

# **Integrating and Advancing State Prenatal to Age Three Policies**

November 14, 2019

# Welcome and Overview



**Dr. Beth Caron**

Director, NGA Education

NGA Solutions: The Center for Best Practices

# Hot Off the Press!!

Available on our website:  
<https://www.nga.org/center/publications/education/gov-pocket-guide-to-early-literacy/>

## Governor's Pocket Guide to Early Literacy

**NGA**  
NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION  
NGA EDUCATION



**NGA**

# Overview of the Prenatal to Three Policy Impact Center



**Dr. Cynthia Osborne**

Director, Prenatal-to-Three Policy Impact Center  
University of Texas, Austin



National Governor's Association Prenatal - Age 3 Cross-State Convening | November 14, 2019

# PRENATAL-TO-3 POLICY IMPACT CENTER

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*Strengthening the Earliest Years through Research and Collaboration*

**DR. CYNTHIA OSBORNE**

Associate Dean for Academic Strategies, The University of Texas at Austin



# Agenda

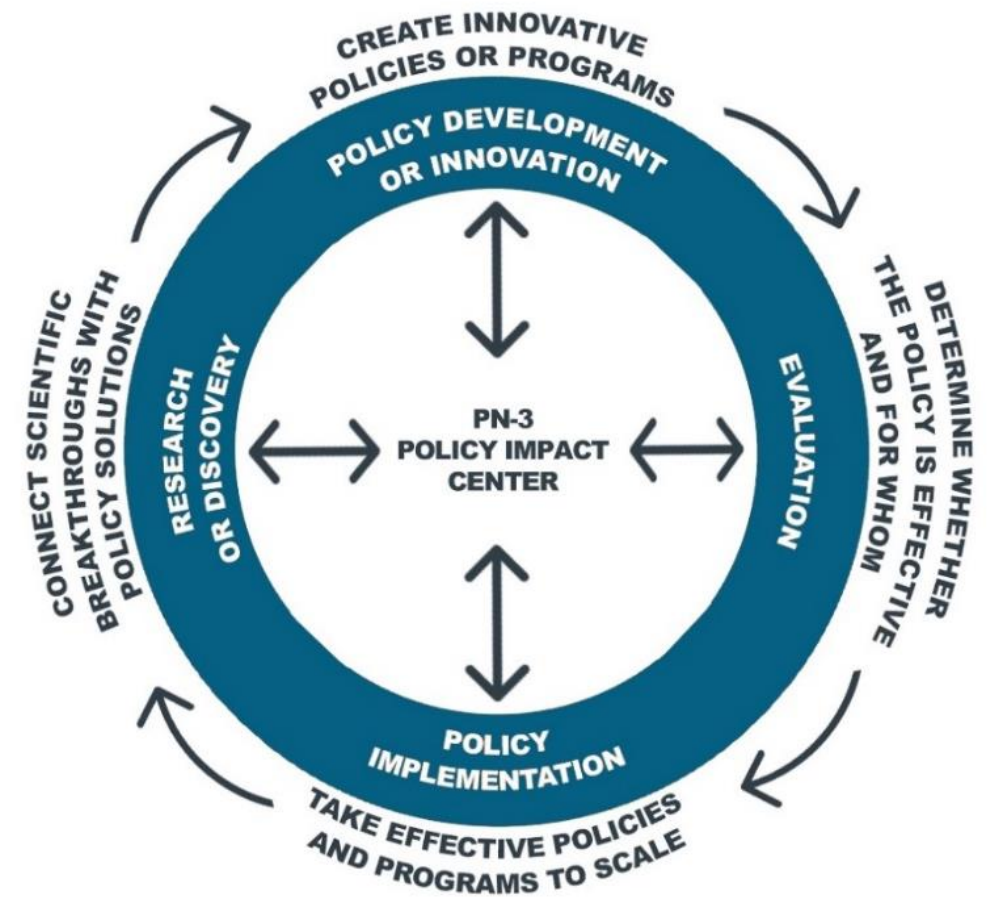
- Prenatal-to-Three Policy Impact Center overview
- Prenatal-to-three policy reviews
- Questions and feedback

