

All In For Kansas Kids



Strengthening Early Childhood in Kansas

WEBINAR AUGUST 9, 2023



WELCOME

- Welcome everyone!
- Quick Updates
 - Don't forget our new monthly webinar schedule
 - Sign up to receive our All In For Kansas Kids e-Newsletter on the Children's Cabinet website – www.kschildrenscabinet.org
- Achieving Child and Family Well-Being through Primary Prevention: Kansas Family First Prevention Services presentation by Kaela Byers, PhD, MSW and Meghan Cizek, MA, LCSW
- Early Childhood Systems Updates

Agenda



2023 Webinar Schedule

~~January 11~~

~~February 8~~

~~March 8~~

~~April 19~~

~~May 17~~

~~June 14~~

~~July 12~~

August 9

September 20

October 18

November 15

December 13

Acknowledgements



This project is supported by the Kansas Department for Children and Families (PPS-2019-FFPEV). The contents are those of the authors. The research team would like to acknowledge the following significant contributions:

Kansas Department for Children and Families administration and partners for the vision and collaboration to maximize prevention in Kansas.

The **Family First grantee agencies** who implement these programs and participate in evaluation activities in the interest of improving the community-based system of support to promote the well-being of all children, youth, and families in Kansas.



Center for Public
Partnerships and Research





PRESENTATION GOAL

Learn about Kansas Family First Prevention Services and understand the initial collective impact.

What is Family First?

- The Family First Prevention Services Act allows states, territories, and tribes with an approved Title IV-E plan have the option to use those funds for prevention services that would allow “candidates for foster care” to stay with their parents or relatives.
- States will be reimbursed for prevention services for up to 12 months.
- States must have a written, trauma-informed prevention plan.
- Services must be evidence-based and/or include robust evaluation.



Who does FFPSA serve?

- Children at “imminent risk” of removal into foster care who can remain safely at home with services
- Their parents/caregivers
- Pregnant and parenting youth in foster care
- A variety of living situations may qualify
 - Child is with parent(s) but at imminent risk of removal
 - Formal or informal kinship placements, if there is imminent risk of disruption or dissolution
 - Aftercare services for reunified and post-permanency youth

Qualifying Prevention Services

Mental Health Services

Substance Use Disorder Treatment

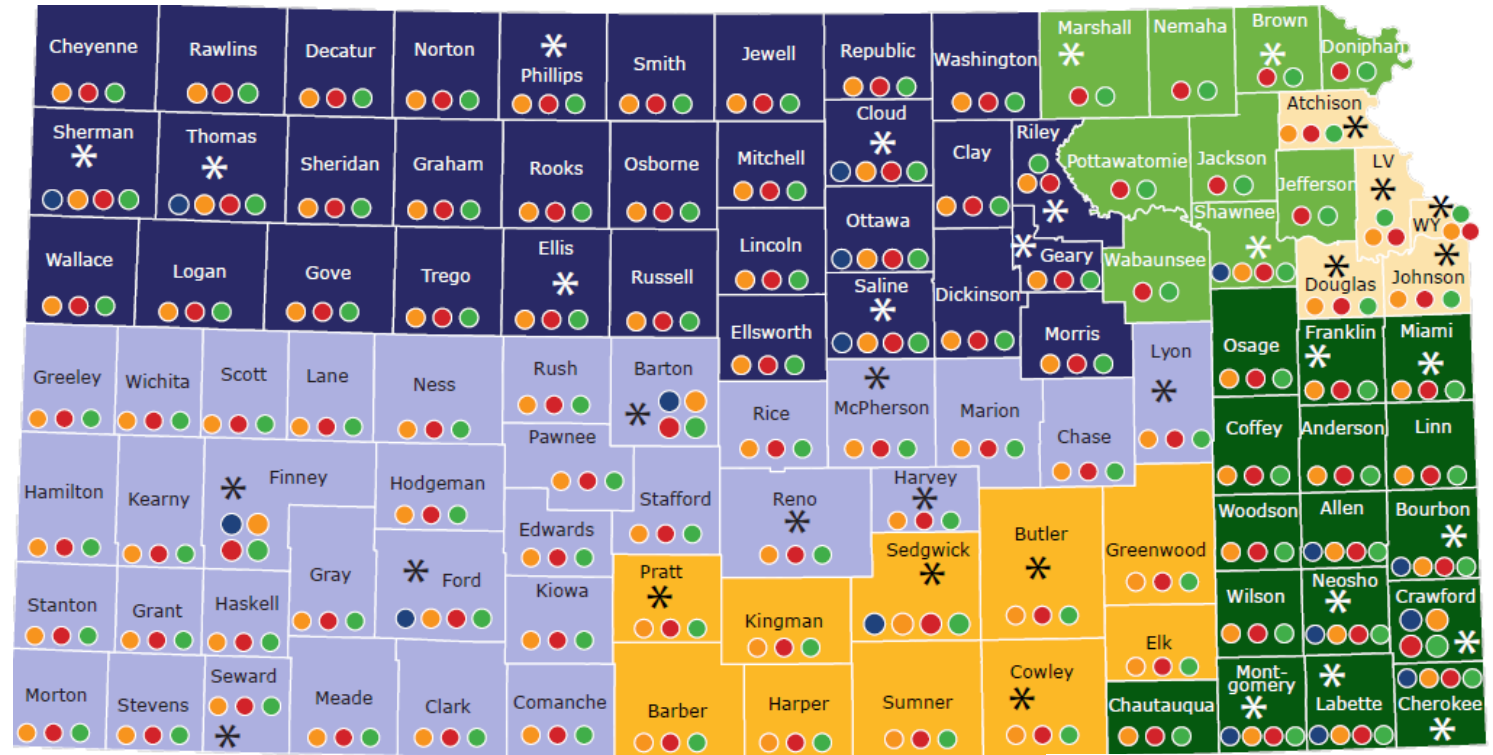
Parent Skill-building

Kinship Navigator Programs

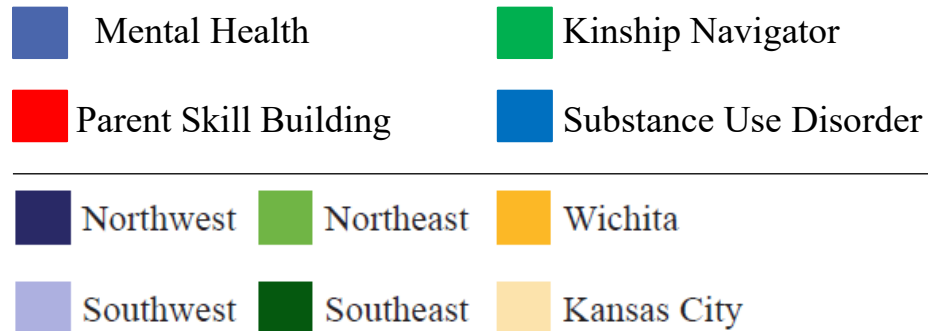
Trauma-informed, evidence-based, & provided by qualified clinician

The Kansas Context

- State Administered Child Welfare System
- 6 Regions, 105 Counties
- 36 Service Centers
- Privatized system, contracts & grants for prevention, foster care and adoption services



* DCF Service Center



Kansas Family First Selected Services SFY2024

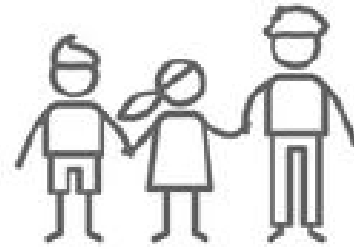
Substance Use Disorder Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Child Assistant Program (P-CAP) • Seeking Safety • Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Teams (START)* • Strengthening Families Program (SFP)*
Mental Health Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Centered Treatment (FCT)* • Functional Family Therapy (FFT)* • Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)* • Multisystemic Therapy (MST)*
Parent Skill Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Mentoring Program (Nurturing Parent Program) • Fostering Prevention (Nurturing Parent Program) • Healthy Families America (HFA)* • Parents as Teachers (PAT)*
Kinship Navigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kids2Kin Kinship Legal Services
Other Prevention Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KLS Parent Advocate Program • Community Support Specialist Program

*Eligible for Title IV-E Family First funding

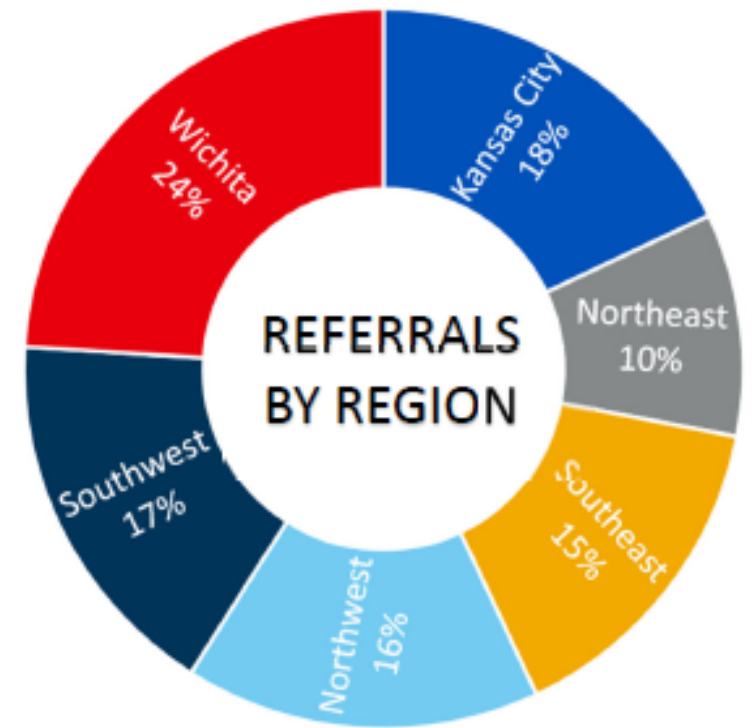


KANSAS FAMILY FIRST REFERRAL TO DATE

Service delivery to date
(4/30/2023)



