Parents for Parents
Supporting families in the child welfare system
akin

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH

Based upon findings from the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), King County Superior Courts Parents for Parents program was identified as a Promising Practice by the University of Washington's Evidence Based Practice Institute.

The Parents for Parents program was evaluated by NCJFCJ in both 2011 and 2013. Some key findings from these evaluations included:

- Increased compliance in the court-ordered case plan by both mothers and fathers (2011)
- Significant increases in parents' compliance with court-ordered visitation at the review hearing (2011)
- Increased participation by the mother at key court events; mothers were more likely to be present for court hearings by 13% (2011)
- Dependency 101 participants had greater rates of reunification and lower rates of termination of parental rights compared to non-participants—*not statistically significant* (2013)
- Caucasian families who participated in Dependency 101 were more likely to be reunified and less likely to have their parental rights terminated—*statistically significant* (2013)
- Native American women who participated in Dependency 101 were more likely to be in some form of compliance at their review hearing—*statistically significant* (2013)
- African American men who participated in Dependency 101 were more likely to be in some form of compliance with services at review and permanency hearings—*statistically significant* (2013)

Findings were also reported in the *Children and Youth Services Review* (volume 34, 2012, pp. 2036-2041) on the effectiveness of the program participants and include:

- Positive change in attitudes
- Increased trust in Child Protective Services (CPS)
- Better understanding of the role of stakeholders
- Increased belief that parents have control over their case outcomes
- Increased awareness of case issues
- Increased engagement in the juvenile dependency court process
- Increased compliance with court orders and case plans
- Increased participation in visitation

In 2014, Partners for Our Children analyzed rates of reunification in counties with Parents for Parents programs and found these rates are significantly higher ($p < .0001$) than for comparable families in counties in which there is not yet a Parents for Parents program.

In 2016, Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago conducted a Phase I Evaluation of the Parents for Parents program. Key findings included:

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- Parents' attitudes toward the dependency process were more positive after attending Dep 101
- Dependency 101 participants' trust in CPS being fair increased after participating in the class
- Parents who attended Dependency 101 classes were much more likely to believe there is something they can do to improve their chances of reunification

The most recent phase II evaluation was conducted by the Child Welfare Capacity Building, Center for Courts. The quasi-experimental designed evaluation examined data from three P4P programs in Washington State. The evaluation focused specifically on the relationship of P4P and its effectiveness on parental engagement in services and case outcomes. The findings unveil:

PARENT ENGAGEMENT

- A positive relationship between Dependency 101 attendance and service compliance at the first review hearing and permanency planning hearing for mothers and fathers
- A positive relationship between Dependency 101 attendance and visitation compliance at review and permanency planning hearings for mothers; a relationship between Dependency 101 and visitation compliance at the permanency planning hearing for fathers
- Dependency 101 participants' trust in CPS being fair increased after participating in the class

CASE OUTCOMES

- A relationship between parent participation in Dependency 101 and increased reunification rates
  - 70% of parents who participated in Dependency 101 reunified with their children
  - 53% of parents who did not participate in Dependency 101 reunified with their children
- A relationship between parent participation in Dependency 101 decreased TPR rates
  - 26% of parents who participated in Dependency 101 had their parental rights terminated
  - 39% of parents who did not participate in Dependency 101 had their parental rights terminated
- When parents participated in Dependency 101 and received additional mentoring from Parent Allies
  - 79% of parents reunified with their children

No relationship between parent participation in Dependency 101 and length of time until permanency. This may suggest that future studies should explore the additional parent support components the program offers and their time to permanency.

Research evaluations reports noted in this summary:
(click on the colored link to jump to the bookmarked page)

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2011

PPCD Research Report

Parent to Parent Outcome Evaluation

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Permanency Planning for Children Department

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

Reno, NV
October, 2011

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The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges® (NCJFCJ) headquartered on the University of Nevada campus in Reno since 1969, provides cutting-edge training, wide-ranging technical assistance, and research to help the nation's courts, judges, and staff in their important work. Since its founding in 1937 by a group of judges dedicated to improving the effectiveness of the nation's juvenile courts, the NCJFCJ has pursued a mission to improve courts and systems practice and raise awareness of the core issues that touch the lives of many of our nation's children and families.

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Executive Summary

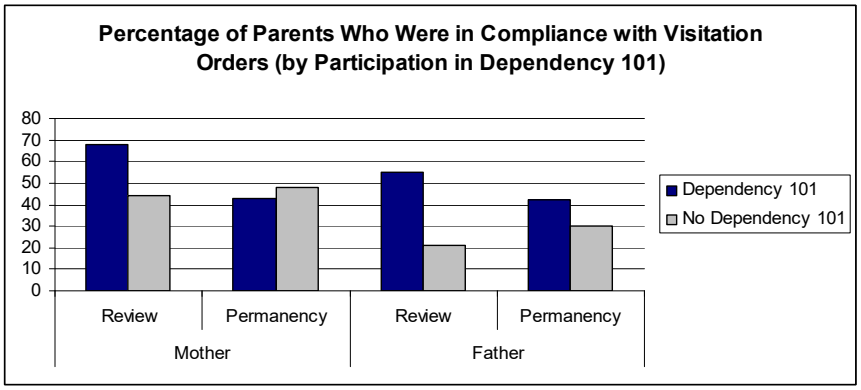
Introduction

The purpose of this assessment is to examine the effects of King County's Parent to Parent Program on engaging parents in the dependency process and case processing timeliness. A process evaluation of the Parent to Parent Program, completed by the Permanency Planning for Children Department of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges in July 2011, revealed that the program was helpful in improving parents' perceptions of the dependency process and in providing parents new to the dependency system with a support system.

Summary of Findings

The efficacy evaluation found that participation in Dependency 101 was related to:

- Increased compliance in the court-ordered case plan by both mothers (marginally) and fathers (significantly)
- Significant increases in parents' compliance with court-ordered visitation at the review hearing, but not at the permanency hearing



- Increased participation by the mother at key court events; mothers were more likely to be present for court hearings by 13%
- No differences in timeliness of case processing

The evaluation also found some race differences. Caucasian families benefited the most from Dependency 101, followed by African American fathers and Native American mothers.

This efficacy assessment is expected to be helpful to King County in terms of determining efficient allocation of resources and to contribute to a larger body of theoretical literature.

Juvenile Dependency and Parent to Parent

As of September 30, 2009, 10,894 children in the State of Washington were in foster care (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2010). Researchers and policymakers have made it a priority to discover what factors might assist efforts to reunify children with their families. One factor that researchers have considered important in increasing the rates and timeliness of family reunification is parental engagement (Leathers, 2002; Wood & Russell, 2011). Yet, engaging parents may not be an easy task.

Low levels of parental engagement could be due to several factors. Families involved with the child welfare system face a number of stressors, including poverty, unemployment, low education levels, lack of transportation, health problems, and mental illness diagnoses (Dawson & Berry, 2002). These stressors, combined with incidences of domestic violence, criminal justice involvement, and substance abuse, as well as negative perceptions of the child welfare system, lead to much higher levels of familial distress (Nilsen, Affronti & Coombes, 2009) and may create physical and attitudinal barriers affecting parents' ability and willingness to appear in dependency court and participate in services. Another reason for low engagement may be a lack of fit between ordered services and family needs. Drop out rates from court-ordered services, such as parent training programs, are high, and often result increases in children's time in care (Dawson & Berry; Barth et al., 2005). Findings from Child and Family Service Reviews, conducted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, have consistently identified the need to improve parental engagement (Thoennes, 2009).

One innovative approach to enhancing parental engagement has been emerging: peer-to-peer programs that pair parents who have been through the child welfare system (Veteran Parents or VPs) with parents new to the system (Marcenko et al., 2010; Nilsen, 2009). The VPs mentor new parents as they navigate the juvenile dependency process by providing social support, helping parents advocate for themselves, giving them a voice in the system, and helping ensure they receive the services they need. By sharing their experiences of struggles as well as successes in working with the court and child welfare professionals, VPs also offer inspiration and hope to parents.

VPs can potentially facilitate family engagement in the juvenile dependency field through several means. First, VPs provide support to new families; they may be seen as legitimate sources for social support because of their previous experiences in the juvenile dependency system. Second, VPs act as a liaison to

the professionals involved in the dependency process, helping parents understand, navigate and connect to the system. Third, VPs provide encouragement for parents to accept and participate in court-ordered services. Fourth, VPs serve as positive social comparisons for parents, an important concept in a system as laden with stigma and shame as the juvenile dependency system. Finally, VPs foster self-efficacy by teaching parents how to advocate for themselves throughout the dependency process (Nilsen, 2009). Despite the potential benefits, outcomes related to the effectiveness of peer-to-peer programs have not been systematically evaluated.

Although parental engagement and compliance with case plans have been found to have benefits (e.g., increased likelihood of reunification with the child, Jellinek et al., 1992), what is less clear from extant research is the role of parental engagement in the court process and the effects of dependency-related peer-to-peer programs on case outcomes. King County and Washington State continue to assess programs that increase parental engagement as a means of improving the efficiency of case processing and quality of outcomes in the juvenile dependency system. The King County Parent to Parent Program (P2PP) offers a potential catalyst for parental engagement because it seeks to help parents understand the juvenile dependency system, become active participants in the process, and build social supports. It is hypothesized that increased understanding, participation and support will increase compliance, reduce continuances or contested hearings, and alter parents' perceptions of Child Protective Services (CPS). This report offers an examination of whether P2PP increases parental engagement and compliance.

The King County Parent to Parent Program

The purpose of the King County Parent to Parent Program (P2PP) is to engage parents early in the dependency process in order to reunite with their children more quickly. The program uses peer support from veteran parents (VPs) who have successfully navigated the child welfare system and education as strategies to engage parents.

The two primary components of the King County P2PP are VP support and Dependency 101. VPs contact parents before or at the 72-hour shelter care hearing and urge them to attend Dependency 101. When parents do not attend, the VPs make efforts to call the parent or try to contact them at subsequent hearings. Dependency 101 is a two-hour team-taught informational session that provides parents tools and resources intended to increase empowerment, engagement and self-advocacy. During the session, parents watch a video about the dependency process, meet some of the professionals involved (social workers, attorneys, etc.), and receive a packet of information about the dependency system. Professional stakeholders discuss their roles in the dependency process. Parents also hear from VPs, who tell their stories and talk about what it takes to reunify with their children. Based on a parental engagement program in Pierce County, Washington, King County implemented both components of the P2PP at the King County Superior Court (Seattle) in 2009 and at the Maleng Regional Justice Center (Kent) in 2010; at the Maleng Center, VP support began in March of 2010 and Dependency 101 began in April 2010

In partnership with the Washington Administrative Office of the Courts, the Permanency Planning for Children Department (PPCD) of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) examined the P2PP process and its effects on parent perceptions of the juvenile dependency system. The study found that all parents who participated in Dependency 101 reported that they learned at least one thing from the class and felt that the session was helpful (NCJFCJ, 2011a). Parents also reported reduced anxiety about the dependency process, increased trust in Child Protective Services (CPS), more awareness of how CPS could help reunify their family, and a better understanding of the roles of dependency professionals. Many parents reported they believed they were less alone after taking the class and some believed they had more control over the outcome of their case. These promising results of the process evaluation led researchers to move forward in examining the effect that the P2PP may have on case processing and outcomes.

Evaluation Overview

The process evaluation of the P2PP, conducted by NCJFCJ in July of 2011, revealed that the Dependency 101 session was effective in changing parents' perceptions of the dependency process and of Child Protective Services. Parents found the program components helpful in increasing their understanding of the dependency process.

The current assessment draws on the results of the P2PP process evaluation and observation of the Dependency 101 session in order to assess its effectiveness. The goal of P2PP is to enhance engagement of the parents in the dependency process. It is hypothesized that engaged parents will have higher compliance and more participation in hearings. It is also hypothesized that engagement may affect the timeliness of case processing, as engaged parents may contest fewer issues and work more collaboratively with system stakeholders to reach resolution. The current assessment specifically addresses whether Dependency 101 enhances parental engagement by increasing their compliance with case services and visitation orders and increasing their attendance at dependency court hearings and examines any effect participation may have on case timeliness and outcomes. The current assessment also examines any differences in engagement that might occur by race.

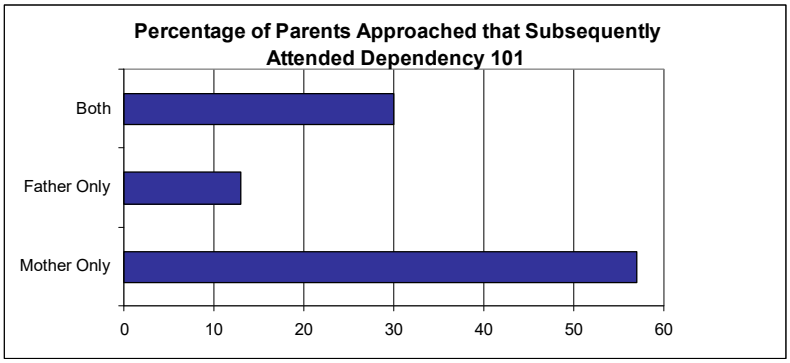
The specific research questions are:

- Does participation in Dependency 101 increase parent engagement in the dependency process?
- Is Dependency 101 more or less effective in engaging parents in some racial groups than others?
- Does participation in Dependency 101 increase the timeliness of case processing or dependency case outcomes?

Method

The P2PP coordinator provided researchers with information on parents who had been approached by a VP and referred to Dependency 101 beginning in January of 2010. This information included: (1) date the parent was approached, (2) gender of the parent, (3) race of the parent, and (4) date parent participated in Dependency 101 (when applicable). Utilizing structured case file review instruments, researchers reviewed and coded 80 cases of parents eligible to participate in Dependency 101 who were approached to participate. Of these, 43 cases had at least one parent who participated in Dependency 101 and 37 had no parent participation in Dependency 101.

The data provided by the P2PP coordinator included basic demographic information regarding the potential participations in Dependency 101. In 2010, a VP approached or otherwise contacted 647 parents, representing 497 dependency cases. An examination of the 806 new petitions filed in 2010 indicated that a VP approached at least one parent for 62% (*n*=497) of all the cases filed. Forty-five percent of those approached (291 of 497) attended Dependency 101. The majority of attendees were mothers (65%).[1] The sample selected demonstrated a consistent pattern with a VP approaching mothers (48%), fathers (10%) or both parents (42%). In 30% of the participating sample, both parents attended Dependency 101. When only one parent attended, it was most often the mother (57%). The following graph reflects the percentage of participants (in our sample) that were approached and subsequently attended Dependency 101.



Dependency 101 classes were held twice a month in Seattle and once a month in Kent. An average of eight parents attended each session. The majority of participants attended Dependency 101 within 21 days of the shelter care hearing (16 days for mothers and 27 days for fathers).

[1] These numbers may underestimate the percentage of parents who would typically be approached by VPs because Kent began the Shelter Care VP support later in the year. 2011 estimates may reflect a higher percentage of parents approached.

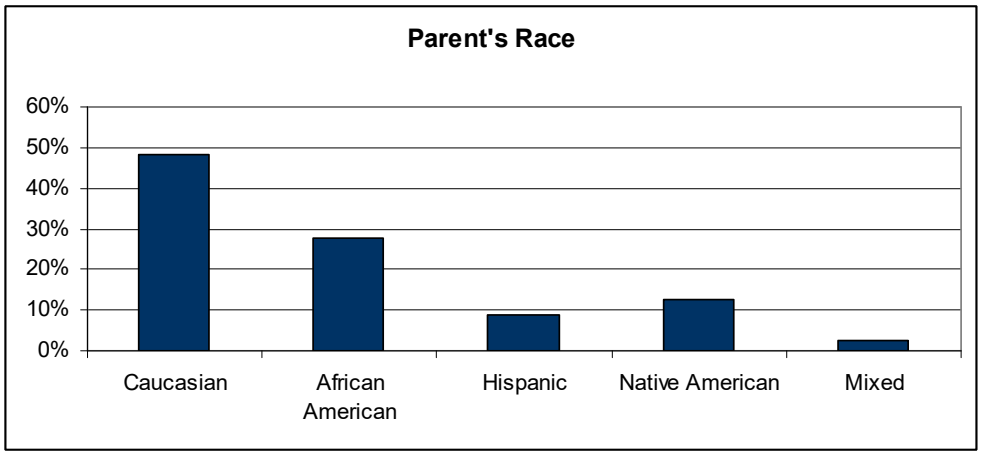
Results

Comparability of the Two Groups

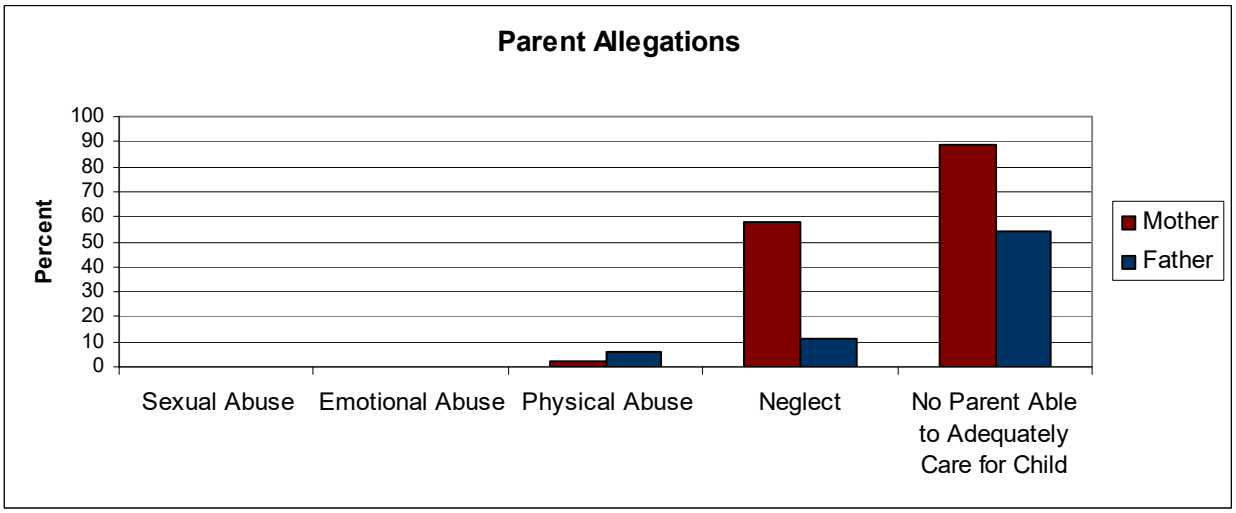
In order to make comparisons between the Dependency 101 participants and non-participants, researchers ensured that the two groups (those who were invited but did not attend and those who were invited and did attend) were comparable in terms of parent's race, child's age, the type and number of allegations against the parents, and presenting problems of the parents. A statistical test revealed that the two groups were similar. Case factors did not differ between the two groups, indicating that any further differences that might emerge are not due to case differences and are more likely due to participation in Dependency 101.

