

Research Information on



(previously known as Children Cope With Divorce)

The following is a list of research completed when the program was called CCWD (Children Cope With Divorce). In March 2006, Families First launched one of several research initiatives to gather current data. Additional projects are in preparatory stages and implementation will begin 2006-2007.

Oklahoma (Tulsa), Center for Policy Research, 1998

The Tulsa CCWD was one of five programs participating in this study of court-connected parent education programs conducted for the State Justice Institute. Divorcing parents were surveyed after participating in the programs and a sample of attendees was interviewed six months later. The study showed that while all five programs produced benefits for families, in many respects CCWD was rated more favorably than the others. CCWD participants were more likely to say that the presenters addressed their needs during the seminar. At follow-up, CCWD attendees more often thought the program should be mandatory, that such education is a good idea, and that it helped them through a stressful time.

[Dr.s Nancy Thoennes & Jessica Pearson. (1999). Family & Conciliation Courts Review, 37(2). 195-218.]

National, Families First, 1997

Surveyed 625 family court judges who had referred divorcing parents to a CCWD provider for the seminar. 246 judges from 25 states responded to the mail survey (39% response). These judges were asked to rate the effectiveness of CCWD on five dimensions (percent responding "strongly agree" or "agree" are shown): CCWD increases parent's ability to reach agreement more quickly on custody arrangements (80%), CCWD decreases subsequent litigation involving the child (79%), CCWD decreases the number of times your court sees a case for any reason (73%), CCWD serves to lessen the negative effects of divorce on children (96%), CCWD benefits the families of parties who participate in the seminar (98%). [Dr. Rob Fischer (1997). Journal of Divorce & Remarriage, 28(1/2). 35-48.]

Indiana (Muncie), Ball State University, 1997

Researchers in Counseling Psychology, using a revised version of the CCWD exit survey instrument developed by Families First, analyzed parents' understanding of divorce issues and their attitudes. With a sample of 1343 responses, they found that men more often resented the program but that 69% of all parents saw the program as useful. Significant differences were found related to the race, age, and income of the parent. [Elan Cohen, Dr. Robert Hayes, & Dr. Judy Malone]

Virginia (Chesterfield County), University of Virginia, 1995

Used a pre/post seminar survey approach with a sample of 177 CCWD participants. The researchers found that despite resentment among some CCWD participants for being required to attend, on average, they agreed that they would "use what I learned at the seminar" and "recommend the seminar to others." The researchers split the sample of CCWD participants into high and low conflict cases based on participant's rating of the relationship and found that children in the high conflict group were adjusting more poorly to the divorce than the children in the low conflict group (statistically significant). [Mary Jo Coiro & Dr. Bob Emery]

Indiana (Marion County), Visiting Nurse Service, 1995

Using a sample of 390 divorcing couples who were under mandate to participate in CCWD, researchers found 80% of CCWD participants had no subsequent litigation within two years. The data also showed less subsequent litigation among parents who attended the seminar earlier (within four months of filing). [Judy VanHoy & Gayla Pitts]