FAMILY FIRST
REFERRALS
4,088 Referrals



REFERRALS BY SERVICE TYPE

49%

Mental Health Services

30%

Parent Skill Building

15%

Kinship Navigation

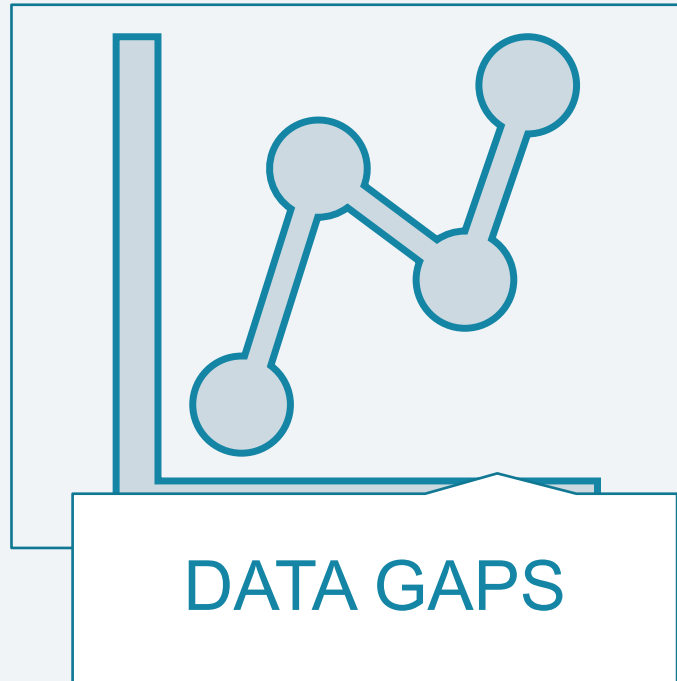
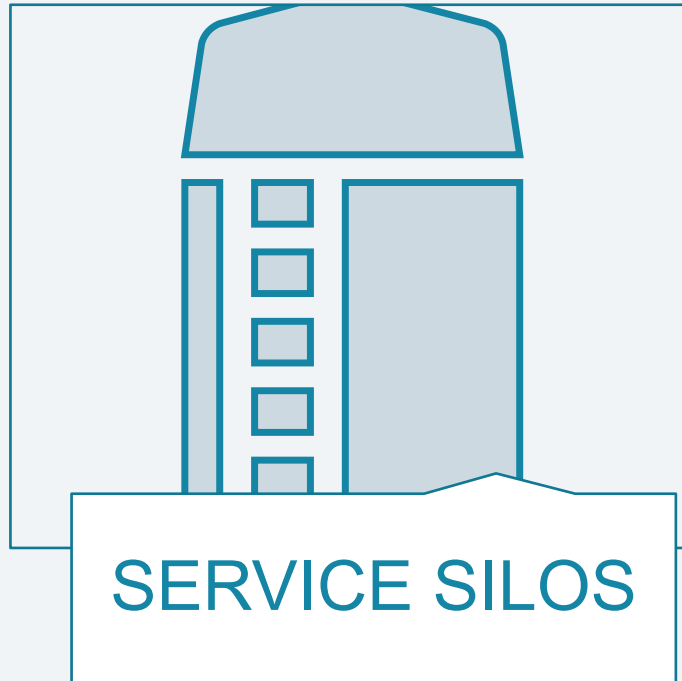
7%

Substance Use Services

4%

Multiple Service Types

NEED FOR STRENGTHENING THE SERVICE ARRAY

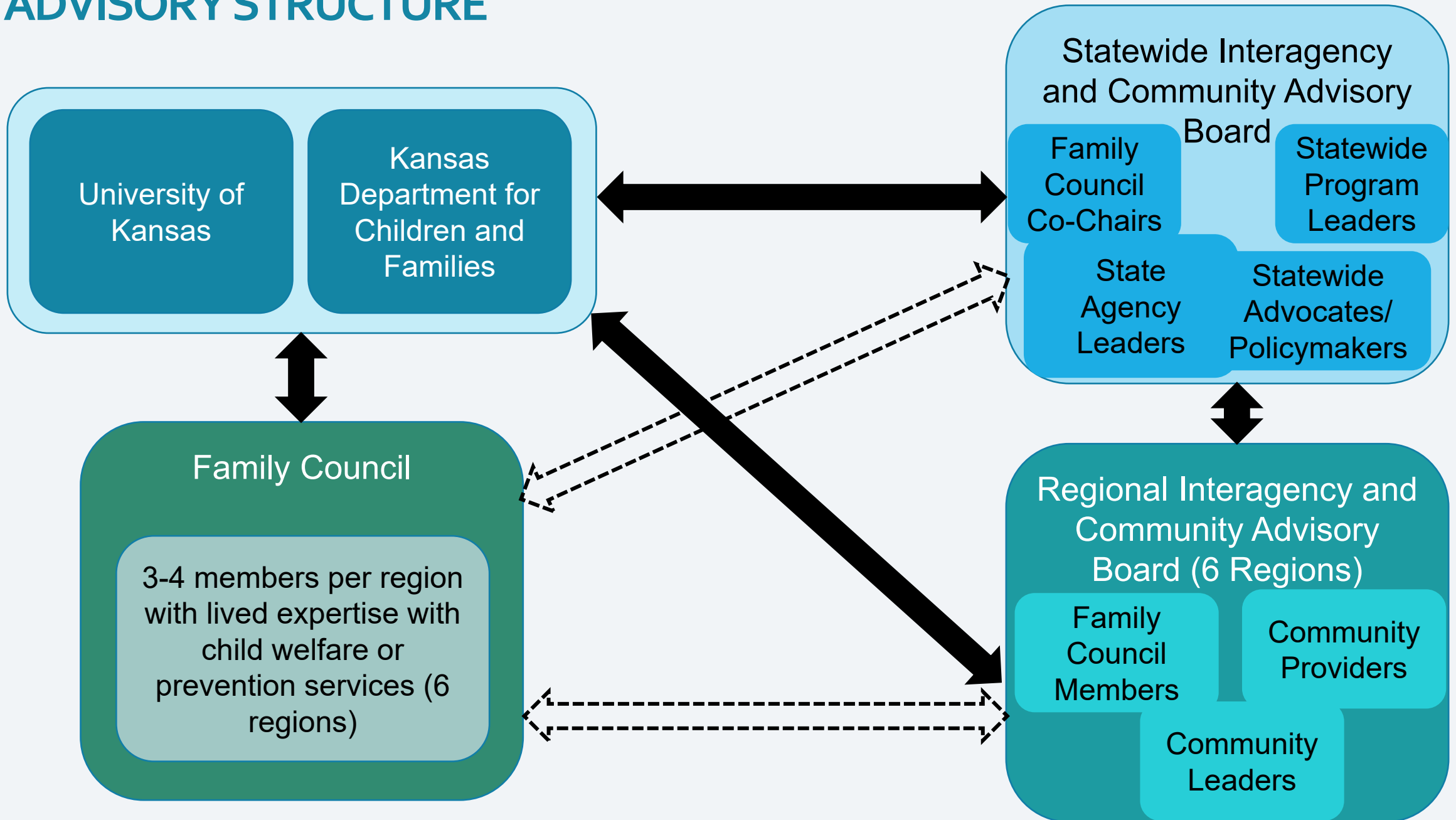


INTERAGENCY & COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARDS (ICAB) BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVES



- ★ Improve child welfare service array by **increasing knowledge** of service needs, gaps, and best practices
- ★ Promote **cross-system** problem-solving, continuous quality improvement (CQI), and action planning to address system gaps for families
- ★ Authentically **center family and community** participation

ADVISORY STRUCTURE





RESEARCH QUESTIONS

How do Family First services in Kansas impact child and caregiver well-being, caregiving competency, caregiver mental health and substance use, and child/youth permanency?

