





# 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

<b>Scales</b>		







# 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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