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Current Projects

Family Maltreatment Prevention Among Active-Duty Air Force Members

This federally funded, multi-year project guided the United States Air Force (USAF) Family Advocacy Program's approach to family maltreatment prevention among active-duty members. Components of this project include a thorough synthesis of published research, development of theory highlighting key predictors of family maltreatment in the military population, assessment of existing USAF programs and services, and development of an assessment tool the Personal and Family Strengths Inventory—to guide USAF practitioners in their work with active-duty members and their families.

Leveraging Relationship Transitions in Families to Promote Child Well-Being and Prevent Maltreatment

Approximately one-third of all children in the United States will spend time living with a stepparent before reaching adulthood, yet there remains limited guidance for families experiencing the transition to stepfamily life. Navigating stepfamily relationships can be ambiguous and demanding, often leading to conflict and other challenges. This project highlights the capacity for high-quality and low-conflict stepparent-child relationships to promote child well-being, and identifies factors that cultivate high-quality and low-conflict stepparent-child relationships, with implications for family maltreatment prevention.

Building Trusting Relationships to Support Evidence Use in Human Services

In a recent William T. Grant Foundation study, trusting relationships were strongly linked to successful implementation and sustained evidence use. With additional support from the William T. Grant Foundation, this study will assess the feasibility of developing and delivering a training and coaching curriculum for building trusting relationships among implementation team members supporting the scaling of an evidence-based peer mentoring program for foster youth. The study will also assess whether building trusting relationships among team members and community partners contributes to short-term outcomes such as relational cohesion on implementation teams; capability, opportunity, and motivation to use research evidence; and commitment and resilience for implementation.