OVERVIEW

# **PRENATAL-TO-3 POLICY IMPACT CENTER**

# Goals

- Bring the science of the developing brain to life through policy
- Be a trusted resource for states as they develop and implement policies to strengthen the PN-3 period
- Be an authoritative source of information for PN-3 experts on the evidence of what we know and what we do not know about effective PN-3 policies
- Foster the exchange of information between policy, research, and practice



# Focus

## FOCUS AREAS



Healthy Beginnings



Supported Families



High-Quality Care &  
Learning

To ensure children are on track for healthy development by age three, it is essential that programs and policies start early so that:

- Infants are born healthy and continue to thrive,
- Parents have what they need to support their child's healthy development, and
- Families have access to affordable, high-quality child care options.

# Approach

- Conduct comprehensive reviews of state-level PN-3 policies
- Build strong relationships with state PN-3 leaders and other stakeholders
- Develop a Roadmap to provide direction to states on how to build effective PN-3 systems of care
- Identify and fill gaps in the evidence base
- Facilitate the exchange of information between researchers, policy makers, and practitioners through convenings, website, and personal connections



# The State Policy Roadmap

- A State Policy Roadmap identifies a discrete list of policies that have a strong evidence base for promoting healthy beginnings, strengthening families, and providing quality care environments for children.
- Includes an annual report to assess states' progress on implementing evidence-informed policies
- Designed to inform policy efforts, and will be accompanied by engagement efforts with academics, advocates, and policymakers
  - Intentional in working with states to get their input prior to release, confirm their data, and to build long-term buy-in
- Monitor and track policy proposals, how they are implemented, and their impact on child and family wellbeing

# National Advisory Council

- Comprised of recognized experts in the PN-3 field broadly, but many will also have targeted influence (e.g., in ECE or maternal health)
- Serve as advisors and validators for the Impact Center and Roadmap
- Will help build connections across the field and will identify ways the Impact Center can boost their efforts and others
- Will review Roadmap policy evidence, indicators, and rankings
- Members should have standing and expertise in the field and represent diverse opinions and populations
- May also create subcommittees for each policy or policy area, after policies are selected

# NAC Members

**Christina Altmayer** – First 5 LA

**Joia Adele Crear-Perry, MD** – National Birth Equity Collaboration

**Libby Doggett, PhD** – former U.S. Department of Education

**Greg Duncan, PhD** – University of California at Irvine

**Janet Froetscher** – J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation

**Janis Gonzales, MD** – New Mexico Department of Health

**A.J. Griffin** – former Oklahoma State Senator

**Iheoma Iruka, PhD** – HighScope Educational Research Foundation

**Brenda Jones Harden, PhD** – University of Maryland

**Ruth Kagi** – former Washington State Representative

**John B. King, JD, PhD** – The Education Trust

**David Lakey, MD** – The University of Texas System

**Joan Lombardi, PhD** – former U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

**Michael Lu, MD** – UC Berkeley School of Public Health

**Tammy Mann, PhD** – The Campagna Center

**Ron Mincy, PhD** – Columbia University

**Geoff Nagle, PhD** – Erikson Institute

**Jessie Rasmussen** – Buffett Early Childhood Fund

**Jack Shonkoff, MD** – Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University

**Margaret Spellings** - Texas 2036

**Jim Spurlino** – Spurlino Materials

**David Willis, MD** – Center for the Study of Social Policy

# UT Austin Scholars Group

- Comprised of a diverse and multidisciplinary group of UT scholars
- Demonstrates that the Impact Center is part of a larger whole – it brings the power of UT to the efforts
- Will serve as peer editors of policy review briefs
- Meet regularly to provide advice on research to review and scholars to connect with, and to provide feedback on ideas for policy-research links
- Will largely support the research arm of the Impact Center and the connection between research and policy