Case Demographics

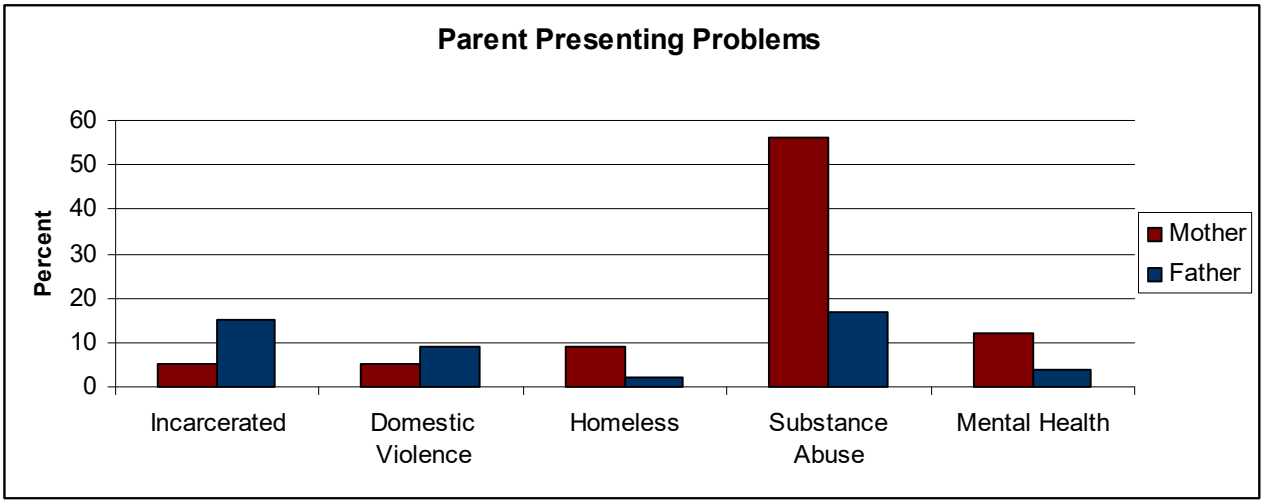
The average age of the child on the petition was 3.7 (range of 0 to 17). This age may be younger than the general foster care population due to the means that the P2PP coordinator uses to track cases. Cases are recorded by the youngest child's case number, which makes the entire sample younger than a random sample would reflect. The race of parents who were assessed in the case was primarily Caucasian (48%), followed by African American (28%), Native American (13%), Hispanic (9%) and Mixed race or Bi-racial (3%). The demographics of the sample are similar to the demographics of the overall foster care population: children in care are 30% Caucasian, 28% African American, 7% Native American, 9% Hispanic and 22% Mixed race. Differences in the samples may be due to the fact that researchers did not always have the race of both parents and therefore could not ascertain the race of the child. More children are of mixed race in foster care than are represented in the current study.



In Washington, a child is considered dependent if the child has been abandoned, is abused or neglected or "has no parent, guardian, or custodian capable of adequately caring for the child" (RCW 13.34.030). The most common allegations against parents in the King county P2PP study were that the child has no parent capable of adequately caring for the child, or some form of neglect. There were no allegations of emotional or sexual abuse and very few (2% for mother, 6% for fathers) allegations of physical abuse.



The most common presenting problem was substance abuse. Fifty-six percent of mothers and 17% of fathers had substance abuse issues noted on the petition. The second most common presenting problem for mothers was mental health issues; 12% of mothers face this issue. For fathers, the second most common presenting problem was incarceration (15%).



Effects of Dependency 101

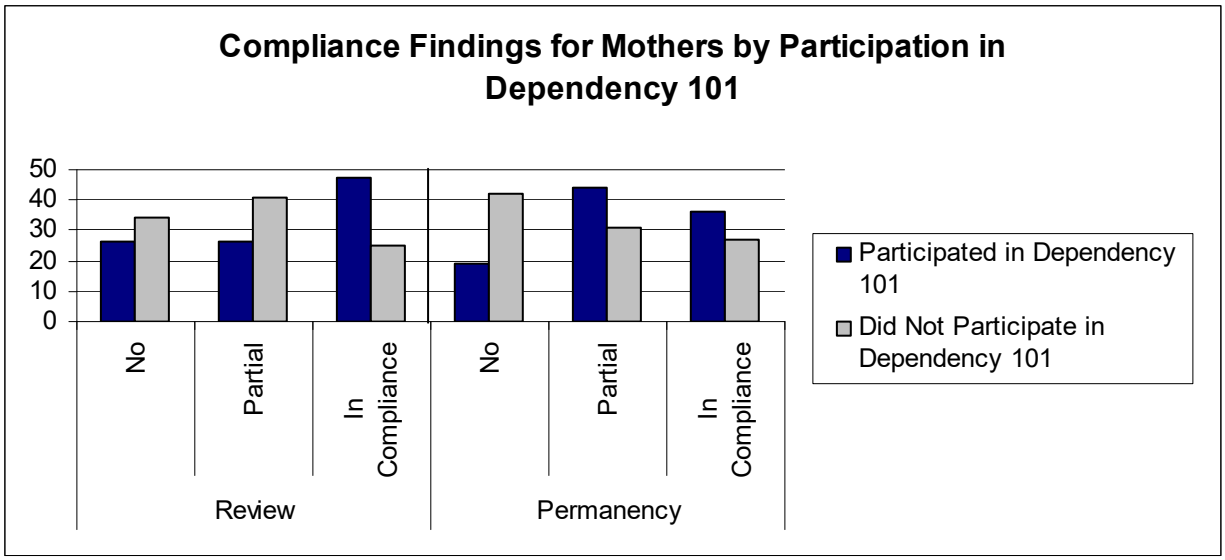
Participation in Dependency 101 was hypothesized to affect case processing and outcomes. For the following findings, researchers used statistical analyses to determine if parents who participated in Dependency 101 differed *significantly* from those who did not. The results are reported as to whether or not there was a statistically significant difference using a cutoff of $p < .05$. It should also be noted that some differences emerged that may appear to be quite different but were not found to be statistically significant, likely due to the small sample size.

Parental Engagement

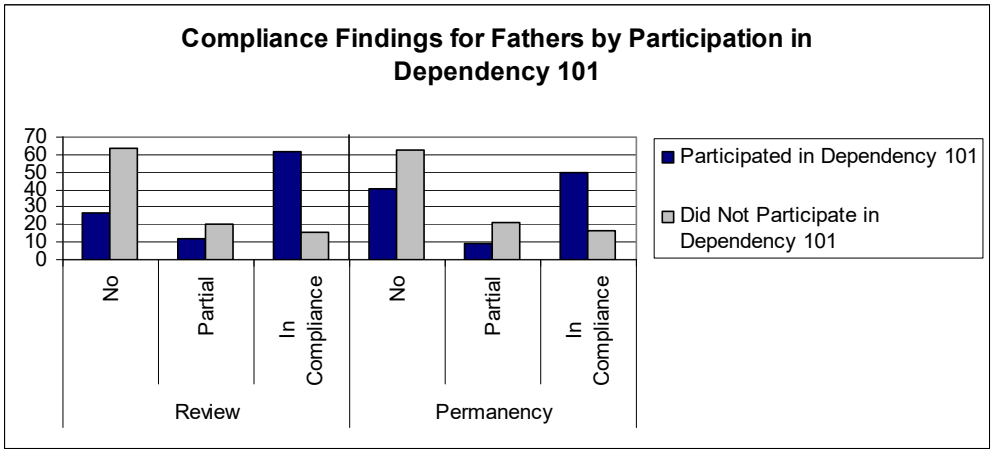
Participation in Dependency 101 was hypothesized to influence parent's engagement in the dependency process. Engagement, for this study was defined as parent's compliance with the case plan, compliance with visitation, and presence at key court hearings.

Case Plan Compliance

Compliance with the ordered case plan was measured based on a court finding of compliance. At each review and permanency hearing, judicial officers make compliance findings of *no*, *partial*, or *in compliance* for all parents who are a party to the case. The following graphs illustrate the percentage of parents with a finding of no, partial, or in compliance at the first review hearing and the permanency hearing. The findings are separated by participation in Dependency 101 and by gender of the parent.



Mothers who participated in Dependency 101 were more likely to be in full compliance at both the review and the permanency hearing than mothers who did not participate. This difference is clearly visible in the graphs, but was not statistically significant.

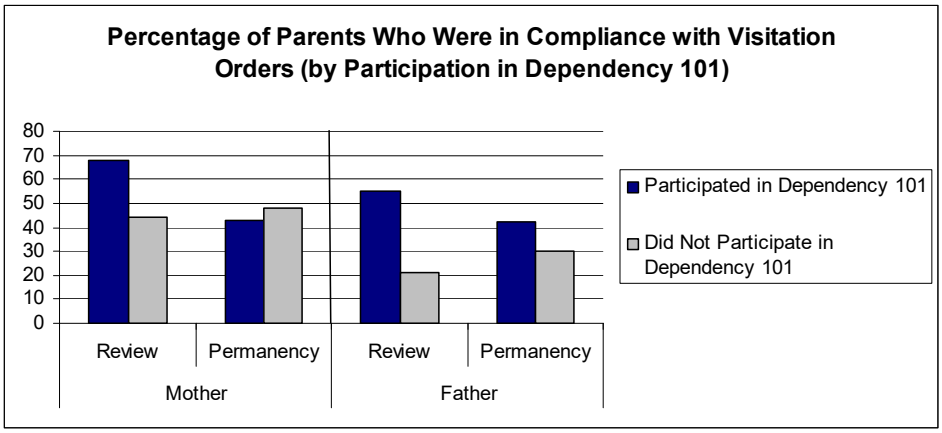


The findings for fathers were much more pronounced. Fathers who participated in Dependency 101 were significantly more likely to be in full compliance with the case plan than fathers who did not. This was true for findings made at both the review and the permanency hearing. This difference was statistically significant.

Visitation Compliance

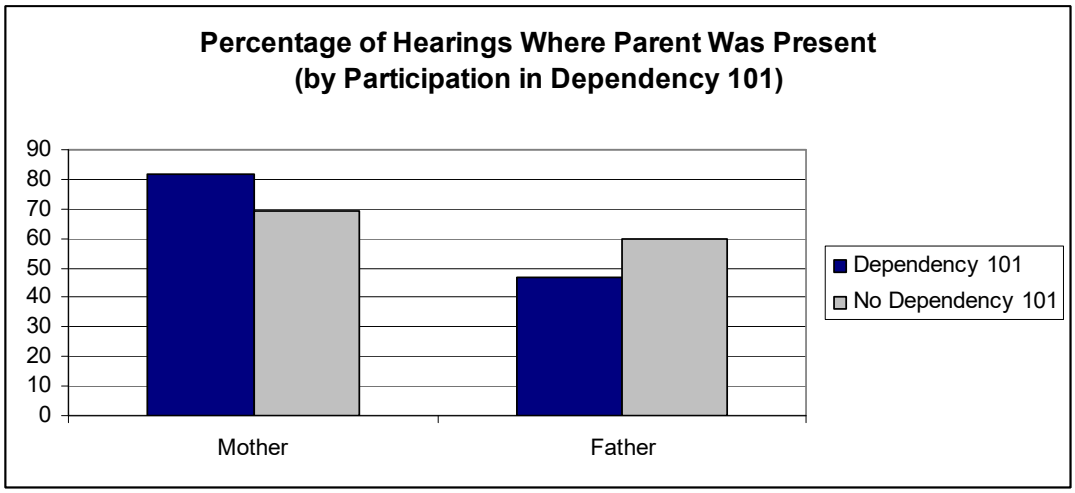
A second measure of engagement was the court's finding of parental compliance with visitation orders. Beginning at the first review hearing, the judicial officer makes a finding regarding whether the parent has or has not had consistent visits with the child. The findings suggest that parents who participated in

Dependency 101 were significantly more likely to comply with visitation orders at the review hearing than non-participating parents were. There were no significant differences between these groups in visitation compliance at the permanency hearing, however.



Presence at Hearings

The final measure of engagement was the presence of parents at court hearings. A percentage of presence was calculated based on the hearings held and the parent's presence or absence at these key hearings. Mothers were significantly more likely to be present at hearings if they had participated in Dependency 101 than if they had not (82% compared to 69%) and this difference was statistically significant. There was no statistically significant effect of Dependency 101 on father's participation.

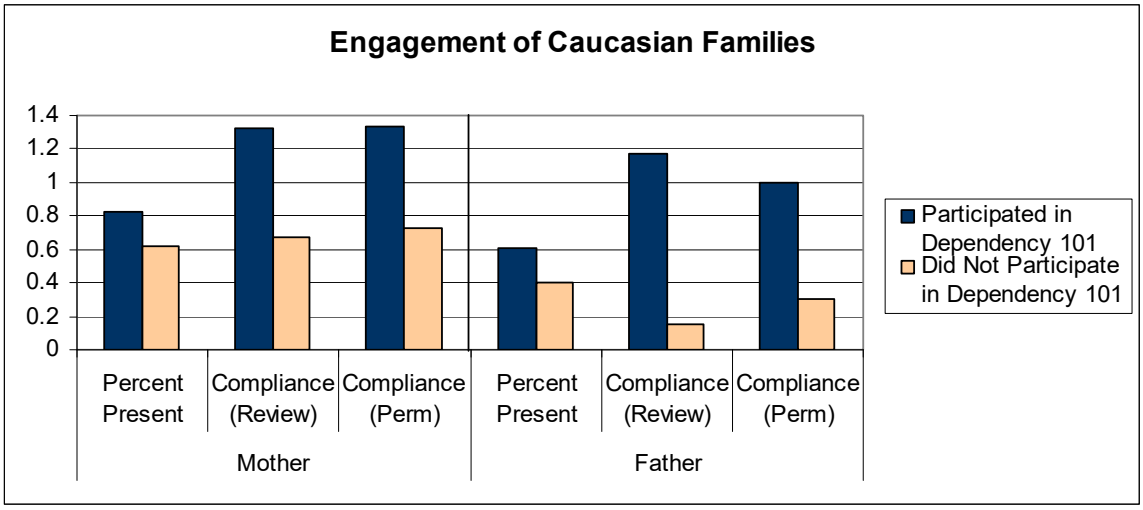


Race Differences in Engagement

Research has shown that across the country children and families of color are disproportionately represented in the child welfare system (NCJFCJ, 2011b). King County has disproportionate representation of both African American and Native American youth in foster care. This study of the affect of the P2PP includes an examination of the program's effectiveness by race. This examination focuses on differences in parent's engagement in the process. Parents' participation in court hearings is operationalized as a percentage present. Higher numbers demonstrate an increase in the percentage of hearings the parent attended. Case plan compliance ranged from *0=no compliance* to *2=in compliance.* Average compliance is reported in the graphs below. Higher scores indicate better compliance.

Caucasian Families

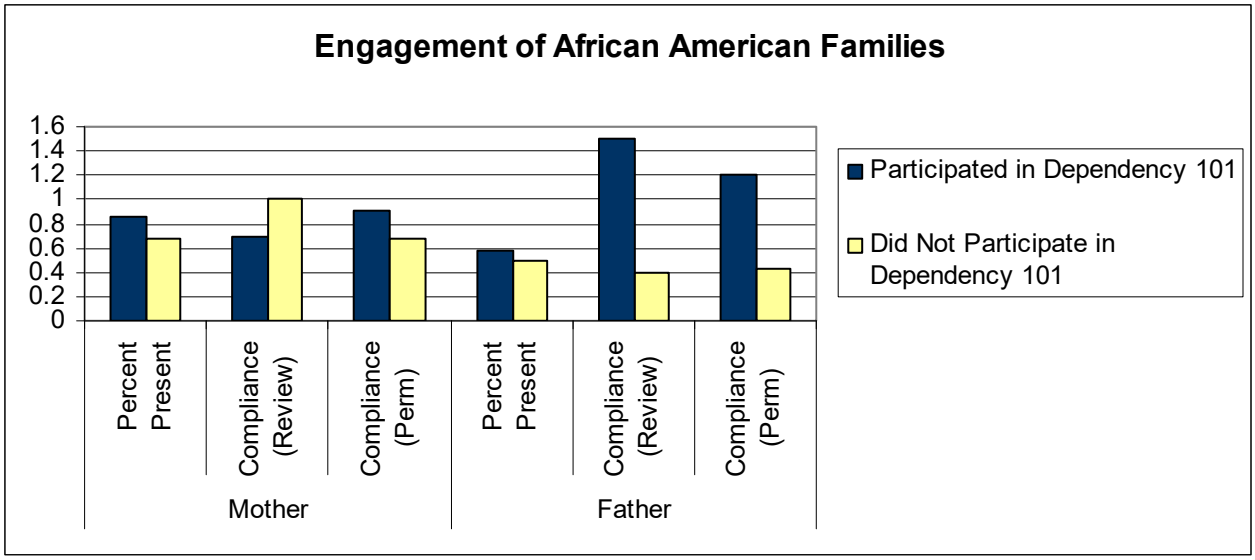
Dependency 101 appears to be most effective for Caucasian families. Caucasian mothers were significantly more likely to be present at hearings after participating in Dependency 101 than mothers who did not participate. Further, both mothers' and fathers' compliance with the case plan was higher for those who participated in Dependency 101 than for those who did not. The graph below illustrates these differences.



