

CareerAdvance® Effects on Parent and Child Outcomes

Findings to Date

Introduction

Northwestern University and its partners are conducting the most rigorous longitudinal evaluation of a two-generation program to date. This program pairs high quality early education services for children with intensive CareerAdvance® services for parents.

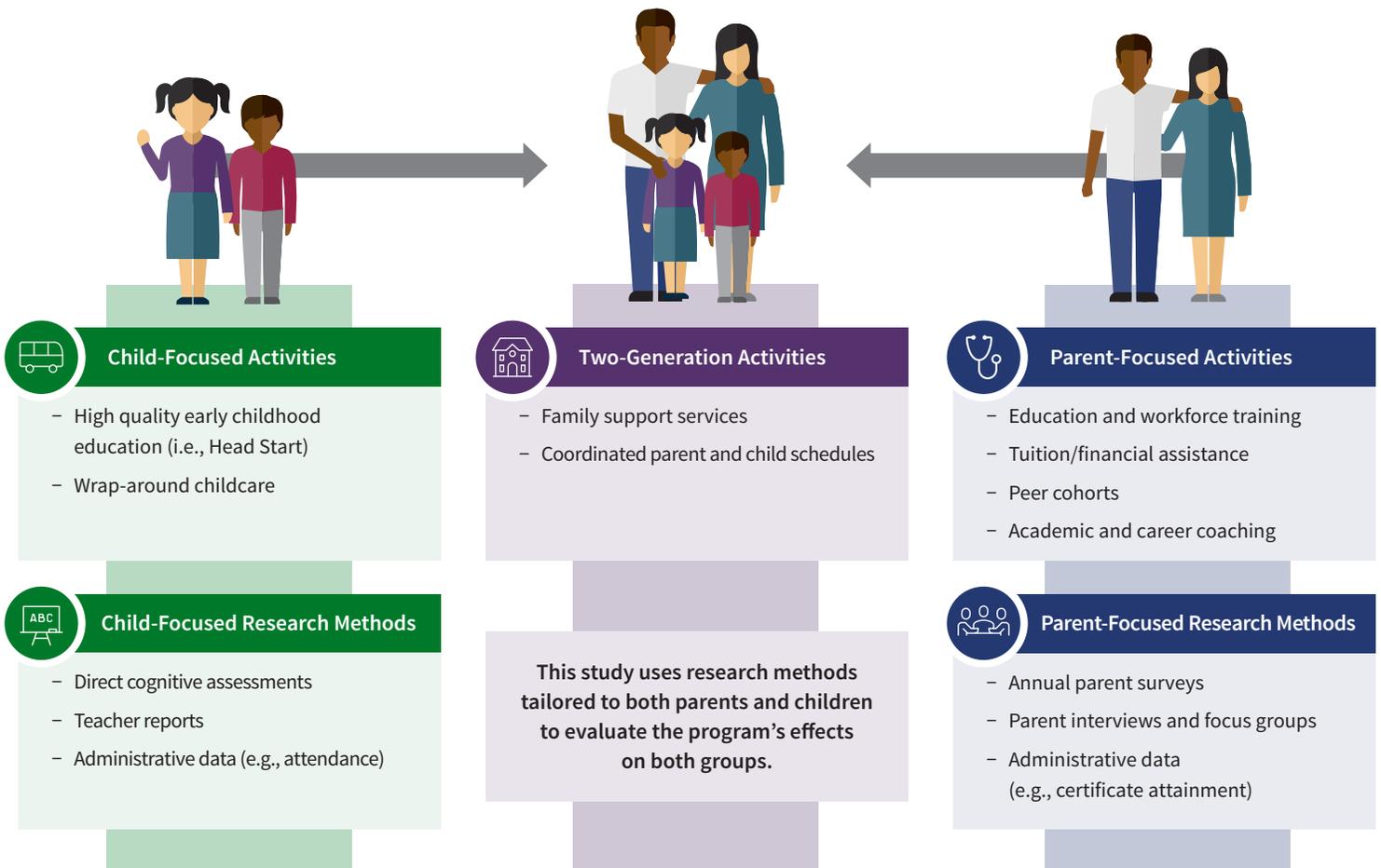
CareerAdvance® parents are recruited from Head Start centers and offered career certification programs in the healthcare field at no cost. Additional program elements include academic and career coaching, peer cohorts, tuition/financial assistance, and wrap-around childcare.