# What makes this unique?

- Evidence from a trusted, objective source of information
- Focus is on state policy and systems-level change – not programs
- Provides detailed analysis of policy implementation and a roadmap for action
- Close relationships with state leaders for up-to-date information on state efforts
- Data will largely be collected directly from states
- Implementation realities will inform research
- Driven by evidence, not advocacy

OVERVIEW OF PROCESS AND GOALS

# **PRENATAL-TO-THREE POLICY REVIEWS**



# Working draft of policies for review:

- Purpose?
- Policy goals v. policies?
- How do policies get added to the queue for review?
- What if a policy is not in the queue

# Examples of policies for review

## Healthy Beginnings

- Medicaid expansion
- Maternal mortality review committees
- Developmental screenings
- Breastfeeding supports

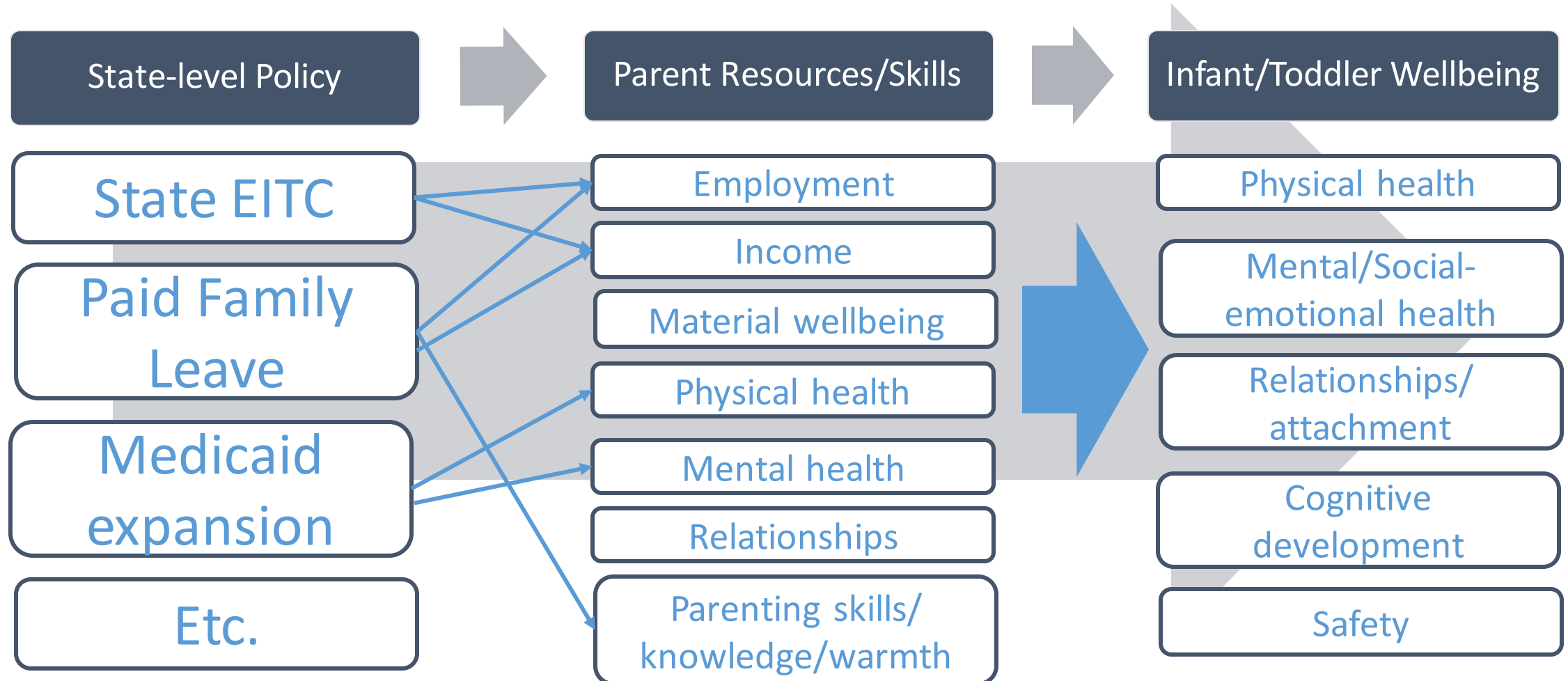
## Family Supports

- Paid Family Leave
- State EITC
- Fair work week
- SNAP participation
- Evidence-based parenting programs

## Early Care and Learning

- Child care ratios and group sizes
- Quality Rating and Improvement Standards
- Increase child care provider pay
- Increase child care subsidies

# Logic model



# Review process

- Clear description of the policy and how it varies by state or, if federal, states must have leverage
- Full understanding of the theory of change using a logic model to demonstrate pathways between policy and outcomes related to infants, toddlers, and their parents
- Overview of which states have implemented the policy, and documented state-level variation
- Broad literature search of all peer-reviewed and gray matter research related to policy
- Summaries of each article reviewed
- In-depth review and critique of all literature that aims to make causal link between policy and PN-3 outcomes