African American Families

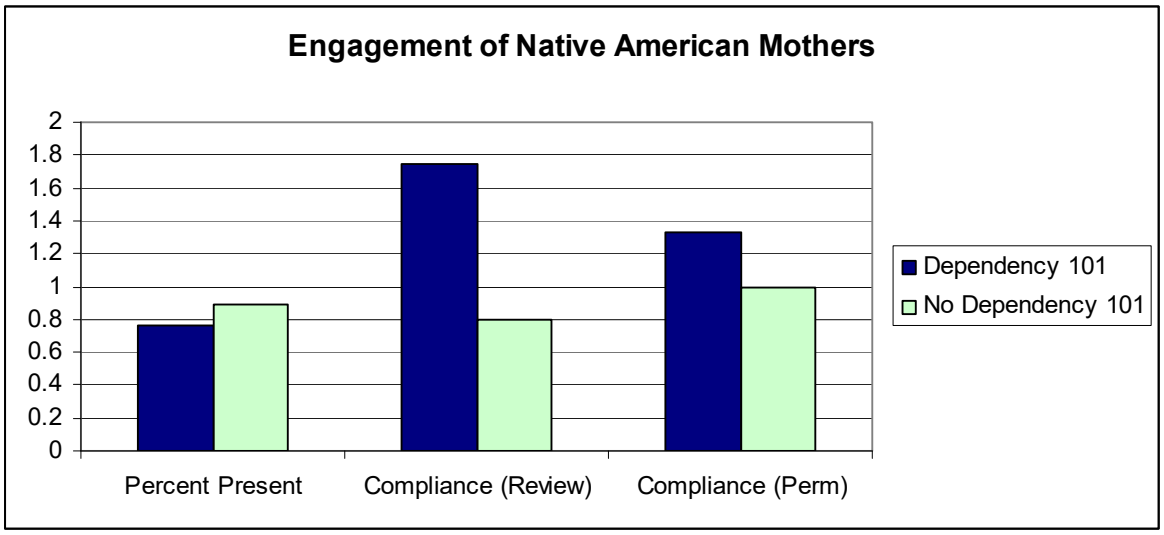
For African American families, mothers who participated in Dependency 101 were significantly more likely to attend court hearings than those who did not participate. However, there were no differences in father's attendance at court hearings based on participation in Dependency 101. Participation in Dependency 101 had no effect on mothers' compliance with the case plan but did appear to have a significant effect on fathers' compliance at both the review and permanency hearings, with African

American father who participated in Dependency 101 demonstrating much higher compliance with the case plan than African American fathers who did not participate.



Native American Families

Participation in Dependency 101 appeared to be least effective for Native American families. The lack of statistical finding may be due to the small sample size as only 10 Native American families were coded for this research. For Native American families, only the mothers' compliance at the first review hearing was significantly different for participators and non-participators. Mothers who had participated in Dependency 101 were significantly more likely to be in compliance at the review hearing than those who had not participated. No Native American fathers in the sample participated in Dependency 101.



Case Timeliness, Placement & Outcomes

A second part of the study examined the effect of the P2PP on case processing efficiency, including timeliness of case processing and outcomes. If parties are more engaged and more willing to work collaboratively, this may reduce the time it takes the case to move forward through key events.[2] No differences in case timeliness between participants and non-participants were found in this study. There were also no differences in the number of continuances ordered for the case, indicating that the P2PP does not appear to influence timeliness.

Future assessments could also examine outcome differences (such as comparing reunification rates and timely reunification). For the current assessment, ten Dependency 101 cases and only three non-Dependency 101 cases had reached case closure. The majority (85%) of the cases had not reached case closure, making it impossible to make comparisons on outcomes in this assessment.

[2] The majority of cases reviewed had not achieved a return home or case closure, making the analysis of time from petition filing to return home and case closure impossible.

Conclusion

The P2PP outcome assessment revealed that Dependency 101 is related to an increase in parental engagement in the dependency process. Parents who participated in Dependency 101 were more likely to be present at key court events, and comply with court-ordered case plans and visitation. Some race differences did emerge. Caucasian parents who participated in Dependency 101 were more likely to demonstrate a significant difference in presence at hearings and case plan compliance than Caucasian parents who did not participate in Dependency 101. For African American mothers, differences were small and not statistically significant; however, African American fathers who participated in Dependency 101 did show a significant increase in case plan compliance when compared to those who did not participate. As engaging fathers in the dependency system may often be difficult, this finding suggests that Dependency 101 can be a valuable tool for engaging fathers. For Native American parents, only the mother's compliance at the review hearing could be assessed and it was significantly different for those who attended Dependency 101 compared to those who did not. These numbers should be interpreted with caution. The sample size for the different racial groups was small. A larger sample size would provide better information regarding the effects of Dependency 101 on different racial groups.

The assessment found no effect on timeliness of case processing through the permanency hearing. Timeliness to case closure could not be assessed because the majority of cases were still open at the time of the assessment. Additionally, because the majority of cases were open, it is premature to make comparisons regarding case outcomes for children and families.

The results of this assessment clearly show that the P2PP enhances engagement in the process. Prior research has identified engagement in the process as an important element in improving safe and timely permanency for children. Increased parental participation in the hearings and compliance with visitation and case plans have led to increases in timely reunification (Leathers, 2002; Wood & Russell, 2011). Although it is impossible to say specifically that participation in the P2PP--and more specifically Dependency 101—increases timely reunification for children and families in King County, the P2PP does encourage parental engagement in areas that have previously been shown to improve outcomes. The P2PP is an effective tool in engaging parents. Future research should explore this program further to specifically examine any differences that may occur in case outcomes as a result of participation in Dependency 101.

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2013

JLP Research Report

Parents for Parents Outcome Evaluation: Additional Examination of Case Outcomes & Racial Differences

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Juvenile Law Programs

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

Reno, NV
September, 2013

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The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges® (NCJFCJ) headquartered on the University of Nevada campus in Reno since 1969, provides cutting-edge training, wide-ranging technical assistance, and research to help the nation's courts, judges, and staff in their important work. Since its founding in 1937 by a group of judges dedicated to improving the effectiveness of the nation's juvenile courts, the NCJFCJ has pursued a mission to improve courts and systems practice and raise awareness of the core issues that touch the lives of many of our nation's children and families.

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Introduction

Since the implementation of King County's Parent for Parent (P4P) program, the goal has been to improve outcomes for families involved in the dependency system. Process and outcome evaluations were performed by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) and they demonstrated that the program has been successful in accomplishing this goal. However, the previous evaluation did not contain enough closed cases to assess differences in outcomes and was difficult to calculate how effective this program is for Native and African American families. This report explores racial differences in parental engagement and case outcomes as they relate to Dependency 101 participation. It is important to note that the study sample size (n=133) was small and therefore statistically significant findings are limited, but trend in a positive direction.

Summary of Key Findings

Statistically significant findings from previous outcome evaluation confirmed in this analysis:

- An association between mothers who participated in Dependency 101 and full compliance of services at both review and permanency hearings.
- An association between fathers who participated in Dependency 101 and full compliance of services only at review hearing.
- An association between mothers who participated in Dependency 101 and compliance of visitation at review hearings only.
- An association between mothers who participated in Dependency 101 and an increased participation in court hearings.

Statistically significant findings within races:

- Native American women who participated in Dependency 101 were more likely to be in some form of compliance (full or partial) at their review hearing.
- Caucasian men who participated in Dependency 101 were more likely to be in compliance with services at their review hearing.
- African American men who participated in Dependency were more likely to be in some form of compliance with services at review and permanency hearings.
- Caucasian families who participated in Dependency 101 were more likely to be reunified and less likely to have their parental rights terminated.

Statistically significant findings across races:

- Native American fathers were less likely to be compliance with services or visitation at review and permanency hearings.

Other findings of interest not statistically significant:

- Overall positive trends among Dependency 101 participants for an increased level of parental engagement and case outcomes.
- Parents of children 12 and older participated in Dependency 101 at higher rates compared to parents of children in different age groups.
- Dependency 101 participants had greater rates of reunification and lower rates of termination of parental rights compared to non-participants
- Dependency 101 participants (mothers) attended more hearings overall.

As of September 30, 2011, 9,857 children in Washington state were in foster care and Native and African American children were represented at a rate of 5.1 and 7.0%, respectively (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services [HHS], 2013). Native American children made up 1.5% and African American 4.0% of the state's overall population of children (HHS, 2013). In May 2013 NCJFCJ published *Disproportionality Rates for Children of Color in Foster Care.* Researchers found that Washington had a disproportionality rate of 5.0 and 2.2 for Native and African American children, respectively, in the foster care system (NCJFCJ, 2013). With children of color overrepresented in the foster care system, it is critical to ensure that effective interventions are taken to reduce their numbers. In 2009, King County implemented a peer-to-peer model program for families who are involved in the dependency system to better engage them. The Parent for Parent (P4P) program uses veteran parents who have successfully navigated the dependency system.

Dependency 101, a component of the P4P program, is a two-hour team-taught informational session that provides parents tools and resources intended to increase empowerment, engagement and self-advocacy. During the session, parents watch a video about the dependency process, meet the professionals involved (social workers, attorneys, etc.), and receive a packet of information about the dependency system. Professional stakeholders discuss their roles in the dependency process and veteran parents tell their stories about what it takes to reunify with their children. In 2011, process and outcome evaluations were performed by researchers at NCJFCJ to examine the effectiveness of Dependency 101. The process evaluation found that all parents who participated in Dependency 101 reported they learned at least one thing from the class and felt the session was helpful (NCJFCJ, 2011). Parents also reported reduced anxiety about the dependency process, increased trust in Child Protective Services (CPS), more awareness of how CPS could help reunify their family, and a better understanding of the roles of dependency professionals (NCJFCJ, 2011). Many parents reported they believed they were less alone after taking the class and some believed they had more control over the outcome of their case (NCJFCJ, 2011).

Results from the outcome evaluation demonstrated that participation in Dependency 101 was related to increased compliance in case plans for mothers and fathers. Dependency 101 participation also demonstrated increased parents' compliance with visitation at review hearings, but not at permanency hearings. Dependency 101 was also associated with increased involvement by mothers at key court events and they were more likely to be present for court hearings. During the original outcome data evaluation, less than 15% of cases had closed making it inadequate to demonstrate differences in case outcomes for Dependency 101 participants. Additional data collection included more African and Native American families and coded closed cases with their outcomes.

In partnership with the Washington Administrative Office of the Courts, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) examined the effect Dependency 101 had on case outcomes and for Native American and African American families who participated in the program. An Excel spreadsheet with a list of all parents who were approached to participate in the Parent for Parent program from 2009-2010 was provided to NCJFCJ researchers that identified additional cases for coding and analysis. The additional cases were stratified by whether they had participated and race, then randomly selected and a vetted instrument was used to code on site. Case outcomes were added to the original outcome evaluation dataset for additional analysis. The dataset was expanded to include the additional cases to further explore racial differences among participants.

The specific research questions selected included:

1) Were previous outcome findings confirmed?
2) Is there a difference in effect for Dependency 101 by racial groups?
    - Difference in effect of parental engagement by race?
    - Difference in effect of case outcome by race?
3) Are case outcomes different for Dependency 101 participants compared to those who did not participate?

After the data collection phase, data were analyzed utilizing IBM SPSS, Version 20. Relative risk ratios were calculated from cross tabulation tables to assess any relationship (or association) between Dependency 101 and various aspects of the dependency case (e.g. service and visitation compliance, case outcomes, etc.). Unadjusted relative risk (RR) can provide a crude estimate of relative effect between exposure (Dependency 101) and outcome of interest (e.g. Reunification). Confidence intervals (CI) were calculated to measure the uncertainty of the relative risk ratios. Differences within races were explored by stratifying (or "isolating") race into its own strata and then Dependency 101 participation was controlled for. Difference across races was explored utilizing binary logistic regression and including an interaction term between race and Dependency 101. Linear regression was used to assess differences in hearing attendance for mothers and fathers who participated in Dependency 101 compared to those who did not. Level of confidence (p-value) was set to 10% because the sample size was small (n=133), making the statistical power low. Any p-value equal to 0.10 or less should be considered statistically significant for the purposes of the results reported here.

Case Characteristics

The study sample consisted of 133 cases and 73% of the cases were closed at the time of coding. Of those who participated in Dependency 101, 75% had their cases closed and among those who did not, 72% had their cases closed. Within the sample, 55% participated in Dependency 101 and 45% did not participate (see figure 1). The majority of participants were mothers (48%), followed by both mothers and fathers (23%), and fathers only made up 10% of the sample (see figure 2). For more sample descriptives see tables 1 – 3.

Figure 1 -Participation in Dependency 101

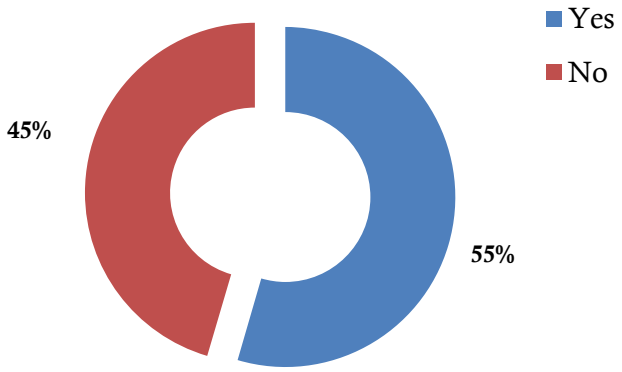


Figure 2 - Who participated in Dependency 101?

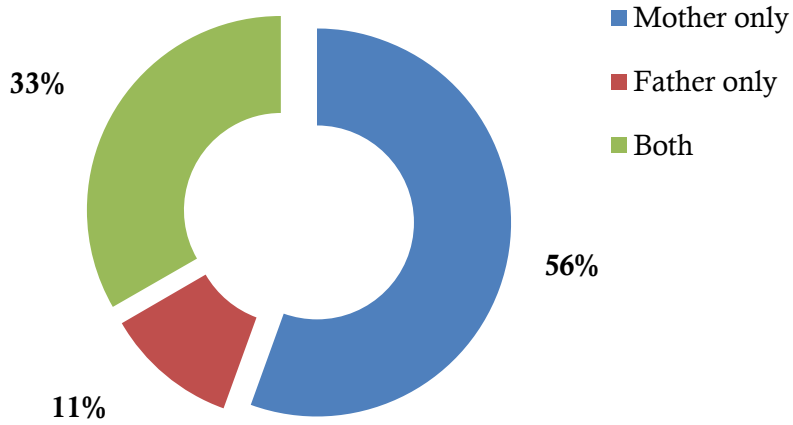


Table 1. Race Characteristics of the Sample		
	Participated in Dependency 101	**Didn't participate in Dependency 101**
	55% (n=72)	45% (n=60)
Race		
Caucasian	28%	31%
African American	35%	29%
Hispanic	8%	2%
Native American	28%	36%
Mixed	1%	2%

Table 2. Age of Children in the Sample			
Age of Child at time of Petition	**Percentage of Sample (n=133)**	**Percentage among those who participated in Dependency 101 (n=72)**	**Percentage among those who did not participate in Dependency 101 (n=60)**
0-3	58%	54%	62%
4-7	15%	14%	17%
8-11	8%	7%	8%
12 and older*	14%	19%	8%
Unknown age	5%	6%	5%

**Larger percentage (11 percentage points) difference among the 12 and older group for Dependency 101 participants compared to all other age groups.*

Table 3. Characteristic of Sample			
	Mothers	**Fathers**	**Both**
Who was approached to participate in Dependency 101 (n=130)	52%	9%	39%
Who participated (n=72)	56%	11%	33%

Effects of Dependency 101

Parental Engagement

Researchers examined whether participation in Dependency 101 increased parent engagement overall and explored racial differences. This was examined by looking at case service plan compliance, visitation compliance, and the percentage of hearings in which both mothers and fathers attended.

Case Plan and Visitation Compliance

For case service plan compliance analysis, compliant parents were compared to non-complaint parents and stratified by whether they participated in Dependency 101. Partial compliance was eliminated from the analysis. When race was examined, partial and full compliance were collapsed into one category.

Mothers who participated in Dependency 101 were more likely to be in full compliance with case plan services at the ***review hearing*** compared to those who did not participate (see table 4). Among mothers in Dependency 101, 77.78% were in full/partial compliance partial compliance of their service plan at review hearings (see figure 3). Mothers who participated in Dependency 101 compared to those who did not, were more likely to be in full compliance with case plan services at the ***permanency hearing*** (see table 4). Among mothers in Dependency 101, 75.0% were in full/partial compliance of their service plan at their permanency hearing (see figure 3).

Fathers who participated in Dependency 101 compared to those who did not, were more likely to be in full compliance with case plan services at the ***review hearing*** (see table 4). Among fathers in Dependency 101, 65.5% were in full/partial compliance with their service plans at their review hearing (see figure 4). No association was found for fathers who participated in Dependency 101 compared to those who did not, in relation to compliance with case plan services at the ***permanency hearing*** (see table 4). Among fathers in Dependency 101, 58% of fathers were in full/partial with their service plan at their permanency hearing (see figure 4).

