

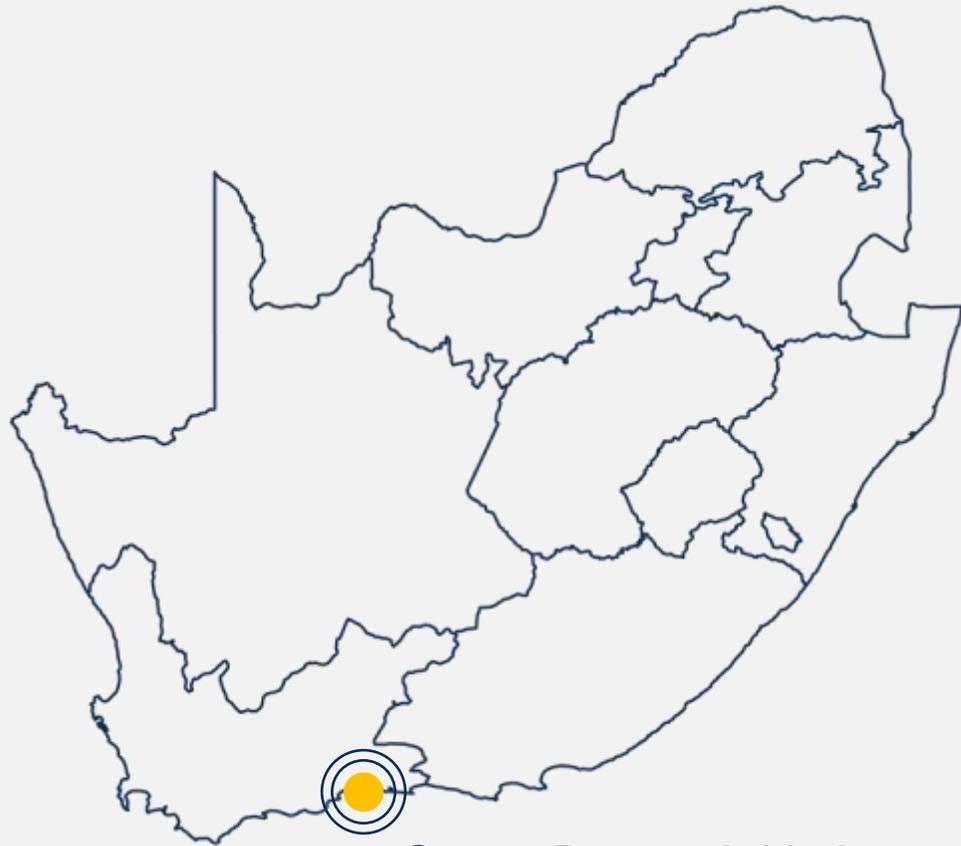
Can violence against children be reduced across a whole community?

A South African example

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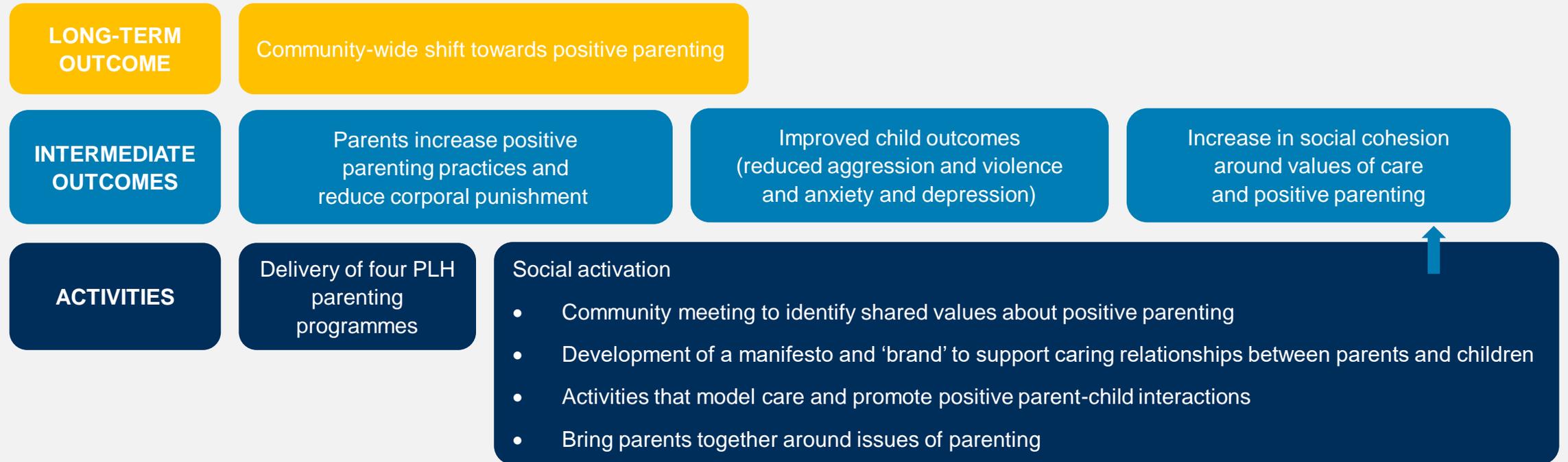
Setting the scene