Family First Outcomes

Short-Term Outcomes

- **Timeliness:** 95% of cases are engaged within 2 days of referral
- **Successful Completion:** 95% of cases served are closed due to successful completion of the service
- **Child Well-Being:** 90% of children improve well-being
- **Parent Functioning:** 90% of parents improve functioning in domains of parenting, mental health, and substance use

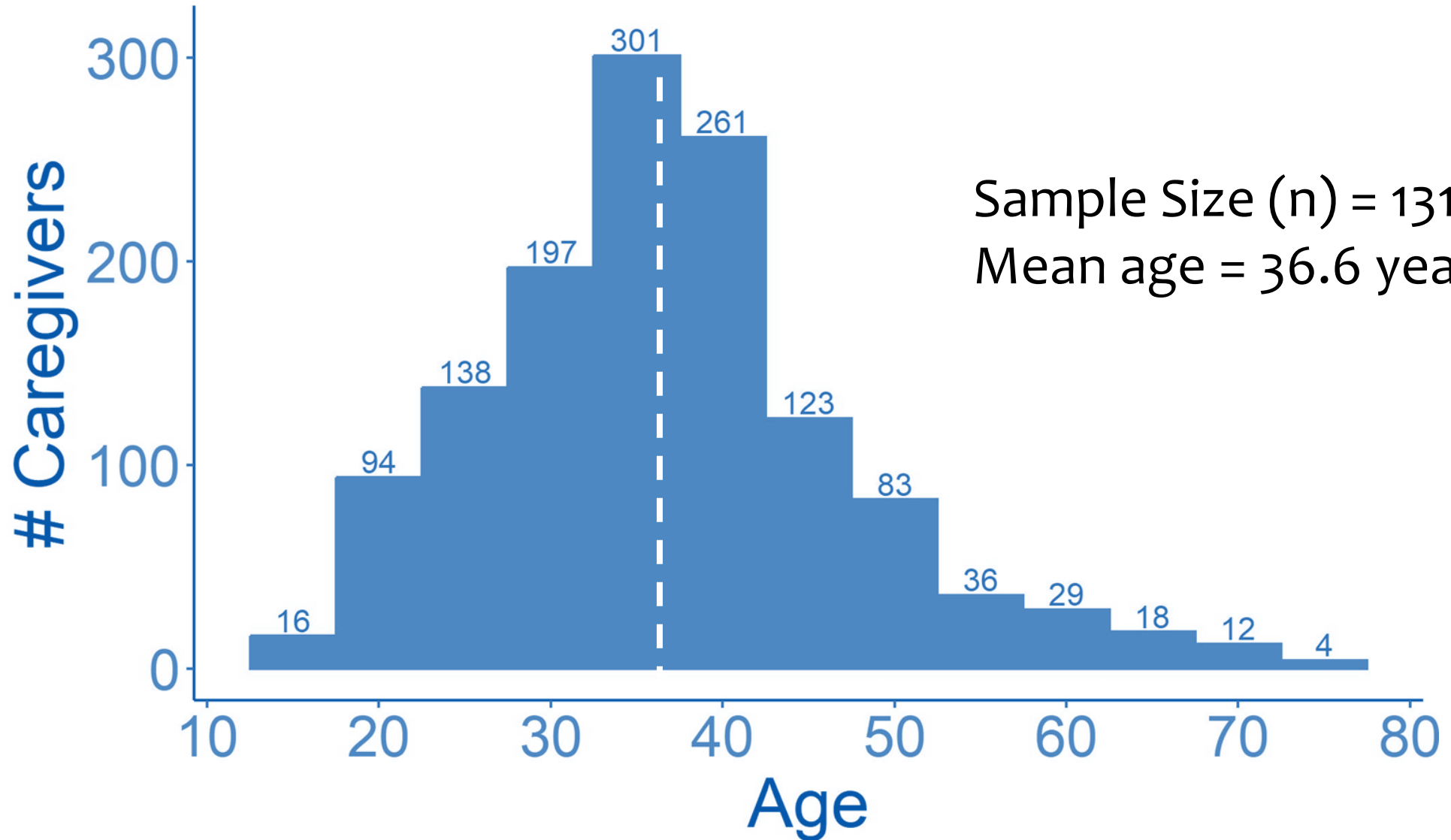
Long-Term Outcomes

- **Permanency:** 90% of children are maintained safely at home (not removed into the foster care program) during the service period and within one year of service referral

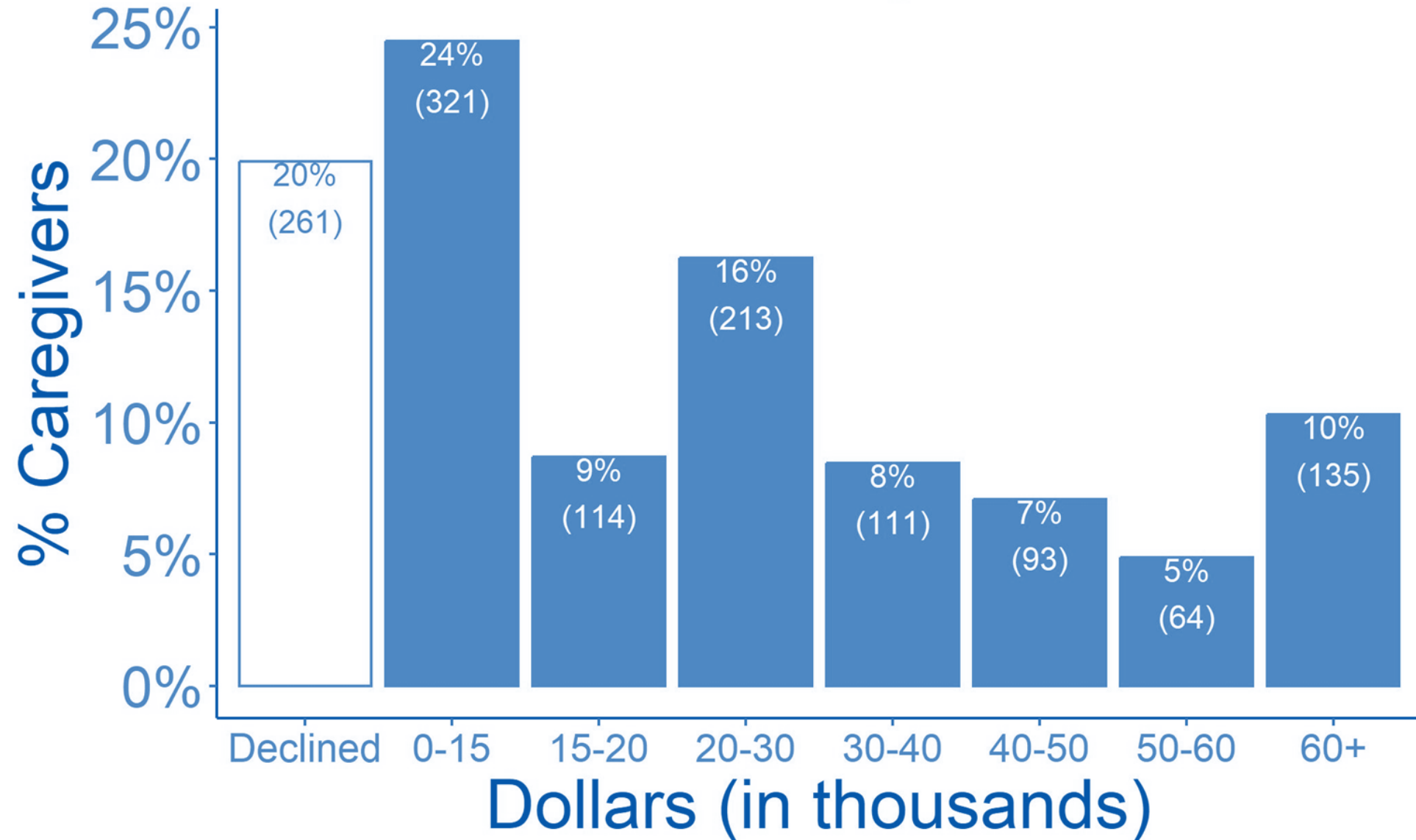
FAMILY FIRST REACH

Who is using Family First services?