Figure 3 - Service Compliance among all Mothers at Review and Permanency Hearings by Dependency 101 Participation

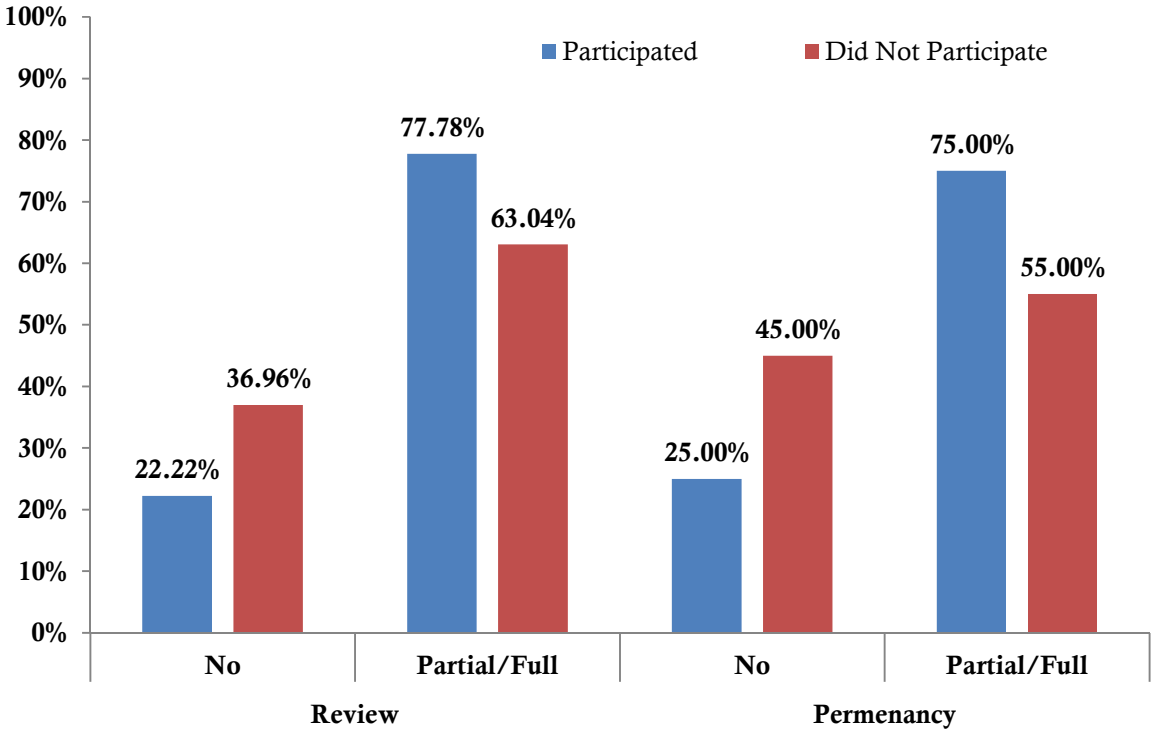


Figure 4 - Service Compliance among all Fathers at Review and Permanency Hearings by Dependency 101 Participation

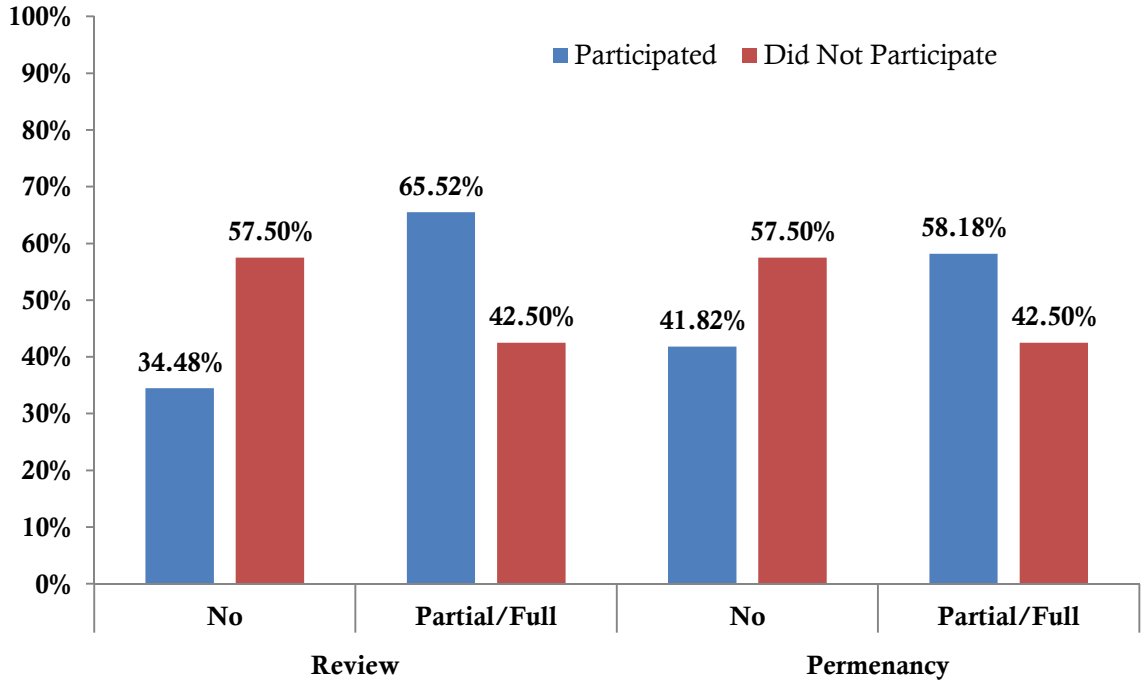


Table 4. Effects of Dependency 101 Participation compared with non-participants				
	Percent among Dependency 101 participants	**Percent among Dependency 101 non-participants**	**Relative Risk Ratio (95% Confidence Interval)**	**p-value**
Mothers				
Full compliance with services at review hearing**	50.8%	28.26%	1.61 (1.02 – 2.05)	0.04
Full compliance with services at permanency hearing*	36.7%	22.5%	1.78 (0.98 – 3.24)	0.06
Compliance with visitation at review hearing**	68.6%	46.2%	1.49 (1.01 – 2.19)	0.04
Compliance with visitation at permanency hearing	57.5%	48.5%	1.18 (0.77 – 1.82)	0.44
Fathers				
Full compliance with services at review hearing**	50.0%	22.5%	2.10 (1.15 – 3.83)	0.02
Full compliance with services at permanency hearing	38.2%	25.0%	1.58 (0.86 – 2.88)	0.14
Compliance with visitation at review hearing	41.3%	29.7%	1.38 (0.76 – 2.54)	0.29
Compliance with visitation at permanency hearing	34.8%	36.8%	0.94 (0.53 – 1.68)	0.84

* Statistically significant findings at the p<0.10 level. **Statistically significant findings at the p<0.05 level.

Mothers who participated in Dependency 101 compared to those who did not, were more likely to be compliant with visitation at their ***review hearing*** (see table 4). No association was found for mothers in Dependency 101 compared to those who were not, in relation to visitation compliance at their ***permanency hearing***. No association was found for fathers in Dependency 101 compared to those who were not, at either ***review or permanency hearings*** and visitation compliance (see table 4).

There were no statistically significant findings for mothers or fathers related to their progress at either review or permanency hearings. All groups were more likely to be progressing, but results were not significant. There does appear to be a possible waning in effect of Dependency 101 from review to permanency.

Figure 5 - Visitation Compliance among all Mothers at Review and Permanency Hearings by Dependency 101 Participation

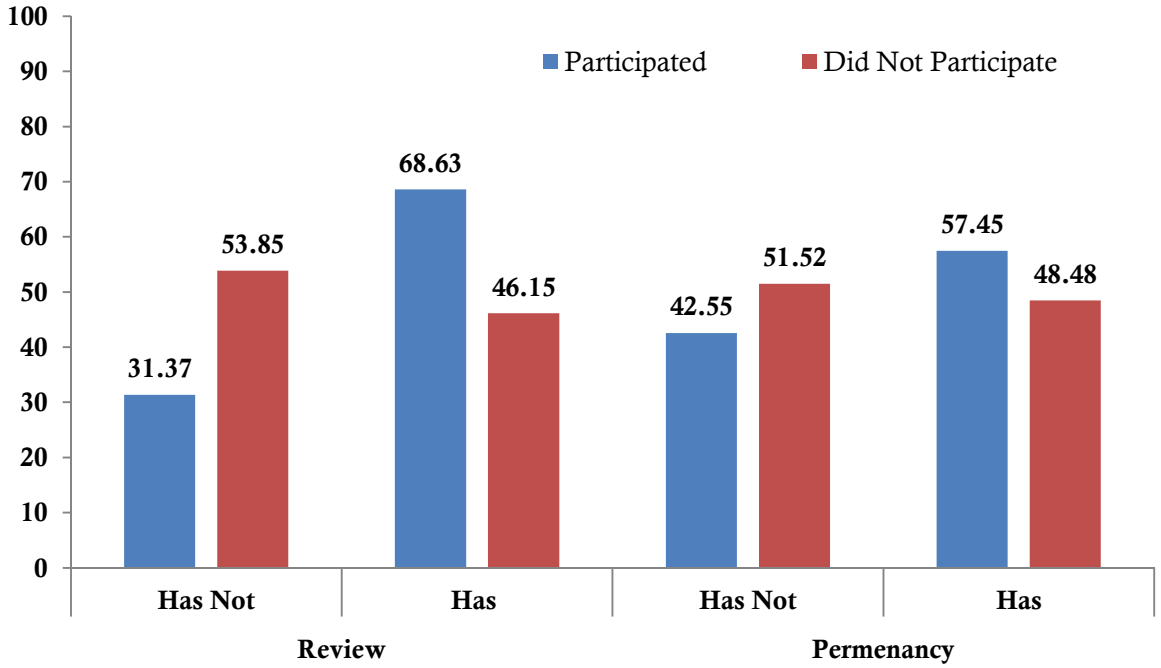
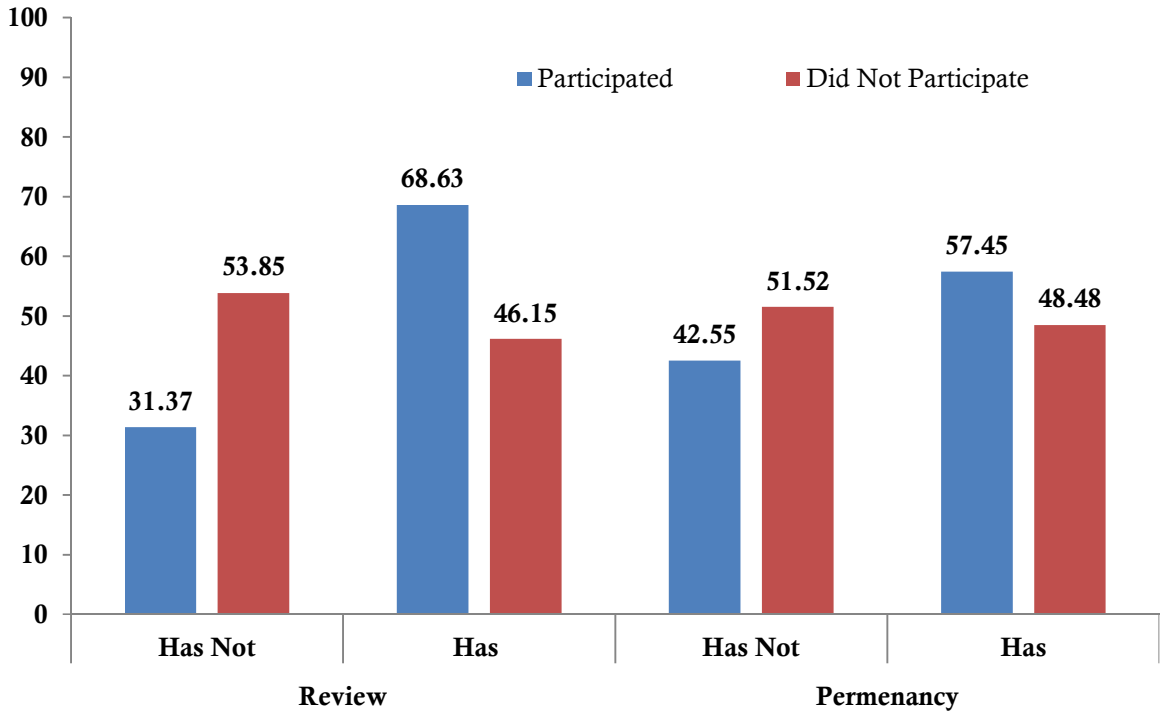


Figure 6 - Visitation Compliance among all Mothers at Review and Permanency Hearings by Dependency 101 Participation



Presence at Hearings

Mothers who participated in Dependency 101 on average attended 65.6% of total hearings possible. Mothers who did not participate on average attended 49.6% of total hearings possible. Fathers who participated in Dependency 101 on average attended 44.8% of total hearings possible. Fathers who did not participate on average attended 35.7% of total hearings possible. Researchers ran a linear regression model and found mothers who participated in Dependency 101 had an increased participation in court hearings compared to mothers who did not participate (β=0.178, p=0.04). There were no significant findings for fathers in Dependency 101 in relation to an increased participation in court hearings compared to fathers who did not participate (p=0.129). See table 5 for hearing attendance percentages.

Table 5. Hearing Attendance

Hearing Type	Percent attendance of those who participated in Dependency 101	Percent attendance of those who did not participate in Dependency 101	Percent difference (increase or decrease for Dependency 101 participants?)
		Mothers	
Shelter care	93.1	81.4	14.4% increase
30 Day	55.7	35.7	56.0% increase
Adjudication	48.5	30.8	57.5% increase
Review	64.7	48.1	34.5% increase
Permanency	66.1	52.2	26.6% increase
		Fathers	
Shelter care	67.2	55.6	20.9% increase
30 Day	41.5	28.8	44.1% increase
Adjudication	23.0	22.9	0.44% increase
Review	46.0	32	43.8% increase
Permanency	46.3	39.1	18.4% increase

Racial Differences in Engagement

Researchers compared racial groups by level of engagement of services and visitation at various stages in their case (review and permanency hearings). For mothers of all racial groups there did not appear to be any statistically significant difference in efficacy of Dependency 101. Therefore this appears to demonstrate Dependency 101 is equally effective for mothers of various racial groups. However, there were statistically significant differences in outcomes for fathers in different racial groups on select outcome measures. African American fathers were more compliant with their services at permanency hearings. Caucasian fathers were more compliant with their services at review hearings. Dependency 101 appears to be less effective for Native American fathers because they were less compliant with their services at review and permanency hearings and with their visitation at their review and permanency hearings.

Caucasian Families

The effect of Dependency 101 on Caucasian families appeared to have a greater effect for men rather than women. There was no association for Caucasian women who participated in Dependency 101 compared to those who did not for service compliance at ***review or permanency hearings***. Among those who participated in Dependency 101, 74% of Caucasian women were in full/partial compliance at their review hearing and 78% at their permanency hearing (see figure 7).

Caucasian men who participated in Dependency 101 compared to those who did not, were more likely to be in some form of compliance at their ***review hearing***. Among those in Dependency 101, 67% of Caucasian men were in full/partial compliance at their review hearing and 53% at their permanency hearing (see figure 8). Caucasian mothers and fathers who participated in Dependency 101 were more likely to be compliant with visitation at the review hearing, but not at permanency.

Figure 7 - Service Compliance among Caucasian Mothers at Review and Permanency Hearings by Dependency 101 Participation

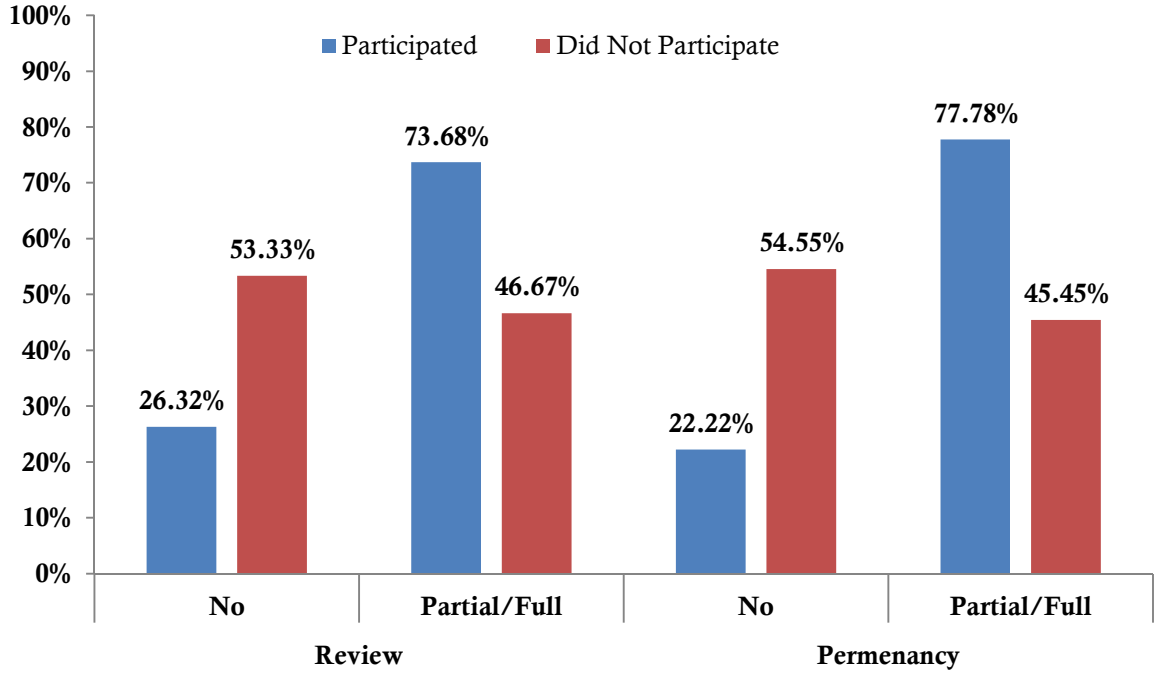
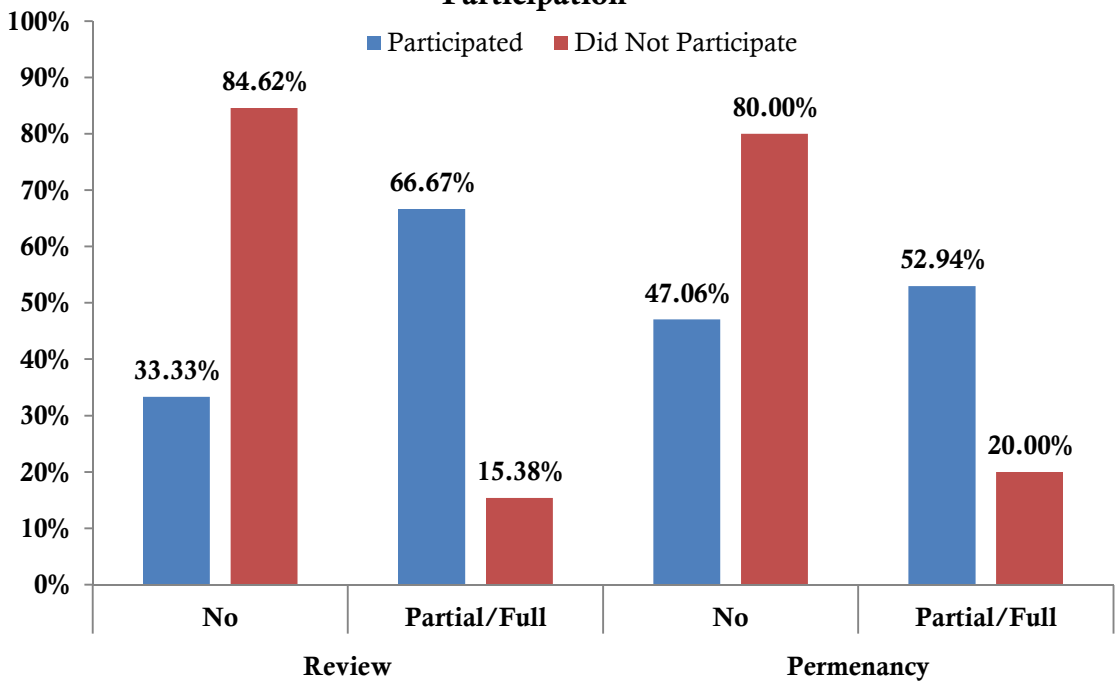


Figure 8 - Visitation Compliance among Caucasian Fathers at Review and Permanency Hearings by Dependency 101 Participation



African American Families

The effect of Dependency on African American families was more pronounced for male participants than female. There was no association for African American women who participated in Dependency 101 compared to those who did not for service compliance at review or permanency hearings. Among those in Dependency 101, 70% of African American women were in full/partial compliance at their review hearing and 67% at their permanency hearing (see figure 9).

