and behaves responsibly toward his child, is emotionally engaged and physically accessible, provides material support to sustain the child’s needs, is involved in childcare, and exerts influence in child rearing decisions active and positive engagement in their children's lives. (CalSWEC-Berkely.edu).

# *Why Fatherhood Engagement Matters*

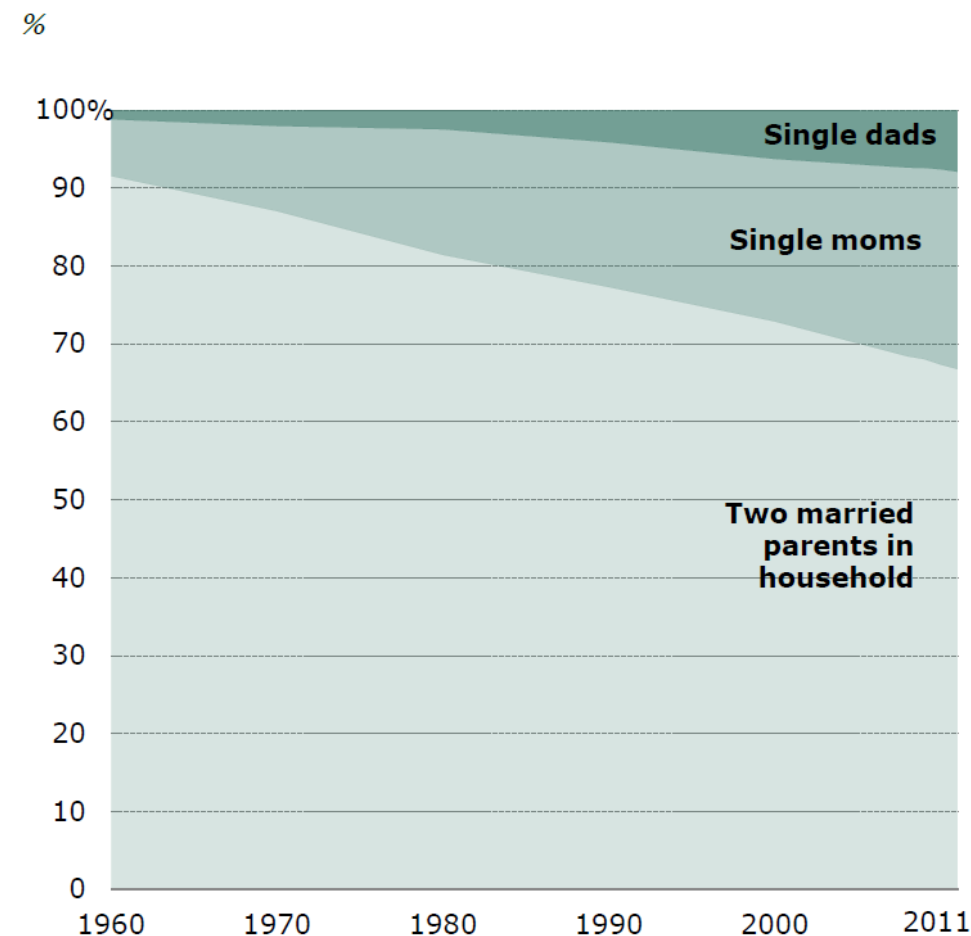
*(National Fatherhood Initiative, 2014)*

- Infant mortality rates are 1.8 times higher for infants of unmarried mothers than for married mothers.
- Compared to pregnant women without father support, pregnant women with father support experience a lower prevalence of pregnancy loss 22.2% compared to 48.1%.
- Allowing new fathers to be involved in caring for their child in the first days of a child's life can have positive long-term benefits.
- Father absence increased the risk of infant mortality, and that the mortality rate for infants within the first 28 days of life is four times higher for those with absent fathers than those with involved fathers.
- Dad's Involvement during pregnancy positively influences health outcomes for mom, dad, and baby.
- Involved dads lead to less distress in toddlers.