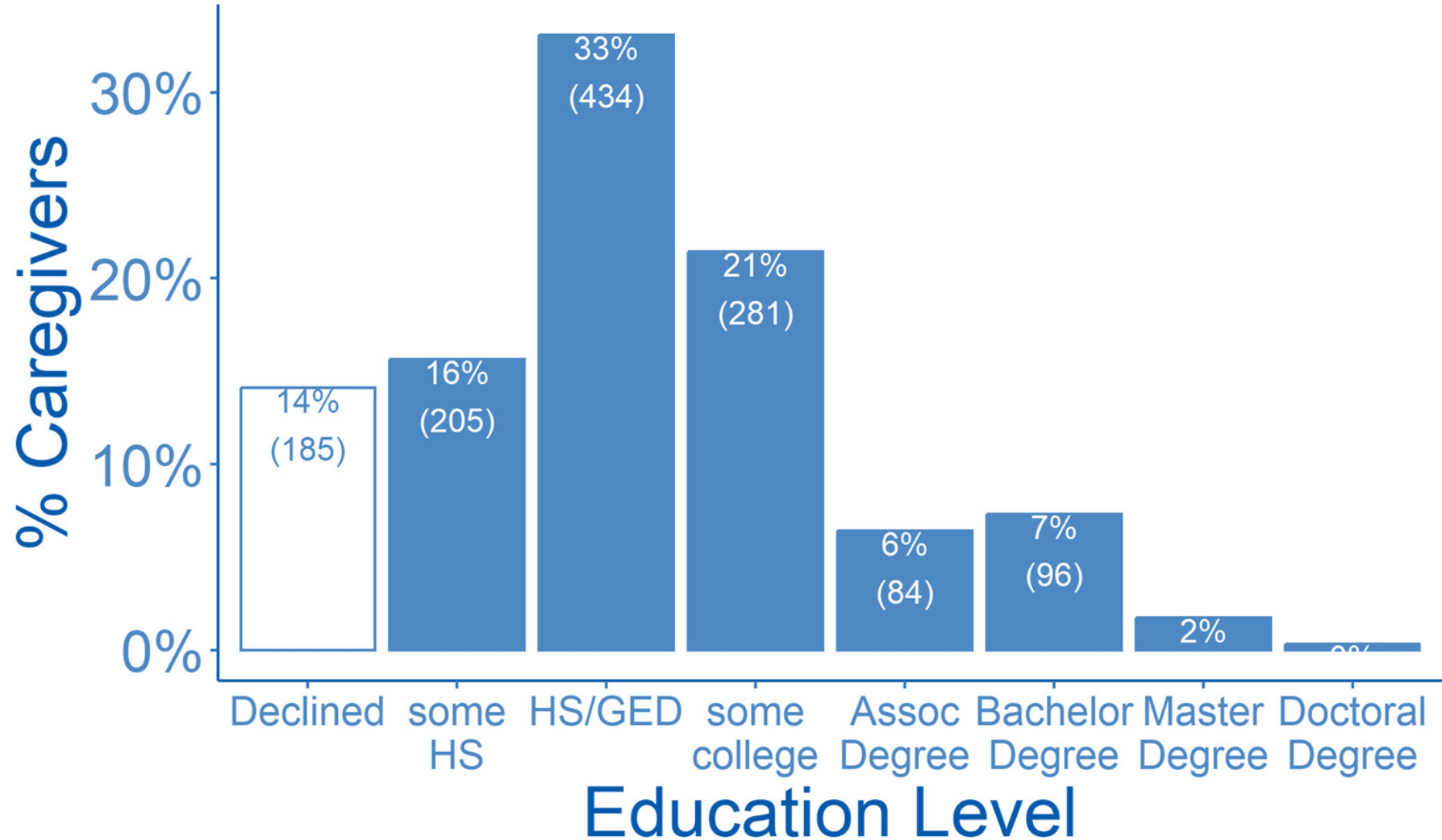
Caregiver Age



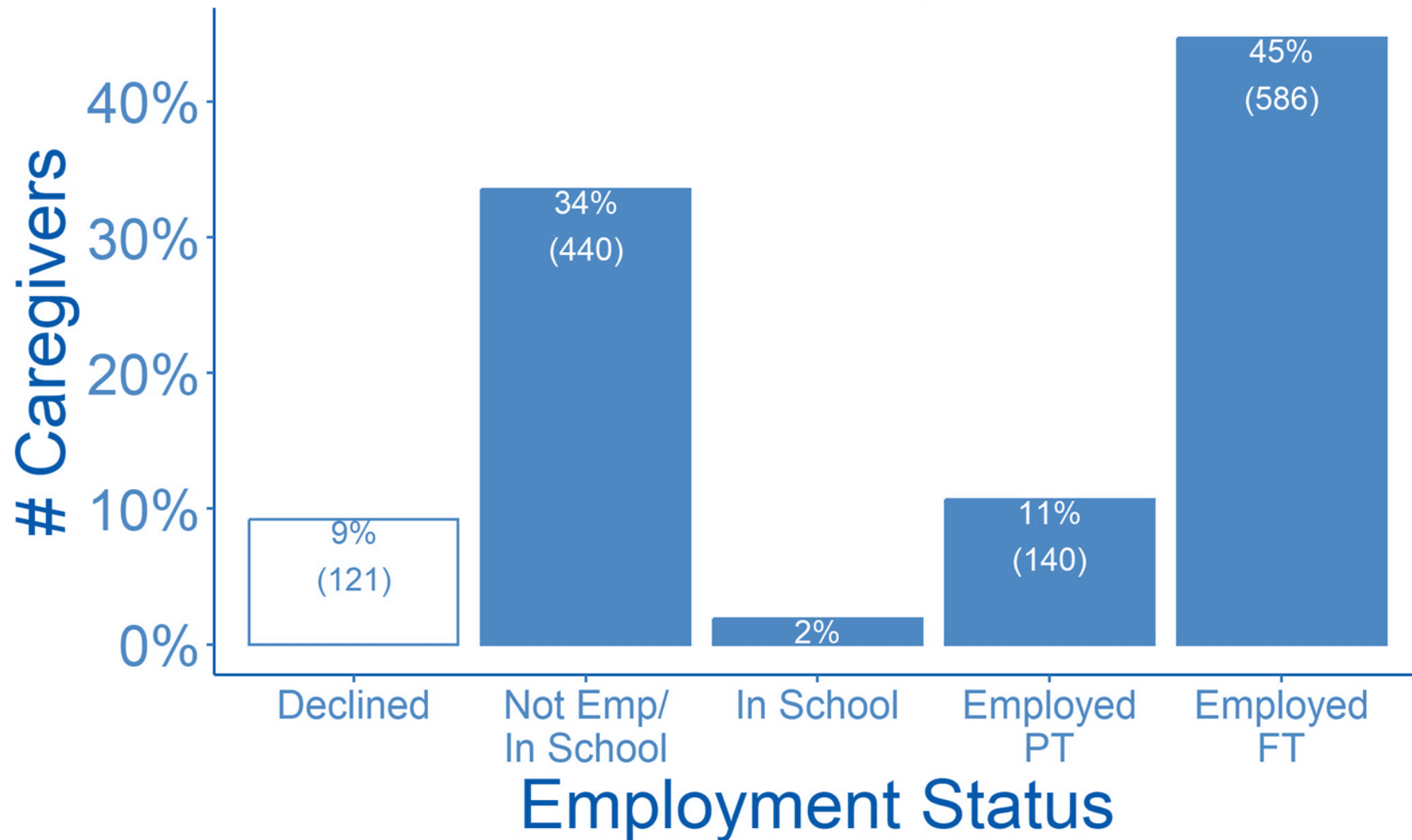
Annual Family Income



Caregiver Education



Caregiver Employment



FAMILY FIRST IMPACT

Child Permanency

Child and Caregiver Well-Being

Outcome	All N = 4,088	MH N = 1,997	PSB N = 1,212	KN N = 555	SUDS N = 266
Percent of target children and youth who have reached 12 months from the time-of-service referral remained together at home without need for foster care. ⁺ (GOAL: 90% of cases)	88%	88%	89%	91%	81%
Percent of families referred to Family First were engaged timely in services (within 2 days). (GOAL: 95% of cases)	76%	78%	72%	67%	93%
Percent of cases served and closed had successfully completed the referred service. (GOAL: 95% of cases)	47%	54%	29%	59%	46%
Percent of target children and youth served have been placed in foster care during an open Family First case. ⁺ (GOAL: Less than 10% of cases)	5%	5%	5%	5%	12%

* Aggregate results as of 4/30/2023

⁺ Target children are candidates for care within the target age range of the referred program

CHILD WELL-BEING

Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ:SE-2)

PURPOSE

- Monitor child development including communication, physical ability, social skills and problem-solving skills
- Screen young children for risk of social and emotional development

