Special Report on Child Abuse

Parenting Practices in Hood County

Presented at the Hood County Child Health Summit
Joyce Hood, DrPH(c), MPH, RN, COHN-S
March 7, 2013
Cycle of Child Abuse

- Parental child abuse
- Substance abuse
- Societal beliefs
- Support systems

Intergenerational transfer
Predictive factor
“Silent/accepting Culture”
No where to turn

McCoy & Keen, 2009
The Role of Communities in Child Abuse Prevention

CDC, 2012; McCoy & Keen, 2009
Survey Components

**Predictive Factor**: A factor that when present, highly increases the likelihood that child abuse or maltreatment will occur.

**Risk Factors**: Factors that increase the likelihood that abuse or maltreatment will occur.

**Protective Factors**: Factors that buffer children from the likelihood of being abused or neglected.

McCoy & Keen, 2009
Survey Components

• Protective Factors Survey:
  o Is a snapshot of the community at a point in time.
  o Measures five key protective factor domains.
  o Also used to measure progress in these areas over time.
  o Entire Protective Factors Survey used.

• Risk factors included in demographic questions.

• Predictive factors: CAGE-AID (Cut-down, Guilty Annoyed and Eye-Opener) screening tool for substance abuse.
Survey

• Used ETC, the same company that facilitated the CCHAPS survey.

• Survey mailed to 1200 households with at least one child 0-14 years of age in November of 2012.

• After two weeks, families were contacted by phone if survey not returned.

• 400+ respondents – sufficient so that the survey results can be applied to the entire county of Hood.

• 2010 census data was used for the total number of households with children under the age of 18, which was used to determine the number of households in Hood County.
Benefit

- Provide the Hood County coalition with specific data for development of action and prevention strategies.

- Provide education, support, and services to Hood County so that it is better prepared for parenting and for provision of services in time of need of support.
Predictive Factor
Hood County – Predictive Factor

**Predictive** – Current or past history of substance abuse.

Example of question: Have you ever felt you ought to cut down on your drinking or drug use?

8% (494) of households with children reported they abuse drugs or alcohol.
Risk Factors
Hood County – Risk Factors

Risk – History of parental child abuse.

Question: When you were a child, were you the victim of any type of abuse?

16% (989) of households with children reported they had been abused as a child.
Hood County – Risk Factors

Risk – Isolation and lack of extended family support.

Examples of questions:

When I am lonely, there are several people I can talk to.

6% (371) of households with children would have difficulty with finding a person to talk to when they are lonely.

If there is a crisis, I have others I can talk to.

4% (247) households with children would have no one to turn to when they are in crisis.
Hood County – Risk Factors

Risk – Inability to openly share positive and negative experiences and mobilize to accept, solve, and manage problems.

At least ½ of the time, my family.....

16% (989) of households with children do not listen to both sides of the story when arguing.

9% (556) of households with children do not take time to listen to each other.

8% (494) of households with children do not talk about their problems.
Hood County – Risk factors

Risk – Poverty

Examples of questions:

What kind of health insurance do your children currently have?

24% (1483) of households with children used government insurance plans for their child’s health insurance.

What is your total annual household income?

20% (1236) of households with children made less than $35,000 per year.**

**US poverty level for family of 4
Hood County-Risk factors

Risk: Health and social disparities:

- 40% (2472) households with children reported a household income of more than $80,000 per year.
- 20% (1236) households with children reported a household income of less than $35,000 per year.

Isolation/lack of support:

- 38% (2348) households with children reported they were not very familiar or not familiar at all with support services available in the community.
Hood County – Protective Factors

Protective – Knowledge of parenting and nurturing/attachment

Examples of questions:

I am happy being with my child.

98% (6055) households with children reported they are frequently happy being with their child.

All (100%) households with children surveyed reported they were frequently close to their child.

When I discipline my child, I lose control.

6% (371) households with children reported they lost control when disciplining their child at least ½ of the time.

There are times when I don’t know what to do as a parent:

36% (2224) households with children reported that they slightly to strongly agreed with this statement.
Hood County – Protective Factors

Protective – Social-emotional support

Example of question:

I have others who will listen when I need to talk about my problems.

Results:

93% (5747) households with children reported they have others who will listen to them when they need to talk about their problems.
Hood County – Protective Factors

**Protective**: Stable and cohesive neighborhoods, access to healthcare.

**Predominantly rural county**

Example of questions:

During the past 12 months, was there any time that any of your children were NOT covered by health insurance?

84% (5190) of households with children (84%) stated their child had health insurance in the past 12 months.
Hood County – Protective Factors

**Protective**: Concrete support

Example of questions:

During the past 12 months, was there any time that any of your children were NOT covered by health insurance?

Results:

84% (5190) households with children reported their child had health insurance in the past 12 month.
Hood County—Protective Factors

- Basic needs of family supported

Example of question:

How familiar are you with parent support programs available in your community?

Results:

54% (3337) households with children reported they were not very familiar or not familiar at all with parent support programs in the community.
Observations

Strengths to build on:

- Family cohesiveness
- Social Support
- Parent-child close relationships
- Coalition
- Substance Abuse Council

Priority target areas:

- Family functioning/resiliency – Adaptive skills to crisis and manage problems
- Knowledge of child development and parenting
- Substance abuse
- Concrete support- services and assistance for families in need