African American men who participated in Dependency 101 compared to those who did not, were more likely to be in some form of compliance at their ***review hearing***. Among those in Dependency 101, 68% of African American men were in full/partial compliance at their review and permanency hearing (see figure 10). African American men who participated in Dependency 101 compared to those who did not, were more likely to be in some form of compliance at their permanency hearing.

No associations were found for either African American mothers or fathers for compliance with their visitation at review or permanency.

Figure 9 - Service Compliance among African American Mothers at Review and Permanency Hearings by Dependency 101 Participation

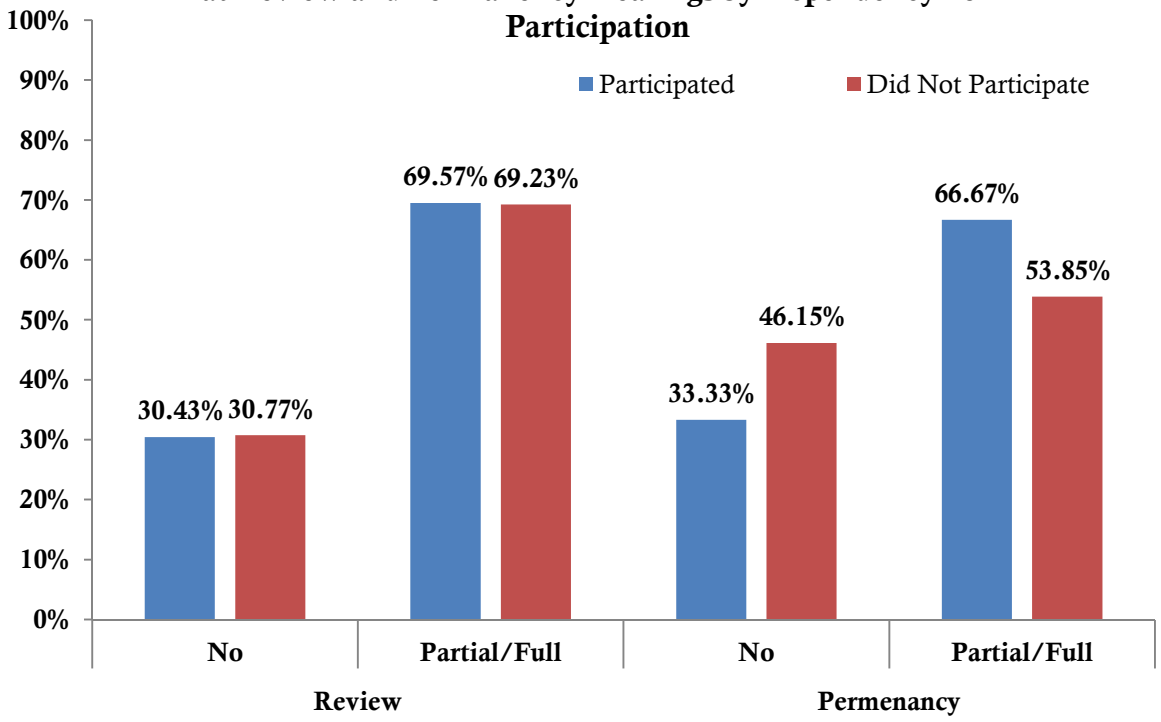
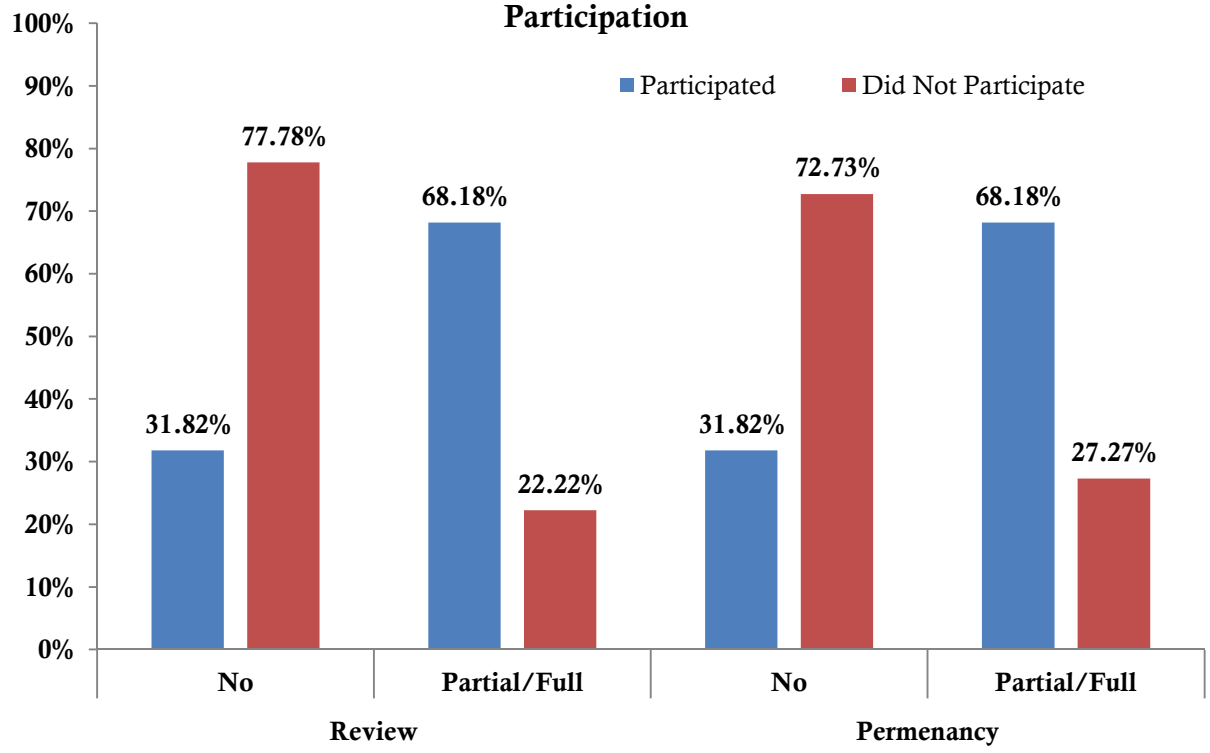


Figure 10 - Visitation Compliance among African American Fathers at Review and Permanency Hearings by Dependency 101 Participation



Native American Families

The effect of Dependency on Native American families was more pronounced for women participants compared to male participants. Native American women in Dependency 101 compared to Native American women who did not participate were more likely to be in some form of compliance with their services at the ***review hearing***. Among those in Dependency 101, 94% of Native American women were in full/partial compliance at their review hearing and 79% at permanency. No association was found among Native American women who participated in Dependency 101 compared to those who did not, in relation to compliance with their services at the ***permanency hearing***. Native American women in Dependency 101 compared to Native American women who did not participate were more likely to be in compliance with visitation at the review hearing but not at permanency.

No associations were found for Native American men who participated in Dependency 101 compared to those did not, in relation to service compliance at their review hearing or at permanency hearing. Among those in Dependency 101, 56% of Native American men were in full/partial compliance at their permanency hearing and 50% at their permanency.

Figure 11 - Service Compliance among Native American Mothers at Review and Permanency Hearings by Dependency 101 Participation

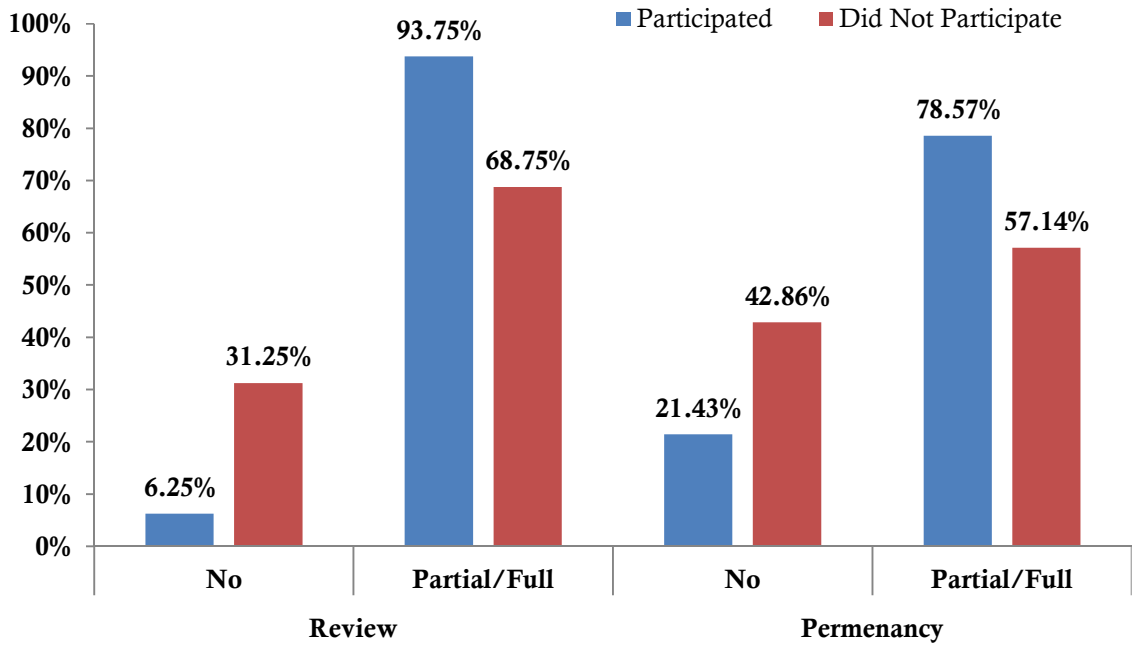
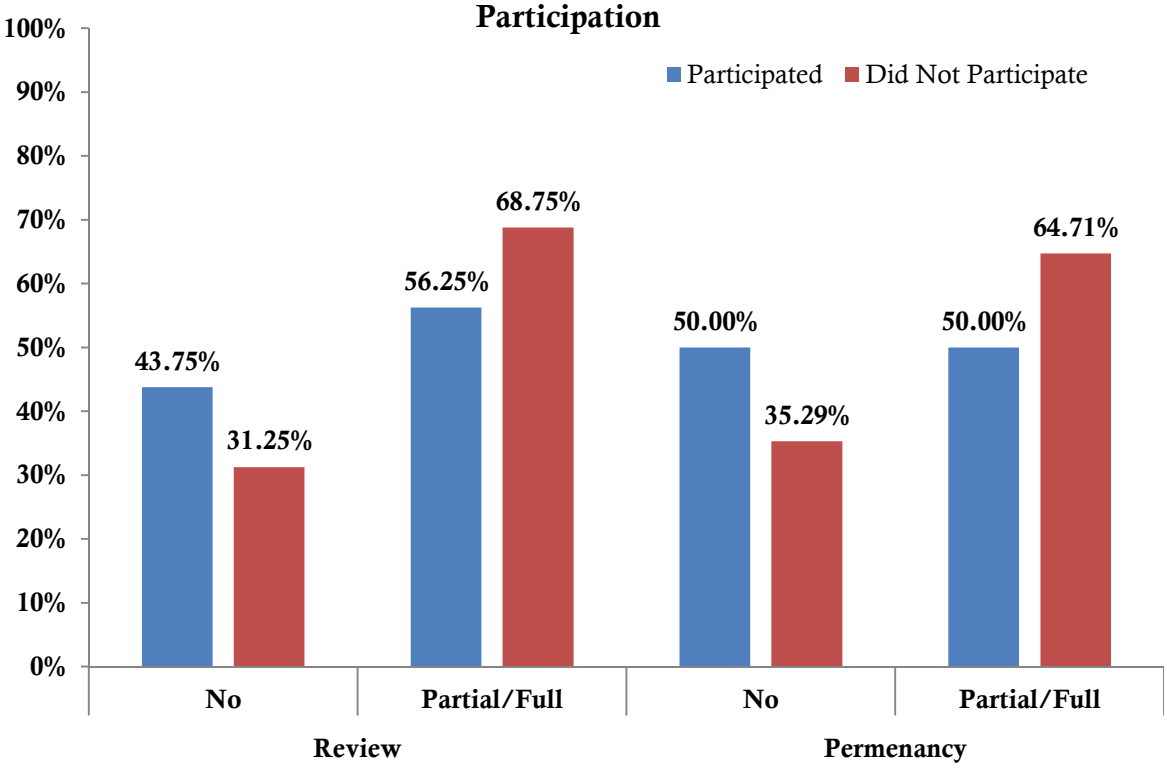


Figure 12 - Service Compliance among Native American Fathers at Review and Permanency Hearings by Dependency 101 Participation



Case Timeliness & Outcomes

Approximately 74% of cases were closed at the time of case file review. Case outcomes were examined by comparing Dependency 101 participation and case outcomes to assess any association [relative risk ratios (RR)].

Timeliness was measured by time from petition to closure and restricted to only include closed cases. A linear regression model did not demonstrate an association between participation in Dependency 101 and a decreased time from petition to closure (β=0.12, p=0.91). See figure 13 for a breakdown of time from petition to closure by years stratified by Dependency 101 participation.

There was no association between participation in Dependency 101 and the likelihood of having parental rights terminated compared to all other case outcomes [RR= 0.62 (0.31-1.20), p=0.15]. Parents who participated in Dependency 101 were more likely to be reunified compared to all other outcomes compared to families who did not participate (RR=1.46 (0.93-2.28), p=0.10].

Caucasian families who participated in Dependency 101 were times more likely to be reunified than to have their parental rights terminated (TPR) compared to Caucasian families who did not participate in Dependency 101 [RR = 2.04 (0.98-4.28), p=0.06]. Caucasian families who participated in Dependency 101 were less likely to have their parent rights terminated when compared to all other possible case outcomes [RR= 0.33 (0.11-1.05), p=0.06]. No association was found for African American families in Dependency 101 when comparing reunification to all other possible case outcomes [RR=1.28 (0.58-3.12), p=0.71]. No association was found for Native American families in Dependency 101 when comparing reunification to all other case outcomes [RR = 1.30 (0.55-3.27), p=0.70). See table 6 for percentages of case outcomes stratified by Dependency 101 participation.