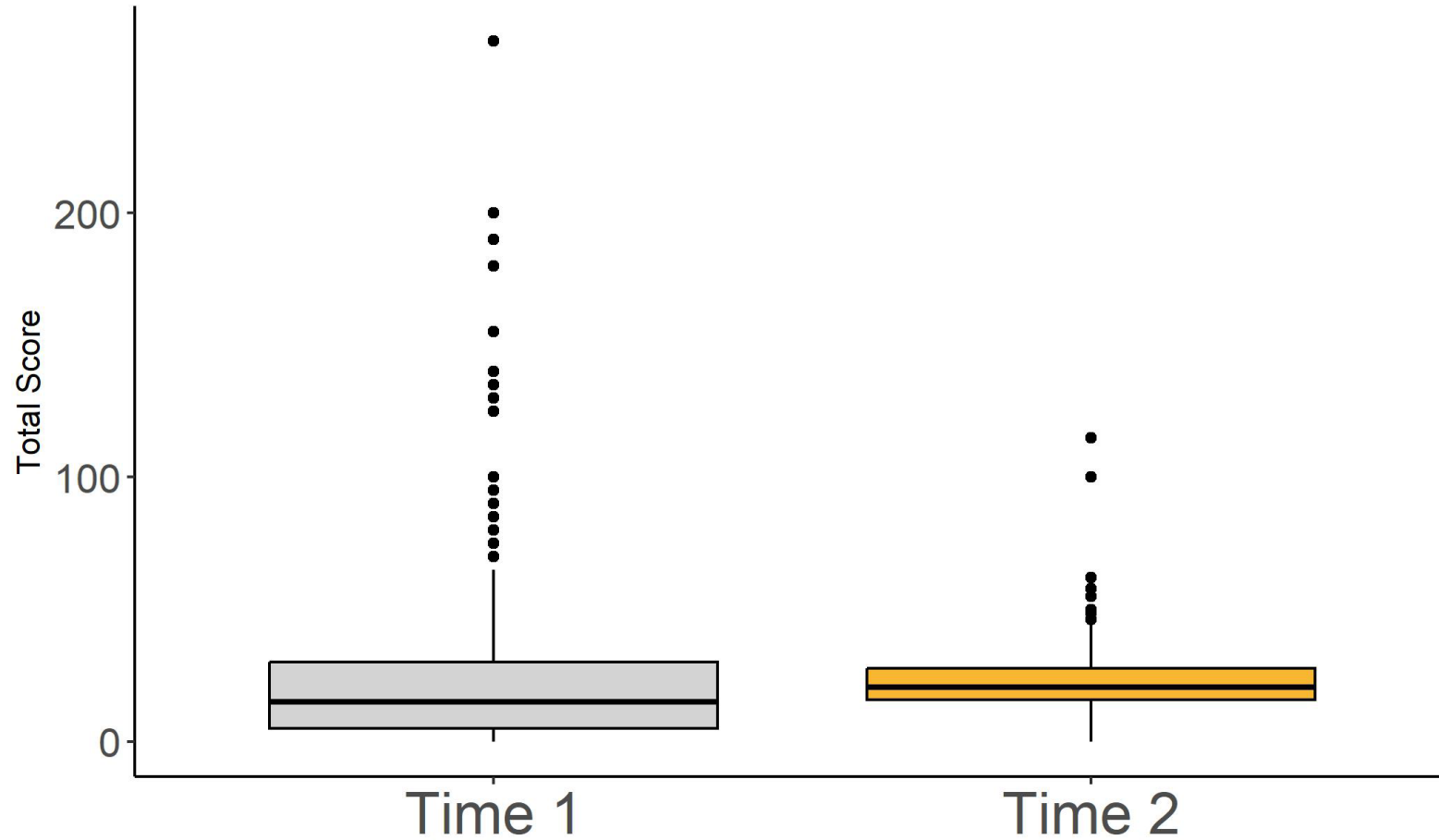
POPULATION

- Children between the ages of 1 month and 5 ½ years old

INTERPRETATION OF SCORES

- **Lower scores** indicate more positive outcomes
- Cutoff scores range from 45-70 based on child's age
- If the child's score falls above cutoff for that age, indicates that mental health assessment may be needed

ASQ:SE



Variable	Time 1	Time 2
N	391	391
Mean	24.2	22.7
Median	15	20.6
SD	31.7	11.7
Min	0	0
Max	265	115

Sources: ROM/DAISEY

Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)

PURPOSE

- Understand child strengths as well as difficulties, behaviors, emotions and relationships
- Screen young children for risk in social and emotional development

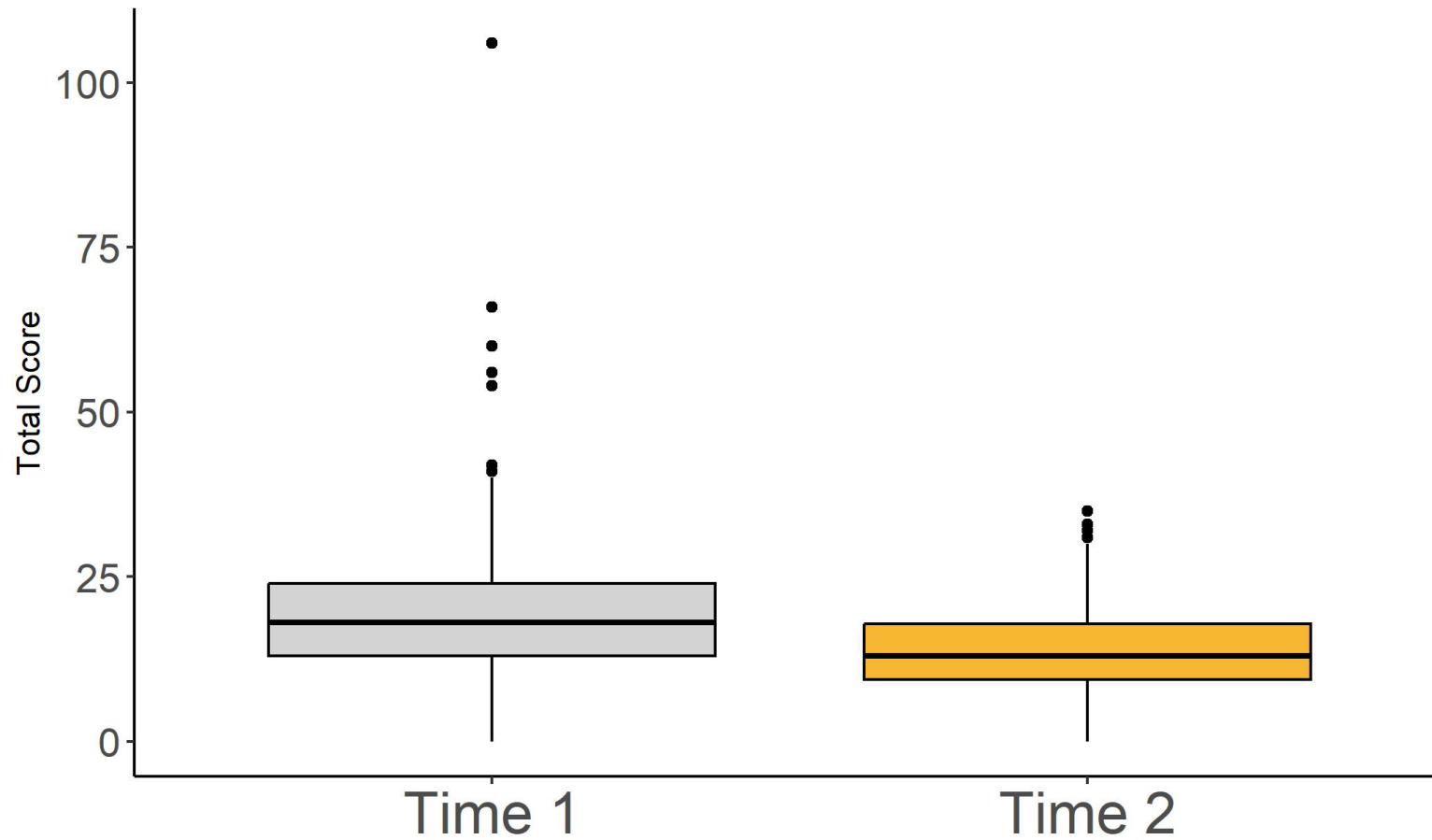
POPULATION

- Children aged 2-17 years old

INTERPRETATION OF SCORES

- Total difficulty scores range from 0-40
- **Lower scores** indicate fewer difficulties
- Difficulty scores between 19-40 indicate very high difficulty

SDQ



Variable	Time 1	Time 2
N	888	888
Mean	18.2	13.8
Median	18.1	13
SD	8.6	6.2
Min	0	0
Max	106	35

Sources: ROM/DAISEY

PARENTING

Parenting Sense of Competence Scale (PSOC)

PURPOSE

- Understand parents' sense of their own skills, confidence in problem solving and feelings of success as a parent

