Understanding Families in Illinois Differential Response

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What information about Families?

• Stressors at the time of CPS case opening

• Family strength and stress:
  • Coping
  • Family Hardiness
  • Stress after case closure

• Family’s resource and demand:
  – Support from a spouse/partner
  – Negative interaction
Methods

• Sample: 240 caregivers in Illinois differential response evaluation project
  – Experimental group: 103
  – Control group: 137

• Survey mode: Phone survey followed up by mail survey

• Survey period: April, 2011 ~ October, 2011
Stressors

• Acute and Chronic stressors at the time of case opening
  • Acute: Death, Family Member, Friend, Partner/Spouse, Health and Well-Being-Self, Job/School/Financial
  • Chronic: Housing/Neighborhood, Financial/Transportation, Job/School, Family Member, Friend, Partner/Spouse, Parenting, Health and Well-Being-Self
Stressors- Pattern

• Acute stressors:
  – More than a half of caregivers do not have any stressors under each category of acute stressors

• Chronic stressors:
  – Majority of caregivers have one or more stressors under each category of chronic stressors. Financial, job/school, health and well-being categories show this tendency the most clearly.
Coping style

• Coping style
  – Most frequently used: Active coping, Planning, Acceptance
  – Least frequently used: Substance, Disengagement, Denial

• Underlying pattern of coping
  – Positive coping
  – Social support coping
  – Negative coping
Family Hardiness

• Mean per-item score: 2.4
  (False=0, Mostly False=1, Mostly True=2, True=3)

• Commitment (The highest per-item score)
• Confidence
• Challenge
• Control (The lowest per-item score)
• Stress (1.33 / per item)
  – (0=Never, 1=Almost never, 2=Sometimes, 3= Fairly often, 4=Very often)

• Support from a spouse/partner
  – No spouse/partner: 89
  – Have a spouse/partner: 151 (3.19 /per item)
  – (0=Never, 1=Almost never, 2=Sometimes, 3= Fairly often, 4=Very often)

• Negative interaction (.98/ per item)
  – (0=Never, 1=Once in a while, 2=Fairly often, 3=Very often)
Pathways to family strength

• **Model 1**

  - **Stressors**
  - **Negative Interaction**
  - **Social support from a spouse/partner**
  - **Family Hardiness**

  \[ r = 0.548^{***} \]

  \[ r = -0.244^{**} \]

  ***<.001, **<.01
Pathways to family weakness

Model 2

Stressors → Negative Interaction

.553***

Social support from a spouse/partner

.208**

Stress

.539***

***<.001, **<.01
Pathways to family weakness

• Model 3

Stressors → Negative Interaction → Stress

- 0.546*** (Stressors to Negative Interaction)
- 0.208** (Negative Interaction to Stress)
- 0.520*** (Stressors to Stress)
- -0.134** (Social support coping to Stress)

Positive coping
Social support coping

***<.001, **<.01
Pathways to family strength

- **Model 4**

![Diagram showing relationships between stressors, negative interaction, family hardiness, social support coping, and positive coping. The diagram includes correlation coefficients: 0.278*** from stressors to negative interaction, -0.406*** from negative interaction to family hardiness, 0.104* from family hardiness to positive coping, and 0.129** from family hardiness to social support coping.

***<.001, **<.01