Moderating Effect of Different Masculinity Ideologies on the Effect of a Family Based Intervention on Change in Readiness to Reduce Drinking among Nonresident African-American Fathers

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Objectives

- Describe the Fathers and Sons Program
- Explain how the program has been evaluated
- Present the findings of the current study
- Discuss implications of these findings on future intervention work
Fathers and Sons Intervention

- Family-based
- Non-resident fathers and son
- Reduce risky behaviors
- Strengthen:
  - Relationship between fathers and sons
  - Fathers’ parenting behaviors
  - Sons’ refusal skills
  - Sons’ intentions to avoid risky behaviors

Defining Non-Resident Fathers

- **Father:** Self-identified African American or Black biological father of a boy in the intervention

- **Non-Resident:** The son did not sleep over at their father’s home more than half of the time during the year
Intervention Questions

Three main questions

- Effectiveness?
- Mechanisms?
- Who benefits?
Effectiveness

- Fathers and Sons is an effective family based intervention
- Among fathers, the intervention was promising for enhancing
  - parental monitoring,
  - communication about sex,
  - intentions to communicate,
  - race-related socialization practices
  - parenting skills satisfaction
- The intervention was also beneficial for sons:
  - reported more monitoring by their fathers
  - improved communication about sex
  - increased intentions to avoid violence

Caldwell CH, Rafferty J, Reischl TM, De Loney EH, Brooks CL. 2010
Mechanisms

- Ongoing studies

- Caldwell, et al. (2013): The effect of intervention on sons’ aggressive behaviors and intention to avoid violence in future is significant, but indirect, through parenting.

The current question:  
Who benefits more from the intervention?
Masculinity is associated with substance use (1).

Masculinity is also linked to parenting behaviors (2).

Substance abuse may also interfere with effective parenting (3, 4).

1- Garfield et al., 2008, 2- Caldwell, Antonakos, Tsuchiya, Assari, & De Loney, 2012, 3- Jacob, Harber, Leonard & Rushe, 2000, 4- Eiden et al. 2004
Previous Work

- Relationships between masculinity ideologies, perceived discrimination, and parenting behaviors on depression and drinking
- Masculinity ideologies as moderators
- Masculinity ideologies are multidimensional; differentially associated with depressive symptoms, connectedness with son, and co-parenting
Current Study

- Sample: 229 fathers who reported drinking alcohol (135 intervention and 94 comparison group)
AA Men & Alcohol Use

- African-Americans report significantly higher numbers of drinking consequences and alcohol dependence symptoms (Grant 1997; Herd 1994a)
- High rates of escape or personal effects drinking (Martin, Tuch and Roman, 2003)
- Stressors associated with disadvantaged minority status influence alcohol use. (Martin, Tuch and Roman, 2003)
Masculinity Ideologies

- Hegemonic masculinity
- Culturally-based masculinity
- Interconnected masculinity

- Masculinity Norms Salience Scale (Hammond & Mattis, 2005)
Hegemonic Masculinity

- Power, prestige, status; physical toughness, competitiveness, autonomy, emotional detachment
- Associations with risky health behaviors
Hegemonic Masculinity

- Measured via 5 items
  - Having power
  - Being a good athlete
  - Being physically strong
  - Being in control of a relationship
  - Preventing others from taking advantage of you
Racial Differences

- Conflicting literature
- Racism and discrimination in the American context may limit AA men’s ability to achieve hegemonic masculinity
- Cultural and historical context is important to consider
- Consistency in literature \( \rightarrow \) AA also endorse less traditional masculine norms

Culturally Based Masculinity

- Emotional expressiveness
- Measured via 8 items
  - Expressing love for family and friends
  - Being dependable
  - Being a good provider
  - Being successful in one’s job
  - Protecting one’s self and family
  - Being a good role model for others
  - Being a good parent
  - Being responsible
Interconnected Masculinity

- Communal, egalitarian, spiritual
- Measured via 4 items
  - Being caring towards others
  - Fighting for the rights of others
  - Giving something back to the community
  - Having the respect of others
Drinking Behavior

- Do you intend to stop or reduce your drinking within the next six months?
- Answers: Yes or No
Analysis

- Logistic regression models
- **Model 1**: effect of intervention and masculinity ideologies on Time 2 intention to reduce drinking
- **Model 2**: Interaction between intervention and masculinity ideologies
- **Controls**:
  - Time 1 intention to reduce drinking
  - Time 1 drinking frequency
  - Age, education level, and time lived with son
Model 1

- Intention to reduce drinking was higher among those with higher hegemonic masculinity (OR=1.092, 95% CI=1.010 - 1.181).
Model 2

- The effect of the intervention on readiness to reduce drinking was larger among men with higher interconnected (OR=1.655, 1.100-2.489) and lower cultural-based masculinity (OR=.721, 95% CI=.540-.963).
Discussion

- Model 1
  - More aware of problem behavior

- Model 2
  - Interconnected could influence change
  - Further research is needed
Implications

- Fathers’ readiness to reduce drinking may depend on different masculinity ideologies
- Tailoring interventions
- Clinical practice
Thank you