## Living Arrangements of Children Under Age 18



## Types of Living Arrangements in Households with Children under 18, 1960-2011



Notes: Based on household heads ages 15 and older who have children younger than 18 in the household. Single parents include those who are married but their spouse is absent and those who are cohabiting with a non-marital partner. Some married two-parent households include a step-parent.

Source: Pew Research analysis of Decennial Census and American Community Survey (IPUMS)

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

“Single father households has increased about ninefold since 1960, from less than 300,000 to more than 2.6 million in 2011.”  
(2016 = 3 million)

“In 1960, about 14% of single parent households were headed by fathers, today almost one-quarter (24%) are.”

CH-1. Living Arrangements of Children Under 18 Years Old: 1960 to Present (2019)  
(Numbers in thousands)

Year	Total Children	% living with Two Parents	Total Children living with one parent	% Living with Mother only	% Living with Father only
2019	73,525	70%	18,998	82.9%	17%
2018	73,741	69%	19,646	83.4%	16.5%
2017	73,781	68.8%	19,973	83.9%	16%
2016	73,745	68.7%	20,229	85%	14.8%
2015	73,623	69.2%	19,757	86%	13.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March and Annual Social and Economic Supplements. Source of 1960 data: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1960 Census of Population, PC(2)-4B, "Persons by Family Characteristics," Tables 1 and 19.

# Dads Facts

- 72.2 million fathers
- 24.6 million in married couple families with kids less than 18 years old
- 17% of all single-parents households are men (2 million)
- 7% of fathers are stay-at-home in 2016 (17% of all stay-at-home parents)
- Low-income, minority and non-residential fathers who have jobs and education are more likely to be involved with their children
- African-American men are more likely to physically care for, feed and prepare meals for their infants than either white or Hispanic fathers.
- Significant amounts of paternal financial support (both cash and in-kind aid) may go unreported in formal systems.



# State of the World's Fathers Unlocking the Power of Men's Care 2019

- **Improve laws and policies**
  - policies to engage men in prenatal visits, childbirth, and postnatal care,
  - governments and employers offer equal, fully paid, non-transferable parental leave for all parents
- **Transform social and gender norms**
  - change attitudes of service providers
  - media campaigns to inspire men, their families, and their communities
- **Guarantee economic and physical security for vulnerable families**
- **Help couples and co-parents thrive**
  - Father-specific parent training
- **Put individual fathers' care into action**
  - Early years and baby groups should be more inclusive of dads,
  - Build fathers' confidence and competence.



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# Texas Fatherhood Work

**Mosley Hobson**

**Youth and Families Program Specialist**





1. Explain the purpose of Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Prevention and Early Intervention Division
2. Describe how Organizational Enhancements have improved an organization's capacity to serve fathers effectively.
3. Identify how Community and Systems Support work has impacted Texas Fatherhood Engagement.



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# Who is PEI?





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## **PEI Mission**

PEI helps create opportunities for children, youth, and families to be strong and healthy by funding community-level, evidence-informed programs and systems of support upstream from crisis and intensive interventions.

## **PEI Vision**

PEI envisions a Texas where all children thrive in their families and communities through a supported network of safe, stable, and secure relationships.

# PEI PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

## EARLY CHILDHOOD

- ▶ Help through Intervention and Prevention (HIP)
- ▶ Healthy Outcome through Prevention and Early Support (HOPES)
- ▶ Texas Home Visiting (THV)

## YOUTH

- ▶ Service to At Risk Youth (STAR)
- ▶ Community Youth Development (CYD)
- ▶ Statewide Youth Services Network (SYSN)



# PEI PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

## **FAMILY**

- ▶ Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP)-Fatherhood
- ▶ Military and Veteran Families
- ▶ Service to At Risk Youth (STAR)





# FATHERHOOD Effect



Texas Department of  
Family and Protective Services  
Prevention & Early Intervention

