



SPR 18th Annual Meeting

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Location: Imperial Ballroom (Grand Hyatt/2nd Floor)

Time of Presentation: Jun 03 5:45 PM - 7:45 PM

Category/Theme: Implementation Science

Effects of Implementation Characteristics on Targeted Parenting Outcomes of a Selective Prevention Effort for Middle School Students

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This study examined the role of four implementation characteristics (dosage, fidelity, alliance with the provider, and satisfaction with the intervention) in explaining variation in change in parenting characteristics targeted by a family-focused preventive intervention intended to reduce risk for violence and promote school engagement of high-risk, socially influential, middle school youth. In addition, this study assessed the role of pre-existing participant characteristics in intervention implementation.

The Multisite Violence Prevention Project randomly assigned 37 schools to four conditions: (a) a universal intervention composed of a social-cognitive curriculum and teacher training, (b) the selective family intervention examined in this study, (c) the combination of these two interventions, and (d) a no-intervention control condition. The present study focuses on 342 families from two cohorts at the schools that were randomly assigned to the selective intervention. All participants attended at least two intervention sessions.

The four implementation characteristics were moderately correlated and evidenced change in a positive direction over the course of the intervention. Pre-existing levels of Parental Involvement and Parental Monitoring were both associated with Child Satisfaction with the Intervention assessed at the second session. Pre-existing Child Aggression was associated negatively with Dosage but positively with Initial Child Alliance and Child Satisfaction with the Intervention. Parent Alliance and Child Alliance at the second session were both positively and significantly associated with final Dosage and Fidelity. In a multivariate model, alliance and satisfaction with the intervention were non-significant predictors of change in parenting characteristics but dosage was positively associated with change in parental monitoring and fidelity was positively associated with changes in parent discipline practices.

Although extensive literature suggests the importance of therapeutic relationships and client satisfaction in promoting positive outcomes in structured family-focused preventive efforts, the results of this study suggest that the relation between these variables is complex. Pre-existing parent characteristics relate to child, but not parent satisfaction. It appears that therapeutic alliance of both parents and children affect the degree of participation in the intervention as well as the extent to which the intervention is delivered as intended. Dosage and fidelity of delivery, in turn, are associated with change in the variables targeted by the intervention.

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