Figure 13 - Time from Petition to Case Closure in Years by Dependency 101 Participation

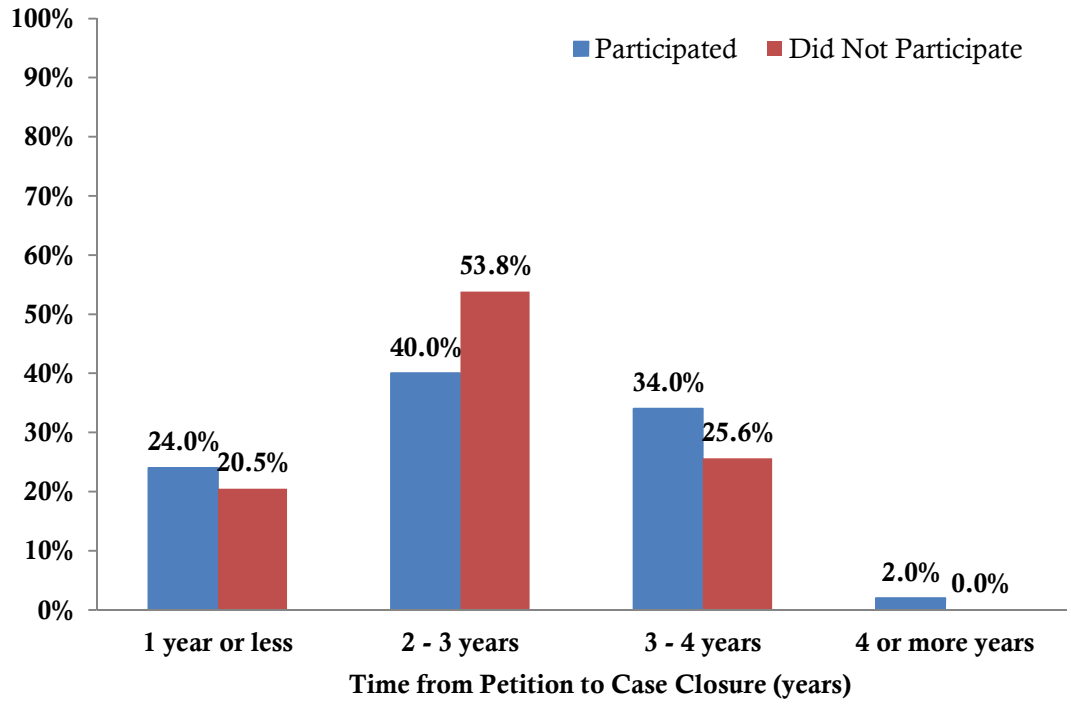


Table 6. Frequency table of Case Outcomes**

	Percent among Dependency 101 participants (n)	Percent among Dependency 101 non-participants (n)
All Families		
Termination of parental rights	19.6 (10)	31.8 (13)
Reunification	56.9 (29)	38.6 (16)
Relative Placement	7.8 (4)	2.3 (1)
Dismissed	7.8 (4)	13.6 (6)
Other	7.9 (4)	13.7 (5)
Caucasian families		
Termination of parental rights	16.7 (3)	50.0 (7)
Reunification	61.2 (11)	31.3 (5)
Relative Placement	0.0	0.0
Dismissed	5.6 (1)	12.5 (2)
Other	16.7 (3)	6.3 (1)
African American families		
Termination of parental rights	26.7 (4)	33.3 (4)
Reunification	53.3 (8)	41.7 (5)
Relative Placement	20.0 (3)	0.0 (0)
Dismissed	0.0 (0)	16.7 (2)
Other	0.0 (0)	8.3 (1)
Native American families		
Termination of parental rights	21.4 (3)	15.4 (2)
Reunification	50.0 (7)	38.5 (5)
Relative Placement	7.1 (1)	7.7 (1)
Dismissed	14.3 (2)	15.4 (2)
Other	7.2 (1)	23 (3)

**Analysis was restricted to only include closed cases

Previous process and outcome evaluations have demonstrated the King County Parent for Parent (P4P) program has had successes in enhancing parental engagement through the use of a peer-to-peer model. The purpose of this additional research was to investigate if P4P is also successful at engaging Native and African American families involved in the dependency system and explore if there are differences in case outcomes for Dependency 101 participants.

A limitation to this study was the small sample size (n=133) and interpreting results from a study with a small sample size, one should be particularly cautious. Larger sample sizes can help produce smaller standard errors and better estimates of the effect of interventions. However, smaller sample sizes are convenient, less expensive, and have a short duration.

Dependency 101 appears to be equally effective for mothers of all racial groups. For fathers, there were some differences. The relationship between Native American fathers and Dependency 101 was negative, with participating fathers less likely to comply with services or visitation. This could be due to low overall numbers in the study or there could be a reverse effect for Native American men in P4P. Without additional data, it is difficult to understand what the true relationship or interaction may be. Conducting focus groups with Native American fathers to assess what may be the cause of this negative trend may provide insight for programming.

Positive associations (statistically significant) for those who participated in Dependency 101 include:

1) *Mothers were more likely to be in full compliance of their services at both review and permanency hearings.*
2) *Fathers were more likely to be in full compliance of their review hearing.*
3) *Mothers were more likely to be in compliance with visitation at review hearings.*
4) *Mothers had an increased participating in court hearings across the life the case.*
5) *No race differences for the effectiveness of Dependency 101 for mothers.*
6) *Caucasian fathers were more likely to be in full or partial compliance of their services at the review hearing.*
7) *African American fathers were more likely to be in full or partial compliance of their services at both review and permanency hearings.*
8) *Native American fathers were less likely to be compliance with services or visitation at review and permanency hearings.*
9) *Increased likelihood of reunification compared to other outcomes when families participated in Dependency 101.*
10) *Caucasian families were more likely to reunify compared to termination of parent rights.*

Overall, the findings from this study suggest that there is a positive association between participating in Dependency 101 with improved parent engagement and case outcomes. Although statistically significant findings were limited, there were overall positive trends among Dependency 101 participants which included: greater participation in services and visitation, increased rates of court hearing attendance, increased rates of reunification, and lower rates of termination of parental rights. To continue to demonstrate these positive results, it would be advantageous to track and monitor participants engagement and case outcomes from the program.

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (2011). *PPCD Research Report: Evaluation of the Parents for Parents Program King County, Washington.* Reno, NV: NCJFCJ.

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (2013). *Disproportionality Rates for Children of Color in Foster Care 2013 Technical Assistance Bulletin.* Reno, NV: NCJFCJ.

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Outcome Evaluation Report for Washington State's Parents for Parents Program

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Capacity Building
CENTER FOR COURTS

Outcome Evaluation Report for Washington State's Parents for Parents Program

January 13, 2020

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Contents

Executive Summary

Parents for Parents (P4P) seeks to engage families early in the child welfare process. The primary goals of the program are to educate parents about the child welfare system and to provide support for families. The theory of change suggests that this education and support would then lead to increased engagement in case plans which would ultimately lead to reunification and permanency for families. This evaluation used a quasi-experimental design to examine if there are relationships between P4P and compliance with services and case outcomes. Overall, the findings suggest a positive relationship between P4P and parental engagement and case outcomes.

Summary of statistically significant findings:

Survey Results

- A relationship between Dependency 101 attendance and increased knowledge of the roles in the child welfare system and an increased level of trust in CPS

Parent Engagement

- A positive relationship between Dependency 101 attendance and service compliance at the first review hearing and permanency planning hearing for mothers and fathers
- A positive relationship between Dependency 101 attendance and visitation compliance at review and permanency planning hearings for mothers; a positive relationship between Dependency 101 and visitation compliance at the permanency planning hearing for fathers
- A positive relationship between Dependency 101 and mother attendance at all key hearings; a positive relationship between Dependency 101 and father attendance at the permanency planning hearing and second review hearing

Case Outcomes

- A relationship between parent participation in Dependency 101 and increased reunification rates
  - 70% of parents who participated in Dependency 101 reunified with their children
  - 53% of parents who did not participate in Dependency 101 reunified with their children
- A relationship between parent participation in Dependency 101 and decreased TPR rates
  - 26% of parents who participated in Dependency 101 had their parental rights terminated
  - 39% of parents who did not participate in Dependency 101 had their parental rights terminated
- No relationship between parent participation in Dependency 101 and length of time until permanency
- Initial support of a positive relationship between additional mentoring components of P4P and case outcomes
  - 79% of parents who participated in Dependency 101 and received additional mentoring reunified with their children
  - 67% of parents who participated in Dependency 101 but did not receive any additional mentoring reunified with their children

Introduction

As of September 2018, there was an estimated 437,283 youth in foster care in the United States and an estimated 11,399 youth in foster care in Washington State (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2019). Treatment and support that target the parents who are involved in child welfare can be important in reducing incidences of child maltreatment (Littell, Alexander, & Reynolds 2001). Early engagement on behalf of parents is important for their success in treatment and the success of their case (Edwards, 2007; Littell et al., 2001). However, the child welfare system can be overwhelming and difficult for parents to navigate (Healy Darlington, & Feeney, 2011). Parents often feel they are blamed and shamed for their current situation which can result in punitive treatment by child welfare workers (Corwin, 2012; Nilsen, Affronti, & Coombs, 2009). This can lead to reluctance for people to help parents and also for parents to accept help from the system. In addition, parents are often dealing with adversity and trauma, which is a common contributor to child maltreatment (Thompson, 2018). With the challenges that children and families face, it is important to recognize that children and families might be best served if effective services can be provided to their parents (Brooks, 1999; Neilson, 2019). Thus, addressing the needs of the parents in the child welfare system can provide a more stable and permanent solution for families involved in child welfare. The current evaluation examines case engagement and case outcomes for system-involved parents who participated in a mentoring program in Washington State. As required by Washington Senate Bill 5486, this evaluation serves as the Phase II evaluation and provides statistics on service compliance, reunification, and time to permanency (Senate Bill 5486, 2015).

Parents for Parents (P4P) is an early engagement and education program for parents involved in the child welfare system. P4P is run by parent allies, or parents who were previously involved in the child welfare system and have successfully resolved the safety concerns that led to their involvement in the system. P4P started in Pierce County, WA in 2005 by a birth mother. The birth mother who started the program experienced substantial trauma throughout her lifetime and was involved in the child welfare system as a child and as a parent. Pierce County asked her to start the program and she coined the term Dependency 101, a core component of the P4P program. Since then, P4P has expanded to 16 counties in Washington and continues to grow state-wide.

Dependency 101, a core component of P4P, is 2-hour session designed to educate and empower parents with the tools, strategies, and support they can use in order to be successful in the dependency process. During Dependency 101, parents watch an informational video about the child welfare system and the importance of engaging with services. Parents receive an

information packet that contains important resources for navigating the system and accessing treatment. Parents also hear directly from professionals in their jurisdiction including an assistant attorney general (lawyer for the department), a parent lawyer, a guardian ad litem (GAL) or a court appointed special advocate (CASA), and a social worker. Some counties also have a judge attend Dependency 101. Each professional explains their role to the parents and how they can help them and their family throughout their case. In addition to explanations of roles, these presentations can help to destigmatize an "us" versus "them" mentality that often exists between parents and child welfare stakeholders. Last, parents hear directly from parent allies who share their own child welfare story and show how they overcame their challenges.

In addition to Dependency 101, parents have the opportunity to receive other support from P4P. Telephone mentoring is available to parents in which parents can call or text parent allies for additional mentoring support. Parent allies also use telephone mentoring to reach out to parents to remind them of upcoming Dependency 101 sessions, or to check-in about their case and see if they need any additional support. Parent allies can provide additional support for parents at court hearings or other key events during their case. Parents can also attend Dependency 201 sessions, which are additional educational and support sessions for parents. Dependency 201 differs in every county, but generally involves formal structure around a specific topic such as visitation, housing, or parent resources, as well as an informal support structure that allows parents to get support from other parents and parent allies. Although Dependency 201 varies from program to program and does not have an established model fidelity[1], it can be an important support system and "touch-point" for parents. Dependency 201 is also newer than 101; in most places not starting until 2017.

Several previous evaluations of Dependency 101 have shown promising results. A 2011 evaluation indicated that in King county, parents who attended Dependency 101 reported decreased anxiety about the dependency process, increased trust in CPS, and increased understanding of the system compared to before they attended Dependency 101 (Summers, Wood, Russell, & Macgill, 2012). Although case outcomes such as reunification were not examined, results did show that parents who attended Dependency 101 were more likely to comply with services compared to parents who did not attend Dependency 101. These results were replicated in an evaluation conducted in 2013 which also found that parents who attended Dependency 101 were more likely to reunify with their children compared to parents who did not attend Dependency 101 (Bohannan, Gonzalez, & Summers, 2016). A third evaluation examined

[1] Efforts are currently underway in King County to develop a standardized Dependency 201 curriculum that can be used in all P4P programs.

approximately 100 child welfare cases of parents who participated in P4P in King, Spokane, and Thurston counties from November 2014 to January 2015 (Wulczyn, Orlebeke, Syrjanen, Lockaby, & Wilkins, n.d). They found that attitudes about the child welfare system shifted in a positive direction after parents attended a Dependency 101 session. However, long-term outcomes such as reunification were not examined (Wulczyn et al., n.d).

The primary focus of this evaluation will be to examine how Dependency 101 attendance relates to case outcomes. Additionally, we explore other aspects of P4P such as additional mentoring parents can receive and Dependency 201. These components of P4P have not been examined in any previous evaluations. Mason, Snohomish, and Spokane counties are included in this evaluation. Although the program is modeled after what was initially created in Pierce county and later King county, these programs are not included in the current evaluation because they had been operating too long to fit the scope of the study. The counties included in this evaluation have been fully operating since at least 2014 (but not earlier than 2012) which allowed us to evaluate relatively newer programs and compare these cases to child welfare cases that were closed before P4P programs were implemented. These counties serve different populations (e.g., rural vs. urban) and therefore represent a statewide sample.

While the findings from these evaluations suggest that P4P is a promising practice, there were several limitations that will be addressed in the current evaluation. The current evaluation expands on past evaluations in three keys ways:

First, the current evaluation uses a much larger sample than previous evaluations. Previous evaluations have used very small samples (e.g., 133 total cases; Bohannan et al., 2016). The current evaluation will use a much larger sample size, which can lead to more robust statistical conclusions. One hundred thirty-six treatment cases will be examined (compared to a total sample of 133 from a previous evaluation), and will be compared to 349 comparison cases. A larger comparison group is appropriate in order to create more potential for “best matches” (discussed next).

Second, the current evaluation will use a quasi-experimental matched design (QED), which has not been used in previous evaluations. In a matched design, attempts are made to equate the treatment and a comparison group in order to better estimate possible causal effects without using a random controlled trial (Cook, Shadish, & Wong, 2008). In the current evaluation, in order to reduce the effects of selection bias, cases will be selected from before P4P was

implemented and compared to cases after P4P was implemented. In addition, propensity score weighting will be used to better equate the two groups. Propensity score weighting is used to weight each case on similar case characteristics for a stronger comparison of the treatment and comparison group. Cases are matched on variables such as the age of the child, race, the allegations, presenting problems, etc.

Propensity Score Weighting is a statistical technique used to account for selection bias in research. This technique increases the robustness of the research design when experimental designs cannot be used to be more confident that results between two groups are related to the program/intervention instead of differences in the samples. In this technique, a propensity score is calculated to determine the likelihood that someone will or will not participate in a program based on a set of characteristics. This propensity score is then used to weight the comparison group to "look like" the treatment group.

Last, we explore some of the other components of P4P (e.g., telephone mentoring) that might be beneficial for families. These program components have not been examined in previous evaluations. Mentoring and support programs tend to be more effective when mentoring relationships are long-lasting (Lawner, Beltz & Moore, 2013). These additional supports are important for the successful implementation of P4P. However, these additional program components have not been examined in previous evaluations. These data are difficult to collect and are thus not often included in evaluations. One county was able to provide us with such data.

The current evaluation examines the following research questions:

1. Do parents report increases in trust in CPS and understanding of the roles of the professionals in the child welfare system after attending Dependency 101?
2. Does participation in Dependency 101 relate to parent engagement such as increased service compliance, increased visitation compliance, and increased hearing attendance?
3. Does participation in Dependency 101 relate to case outcomes such as increased reunification rates and decreased termination of parental rights (TPR rates)?
4. Do additional supports provided by P4P relate to parent engagement and case outcomes?

Evaluation Methodology

An initial questionnaire was sent out to all P4P supervisors and coordinators to assess evaluation readiness. We asked questions such as what data were collected and how long the program had been at model fidelity. Spokane, Mason, and Snohomish counties were selected to be included in the evaluation because they are geographically diverse, they all started around the

same time (each program had reached model fidelity by 2014), and they were determined to be evaluation ready. That is, they were collecting the data necessary for the evaluation and were operating at model fidelity. Figure 1 shows the breakdown of the cases included in the sample.

Figure 1. Counties Represented in Sample

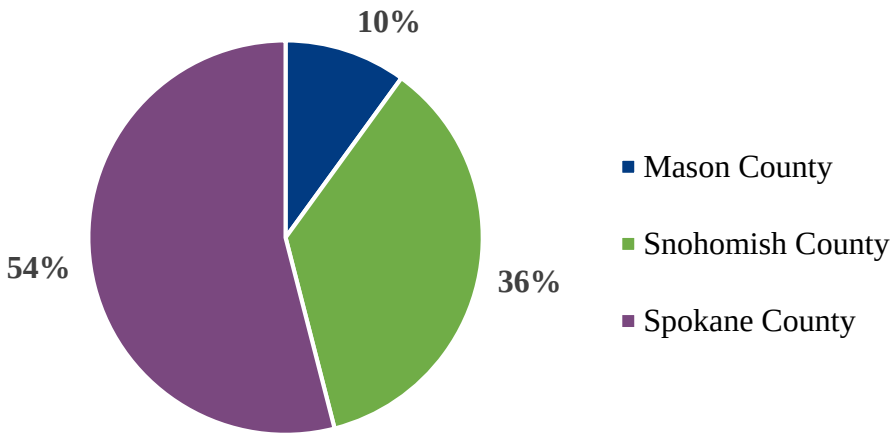


Table 1 shows the estimated number of youth in foster care at the end of the fiscal year in 2018 based on the most recent AFCARS data (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2019). Both Snohomish and Spokane are mid-sized urban counties representing the west side and east side of the state. They are comparably smaller than King and Pierce counties but both of these counties have already been included in past evaluations. The programs in these counties were also started long before 2014 and would not have fit the timeframe for the current evaluation. Mason County was included in the evaluation to represent a smaller, rural county. Data are not available on specific foster care numbers for smaller counties in the publicly available AFCARS data. Figure 1 shows the majority of the sample came from Spokane, which is consistent with the size of the counties selected.

