

Introduction

The coalition model of prevention delivery system

- Coalitions have long been viewed as a more effective and efficient way to deliver prevention services at the community level.
- Government and philanthropic funders have promoted, and often required, the use of community coalitions.
- Despite its widespread and longstanding popularity, there has been almost no empirical evidence to support the added value of a coalition model.
- In the absence of such empirical support, prior research has been unable to comparatively assess various coalition models
- The Communities That Care model has recently demonstrated effectiveness in a large national randomized trial and under natural (non-research) conditions in a state-wide implementation.

The Pennsylvania Context

- Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency promoted and supported CTC coalitions since 1994
- Nearly 120 CTC coalitions formed from 1994-2001; approximately 80 currently functioning
- Through CTC and non-CTC coalitions, PCCD has funded nearly 200 evidence-based programs

THEORIZED ADVANTAGES OF COALITIONS

- Community coalitions can serve as a proxy prevention system, increasing community readiness for adoption and implementation.
- Coordinating and delivering evidence-based program through a community coalition has the potential to improve implementation quality and community-level public health outcomes.
- Greater community connections may also increase and diversify program support and the likelihood of sustainability.

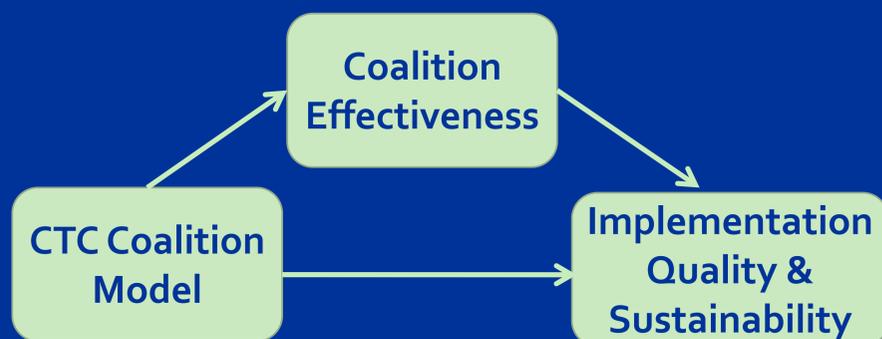


Figure 1. Theorized Mediation Model of How CTC Coalitions Lead to Greater Implementation Quality & Sustainability

Methods

A TEST-BED FOR TYPE 2 TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

- In 2001, PCCD formed a partnership with Penn State's Prevention Research Center (PRC) to provide technical assistance to grantees and study the process of program dissemination, leading to the creation of the Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support Center (EPISCenter) in 2008
- Through annual surveys, the PRC collects data on program planning, implementation, barriers & assets, outcome measurement, and technical assistance needs

PARTICIPANTS

- 146 representatives from organizations implementing EBPs associated with some form of coalition completed surveys
- 63% of respondents reported being affiliated with a CTC coalition
- Programs delivered by the respondents' organizations can be classified in four groups:
 - Classroom (e.g. Promoting Alternative THinking Strategies)
 - Community/Mentoring (e.g. Big Brothers Big Sisters)
 - Family Prevention (e.g. Strengthening Families)
 - Family Treatment (e.g. Multi-systemic Therapy).

Research Question 1: Do programs associated with CTC coalitions report better coalition functioning and support than those associated with non-CTC coalitions?

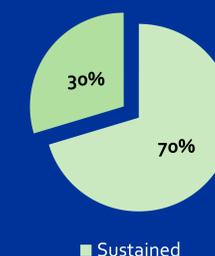
Research Question 2: Do different types of EBPs experience different advantages from CTC coalitions?

MEASURES

- Four scales assessed the characteristics of coalitions and their support for program sustainability:
 - Coalition Connection ($\alpha = .89$) – Assessed the strength of the program's connection to the coalition
 - Coalition Functioning ($\alpha = .83$) – Assessed the program's perception of coalition functioning
 - Coalition Instrumental Support ($\alpha = .84$) – Assessed the extent to which the coalition provided instrumental support for the functioning of the program
 - Coalition Financial Support ($\alpha = .83$) – Assessed the extent to which the coalition provided financial support for the program
- Sustainability was assessed for programs that had been off of PCCD funding for at least 2 years
- Four response categories assessed the level at which the program was still functioning

Results

Program Sustainability



Sustained Programs by Program Type

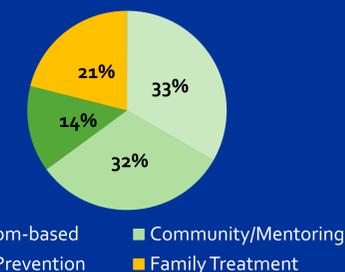


Figure 2. Sustained Programs Overall and by Program Type

Research Question 1: Do programs associated with CTC coalitions report better coalition functioning and support than those associated with non-CTC coalitions?

- Compared to affiliation with non-CTC coalitions, organizations affiliated with a CTC coalition were more likely to:
 - Have better coalition connections ($p < .05$)
 - Have better coalition functioning ($p < .05$)
 - Have better coalition instrumental support ($p < .05$)
 - Have better coalition financial support ($p < .05$)

Research Question 2: Do different types of EBPs experience different advantages from CTC coalitions?

- Coalition effectiveness was important for sustainability for community / mentoring programs
- Coalition effectiveness was not related to sustainability for classroom, family prevention or family treatment programs

Conclusions & Future Directions

- Programs connected to a CTC coalition reported higher levels of coalition connection, coalition functioning, coalition instrumental support and coalition financial support
- Coalition effectiveness was only related to sustainability for community / mentoring programs; more research should examine differences by program type
- Future research will explore the full mediation model, whereby membership to a CTC coalition is hypothesized to impact implementation quality and sustainability through characteristics associated with being an effective coalition.