Strategies for Recruiting Low-Income Minority Fathers into an Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study

Khalida Saalim
SUMR Scholar
Georgetown University

Mentor: Roy Wade Jr., MPH, PhD, MD, MSHP
Our Paternal ACE Study
In 1995-1997, the CDC and Kaiser Permanente conducted an ACE study which surveyed 17,000 adults in Southern California about their childhood experiences of abuse, neglect, and household challenges.

The study showed the correlation between ACE and poor health outcomes across their life course.

Research has shown that mothers’ ACE can impact their child’s health outcomes. However, the effects of fathers ACE have not been studied.
Purpose:
To study the impact of a father’s ACE on their child’s behavioral health

Our study population:
500 children seen across CHOP primary care network between 2007-2015

Study Design:
Both biological parents complete our survey about their parenting practices and their childhood experiences
Survey responses will be merged with clinical data to examine the association between paternal ACE, parenting practices, and child behavioral disorders
**Surveys Completed Since January 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Maternal Survey</th>
<th>Paternal Survey</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Completed</strong></td>
<td>199</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Matched Parent Pairs</strong></td>
<td>128</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Demographics of Respondent Fathers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>24.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hispanic Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual Income</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$0-$25,000</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,000-$75,000</td>
<td>19.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75,000+</td>
<td>67.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
My Project: Strategies for Recruiting Low-Income Minority Fathers into an Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study
Introduction

Purpose:
To enhance recruitment of low-income minority fathers in our paternal ACE study and to summarize the literature on effective recruitment methods for low-income minority fathers

Our study population:
Fathers who have not completed survey
Methods

- Literature Review
- Conceptual Framework
- Specific Aims
- Interventions
PubMed Searches:
Recruitment AND low-income AND participation AND surveys (30 results)

Recruitment AND minorities AND participation AND surveys (59 results)

Recruitment AND men AND participation AND surveys (79 results)

Recruitment AND parents AND participation AND surveys (69 results)

Recruitment AND fathers AND participation AND surveys (5 results)

Electronic mail AND surveys AND non-response (8 results)

Telephone AND surveys AND non-response (94 results)

Postal Services AND surveys AND non-response (60 results)
Conceptual Framework: Strategies to Increasing Recruitment in Low-Income Minority Males Who Are Fathers
Aims

**Aim 1:** Develop recruitment strategies to increase participation in our ACE study through literature review and conceptual framework

**Aim 2:** Revise these recruitment strategies based on input of low-income minority fathers

**Aim 3:** Test the different recruitment strategies on our survey population
Intervention 1: Addressing Timing of Recruitment and Email Inaccessibility

**Intervention 1:** Using postal mail as a survey contact method
**Intervention 2a: Addressing Fathers Feelings of Insignificance**

*Intervention 2a: A personalized card expressing our team’s appreciation of fathers*
Intervention 2b: An introduction paragraph on why their responses are significant to our study in the initial recruitment letter

The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia is honored to invite fathers like you to participate in our research study. This research will help us understand how childhood stress can affect health. You have been asked to participate because your child, [CHILD NAME], visited one of the CHOP primary care locations between 2007 and 2015. As of today, most mothers have responded, but we are still missing information from some fathers. By completing the survey, your responses as a father may be used to create new ways to make our children healthier. Without your input, we will not be able to complete this study.
Intervention 2c: A modified version of the survey that includes only the questions relevant to fathers.
Intervention 3: Addressing Insufficient Incentives and Medical Distrust

**Intervention 3:** A pre-incentive with an initial $10-20 on a reloadable gift card allotted through postal mail upon providing their consent.
Intervention 4: Addressing Unappealing Recruitment Materials

Intervention 4: More noticeable postal letter with a solid color and IMPORTANT read on it to prevent it from being viewed as junk mail.

Original Letter

Proposed Letter
Next Steps:

Talk to an opportunistic sample of low-income minority fathers whose children are being seen at one of CHOPs pediatric care sites in West Philadelphia to:

- Review the wording of our recruitment materials
- Provide feedback on appearance of recruitment materials
- Revise and test our new recruitment strategies in our study population
Appreciation
Lessons Learned

How to conduct an in-depth and extensive literature review

Experience drafting a conceptual framework and specific aims

The importance of understanding our study population and using this knowledge to strategize recruitment methods
Thank you...

Dr. Roy Wade
Macy Marcucci
Danielle Collins
The Leonard Davis Institute and the SUMR program
Questions?


References (Cont.)