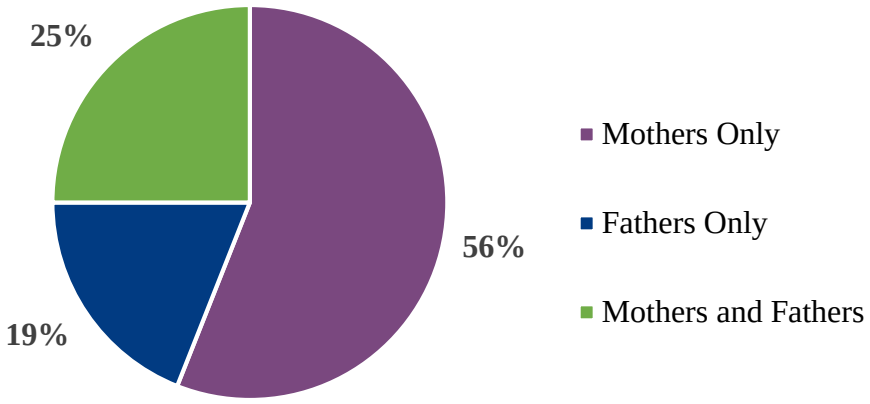
Table 1. Estimated number of youth in foster care at the end of the 2018 fiscal year

Washington County	Estimated Number of Youth in Foster Care
Clark County	754
King County	2,133
Pierce County	1,590
Snohomish County	**1,013**
Spokane County	**1,177**

Sample

One-hundred seventy parents who attended Dependency 101 were included in the sample. Because some parents attend together, only 136 cases were coded and used for analyses. Cases were randomly selected from a complete list of all parents who attended Dependency 101 that each program provided to the researchers. All cases were completed or there had been a termination order in 2018 and all petitions were filed between 2014 and 2018. Figure 2 shows the breakdown of who attended Dependency 101 in the sample.

Figure 2. Who Attends Dependency 101



Three-hundred forty-nine comparison cases were coded. We selected comparison cases in which a petition was filed between 2008 and 2012. These years were selected to mitigate the effects of selection bias. Because P4P is voluntary, parents who choose to participate might be more likely to reunify with their children compared to parents who choose not to participate. In order to mitigate these possible biases, we compared to cases that were opened and completed before P4P was implemented in any of these counties.

All comparison cases were either completed or there was a TPR order in 2012. The comparison group is larger than the treatment group for two primary reasons 1) to ensure an adequate sample size and 2) to increase the likelihood that there are more cases to better "match" with the treatment group.

Each county clerk's office provided the researchers with a list of case numbers in that sampling frame. However, Mason County was unable to provide a complete list. Only a list of cases from 2011-2013 could be obtained. Thus, we were able to examine case outcomes but could not examine length of time until permanency in Mason County.

From that list, cases were randomly selected. Comparison cases were only coded if parents would have had a non-zero probability of participating in P4P. In other words, it had to be possible for parents to participate if P4P had it been available. Cases that were not included involved instances in which the child was in foster care because the parents had died, or the parents had suffered an injury or medical crisis that made it impossible to engage in services. For instance, one parent had a severe stroke that was going to leave him nonverbal for the rest of his life.

Measures and Data

Data were collected from two sources: P4P program data and court case files.

P4P Program Data. P4P program coordinators in each county provided the researchers with complete de-identified lists of parents who have participated in P4P going back to 2014. The lists included case numbers, the dates parents attended Dependency 101, and who attended Dependency 101 (mother, father, or both parents). One county also provided the researchers with additional dosage data such as telephone mentoring and additional hearing support.

The program coordinators provided the researchers with pre and post Dependency 101 survey responses. When parents arrive at Dependency 101, they complete a brief survey which asks general questions such as age and living situation, and five questions related to their overall attitudes and knowledge of the child welfare system. For instance, parents are asked to rate on a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) if they "feel like they can trust CPS to be fair and see my side of things". Parents are asked those same five questions after the Dependency 101 class and their responses can be compared to their pre-class responses.

Case File Review. The researchers were granted remote access to each county's case file management system. Two counties (Mason and Snohomish) use an Odyssey system to manage their case files. Spokane uses an independent system via a Citrix server in which case file images can be viewed as PDF documents. Three trained coders coded each case for various case characteristics and outcomes such as important dates (e.g., petition, hearings, case closure), presenting problems, service compliance, and case outcomes. The key variables of interest for the purposes of this evaluation were allegations and presenting problems, parental attendance at key hearings, compliance with court-ordered services, compliance with visitation, and case outcomes such as reunification and TPR/adoption. For both survey data and case file data, the findings indicate whether the differences are statistically significant. *Statistical significance is a way for researchers to quantify their confidence that the results would not have occurred by chance alone.* Statistical significance (indicated as *p*) of less than 0.05 is the standard in the field

and could be approximated to imply 95% confident that the results represent “real” differences between groups. We also included cases with a significance level less than 0.1 (90% confident) and determined those values to be marginally significant.

Matching Procedure

To better ensure that the comparison group represents the treatment group, we ran an analysis called inverse propensity-score weighting (IPW). IPW weights cases based on certain selection criteria to make them “look more like” the treatment group. In other words, comparison cases that have a higher probability for treatment are given higher weights and comparison cases with a lower probability for treatment are given lower weights. IPW is an approach under a broad umbrella of propensity score matching in which a propensity score is calculated to predict how likely or unlikely (or the propensity) someone is to participate in the treatment given observed case characteristics (Rosenbaum & Rubin, 1983). A recent study out of Iowa used propensity score matching and found a relationship between parents who received mentoring and parents who did not and reunification rates (Chambers et al., 2019). Because we have a smaller sample size and finding exact matches for all cases can be difficult, we chose IPW instead of matching. Further, IPW allows you to include two treatment groups (which we examine later in the evaluation by including additional mentoring parents received).

Using IPW, we calculated the average treatment effect on the treated, or the ATT. The ATT estimates the effects of various outcomes only for the treated group (in this case, parents who attended Dependency 101 are the treated group). It does not estimate the effects of anyone in the comparison group. In other words, for those who are treated, the ATT estimates the effect of the outcomes if they had not been treated. We chose the ATT due to the relatively small sample size of the treatment group, and because we had a much larger sample for the comparison group.

To weight the groups, we first examined all case variables that were included in the case file review such as physical abuse, neglect, criminal activity, substance use, history with agency, race, and child age. We also weighted groups on whether one or both parents were on the petition or the child was removed from one or both parents. Some of the variables did not differ between the two groups and thus they were not included in the IPW analysis. A full list of variables that were matched on can be found in Appendix A.

Results

Survey Results

Parents complete a survey before and after attending Dependency 101. They answer the same five questions in each survey and thus we are able to compare their pre and post responses

using a paired-sample t-test to see if their attitudes changed after attending Dependency 101. Parents respond to each question on a 5-point scale from 1 ("disagree strongly") to 5 ("strongly agree"). A total of 155 parents completed the pre and post surveys (some parents left early, others did not turn in a survey) before and after attending Dependency 101. The greatest changes pre and post Dependency 101 were trust in CPS and understanding the roles of professionals in the child welfare system. Results to all questions can be found in Table 2. All questions were statistically significant at the 0.05 level.

Table 2. Dependency 101 Pre and Post Survey Results

	Pre Dependency 101	Post Dependency 101	Change
I realize I need some help to make sure my kids have what they need.	3.8	4.0	+0.2**
I believe my family will get help we really need from CPS.	3.3	3.6	+0.3**
I feel like I can trust CPS to be fair and see my side of things.	2.8	3.2	+0.4**
I understand the roles of the professionals in the child welfare system.	3.7	4.1	+0.4**
I believe there are things I can do so that the Court will return my children to me.	4.5	4.6	+0.1*

**$p < 0.01$; *$p < 0.05$

Parent Engagement

Next, we examined parent engagement in the services they needed to participate in in order to reunify with their children. Parent engagement in their cases was examined by court-ordered service compliance, visitation compliance, and hearing attendance. For each finding, we calculated the ATT and presented the raw (not weighted) values for each outcome. The results from the full statistical models, including weighted values, can be found in Appendix B.

Service Compliance

In each case file, service compliance was coded for either "full compliance", "partial compliance", or "no compliance" with court-ordered services. For the cases that closed in 2018, there was a court order at each hearing indicating full, partial, or no compliance. However, cases that closed in 2012 only provided an order for full compliance or no compliance. In those cases, coders indicated "full compliance" and "no compliance" when it was ordered by the court, but coded "partial compliance" if the court indicated that parents were complying with some services but not others even if it was not an official court order. Compliance was coded at three different hearings: the first two review hearings and the permanency planning hearings. In almost all cases, the second review hearing (if any) came after the permanency planning hearing. In addition, due

to small numbers and large standard errors, we collapsed service compliance into two categories: "full compliance", and "partial or no compliance" with court ordered services. "Full compliance" was compared to "partial or no compliance" because of the ambiguity of "partial compliance" in cases that closed in 2012. Thus, we were able to compare parents who were in full compliance with their services to parents who were only in partial or not in compliance with their services.

Recall that the ATT is the average treatment effect on the treated. Because the outcome variable is a percentage (i.e., percentage service compliance), the ATT can be interpreted as a percent. In other words, if the ATT is 0.10, that suggests that parents who participated in Dependency 101 were 10% more likely to be in compliance with their services than if they had not participated in Dependency 101. At the first review hearing, mothers (ATT = 0.10, SE[2] = 0.04, $p = 0.06$) and fathers (ATT = 0.14, SE = 0.08, $p = 0.08$) who participated in Dependency 101 were marginally more likely to be in full compliance with their court-ordered services. At their permanency planning, both mothers (ATT = 0.13, SE = 0.06, $p = 0.03$) and fathers (ATT = 0.27, SE = 0.08, $p < 0.01$) were significantly more likely to be in compliance with their court-ordered services compared to the comparison group. In other words, parents who participated in Dependency 101 were more likely to engage in court-ordered services than if they had not participated in Dependency 101 and this relationship was the strongest at the permanency planning hearing. Dependency 101 participation did not relate to service compliance for mothers or fathers at the second review hearing. Table 3 and Figure 3 illustrate these findings.

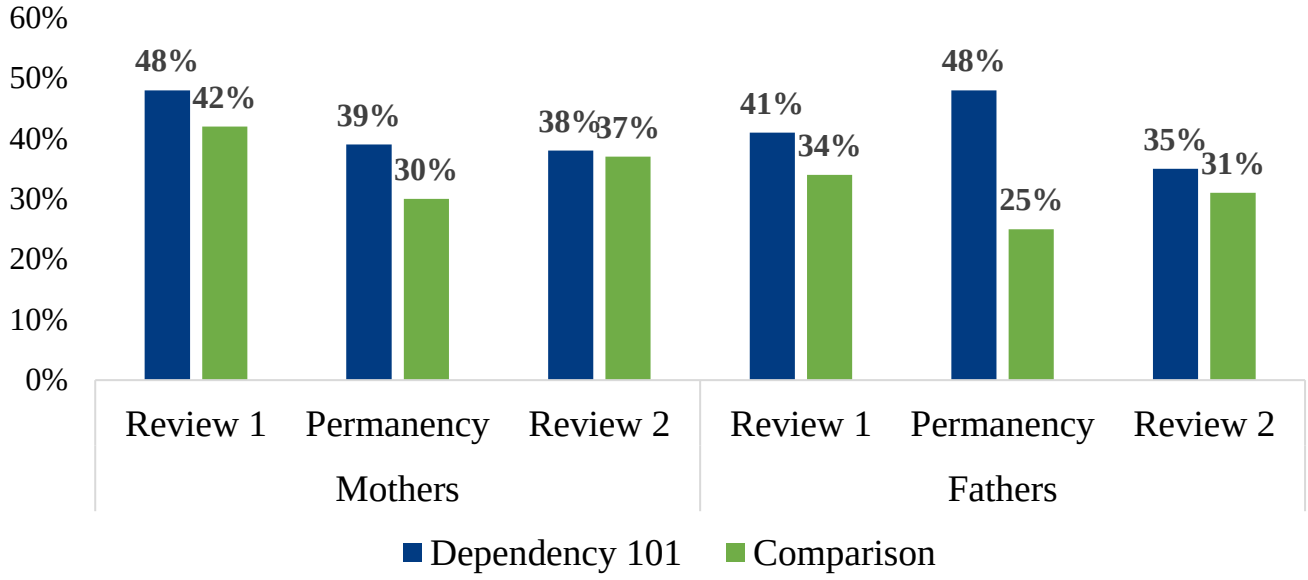
Table 3. Service Compliance

Percent Service Compliance			
Hearing Type	Parents who participated in Dependency 101	Comparison group	ATT
Mothers			
Review 1	48%	42%	0.10^{+}
Permanency Planning	39%	30%	0.13*
Review 2	38%	37%	0.06
Fathers			
Review 1	41%	34%	0.14^{+}
Permanency Planning	48%	25%	0.27**
Review 2	35%	31%	0.04

**$p < 0.01$; *$p < 0.05$; $^{+}p < 0.1$

[2] SE stands for standard error and is commonly reported as part of statistical analysis.

Figure 3. Full Compliance With Services



Visitation Compliance

Coders indicated whether parents were in full, partial, or no compliance with visitation. At each hearing, the court gave an order as to parent visitation compliance. Most courts only provided an order for full or no compliance (there was no separate order for partial compliance), and thus coders turned to the agency report to determine if parents were in partial compliance. However, agencies often reported compliance differently and the agency reports were not available for one county and so like with service compliance, we combined "partial visitation compliance" and "no visitation compliance" and compared that to parents who were in full compliance with visitation.

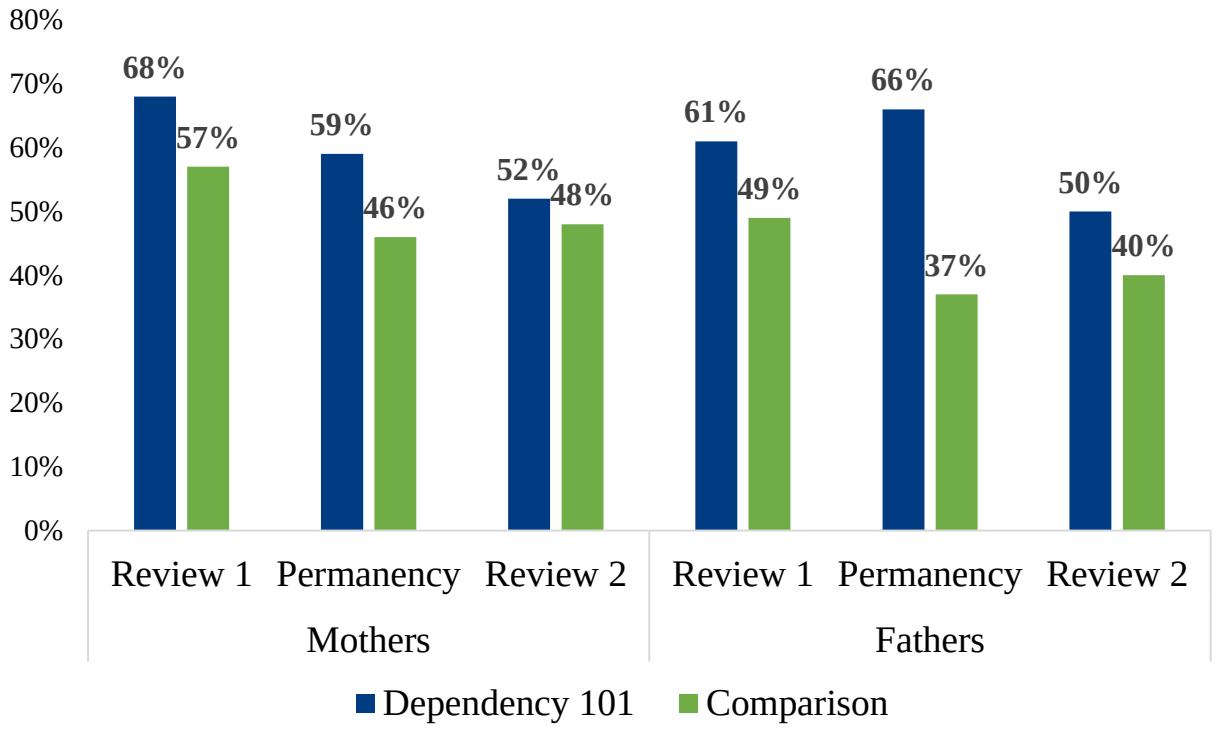
Mothers who participated in Dependency 101 were marginally more likely to be in full compliance with their visitation at the first review hearing (ATT = 0.14, SE = 0.06, p = 0.06), the permanency planning hearing (ATT = 0.19, SE = 0.05, p = 0.01), and at the second review hearing (ATT = 0.12, SE = 0.169, p = 0.09). Dependency 101 participation did not relate to fathers' visitation compliance at the first review hearing (ATT = 0.15, SE = 0.10, p = 0.13) or at the second review hearing (ATT = 0.07, SE = 0.122, p = 0.57). Dependency 101 participation marginally related to fathers' visitation compliance at the permanency planning hearing (ATT = 0.19, SE = 0.1, p = 0.08). Table 4 and Figure 4 illustrate these findings.

