Beliefs and Actions Related to Youth Development in Adults in a Houston Inner-City Neighborhood

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INTRODUCTION

Neighborhood stakeholders, including the church, community leaders, commu-

n

The cross-sectional study, conducted in an inner-city, predominantly Black

Health and Human Services (HDHHS), in partnership with stakeholders, initiated

are associated with decrease in high-risk behaviors such as substance abuse,

Our study included the following external assets: support, empowerment, and

beliefs and actions related to healthy child-raising in adults (with children under 18 years).

METHOD

This cross-sectional study, conducted in an inner-city, predominantly Black non-Hispanic, Houston neighborhood included a survey that targeted adults with children under 18 years of age. A sample size of 245 was calculated to provide prevalence estimates ±10% precision and a power of 0.80. A multi-phase cluster sampling method using probability proportional to size sampling (PPS) selection of clusters, systematic household selection, and simple random sampling of participants within households was used to collect the data. A total of 190 (76.7%) interviews were completed.

Eight questions on developmental assets assessed gaps between beliefs and actions. Questions were extracted from a nationally representative survey conducted by the Gallup Organization in 2000. These examined how adults relate to children and youth outside of their own families. Adults were asked which they believed were important and what proportion of them actually performed those actions compared to females.

RESULTS

Table 1. At least 77.6% believed the eight actions are “very important.” However, only 44.1% to 61.3% reported being likely to actually do these things. The largest gap (46.5%) between belief and action was in providing service opportunitiesFigure 3. The gaps between beliefs and actions were larger in the single adult living with children group as compared to greater than one adult living with children group except in “give advice” (22.7% versus 33.1%).

Table 2. These groups were consistent across all ages with higher education those with lower education except in “building service opportunities” (51.2% versus 64.6%).

Figure 5. Household’s higher income were found to have smaller gaps as compared to households with lower income except in “report misbehavior” (34.3% versus 31.6%) and “seek opinions” (31.2% versus 19.1%).

- Adults with pre-teen/teenage children at home were found to be more likely to treat their belief into actions for size of the developmental assets except “report misbehavior” (gap was 34.9% versus 31.6%) and “model going and serving” (gap was 34.9% versus 35.3%).

DISCUSSION

Results from our survey indicated that the gaps were larger in men compared to women and smaller in married adults as well as households with lower education. These findings were consistent with the Grading Young’s survey findings, which indicated these groups are more likely to be engaged with children. Overall, the largest gap was found in “providing service opportunities” (66.5%) to youth while the smallest gap was found in “crossing names of kids” (22.3%). The above results show that a majority of adults believed that the asset-building actions were very important; however, there were large gaps in what they believed important and what they actually did to provide children and adolescents with the opportunities, experiences, and skills to develop into healthy adults. These gaps show that adults in the community may not be adequately involved in the lives of children.

CONCLUSION

Results indicate large gaps between beliefs and actions surrounding healthy child-raising in the community. Education programs that increase awareness of adults regarding this lack of concordance could lead to a decrease in high-risk behaviors in youth. These results may be useful for community leaders and community-based organizations in planning and prioritizing future programs.

OBJECTIVE

Understanding where gaps exist, and the extent of those gaps, between beliefs and actions related to healthy child-raising in adults (with children under 18 years).

Table 1: Gaps between beliefs and actions among Adults with children (under 18 years)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Belief</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Role of 1 adult in Household</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaps between Beliefs and Actions</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote service opportunities</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>46.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage children to attend school</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help children get along with others</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide role models of youth</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Model going and serving</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treat children as important</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Give advice</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1: Gaps between beliefs and actions, by sex

Figure 2: Gaps between beliefs and actions, by Marital Status

Figure 3: Gaps between beliefs and actions, by Education

Figure 4: Gaps between beliefs and actions, by Number of Adults Living with Child (60% confidence interval)

Figure 5: Gaps between beliefs and actions, by Income

Figure 6: Gaps between beliefs and actions, by Household Size

Figure 7: Gaps between beliefs and actions, by Households with Pre-teen/Teenage Children at Home

Figure 8: Gaps between beliefs and actions, by Household Income

Figure 9: Gaps between beliefs and actions, by Household Education

Figure 10: Gaps between beliefs and actions, by Households with Children under 18 years

Figure 11: Gaps between beliefs and actions, by Households with Children under 18 years, by Race

Figure 12: Gaps between beliefs and actions, by Households with Children under 18 years, by Gender

Figure 13: Gaps between beliefs and actions, by Households with Children under 18 years, by Marital Status

Figure 14: Gaps between beliefs and actions, by Households with Children under 18 years, by Education

Figure 15: Gaps between beliefs and actions, by Households with Children under 18 years, by Household Size

Figure 16: Gaps between beliefs and actions, by Households with Pre-teen/Teenage Children at Home

Figure 17: Gaps between beliefs and actions, by Household Income

Figure 18: Gaps between beliefs and actions, by Household Education

Figure 19: Gaps between beliefs and actions, by Household Race

Figure 20: Gaps between beliefs and actions, by Household Gender

Figure 21: Gaps between beliefs and actions, by Household Marital Status

Figure 22: Gaps between beliefs and actions, by Household Education

Figure 23: Gaps between beliefs and actions, by Household Race

Figure 24: Gaps between beliefs and actions, by Household Gender

Figure 25: Gaps between beliefs and actions, by Household Marital Status

Figure 26: Gaps between beliefs and actions, by Household Income

Figure 27: Gaps between beliefs and actions, by Household Education

Figure 28: Gaps between beliefs and actions, by Household Race

Figure 29: Gaps between beliefs and actions, by Household Gender

Figure 30: Gaps between beliefs and actions, by Household Marital Status