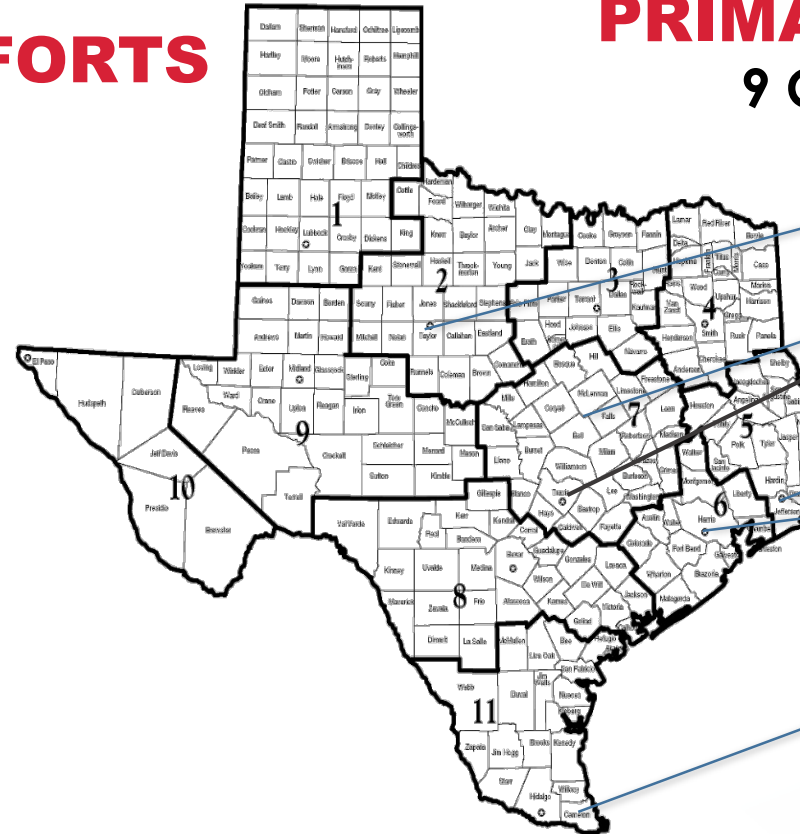
## TEXAS FATHERHOOD EFFORTS

- ▶ Fatherhood EFFECT program
- ▶ Fatherhood Interagency Meetings
- ▶ Fatherhood Research and Evaluation
- ▶ Fatherhood Public Awareness

## OUTCOMES MEASURED

- Bonding/Attachment
- Parenting knowledge
- Social Support
- Basic needs
- Reduce the incidence of child abuse/neglect

## PRIMARY AREAS SERVED 9 Counties (5 DFPS Regions)



Taylor (2)

Bell (7)  
McLennan (7)  
Travis (7)

Jefferson (5)

Galveston (6)  
Harris (6)  
Montgomery (6)

Cameron (11)

**No. of FAMILIES  
SERVED ANNUALLY**

1/1/2019 - present

**1,271**





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# Organizational Enhancements



# Organizational Enhancements



Texas Department of  
Family and Protective Services  
Prevention & Early Intervention

## FUNDED STRATEGIES



### FATHERHOOD PARENT EDUCATION

- 24/7 Dads
- Nurturing Fathers
- Man in Me



### WRAPAROUND SUPPORT SERVICES

- Basic needs support
- Group-based parenting
- Support groups
- Job skills readiness/support



### COMMUNITY-LEVEL CHANGE

- Collaboration/Coalitions
- Public awareness

Ambassadors/Peer Leaders/Mentors

Co-Parenting Strengthening/Community Leadership/Community Advocates

Coalition Fatherhood Subcommittee's





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# Community and Systems Support



# Community and Systems Support



Texas Department of  
**Family and Protective Services**  
Prevention & Early Intervention

- Creation and participation in community coalition of social service and community agencies, and businesses who share a common goal of supporting fathers and their families.
- Coalition work will lead to improved services and resources for fathers and their families.





# Focus on father engagement

Children's Trust of MA





# Children's Trust of MA

The Children's Trust is Massachusetts' leading family support organization. We strengthen the Commonwealth by funding and managing parenting support programs designed to help families raise physically and emotionally healthy children. With support from the Children's Trust, young children across Massachusetts can grow up in nurturing families and communities, healthy and ready to succeed.