Table 4. Visitation Compliance

Percent Visitation Compliance			
Hearing Type	Parents who participated in Dependency 101	Comparison group	ATT
Mothers			
Review 1	68%	57%	0.14^{+}
Permanency Planning	59%	46%	0.19*
Review 2	52%	48%	0.12^{+}
Fathers			
Review 1	61%	49%	0.15
Permanency Planning	66%	37%	0.19^{+}
Review 2	50%	40%	0.07

**$p < 0.01$; *$p < 0.05$; $^{+}p < 0.1$

Figure 4. Full Compliance With Visitation



Hearing Attendance

A general hearing participation percentage was calculated by dividing the total number of hearings attended by the total number of hearings in the case. Mothers who participated in

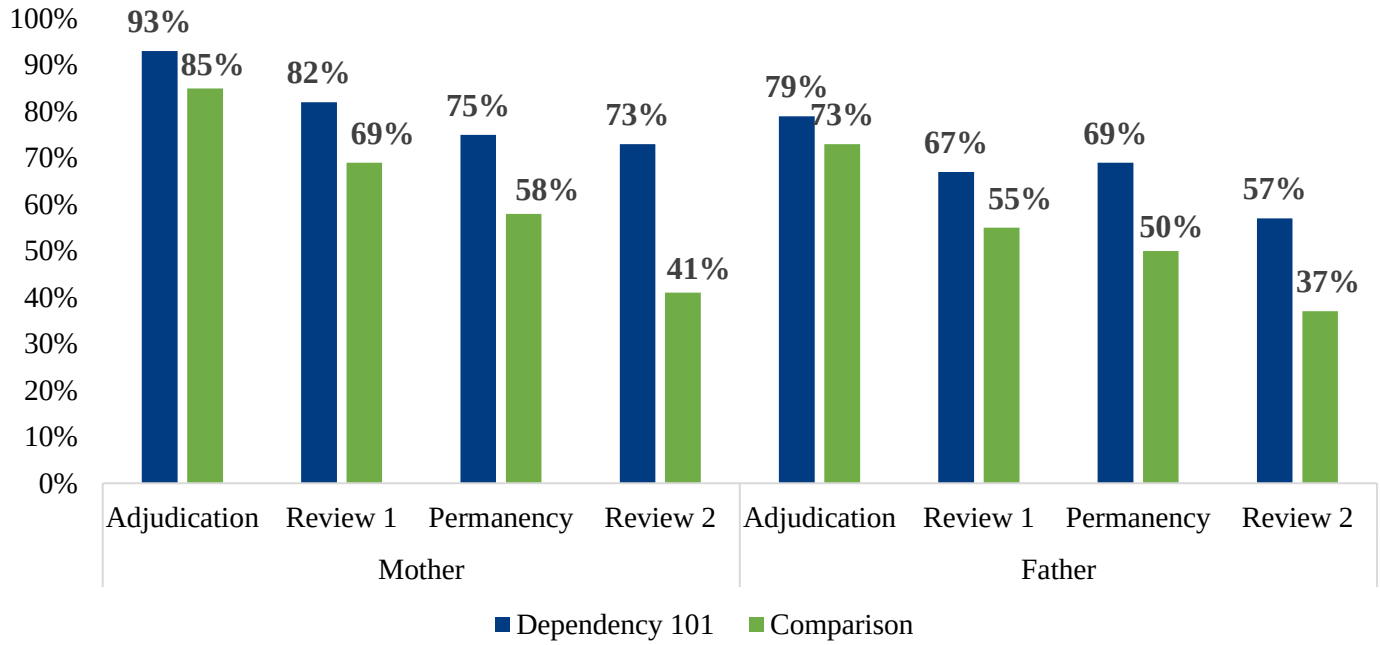
Dependency 101 attended more of their case hearings (78%) compared to mothers who did not participate (67%; ATT = 0.11, SE = 0.04, $p = 0.01$). Father participation in Dependency 101 did not relate overall hearing attendance (67% vs. 63%; ATT = 0.04, SE = 0.08, $p = 0.60$). Table 5 shows that mother participation in Dependency 101 related to hearing attendance at five important hearings during their cases. Father participation in Dependency 101 did not relate to hearing attendance at the adjudication hearing and first review hearing, but marginally related to hearing attendance at the permanency planning hearing (ATT = 0.15, SE = 0.09, $p < 0.1$) and second review hearing (ATT = 0.17, SE = 0.10, $p < 0.1$).

Table 5. Hearing Attendance.

Percent Hearing Attendance			
Hearing Type	Parents who participated in Dependency 101	Comparison group	ATT
Mothers			
Adjudication	93%	85%	0.1*
Review 1	82%	69%	0.13*
Permanency Planning	75%	58%	0.18**
Review 2	73%	41%	0.35**
Fathers			
Adjudication	79%	73%	0.05
Review 1	67%	55%	0.13
Permanency Planning	69%	50%	0.15^{+}
Review 2	57%	37%	0.17^{+}

**$p < 0.01$; *$p < 0.05$; $^{+}p < 0.1$

Figure 5. Hearing Attendance



Case Outcomes

The most common outcomes were reunification and TPR/adoption (a smaller percentage of cases ended in guardianship or relative placement/third party custody agreements). We coded one reunification variable as 1 = reunified and 0 = all other outcomes, to examine the effects Dependency 101 had on reunification. Cases in which the petition was dismissed (8%) were coded as reunification.

Cases in which parents participated in Dependency 101 were more likely to end in reunification compared to cases in which parents did not participate in Dependency 101 (ATT = 0.27, SE = 0.05, $p < 0.01$). We also compared cases in which the outcome was TPR compared to all other case outcomes. Parents who participated in Dependency 101 were significantly less likely to have cases that ended in TPR compared to parents who did not participate (ATT = -0.23, SE = 0.04, $p < 0.01$).

Table 6. Case Outcomes

Case Outcome	Dependency 101	Comparison group	ATT
Reunification	70%	53%	0.27**
TPR	26%	39%	-0.23**

**$p < 0.01$

Participation in Dependency 101 did not affect the time to permanency. Cases in which parents participated in Dependency 101 were open an average of 585 days and cases in the comparison group were open an average of 536 days and this difference was not statistically significant (ATT = 12.56, SE = 32.18, p = 0.70).

Additional Participation in P4P

Dependency 101 is a core component of P4P and is what has been the subject of all prior evaluations. In addition to Dependency 101, parents can also receive additional mentoring and support through telephone calls or texting, support at additional hearings, or support at other outside meetings. Further, parents can attend Dependency 201 which is a group session that provides structured additional education and support for parents. Because ongoing contact with P4P might be beneficial to parents, we examined how these additional "touch-points" might be related to case outcomes. One county was able to provide the researchers with detailed data on how often parents had additional support from P4P. Of the 136 cases in the sample, 48 parents engaged in P4P beyond Dependency 101. Due to this small number, we grouped all of these parents into one group even though parents had differing levels of engagement (see Table 7 for details regarding additional support offered by P4P). Further, we could only examine case outcomes and compliance with services at the first review hearing and the permanency planning hearing for mothers only because too many cases were closed by the permanency planning hearing to run any additional statistical analyses.

Table 7. P4P Additional Support

Support Type	Average	Median	Minimum	Maximum
Telephone Mentoring	3	2	1	21
Outside Meetings	4.58	1.5	1	23
Additional Hearing Support	1.86	1	1	5
Dependency 201	1.86	1	1	4

We were only able to assess the effects of additional P4P mentoring on service compliance at the first review hearing for 36 mothers who engaged in additional mentoring and 67 mothers who only attended Dependency 101. Compared to the comparison group, additional mentoring did not predict service compliance at the first review hearings for mothers (ATT = 0.11, SE = 0.1, p = 0.29). There were 30 mothers who had a permanency planning hearing and received additional P4P mentoring and this did relate to service compliance at their permanency planning hearings (ATT = 0.36, SE = 0.11, p < 0.01). We could not run analyses for fathers as the sample

size was too small. Table 8 illustrates these findings for mothers.

Table 8. Service Compliance for Additional P4P Services

Hearing	Dependency 101 Only	ATT	Comparison group	101 + Additional Mentoring	ATT
Mothers					
Service Compliance Review 1	48%	0.14^{+}	42%	50%	0.11
Permanency Planning Service Compliance	39%	0.16*	30%	43%	0.36**

**$p < 0.01$; *$p < 0.05$; $^{+}p < 0.1$

Additional P4P mentoring and support also related to mothers' visitation compliance at the first review hearing (ATT = 0.25, SE = 0.12, p = 0.04). However, there was no difference in visitation compliance between parents who only attended Dependency 101 and parents who received additional mentoring. Due to a small sample size (either because cases were closed or the child was placed with the parent), we could not assess mothers' visitation compliance at the permanency planning hearing or second review hearing. We could not run analyses for fathers as the sample size was too small. Table 9 illustrates these findings.

Table 9. Visitation Compliance for Additional P4P Services

Hearing	Dependency 101 Only	ATT	Comparison group	101 + Additional Mentoring	ATT
Mothers					
Visitation Compliance Review 1	70%	0.19*	57%	71%	0.25*

*$p < 0.05$

Compared to the comparison group (i.e., parents who did not attend Dependency 101) additional P4P mentoring did not predict mothers' attendance at adjudication hearings (ATT = 0.09, SE = 0.07, p = 0.18) but did predict attendance at the first review hearing (ATT = 0.22, SE = 0.07, $p < 0.01$) and the permanency planning hearing (ATT = 0.20, SE = 0.09, p = 0.03). Compared to fathers who did not participate in Dependency 101, additional P4P mentoring did marginally predict fathers' adjudication hearing attendance (ATT = 0.16, SE = 0.09, p = 0.08).

The results for case outcomes indicate that cases in which parents received additional P4P mentoring were more likely to end in reunification compared to the comparison group (ATT = 0.36, SE = 0.8, $p < 0.01$). Further, parents who received additional mentoring beyond Dependency 101 were more likely to have their cases end in reunification compared to parents who only received Dependency 101 (ATT = 0.15, SE = 0.07, p = 0.03). This pattern was similar for TPR and table 10 and figure 6 show these trends.

We did not explore whether additional P4P mentoring was related to timely permanency. Although services such as telephone mentoring and hearing support have been available since the program was implemented, they were more consistently implemented and better documented in later years. Further, Dependency 201 was not offered until the beginning of 2017. Thus, there is not a sufficient timeline of these additional services to accurately assess how they might be related to timely permanency. Programs should continue to collect these data and future evaluations should explore how these additional supports relate to timely permanency.

Table 10. Case Outcomes for Additional P4P Services

Case Outcome	Dependency 101 Only	ATT	Comparison group	101 + Additional Mentoring	ATT
Reunification	67%	0.24**	53%	79%	0.36**
TPR	31%	-0.19**	39%	19%	-0.31**

Figure 6. Case Outcomes

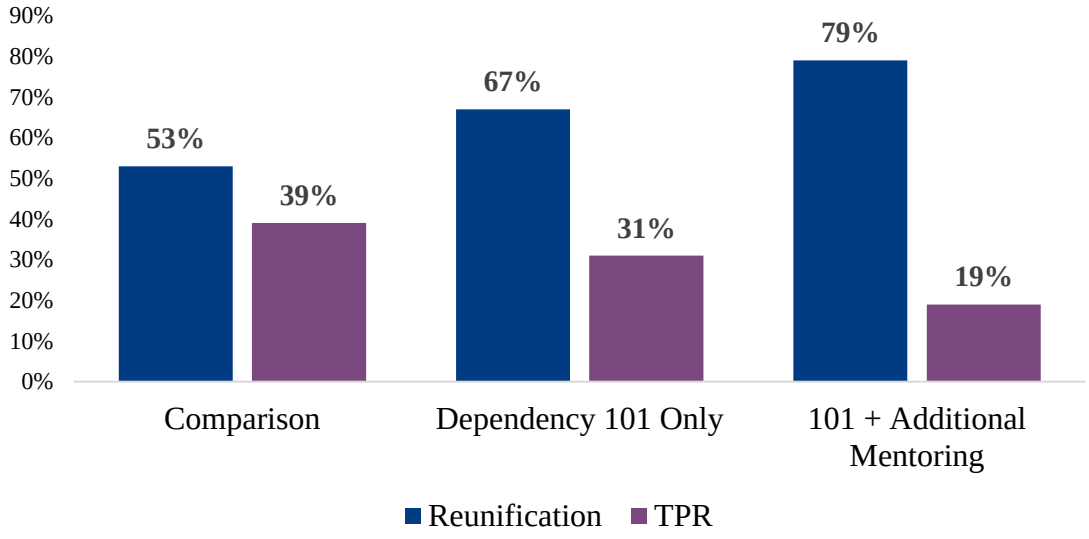


Table 11. Summary of Findings

Case Outcomes of Interest	Adjudication	Review 1	Permanency Planning	Review 2	Reunification	TPR	Time to Permanency
Program effects on case outcomes					(+)	(-)	--
Mother's Service Compliance		(+)	(+)	--			
Father's Service Compliance		(+)	(+)	--			
Mother's Visitation Compliance		(+)	(+)	(+)			
Father's Visitation Compliance		--	(+)	--			
Mother's Attendance at the Hearing	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)			
Father's Attendance at the Hearing	--	--	(+)	(+)			

Note: (+) indicates an increase for program participants, (-) indicates a decrease for program participants, -- indicates no significant difference, and grayed cells were not part of that analysis

Conclusion

The results of this evaluation join a growing body of research that suggests a positive relationship between P4P and child welfare case outcomes (Bohannan et al., 2016; Summers et al., 2012). A summary of key findings and the direction of the relationship between Dependency 101 and case outcomes can be found in Table 11. Both mothers and fathers were more likely to be in compliance with court-ordered services at their first review hearing and permanency planning hearings compared to the comparison group. Mothers were more likely to be in full compliance with court-ordered services and visitation at review and permanency planning hearings. Mothers who participate in Dependency 101 are also more likely to attend their hearings throughout the life their cases. Fathers who attended Dependency 101 are also more likely to be in compliance with their court-ordered services and visitation at the permanency planning hearings, but not review hearings. This is only a small, but positive, relationship between father participation in Dependency 101 and permanency planning hearing attendance, but no relationship between father Dependency 101 participation and adjudication and attendance at the first review hearing.

Participation in Dependency 101 was also positively related to case outcomes. Cases were more likely to end in reunification and less likely to end in TPR when parents participated in Dependency 101. There is also emerging evidence that additional support is related to even higher reunification rates above and beyond Dependency 101 participation. Dependency 101 is an important component of P4P as it provides parents with that initial education and support, but additional support beyond 101 can be especially beneficial for parents. Future evaluations should continue to assess the effects of implementation and other supports that parents receive from

P4P.

Dependency 101 participation did not relate to length of time until permanency, however, if the ultimate goal is to provide a safe and permanent home for children that might not always be able to be accomplished in a shortened amount of time. Further, Dependency 101 is one, 2-hour class that parents attend toward the beginning of their case and thus might not be sufficient in leading to timely permanency. We were not able to examine the relationship between additional P4P mentoring and time to permanency due to sample and timing constraints, but programs should continue to document these supports and future research should explore if there is a relationship between ongoing case supports and time to permanency.

One significant limitation of the evaluation is comparing cases that were completed six years apart. We matched the groups by comparing case closure years in order to reduce the effects of selection bias, but one limitation of this is that there could be other historical factors in those six years that could affect case outcomes. Treatment services could have expanded and improved during that time which could affect outcomes. There were also differences in case documentation. In 2018, courts provided an order of full, partial, or no compliance whereas in 2012, the order was only full or no compliance. Reunification rates across the state also increased during this time period. According to AFCARS data, reunification rates in Washington in the 2018 fiscal year were around 64% (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2019) whereas were around 60% in 2012 (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2013). Thus, some of the differences in reunification rates between groups could partially be a reflection of other historical changes not related to the P4P program. States reporting could have also improved. For instance, the reunification rate in this sample for the comparison group (53%) is quite a bit lower than what is reported in the AFCAS data in Washington State. The accuracy of reporting practices could have changed and improved between 2012 and 2018. It will be important for future research to use a random controlled trial methodology to better isolate the effects of P4P on case outcomes. Despite this limitation, the results suggest that P4P is positively related to case outcomes and provides much needed education and support to families involved in the child welfare system.

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Appendix A

	Unweighted	Weighted
Unable/Unwilling	0.19	-0.01
Domestic Violence	0.27	0.003
Failure to protect	0.33	-0.01
Homeless	0.28	0.06
Substance Use	0.15	0.04
Mental Health Issues	0.19	-0.002
Criminal History	0.19	-0.001
History with Agency	0.03	-0.004
Total Number of Allegations	0.24	0.03
Total Number of Problems	0.3	0.02
Child Removed form Mother Only	-0.27	0.01
Child Removed from Both Parents	0.3	0.01

Standardized coefficients greater than 0.1 indicate that the two groups are not evenly weighted. In the unweighted column, all values are greater than 0.1. However, in the weighted column all values are less than 0.1 indicating that the weighting procedure was successful in weighting the two groups.

Appendix B

Full Compliance with Court-Ordered Services

	Dependency 101	Weighted Comparison	Unweighted Comparison	ATT (SE)
Mothers				
Review 1	0.48	0.38	0.42	0.10 (0.04)$^{+}$
Permanency	0.39	0.26	0.30	0.13 (0.06)*
Review 2	0.38	0.32	0.37	0.06 (0.07)
Fathers				
Review 1	0.41	0.27	0.34	0.13 (0.08)$^{+}$
Permanency	0.48	0.21	0.25	0.27 (0.08)**
Review 2	0.35	0.31	0.31	0.04 (0.05)

**$p < 0.01$; *$p < 0.05$; $^{+}p < 0.1$

Full Compliance with Visitation

	Dependency 101	Weighted Comparison	Unweighted Comparison	ATT (SE)
Mothers				
Review 1	0.68	0.54	0.57	0.14 (0.06)$^{+}$
Permanency	0.59	0.40	0.46	0.10 (0.05)*
Review 2	0.52	0.40	0.48	0.12 (0.17)$^{+}$
Fathers				
Review 1	0.61	0.46	0.49	0.15 (0.10)
Permanency	0.66	0.47	0.37	0.19 (0.10)$^{+}$
Review 2	0.50	0.43	0.40	0.07 (0.12)

**$p < 0.01$; *$p < 0.05$; $^{+}p < 0.1$

Hearing Attendance

	Dependency 101	Weighted Comparison	Unweighted Comparison	ATT (SE)
Mothers				
Adjudication	0.93	0.83	0.85	0.10 (0.04)*
Review 1	0.82	0.69	0.69	0.13 (0.05)*
Permanency	0.75	0.57	0.58	0.18 (0.06)**
Review 2	0.73	0.38	0.41	0.35 (0.07)**
Fathers				
Adjudication	0.79	0.74	0.73	0.05 (0.07)
Review 1	0.67	0.54	0.55	0.13 (0.08)
Permanency	0.69	0.50	0.54	0.15 (0.09)$^{+}$
Review 2	0.57	0.40	0.37	0.17 (0.10)$^{+}$

**$p < 0.01$; *$p < 0.05$; $^{+}p < 0.1$

Suggested Citation:

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