

Prevention in CT Fatherhood Initiative



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The CT Fatherhood Initiative (CFI) is a statewide collaboration of state agencies led by the CT Department of Social Services. Through this partnership, the CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services has provided prevention training and programming to enhance the role of fathers in being a positive influence on their children.

This initiative recognizes the importance of the role of parents, especially fathers, in preventing children from using and abusing substances. Building fathers' communication skills and knowledge about substance use is yielding positive outcomes in CT.

By addressing family dynamics and fostering healthier parent-child relationships, protective factors are increasing for Connecticut children.

CENTRAL PRIORITIES OF THE INITIATIVE

- 1 Education & Training**
Build case managers' expertise in prevention, enabling them to teach fathers
- 2 Empower Fathers**
Case managers support fathers to learn prevention techniques and foster open communication with their children about drugs and alcohol use.
- 3 Linking into a Strong Prevention Infrastructure**
Fatherhood agencies are intentionally connected with existing state and community resources for prevention and mental health.
- 4 Case Management**
Fathers receive case management that promotes life improvement and develops essential life and parenting skills
- 5 Prevention Starts Here**
Case managers and fathers come to understand that they are preventionists and can have a positive impact on the health of their families and communities.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES



Fathers will communicate openly about substance use with their children, set expectations around use with children, reduce access to substances by their children, and prevent substance use by their children.

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How it Works

- DMHAS and the Governor's Prevention Partnership provide **grant funding** to eight Fatherhood programs in CT for a part-time case manager, events and activities for families and other supplies.
- This case manager is **trained** in the **Strategic Prevention Framework, drug and alcohol facts, teen brain science, mental health**, and more. Prevention knowledge is imparted to the fathers in fatherhood programs via 24/7 Dads group weekly meetings, special events for families, Naloxone and suicide prevention trainings, handouts, and more.
- Case managers from all programs are **mentored** by the Governor's Prevention Partnership in CT and attend monthly meetings to share their successes and challenges with one another.
- All fatherhood agencies **collaborate** with local prevention coalitions, opioid task forces, regional prevention organizations and more to increase their understanding of prevention, and to add the voice of fathers to prevention planning and evaluation.

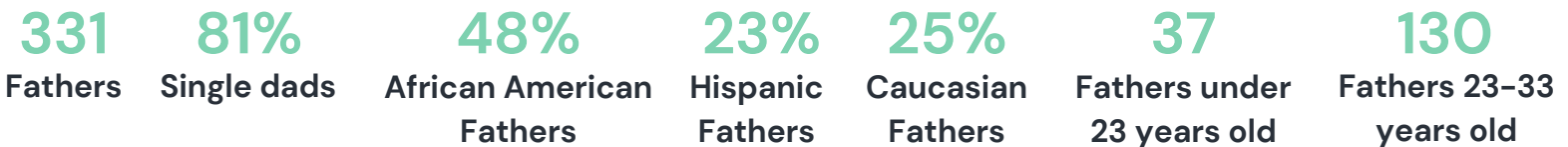
"This group is teaching me how to be a better father and also a better person."

- MICHAEL, 22 YEAR OLD DAD OF A 4 YEAR OLD

"If I had known this [prevention information] when I was younger, I might've avoided a lot of trouble"

- NAME WITHHELD, FATHER IN 24/7 DADS PROGRAM

The Numbers Served in 2023-2024 by Fatherhood Agencies



For Additional information:

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 CT Fatherhood Initiative
<https://portal.ct.gov/fatherhood> 