Our initiatives include:

- Healthy Families MA
- Massachusetts Family Centers
- Parenting Education and Support Programs
- Fatherhood Initiative
- One Tough Job Parenting Website
- Family Support Training Center



# Children's Trust of MA and fathers

- Fathers have been a focus of the Children's Trust programs with an emphasis on father involvement in all activities.
- In addition to program activities, the Children's Trust had a media campaign focused on the importance of fathers in the lives of their children and offers training and materials to community organizations
- The Fatherhood Initiative is comprised of
  - Fathers & Families Network: regional gatherings of professionals interested in or working with fathers' in family support programs
  - Nurturing Fathers programs
  - Technical assistance and training for funded programs

Engaging Fathers – Parenting as Partners  
Resource Guide



Being a parent is one tough job.  
The Children's Trust Fund understands.  
We offer online parenting info, tips, and support and connect moms and dads with real-life parenting resources in the community.

OneToughJob.org

# Children's Trust of MA and fathers

- Healthy Families MA home visiting for young parents has had great success with integrating fathers. Last year:
  - 4% of all primary participants are fathers
  - 17% of all visits had a coparent present
  - 49% of participants who received home visits had a visit with a coparent
- Further, the RCT evaluation of HFM finds that
  - Mothers involved in HFM were more likely to transition to stable, co-parenting relationships with the fathers of their babies
  - Mothers who had co-parents involved in the program were more likely to receive more home visits and stay in the program longer.

Level of involvement, from less to more formal, was correlated to tenure and home visits received.

Stargel, L.E., Fauth, R.C., Goldberg, J.L., &

Easterbrooks, M.A. (2020). Maternal engagement in home visiting program as a function of fathers' formal and informal participation. *Prevention Science*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11121-020-01090-x>





# Children's Trust of MA and fathers

- What explains Healthy Families MA (HFM)'s success?
  - All HFM staff receive training that incorporates the importance of the role of fathers in the lives of their children
  - All HFM staff are expected to engage co-parents formally and informally in all home visiting activities
  - There is a performance measure on the percentage of participants who have at least one visit with a co-parent annually
  - Program enhancements to encourage co-parenting have been implemented, such as the Choices in Childbirth and Co-Parenting groups.



# Children's Trust of MA and fathers

Choices in Childbirth and Co-Parenting (3CP)  
groups focus areas:

- Emotional Home / Maintaining Harmony
- Research on Importance of Fathers
- Keys to Dad/Co-parent being involved
- Romantic vs. Co-parenting relationships
- Money worries
- Who Does What?
- Managing Conflict Well



# Children's Trust of MA and fathers

Working with Houses of Correction and Probation

- Since 2016 Nurturing Father's evidence-based curriculum - 13-week group series – in Hampshire Houses of Correction – in-house and post release
- To date 87 fathers graduated the in-house groups and 10 from the aftercare groups
- Developing relationships with juvenile justice and probate court probation officers to refer young dads to home visiting
- Speaking to probate court judges about services for fathers

# NURTURING FATHER'S PROGRAM



Recognized by  
DCF & Probate  
Court

Every child deserves a *NURTURING FATHER* - A man who actively provides guidance, love and support to enhance their development and growth.

❑ **NO COST FOR PROGRAM PARTICIPATION, DINNER AND CHILD CARE PROVIDED** ❑

13 week program and dinner beginning on TUESDAY April 7th, 2020

6pm - 8:30pm at the **COOLEY DICKINSON HOSPITAL, 30 LOCUST STREET NORTHAMPTON MA 01060**

Rear Dining Room location in the Cafeteria

**\*\*\*INTAKE MUST BE CONDUCTED WITH EACH DAD PRIOR TO ARRIVAL\*\*\***

Contact Demetra Balis at 413-582-7799

Facilitators : Demetra Balis, Vuthy Chhum & Rafael Santos

Facilitated By **The Children's Trust Inc.** with Treatment  
Staff of The Hampshire Sheriff's Office



# Children's Trust of MA and fathers

For more information

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