Outcomes of Participants in Cornell Cooperative Extension Home Visitation Parent Education Program 2021-2022

By Julia Chapman and Kimberly Kopko

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) offers a variety of programs for parents and caregivers. These programs reach a wide range of families and seek to promote positive parenting and, ultimately, healthy family and child development. This report presents data collected from participants in the Home Visitation program from August 2021 to August 2022. Participants included parents and caregivers who participated in programs that comprised of at least six hours of content delivery. Data were collected from participants at the first session (a pre-test) and at the last session (a post-test). Results of the analysis of these data are shown below.

Demographics of Participants in Home Visitation Program

Data for the Home Visitation program was provided from four counties. The largest number of participants were from Lewis County (46%) followed by Jefferson County (21%).
The following summaries use data from 112 participants who completed a pre-test survey given at the first session of their parent education class. The majority of participants in the program were female (67%).

Educational attainment among the participants varied widely, with the greatest number of participants having finished 12th grade or completed their GED (48%), and those who had completed between 9th and 11th grade (29%).
The majority of the participants in the Home Visitation parent education program were White (86%) and 47% were single.
Pre-Post Survey Results

This evaluation used a pre- and post-test, in which participants were asked to answer two identical surveys—one given at the first class session and another given after the completion of the last parenting class. The survey included ten questions about parenting attitudes, behaviors and knowledge designed to capture some of what was taught in the class. The pre-post-study design allows researchers to see if attitudes, behaviors, and knowledge change during the course of the workshop. Using this type of research design does not allow one to determine whether taking part in the parent education class caused a change in attitudes, behaviors, and knowledge; such changes could occur for other reasons outside of the workshop. However, it is possible that any significant pre-to-post changes in parenting attitudes, behaviors and knowledge that are observed may have resulted from taking part in the program.

The following evaluation is based on information provided by 87 participants, who completed their program and completed both a pre- and a post-test survey. Three of the ten measures tested showed a significant improvement from the pre- to the post-test.

Specifically, CCE parent education participants reported increases in: the amount of patience they have with their child and their confidence in explaining the reasons for the rules they make, and decreases in the amount that they yell at their child.

A p-value generated from a paired t-test was used as a statistical measure to determine whether a change in a given survey question between the pre- and post-test was significant. A p-value of .10 or less was considered statistically significant, and means that we can be 90% certain that the pre-to-post changes in participant responses are not due to chance.

In comparing participants’ pre- and post-test survey results, the following question showed statistically significant changes at the 1% level.
In comparing participants’ pre- and post-test survey results, the following two questions showed statistically significant changes at the 5% level.

**How often do you yell at your child?**

- Pre: 2.48
- Post: 2.09

**I do not have as much patience with my child(ren) as I should**

- Pre: 2.83
- Post: 2.47
I try to explain the reasons for the rules I make.

- Definitely true: Pre = 3.08, Post = 3.3
- Definitely false: Pre = 3.08, Post = 3.3
These results indicate that three out of ten measures of parenting attitudes, behaviors and knowledge improved significantly from the pre- to the post-test, highlighting an area in which the Home Visitation parent education program may have had a positive impact on participants.
Visit the Parenting Project website

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Julia Chapman is the Extension Research Aide for The Parenting Project: Healthy Children, Families, & Communities at Cornell University.

Kimberly Kopko is a Senior Extension Associate in the Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research at Cornell University and Director of The Parenting Project: Healthy Children, Families, & Communities.