Seven Passes Initiative



Theory of change



Problem statement

Harsh and inconsistent parenting and the use of corporal punishment contribute to difficult and strained relationships between caregivers and children. These factors combined with high levels of parenting stress and caregivers' poor mental health contribute to children's externalizing (violence and aggression) and internalizing behaviour (anxiety and depression). Substance abuse and intimate partner violence increase the risk factors for children's internalizing and externalizing and for the use of violence against children.

Method

Intervention:

- All four Parenting for Lifelong Health programmes
- Social activation

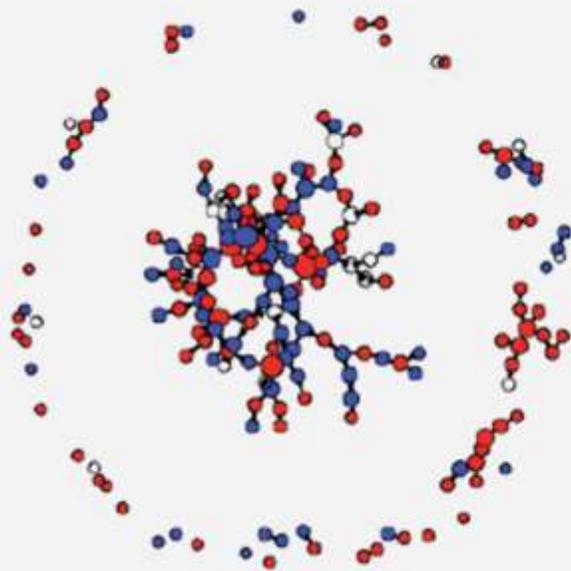
Evaluation:

- Convergent parallel design: 3 community-wide surveys and focus group discussions and interviews
- Quantitative measures:
 - Child Behavior Checklist (Children's internalising and externalizing)
 - Alabama Parenting Questionnaire and Parenting of Young Children Scale (parenting)
 - Revised Conflict Tactics Scale (IPV)
 - ASSIST (alcohol use)
 - General Health Questionnaire (parent mental health)
 - Parenting Stress Index

