

Evaluation of the PATTHS for Dads Initiative

The Healthy Fathering Collaborative | 2009-2010

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People Are Teaching and Talking about Healthy Sexuality (PATTHS) for Dads

The Healthy Fathering Collaborative of Greater Cleveland is a network of public and private agencies dedicated to supporting fathers, families, and their children in Greater Cleveland, Ohio. PATTHS for Dads, a curriculum developed by Planned Parenthood and sponsored by The Healthy Fathering Collaborative, is a program intended to build capacity in the community for fathers to feel confident in providing guidance to



youth on comprehensive sexuality education. Participation in the PATTHS for Dads program helps fathers speak to their children honestly and openly about sexuality and reproduction and to role model responsible and healthy behaviors for their children. This initiative builds on programming in previous years that focused on increasing the capacity of local providers to deliver this type of training to fathers. This brief focuses on PATTHS for Dads workshops implemented between November 2009 and August 2010.

Full evaluation report is available on the Healthy Fathering Collaborative website: www.neofathering.net

Finding 1:

More than 1,000 men were reached through the workshops.

Facilitators from five local organizations that serve fathers conducted 80 PATTHS for Dads workshops between November of 2009 and August of 2010. More than more than 1,000 fathers and father-figures (uncles, grandfathers) participated in the workshops.

Finding 2:

Fathers reported an increase in their level of comfort talking about sex with their children.

Fathers felt significantly more comfortable talking about sex with their children after the workshop than they did prior to the workshop.

Topic	Pre-Test	Post-Test	Follow-Up
Abstinence or not having sex (n=816)	3.4	3.6***	3.5 (n=187)
Birth control/pregnancy prevention (n=811)	3.4	3.5***	3.5 (n=185)
Body parts (n=819)	3.3	3.4***	3.5 (n=180)
Condoms (n=813)	3.4	3.5***	3.5 (n=180)
Healthy Relationships (n=823)	3.5	3.6***	3.6 (n=187)
Parenthood (n=817)	3.5	3.6***	3.6 (n=184)
Pregnancy (n=809)	3.4	3.5***	3.5 (n=186)
Safe and Unsafe Sexual Behaviors (n=815)	3.4	3.5***	3.5 (n=186)
Sex on television and in music (n=816)	3.5	3.5***	3.6 (n=187)
STDs (n=817)	3.5	3.6***	3.6 (n=179)
Mean Score on all Ten Topics (n=761)	3.4	3.5***	3.6 (n=175)

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Finding 3:

Fathers planned to talk to their children about more topics related to sex after the workshop than they had prior to the workshop.

On average, fathers said they had talked to their children about four (3.9) of the topics listed in the table below prior to the workshop and planned to talk to their children about significantly more topics (6.9) after the workshop. At follow-up they reported that they had talked to their children about, on average, 3.6 of the topics. This indicates that though they left the workshop intending to talk about more topics related to sexual health, they had not had those conversations in the 30 days after completing the workshop.

Topic	Talked to Children Prior to Workshop (n=857)	Plan to Talk to Children at Post-Test (n=857)	Talked to Children After Workshop (n=190)
Abstinence or not having sex	44%	70%***	40%
Birth control/pregnancy prevention	34%	67%***	30%
Body parts	43%	67%***	34%
Condoms	38%	69%***	33%
Healthy Dating Relationships	45%	74%***	44%
Parenthood	43%	71%***	40%
Pregnancy	37%	65%***	33%
Safe and Unsafe Sexual Behaviors	37%	68%***	37%
Sex on television and in music	40%	66%***	37%
STDs	40%	70%***	36%
Mean Number of Topics Addressed	3.9	6.9***	3.6

*** p < .001

Finding 4:

Fathers increased their knowledge about teens and sex.

Fathers were asked 12 true or false questions about teens and sex. Positive statistically significant changes between pre- and post-tests were observed on six of the items. At follow-up, a greater percentage of participants correctly answered 11 of the 12 statements than did at pre and post-test.

Finding 5:

Fathers reported an increase in knowledge about sexual health.

More than 75% of the participants indicated they increased their knowledge in the following areas:

- how STDs affect teens,
- how people acquire STDs,
- the difference between safe and unsafe sexual behaviors,
- what makes relationships unhealthy,
- sex on television and in music, and
- birth control/pregnancy prevention.

Finding 6:

Fathers know where to get sexual health information and services after attending a workshop.

Nearly all (95%) of the fathers indicated that they know where to go to receive information about sexual health and where to receive sexual health services.