# Review process (cont.)

- Team discussion about strength of evidence and direction and level of any impact
- Brief written summary of conclusion based on evidence review shared with UT Scholars
- A longer sophisticated critique of the policy evidence to support our conclusions
- Additional analyses of the policy evidence on:
  - Amount of evidence
  - Size and reach of policy impact
  - Closes gaps
  - Impacts on fathers
  - Return on investment
  - Theory of change
  - Ease of implementation

# Policy considerations

## **Support for Policy Effectiveness**

Does it work?

## **Equity and Inclusion**

Does it close gaps  
in disparities?  
Does it include  
fathers?

## **Financial Feasibility**

Do the benefits  
outweigh the  
costs?

## **Implementation Feasibility**

Can we implement  
it with relative  
ease?



# The ask

- How can the Impact Center be helpful to you?
- What policies are you considering that you would like more evidence on?
- Do you have any insights/updates on what is happening in the field at the state level
- What are your goals and challenges?

# QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK

# Contact

- Contact us at [pn3policy@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:pn3policy@austin.utexas.edu) with questions.
- Follow [@pn3policy](https://twitter.com/pn3policy) and **#pn3policy** on Twitter.
- Sign up for our mailing list:  
<https://mailchi.mp/austin.utexas.edu/pn3>

# Making State Connections



**David Mandell**

Oregon Early Learning Division  
Department of Education



**Gena Berger**

Deputy Secretary of Health and Human  
Resources  
Commonwealth of Virginia



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# Oregon's Prenatal to Three Agenda