Our quasi-experimental study includes **338** children and their parents (**162** CareerAdvance® and **176** matched comparison). CareerAdvance® parents were enrolled in workforce training programs while their children were enrolled in Head Start. Parents in the matched comparison group had children enrolled in Head Start but did not receive workforce training.

What is CareerAdvance®?

CareerAdvance® is a model two-generation intervention, developed and run by the Community Action Project of Tulsa County (CAP Tulsa).

This intervention pairs early childhood education for children with career pathway training in the healthcare sector for parents.



Child Outcomes



CareerAdvance® maintained, and in some cases exceeded, the benefits to children of CAP Tulsa's Head Start programs.

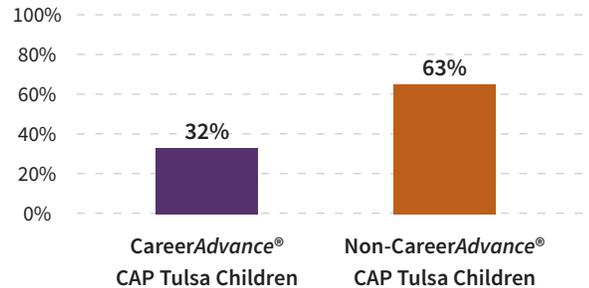


Although we did not find short-term main effects on children's cognitive and socioemotional outcomes, we did find positive effects for two groups of children after one year: children whose parents were more college-ready and children who were less school-ready at baseline. In addition, CareerAdvance® children showed higher average rates of attendance (by about 6 days) and nearly

half the rate of chronic absence in Head Start than matched comparison children (32% compared to 63%, respectively), after one semester.

Most importantly, all children in our sample performed above the national averages of Head Start children on assessments of receptive language and math skills. We conclude that CareerAdvance® maintained, and in some cases exceeded, the benefits to children of CAP Tulsa's Head Start programs. It does not appear that workforce training for parents interferes with these benefits to children.

CareerAdvance® children had lower rates of chronic absence than non-CareerAdvance® children



Parent Outcomes



CareerAdvance® had positive effects on parent certificate attainment, employment in the healthcare sector, and psychological wellbeing.



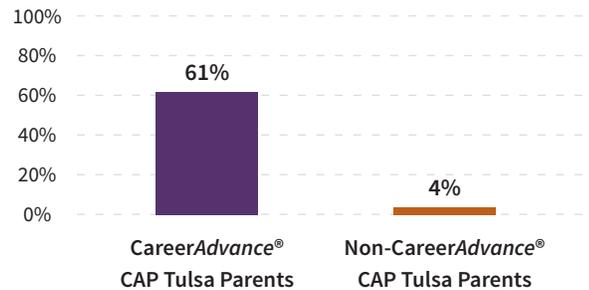
After one year, CareerAdvance® parents demonstrated higher rates of certification in healthcare than non-CareerAdvance® parents (61% compared to 4%, respectively). CareerAdvance® parents also had higher levels of self-efficacy, optimism, and commitment to career compared to the matched comparison group. Notably, CareerAdvance® parents did not exhibit more stress or

psychological distress, despite adding workforce training to employment and the care of young children.

Further, parents in CareerAdvance® did not report a change in household income after one year of the program, due in part to the financial incentives offered by CareerAdvance®.

Overall, these findings suggest the potential promise of two-generation approaches for improving the education and wellbeing of parents and children, and the value of Head Start as a platform for recruiting parents into two-generation education programs.

CareerAdvance® enrollees had higher rates of career certification than non-CareerAdvance® parents



Northwestern University's Two-Generation Research Initiative is ongoing. To learn more about study findings, please visit: www.nu2gen.org



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