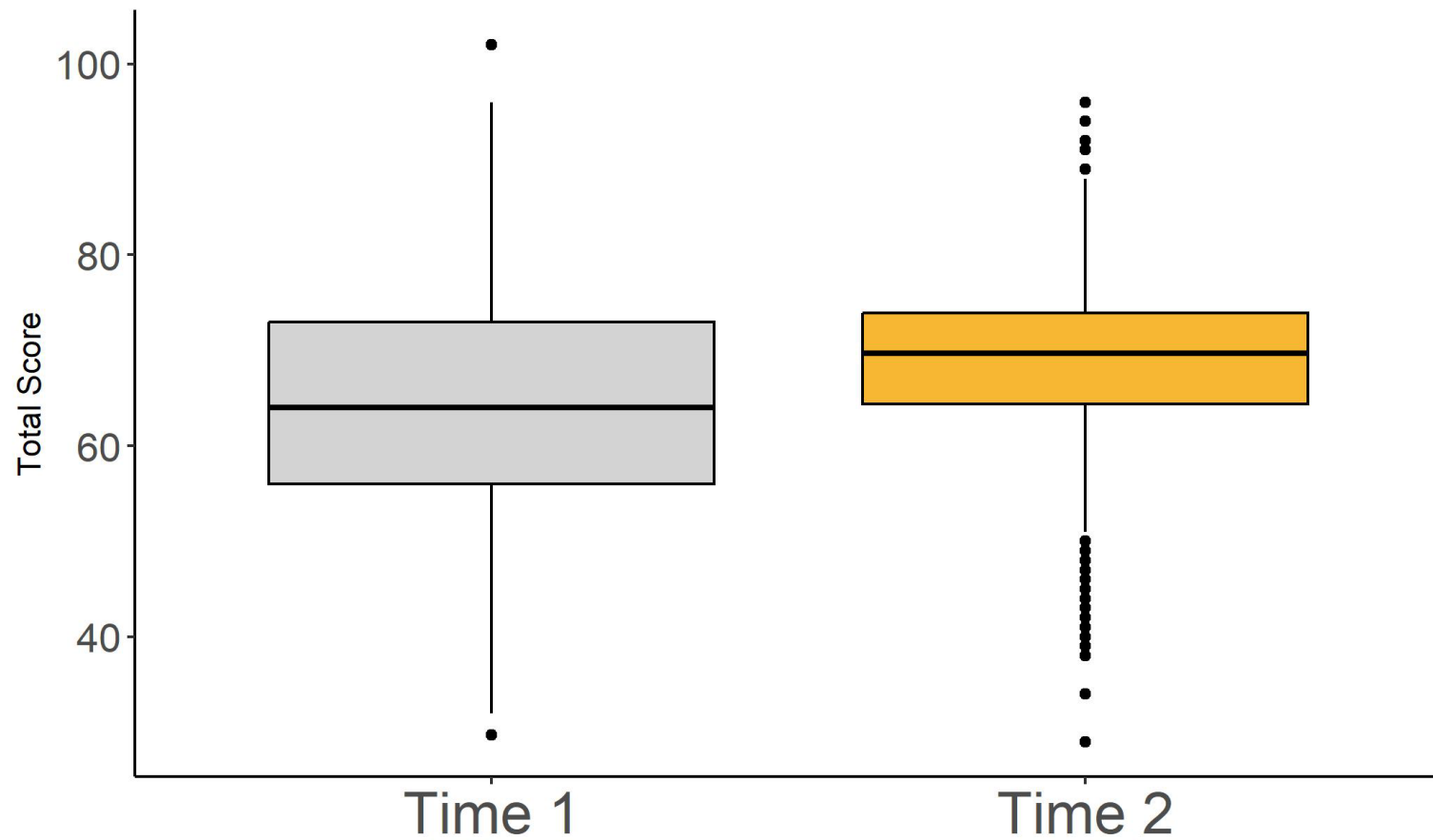
POPULATION

- Parents of children at any age

INTERPRETATION OF SCORES

- **Higher scores** indicate greater sense of competence
- Scores under 58 may be considered low

PSOC



Variable	Time 1	Time 2
N	1205	1205
Mean	64.5	68.8
Median	64	69.7
SD	12.1	8.3
Min	29.7	29
Max	102	96

Sources: ROM/DAISEY

CAREGIVER MENTAL HEALTH

Depression, Anxiety and Stress Scale (DASS-21)

PURPOSE

- Three scales measure the severity of behavioral and emotional symptoms associated with depression, anxiety and stress.

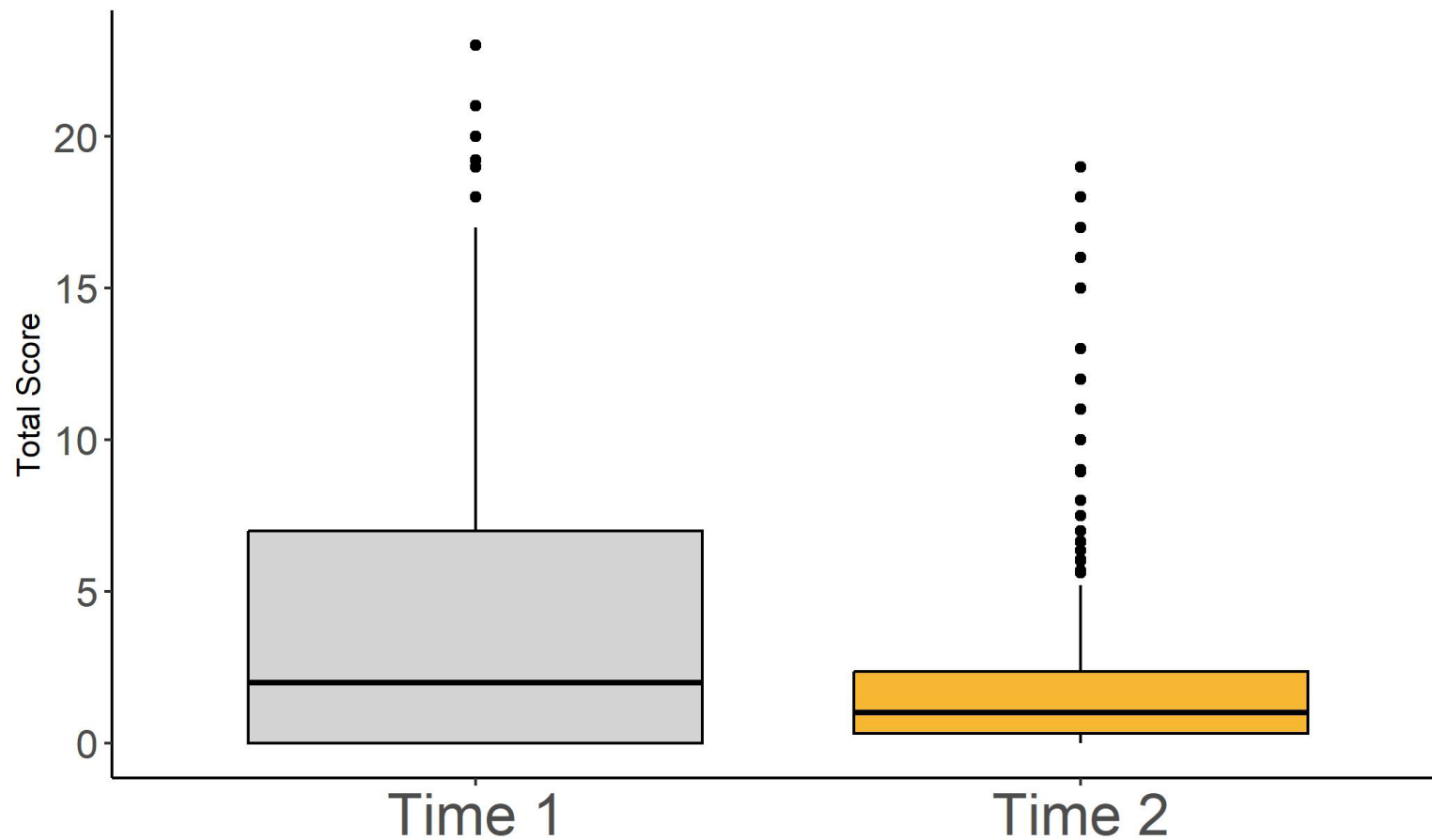
POPULATION

- Parents of children at any age

INTERPRETATION OF SCORES

- **Lower scores** indicate fewer symptoms
- Clinical cutoffs are 10+ for Depression, 8+ for anxiety and 15+ for Stress

