




Better Together

Phase 1 Findings

Project Goals & Overview

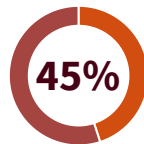
Better Together is a multiphase research project designed to **prevent early substance use** among Black youth affected by parental drug use. In Phase 1, we conducted interviews with young people, parents, and providers to better understand the needs and experiences of these families. This work is led by Dr. Terrinieka Powell and is funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the Johns Hopkins Center for Injury Research and Policy.

Project Participants

-  **n = 14** young people affected by parental drug use
-  **n = 11** parents with a history of drug use
-  **n = 5** providers who work with families affected by parental drug use

WHAT WE KNOW

BY THE NUMBERS



of young people reported being affected by parental drug use



Baltimore, MD has the highest rate of parental drug use in the country

WHAT WE LEARNED

BY EXPERIENCE



Oversaturation of drugs at home, school, and in communities
"...it's on every corner..." - 43 yo Mother



Not if or when, but how often
"Abuse in general. Because all of it happened in my family. Physical, emotional, psychological." - 22 yo Male



Housing transitions are frequent, unpredictable, and traumatic
"I would be moving all the time." - 24 yo Male



Basic physical & emotional needs are unmet
"I missed open arms. I missed unconditional love." - 24 yo Male

1 DRUGS EVERYWHERE

2 REPEATED TRAUMA

3 UNRELIABLE HOUSING

4 FRACTURED SUPPORT

= UNSAFE
ALL THE TIME

Next Steps

We are partnering with librarians and young adults from Phase 1 to develop a **library-based intervention** to prevent early substance use among youth affected by parental drug use. This intervention will emphasize the importance of **safety, stability** and **support** when working with youth affected by parental drug use.