

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
 prepared for  
 Help a Child, Inc., Parent Aide program

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*Thank you for the collection and provision of this data, it greatly enhanced our learning experience. What follows is a description of the population served by the Parent Aide program and an overview of the research findings.*

Population Demographics

The majority of households were single parent (80%), this fact and the lack of data for the second adult in dual parent households, the majority of the demographics and studies represent data for the head of the household. Half of the households (56%) made less than \$20,000 per year. The majority of heads of household were Caucasian (75%) followed by African American (18%), Hispanic (5%), and Asian (2%). The majority of heads of household (65%) had an educational level at or above a high school degree, and were 18-40 years of age (79%). The average age for participants was 32 years with a standard deviation from that average of 9 years.

Household Arrangement

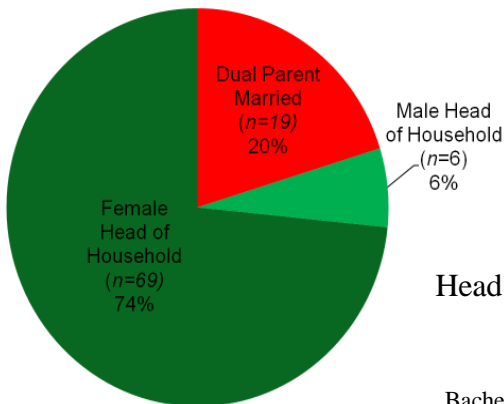
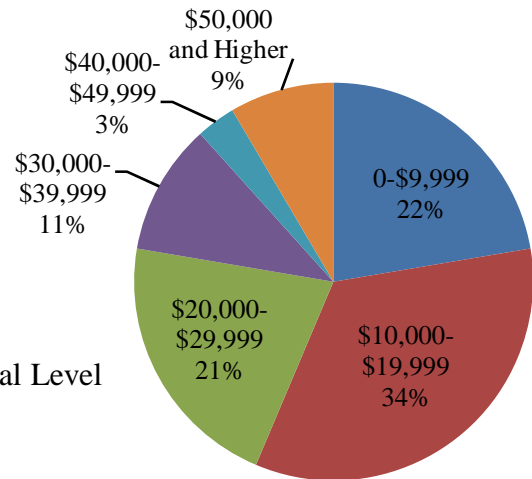
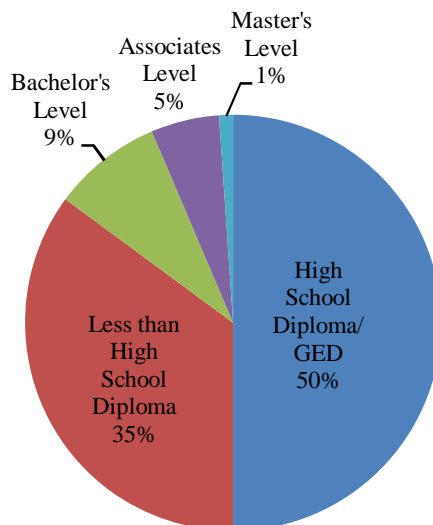