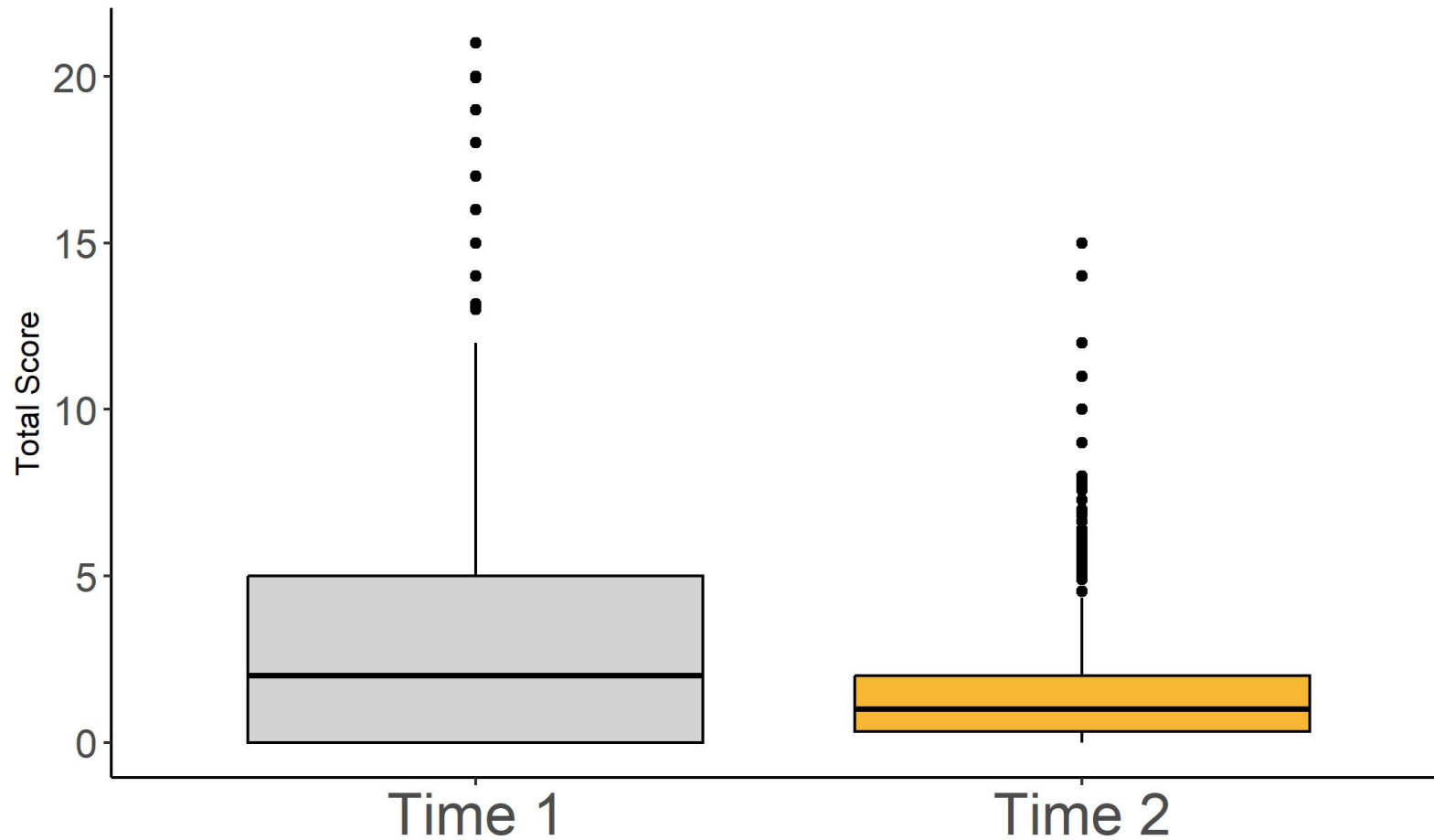
DASS 21: Depression



Variable	Time 1	Time 2
N	574	574
Mean	4.3	1.9
Median	2	1
SD	4.9	2.6
Min	0	0
Max	23	19

Sources: ROM/DAISEY

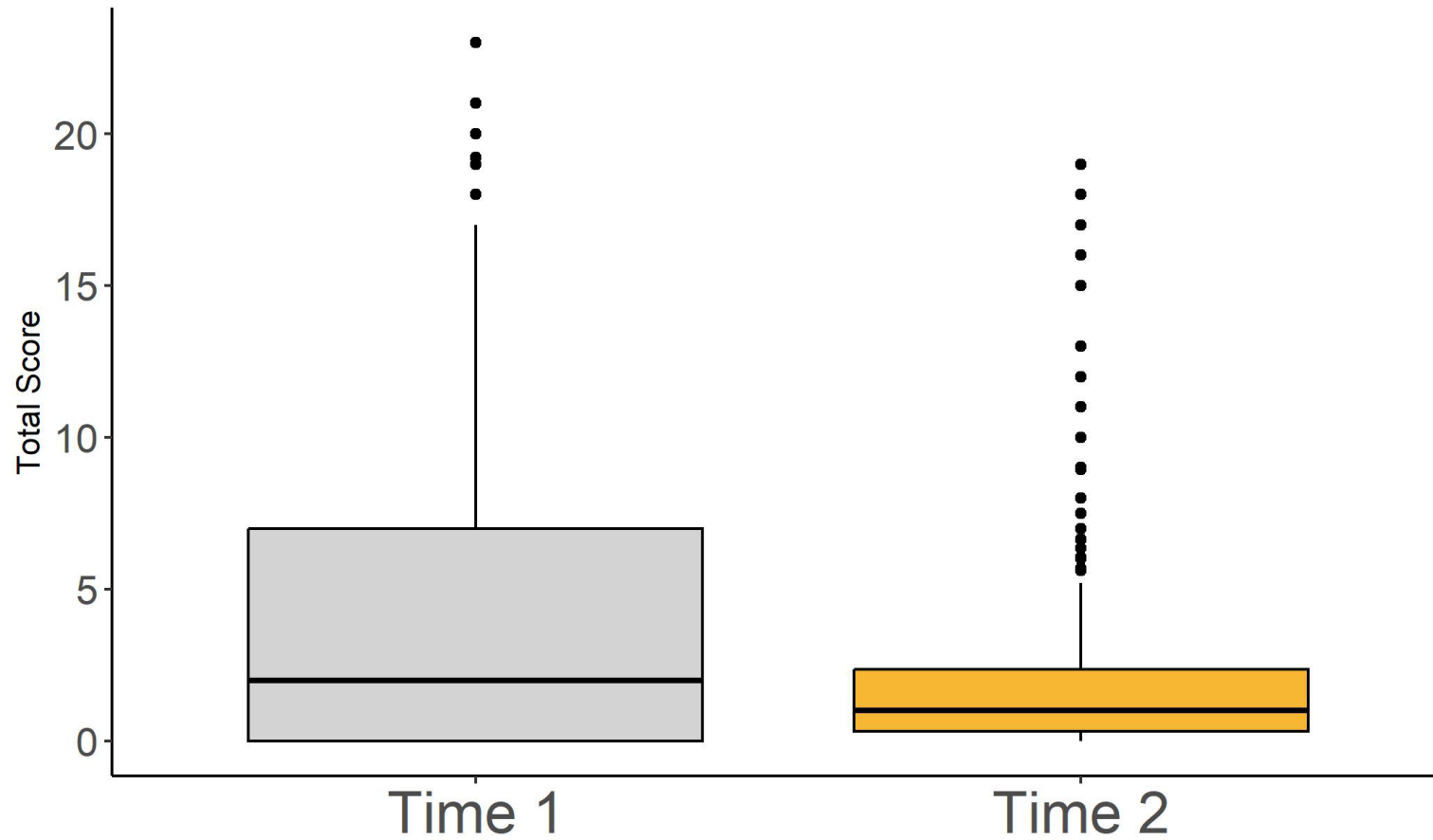
DASS 21: Anxiety



Variable	Time 1	Time 2
N	574	574
Mean	3.8	1.8
Median	2	1
SD	4.4	2.4
Min	0	0
Max	21	15

Sources: ROM/DAISEY

DASS 21: Stress



Variable	Time 1	Time 2
N	574	574
Mean	6.5	3.7
Median	5	3.6
SD	5.2	3.2
Min	0	0
Max	21	20

Sources: ROM/DAISEY

SUBSTANCE USE

Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT)

PURPOSE

- Screen for risky and harmful alcohol consumption

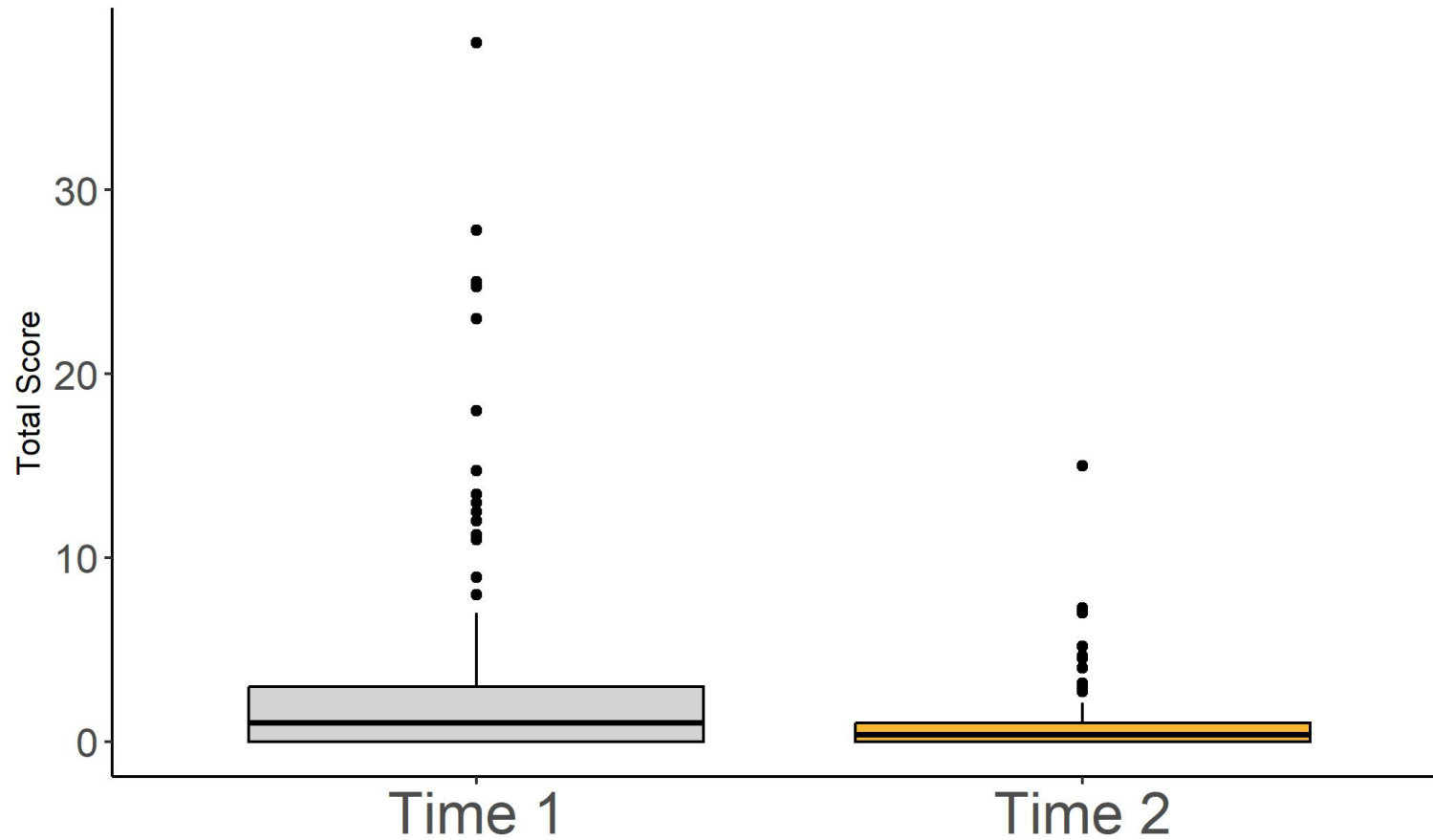
POPULATION

- Adults or older youth

INTERPRETATION OF SCORES

- **Lower scores** indicate fewer risks
- Scores of 8+ indicate potential hazards

