

MET-ANALYSIS OF FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

FROM THE RESEARCH & INSIGHTS TEAM

Meta-Analysis Documentation

Layzer JI, Goodson BD, Bernstein L, Price C. *National evaluation of family support programs. Volume A: The meta-analysis. Final report.* Cambridge, Mass: Abt Associates Inc.; 2001. Available at:<http://www.abtassociates.com/reports/NEFSP-VoIA.pdf>.

Meta-Analysis Background

The final report of the National Evaluation of Family Support Programs was undertaken for the Administration on Children, Youth and Families by Abt Associates Inc., with a subcontract to Yale University.

The more than 200 research studies concentrated on pilot programs and the studies included in the meta-analysis were found in printed and computer databases, including:

- ERIC, which lists published works but also some unpublished papers and papers presented at meetings and conferences
 - The National Technical Information Service (NTIS), a database of summaries of completed research sponsored by 600+ federal agencies
 - Social and Behavioral Science Documents (SBSD), published by the American Psychological Association, which contains abstracts of technical papers, reports and bibliographies
 - Social Sciences Literature Information System (SOLIS), listing monographs, reports and conference proceedings in the social sciences and humanities
 - Federal Research in Progress (FEDRIP), provides access to information about current and ongoing federally funded research
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Meta-Analysis Findings

The average effect size for studies categorized as having outcomes related to parent attitudes/knowledge is .23 when the randomized and quasi-experimental studies were combined.

Programs that provide opportunities for peer support for parents have larger effects on parent attitudes and knowledge.

Almost two-thirds of the programs studied had very small or no effects on parents' understanding of child development, attitudes about childrearing or behavior with their children.

The effect size of the pilot site for Raising Highly Capable Kids is 21% greater than the average effect size of these programs. So Raising Highly Capable Kids is 21% more effective than the average evidence based parenting program included in this study.