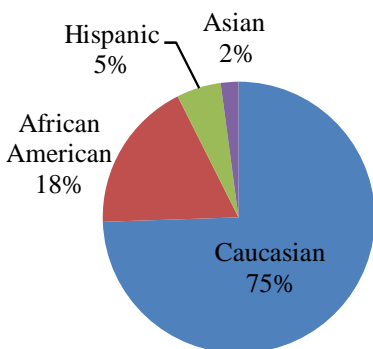
Figure 5 Household Income



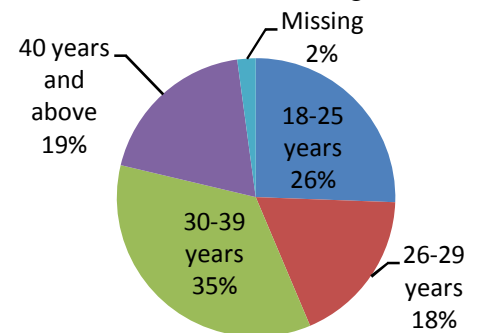
Head of Household Educational Level



Head of Household Race



Head of Household Age at Intake



## Research Findings

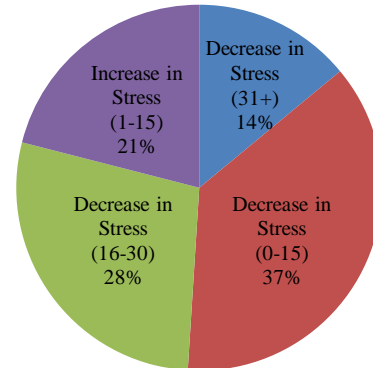
Data was collected between October 1, 2006 and September 30, 2007 and included data on 94 clients served by the parent aide program during that time. Pretest posttest data using the Parenting Stress Index Short Form (PSI/SF) was available for 29 of the 94 heads of household. Analysis of the PSI/SF score of these 29 participants showed an average decrease in stress of 13 points, representing a statistically significant change. It should also be mentioned that of the 29 participants with posttest scores, 6 (21%) had an increase in stress score.

Pretest and Posttest Scores on Parenting Stress Index Short Form

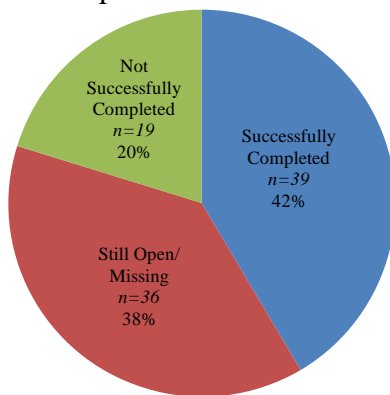
	n	t	Mean score
Pretest	29	4.645***	93.76
Posttest	29		80.62

\*\*\*  $p \leq .000$

Change in PSI/SF score by points



Participants' Closure Status



The closure status of participants was divided into three categories: successfully completed, not successfully completed and still open/missing. Nearly half of the participants (42%) successfully completed the program, while one quarter of participants (20%) did not successfully complete the program, and approximately one-third of participants (38%) open cases.

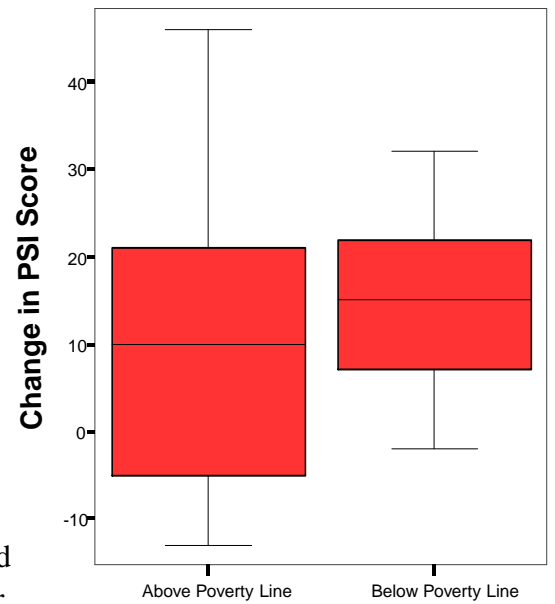
No significant relationship was found between income and PSI/SF score or zip code and PSI/SF score. No significant relationship was found between zip code and close reason or case length and treatment percentage. A significant relationship was found between case length and both close reason and successful program completion.

Group Member	Independent Variable	Dependent Variable	Results
Erin Oswald	Parent Aide program	PSI/SF score	Significant difference
Melanie Pflug	Income	Change in PSI/SF score	No significant difference
Dru McMillan	Zip code	Head of household PSI/SF pre and posttest scores	No significant difference
Emma Stoltenow	Zip code	Close reason	No significant difference
Jayna Berens	Case length	Percentage of treatment goals completed	No significant difference
	Case length	Close Reason	Significant difference

Application of the poverty line for a family of four, just over \$20,000 per year, to the data indicated that approximately half of the households fell below the poverty level. While participants who fell below the poverty line had a slightly higher change in their PSI/SF score with an average of 15 point versus 12 points, analysis showed no significant difference for the groups. Additionally, 71% of the participants above the poverty line and 92% of participants below the poverty line experienced a decrease in score.