AUDIT



Variable	Time 1	Time 2
N	186	186
Mean	2.8	0.9
Median	1	0.4
SD	5.5	1.6
Min	0	0
Max	38	15

Sources: ROM/DAISEY

Drug Abuse Screening Test (DAST-10)

PURPOSE

- Provide a quick index of drug abuse problems

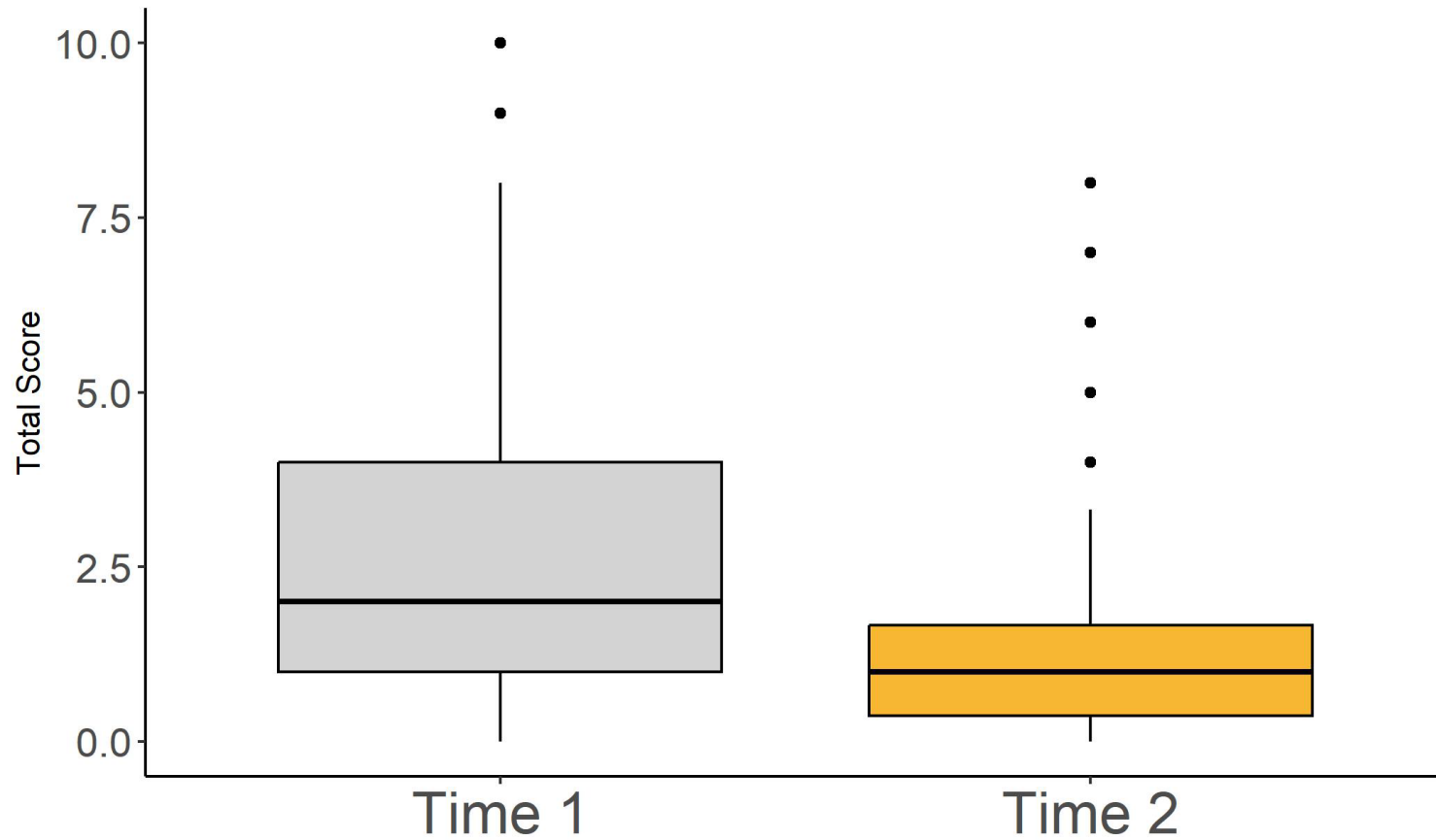
POPULATION

- Adults or older youth

INTERPRETATION OF SCORES

- Lower scores indicate fewer risks
- Score of 10 indicates severe problems

DAST-10



Variable	Time 1	Time 2
N	185	185
Mean	2.6	1.2
Median	2	1
SD	2.5	1.3
Min	0	0
Max	10	8

Sources: ROM/DAISEY

Limitations

- No counterfactual (yet)
- Data quality/
missingness on
assessment data
- Overlapping service
array
- Rural context
- Selection bias
 - Evaluation
 - Acceptability of referral
pathway



Conclusion

- Children and caregivers who receive Family First services in Kansas demonstrate significant improvement over time in the areas of child well-being, parenting sense of competency, mental health, and substance use
- Nearly 90% of families who have received Family First services in Kansas remain intact during Family First services and 12 months following referral to FFPSA
- Initial Family First implementation in Kansas is realizing significant gains in key outcomes, as hypothesized, providing emergent evidence of impact for this new prevention initiative



Questions?

THANK YOU!

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UPCOMING ASQ TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- In August and September, the Kansas Parents Information Resource Center (KPIRC) and KSDE will present the live virtual course Introduction to the Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ). This training is designed to provide any professional working with children birth through kindergarten entry a solid understanding of what the ASQ is and how to partner with families to complete developmental screenings.
 - Thursday, August 10 - 9am-12pm [Register](#)
 - Thursday, September 7 - 9am-12pm [Register](#)
- KSDE will also be hosting ASQ Tips & Questions Sessions on Fridays 12-1pm, starting August 11 and ending September 29. [Register](#)

Events



UPCOMING CONFERENCES

2023 National Prenatal-to-3 Research to Policy Summit

- Join more than 5,000 state lawmakers and advocates, researchers, and practitioners for a virtual event to hear which states did the most to help young children and their families thrive in 2023, and to learn about the newest research informing prenatal-to-3 evidence-based policymaking. (Attend the virtual summit on Thursday, October 12, 2023, 1-2:30pm CST. [Registration](#) is free!)

47th Annual Governor's Conference for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect

- Annually, KCSL along with 20+ co-sponsoring organizations presents the most comprehensive conference in Kansas about the prevention of child maltreatment. KCSL is committed to featuring the best speakers the field has to offer and addressing current topics and issues throughout the conference. (Wichita, KS - October 18-20, 2023. Registration opens soon! [Learn more](#))

NAEYC Annual Conference

- Gathering early childhood educators from around the globe to connect, collaborate, and learn together. [Learn more about this year's conference.](#)

Nashville, TN - November 15-18, 2023. [Registration](#) is open now - get early bird pricing through September 15!

Upcoming Conferences



GENERAL UPDATES

Early Childhood Resources

Kindergarten in Kansas - Family Booklet

- This booklet provides information about kindergarten readiness and the kindergarten transition, checklists and more for families and other caregivers. Paper copies are available for free in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Swahili, Arabic, and Burmese. [Click here](#) to see the resource online, or request copies to share with your families [here](#)!

Professional Development Opportunities

Greenbush

- Greenbush is an educational service center and has a wide variety of virtual and in-person trainings, workshops, and continuing education for educators in Kansas! Find out more about Greenbush and explore their event offerings at the [Greenbush website](#).

Professional Development
Early Childhood Resources



REMINDERS AND NEXT STEPS

- **Early Childhood Recommendations Panel Meeting**

Friday, August 18th – 9-11:30 am

- **Early Childhood Systems Building Webinar**

Wednesday, September 20th – 12-1:00 pm

- **Children’s Cabinet Meeting**

Friday, October 6th – 9 am-12 pm

You can find **all** of these meetings and more on our Children’s Cabinet [YouTube channel!](#)

Stay Connected!





Stay Up to Date



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Thanks!