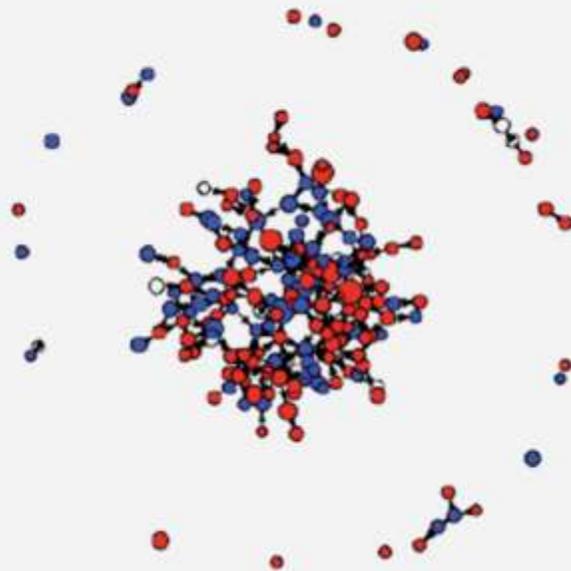


Results: Social network analysis

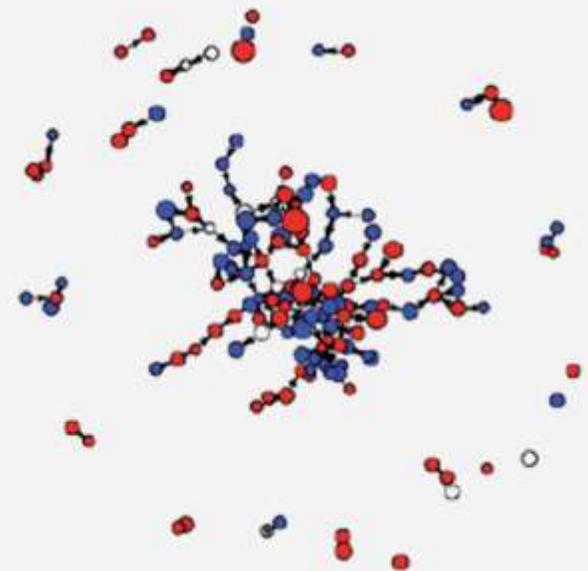
Wave 1



Wave 2

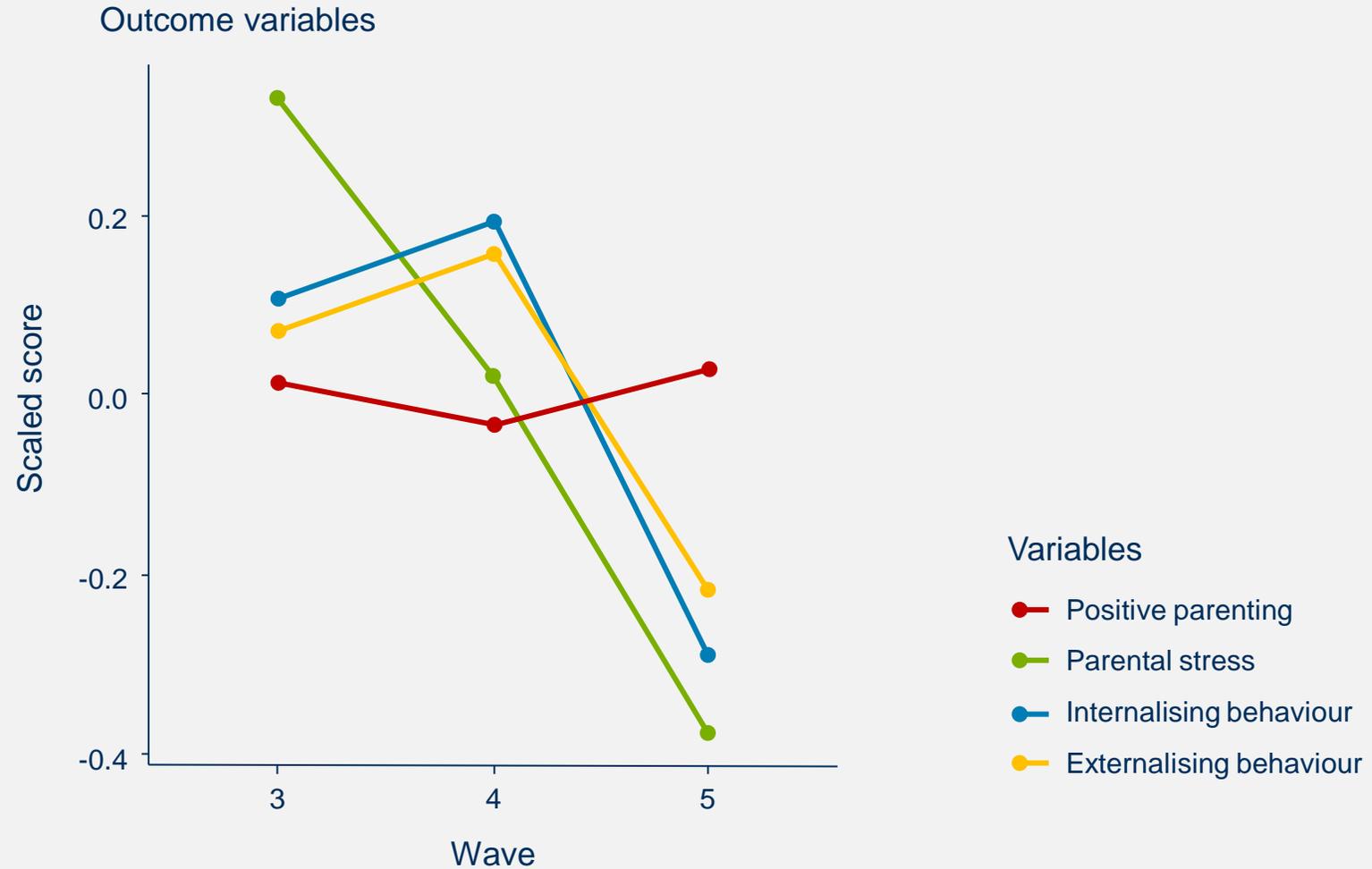


Wave 3

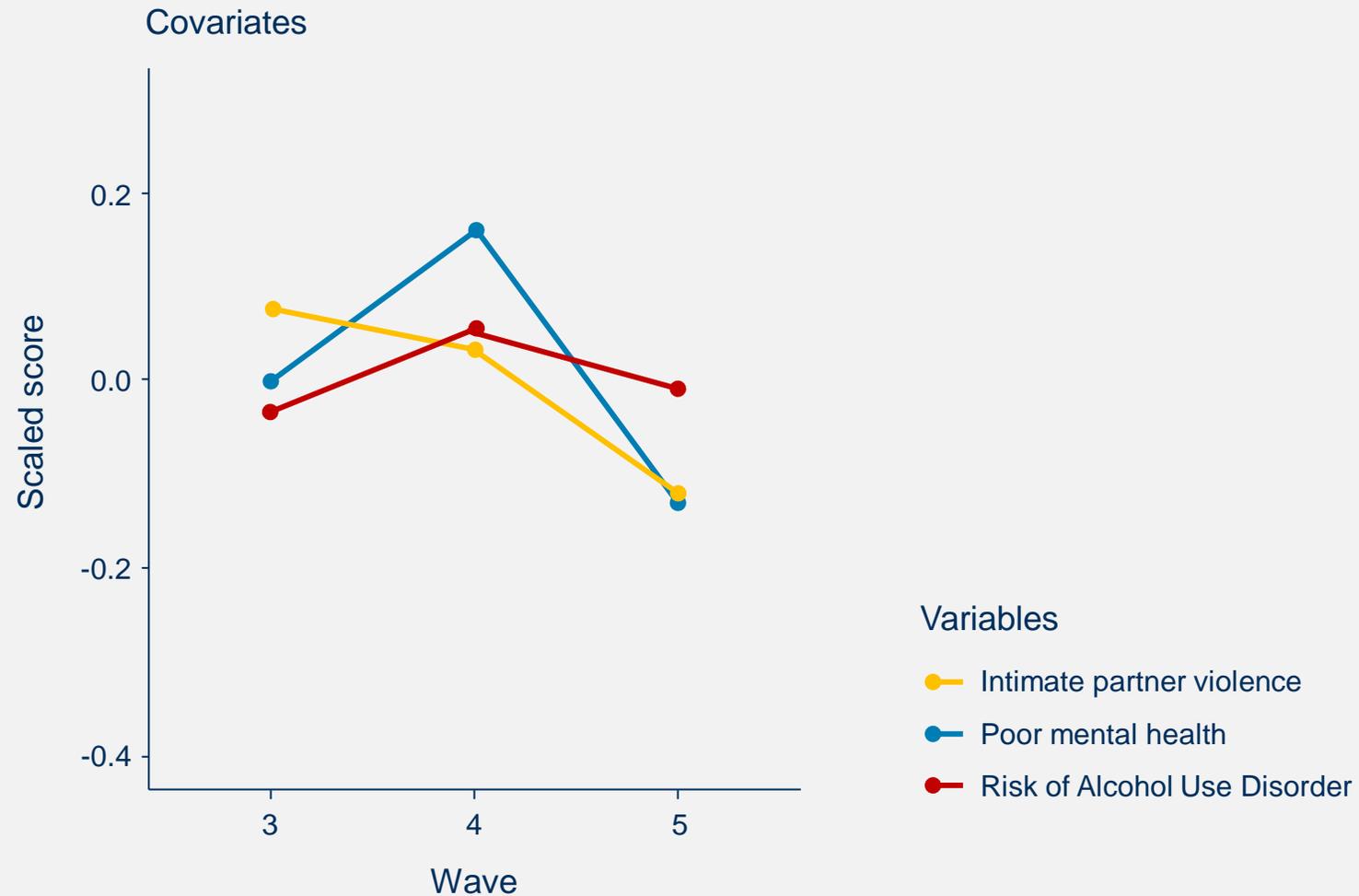


Note: Change in degree centrality (size of the nodes) of caregivers that reported improvement (red) or deterioration (blue) in parenting behaviour at waves 2-3. The red nodes at wave 1 indicate where caregivers were situated in the network before experiencing improvement and how their outdegree centrality/social influence increased due to the improvement.

Results: Surveys of parenting



Results: Surveys of parenting covariates



Qualitative findings

The people who I would have thought wouldn't be interested in it, they also got involved. And the parents who were enrolled in the parent programs they became more involved in their children's lives

For me I was proud of myself because I could lift my parenting skills. I have more self-confidence. I feel more positive and I don't have to worry because as a mother we always blame ourselves for things that go wrong but now I don't have that guilt for when things go skew

You see, here the most spoken language is Afrikaans. We are Xhosa speaking. Most of the things that take place at the schools and Seven Passes are done in Afrikaans. We don't know what they are saying, so how can we go there?

Summary

Parenting Stress	Down
Children's internalising	Down
Children's externalizing	Down
Positive parenting	No change
Corporal punishment	A trend downwards
IPV	Down
Risky alcohol use	No change
Parental mental health	No change

What have we learned about community-wide interventions?

- Values of parenting interventions are aligned with the values of this community (and likely others too)
- Parenting interventions can make a difference – if slowly
- Capacitate the social activation aspect: must be driven by someone (unlikely to be able to rely on community members)
- Make every effort to involve everyone (including men)
- Address substance misuse, parent mental health, and intimate partner violence
- Address unemployment





Thank you

