Presenting author
RTI International · 3040 Cornwallis Road
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
Fax 919-485-5555
Presented at
the American Public Health Association,
Washington, DC, November 3–7, 2007
RTI International is a trade name of Research Triangle Institute.

1. Background
- Children of substance abusers (CSA) are at increased risk of becoming substance abusers themselves.
- Community samples of African-American mothers who use crack cocaine report contextual risks that may affect caregiving, including poverty, exposure to violence, psychological distress, and sex trading.
- Family-level approaches can be more effective in increasing protective behaviors compared to those that focus on the parent or child alone.
- Evidence-based family interventions, however, require cultural adaptations to be effective with diverse populations.
- Research demonstrates that parenting is a culturally embedded construct, so "tail" parenting is protective for some African-American families in resource-poor environments, whereas other ethnic groups may thrive on other parenting styles.
- Thus, it is critical that family interventions for African-American mothers who abuse crack cocaine be adapted to their cultural and socio-environmental contexts.

2. Purpose
- This presentation will present lessons learned from the formative and pilot phases about issues including recruitment, parenting practices, and next steps.
- The NIDA-funded Families Overcoming Risks Together (FORT) study seeks to adapt and pilot test a family skills intervention for children of African-American mothers who use crack but are not in treatment.
- The formative phase used a community participatory approach to develop strategies to reach, recruit, and engage target families, and to tailor an intervention to reduce substance use and HIV risks.
- Once recruitment and engagement strategies were identified and the initial intervention manual was developed, we piloted tested the intervention in a randomized control trial.

3. FORT Study Design
- Formative and pilot phases about issues including recruitment, parenting practices, and next steps.
- The NIDA-funded Families Overcoming Risks Together (FORT) study seeks to adapt and pilot test a family skills intervention for children of African-American mothers who use crack but are not in treatment.
- The formative phase used a community participatory approach to develop strategies to reach, recruit, and engage target families, and to tailor an intervention to reduce substance use and HIV risks.
- Once recruitment and engagement strategies were identified and the initial intervention manual was developed, we piloted tested the intervention in a randomized control trial.

4. Formative Phase
- **Focus Groups** — 6 groups total
  - 2 Maternal
  - 2 Youth
  - 2 Service Providers
- **Advisory Panel**
  - Mothers
  - Young Adults
  - Service Providers
- **Prepilot Trial**

5. Prepilot Trial (Four Families)
- **Participants**
  - Mothers, youths and targeted families
  - Community input to intervention development has been essential.
- **Intervention**
  - The formative phase used a community participatory approach to develop strategies to reach, recruit, and engage target families, and to tailor an intervention to reduce substance use and HIV risks.
- **Recruitment Strategies**
  - snowball sampling in Durham, NC
  - recruitment through letters, emails, and phone calls
  - recruitment through local community organizations

6. Challenges
- Establishing trust (staffing is key)
- Recruitment by members of target community crucial (e.g., FORT mothers, PAs)
- Participant attendance
- Scheduling for mothers, children, and staff
- Women Can Change the World Through Children...