The Alabama Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education Initiative

## By the Numbers

2002-2020

The 18-year history of Healthy Marriage & Relationship Education (HMRE) efforts throughout Alabama began in 2002 with early coalition building, strategic planning meetings, and state and federally funded pilot projects.







In total, the AHMREI has been awarded over

#### \$45 million

through competitive grant opportunities, mostly from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families

8% of adults reported "leaving a relationship that was emotionally unhealthy or abusive"

6% reported "leaving a relationship that was physically unhealthy or abusive"\*

Programs and additional support services reached citizens in 77% of Alabama's counties through strategic community and interagency collaborations

13% of youth reported "leaving a relationship that was emotionally unhealthy or abusive"

9% reported
"leaving a relationship
that was physically
unhealthy or abusive"\*

### 222

# Over 61,000 individuals

were served through HMRE programs

Auburn University graduate research assistants funded through tuition coverage and a stipend



#### Over 38,000

teens at 36 Alabama high schools participated in multi-session HMRE classes

Over 23,000 adults participated in multisession HMRE community-based programs





### 929 couples

participated in a random control trial study of program impact\*

Response rates were above 80% at each of the five data collection timepoints over a 2-year period



\$11,394,280 of the grant awards were subcontracted to grass-roots organizations and social service agencies for capacity-building and HMRE program delivery

## significant improvements

over 1 year in their couple relationship skills after HMRE compared to a control group\*



208 part-time and full-time jobs created at AU and around the state, many in high-need areas







Parents' participation in HMRE programs had a positive "spillover" effect on pre-school children's social competence 1 year later ++







Over 80 published research articles and 250+ conference presentations on HMRE implementation methods and evidence of effectiveness and impact



#### Over 3,000

in-person HMRE program series hosted

### Couples report significant improvements

over 1 year in their family harmony after HMRE compared to a control group\*



**89** AU undergraduates were trained and taught evidence-based programs to 1,985 high school youth

#### 00000000

#### **Over 250**

AU undergraduates have participated in learning experiences in research and outreach

128 teens & 334 adults representing 126 agencies attended the 2010 Alabama Teen Summit

98% of couples 97% of adult individuals 96% of youth reported that the HMRE

programs helped them

"a lot" or "some"\*

Developed 3 innovative and evidence-informed multi-session HMRE curricula 1,666 adults

participated in HMRE programs offered at correctional facilities (845 men; 821 women)



5,500

free copies of Healthy Relationship Wheels distributed 111,025

free copies of the Alabama Healthy Marriage Handbook distributed 21,640

free copies of the Raising Your Child Together handbook distributed

35 teens established a Teen Advisory Board in 2008 to produce youth-focused healthy relationship education theatre

250+ Community Educators facilitated programs via AU, 15 Family Resource Centers, and 10 Alabama Cooperative **Extension System Agents** 

94% of couples 88% of adult individuals and 96% of youth completed at least

50% of classes



of programming

746 adults participated in 47 distance learning HMRE program series during

2020 pandemic



Youth report significant positive shifts in knowledge and use of healthy relationship skills (e.g., kindness and understanding) with parentadolescent and dating relationships +



276 individuals from 79 local agencies attended the 2009 HMRE State Conference

234 people from 55 local agencies attended the 2007 State Conference

Over 450 state and local agencies sent a representative to HMRE professional development conferences



Partnered with over

150 state and local agencies

to expand access to HMRF resources



#### **Participants** were racially diverse

#### Adults:

53% White 40% Black 7% other racial minority

#### Youth:

50% White 40% Black

10% other racial minority

Adults' level of education was diverse: 19% no high school

29% high school or GED 34% some college 18% bachelor's or more

The average participant reported a combined household income of between \$25,000-\$39,999

"Word of mouth" from past participants, family, and friends was the

#1 reason

adults participated in HMRE

71% of adult participants were parents

36% of adult participants reported being a stepparent



Women in relationally distressed couples show greater improvements in depressive symptoms and couple quality after program participation compared to women in stable relationships+++

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- \*During 2015-2020 AHMREI grant cycle
- +Rice, McGill, & Adler-Baeder (2016)
- ++Adler-Baeder, Garneau, Vaughn, McGill, Harcourt, Ketring, & Smith (2018)
- +++McGill, Adler-Baeder, Bradford, Kerpelman, Ketring, & Sollie (2016)