Poverty Level	<i>n</i>	<i>t</i>	Average change in score
Above Poverty Line	17	-.596	11.71
Below Poverty Line	12		15.71

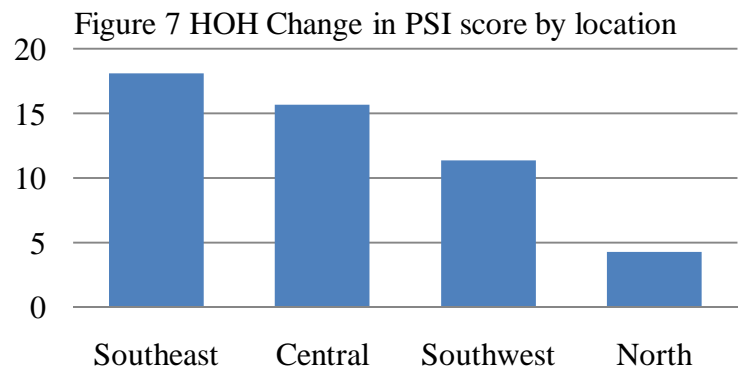
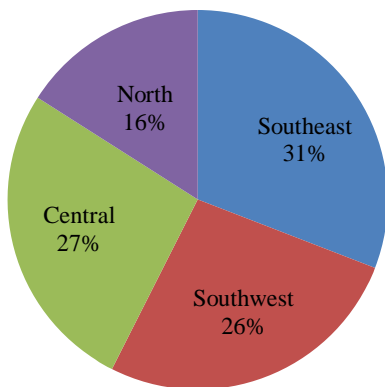
$p \leq .556$



**Estimated Poverty Line Level**

Zip code was categorized into four geographic areas: southeast, southwest, central and north. No statistical significance was found for these areas in relation to PSI/SF pretest score, posttest score or change in PSI/SF score even when score was regrouped into four categories representing low, moderate, high and extremely high levels of stress. Southeastern and centrally located clients had the highest PSI/SF pretest and posttest scores but still exhibited the largest change in PSI/SF score.

**Participants' Geographic Location**



An analysis of zip code broken into the same four geographic areas in relation to closure status of participants as successfully completed, still open/missing, and not successfully completed, indicated no significant difference. It is important to note that at the stop of data collection 36 of the 94 participants (38%) still had open cases.

Program Completers Treatment %	Number	Percentage Percent
67%	1	1.1%
70%	1	1.1%
80%	3	3.2%
85%	1	1.1%
90%	2	2.1%
95%	3	3.2%
100%	23	24.5%
Case still open	36	38.3%
Missing data	24	25.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>100%</b>

Analysis of the relationship between length of service in the Parent Aide program and the percentage of treatment goals completed showed no significant difference. A treatment percentage was available for 34 cases scores ranged from 67% to 100%. Only one quarter of cases completed below a 95% treatment goal percentage with no case earning less than a 67% . At the time of data collection, 36 cases were still open, so treatment percentage could not be calculated.

Case Length of Participants Grouped		
Case Length	Number	Percent
0-4 months	27	28.7%
5-6 months	9	9.6%
7-8 months	12	12.8%
9-14 months	10	10.6%
Missing data	36	38.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>100%</b>

Case Length	Case Length and Close Reason		Totals
	Unsuccessfully Completed	Successfully Completed	
0-2 months	11 (73%)	4 (27%)	15
3-5 months	7 (44%)	9 (56%)	16
6-8 months	0 (0%)	17 (100%)	17
9-14 months	1 (10%)	9 (90%)	10
<b>Totals</b>	<b>19 (33%)</b>	<b>39 (67%)</b>	<b>58</b>

Further exploration of case length as in relation to successful program completion indicated significant difference in two areas. When case length was placed into two categories, zero to five months and 6 to 14 months and close reason was divided into successfully completed and unsuccessfully completed a significant difference was found. Additionally, when close reason was limited to the previous two categories and case length was broken into four categories, 0-2 months, 3-5 months, 6-8 months, and 9-14 months, a significant difference was again found.

\*\*\* $p \leq .000$

For more information on Research Partnership: [www.TakeTheNextSteps.org](http://www.TakeTheNextSteps.org)