

## *Twogether in Texas marital education participants report classes provide new ideas for improving relationships and increasing commitment.*

**Following participation in Twogether in Texas marital education classes, participants share their opinions through follow-up surveys. Findings are compared to results from the Texas Baseline Report.**

### Summary

Upon completion of *Twogether in Texas* sponsored marital education classes, participants throughout the state were asked to rate their experiences. The follow-up survey used was developed by the Regional Intermediaries of the *Twogether* program under the direction of Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

- The majority of the participants (91-96%) reported learning new skills to improve their relationships with their partner and children through better communication and improved ability to share their feelings. They also reported feeling better able to disagree without yelling or hurting their partner. These new skills will likely aide participants in achieving a “healthy, happy marriage,” seen by 90% of Texans in the Baseline report as one of the most important things in life.
- Participants who used faith-based services reported appreciating that the classes emphasized spirituality in their marriage. This seems to coincide with results from the Statewide survey conducted in 2008 that showed that 90 % of the Texans surveyed indicated that they “sense God’s presence in their marriage” and 85% indicated that they are very or somewhat religious.

- About 95% of the participants stated that the class gave them new ideas about improving their communication and conflict resolution skills. This finding is impressive as the Baseline report indicates that 95% of respondents already felt as though they typically work things out when an argument arises. It seems there is always room for improvement.
- 84.6% of participants stated that they are very committed to their partner for a long-term marriage relationship. This finding builds on those reported in the Baseline Report which indicated that 76-87% of respondents stated that their relationship is more important than anything else in their life.
- The majority of the participants (97%) reported that they are likely to refer a friend or family member to the *Twogether in Texas* program. This potential referral system is encouraging as the Baseline report indicates 75-80% of Texans would be “willing to participate in relationship education classes.”

Reactions were overwhelmingly positive regarding both content of workshops and facilitator style. Participant responses also indicate that the *Twogether* program is effective in meeting the needs and values of Texas residents, as reported on the Baseline Report.



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