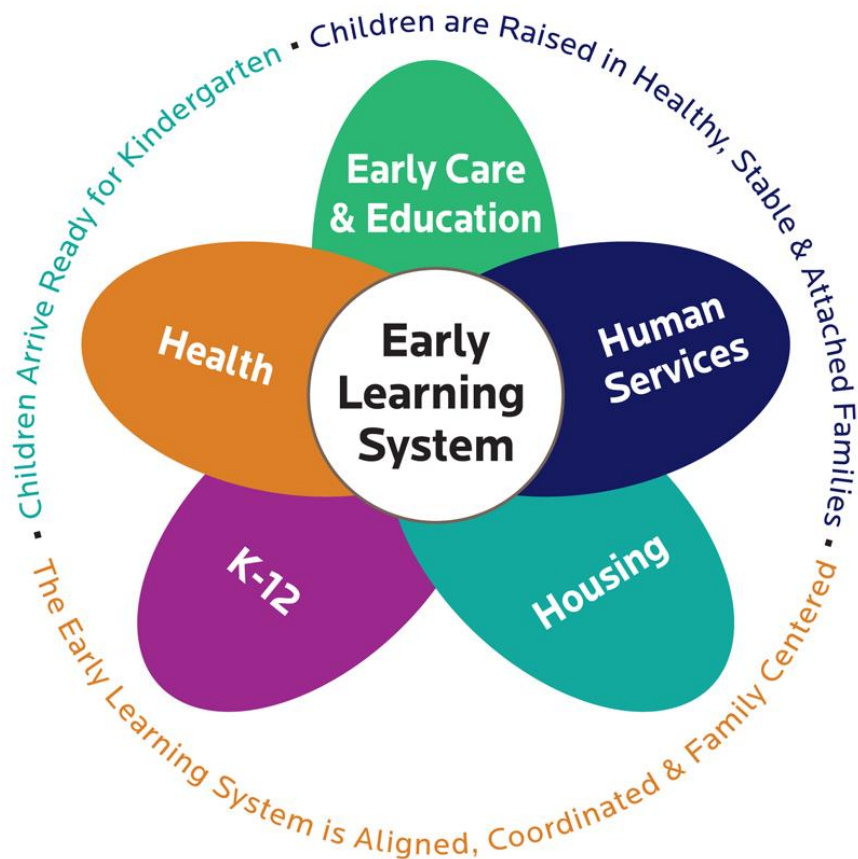
David Mandell, Prenatal to Three Systems Fellow

NGA: Integrating and Advancing State Prenatal to Three Policies

November 13, 2019



# *The Raise Up Oregon Vision*



1. Children arrive at kindergarten ready to succeed.
2. Children are raised in healthy, stable and attached families.
3. The Early Learning System is coordinated, aligned and family-centered.



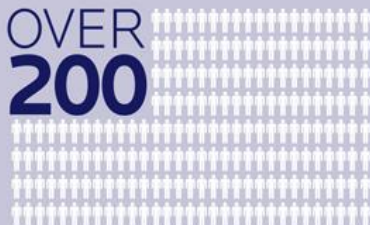
A romantic scene featuring the silhouettes of a man and a woman in a close embrace, nearly kissing. They are positioned in the foreground against a vibrant sunset background. The sun is a bright, glowing orb on the horizon, casting a warm, golden light across the sky and reflecting on the calm water below. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds, and the overall atmosphere is one of love and tranquility.

*Raise Up Oregon*



## DEVELOPING RAISE UP OREGON: A STATEWIDE EARLY LEARNING SYSTEM PLAN

OVER  
200



PEOPLE

including state agency representatives, program administrators and providers, families, and all four Early Learning Council committees engaged in the development of *Raise Up Oregon*.

7 EARLY LEARNING  
COUNCIL MEETINGS



Presentations and discussions with state agency leadership, program administrators, Early Learning Hubs and other regional entities, providers and families across early care and education, health, housing and community supports, human services, K-12, and public health.

12 PARENT  
ENGAGEMENT  
SESSIONS



Parent discussions throughout the state.

16 EARLY LEARNING HUB  
Governance Board Meetings



Early Learning Hub Governance Boards discussed the strengths and barriers within each Hub community, provided input on cross-sector strategic planning themes, and explored the potential role for Hubs.

4 EARLY LEARNING  
COUNCIL COMMITTEES



All four Council committees—Best Beginnings, Equity Implementation, Child Care and Education, and Measuring Success—contributed to plan development.

VIA SURVEY

60

PEOPLE

Partners representing Child Care Resource & Referral entities, Early Learning Hubs, Early Learning Division staff, local



Public Health offices, and members of the nine federally recognized tribes of Oregon provided feedback on the objectives and strategies most related to their work.

8

CHILDREN'S CABINET  
MEETINGS



Meetings with top state  
AGENCY LEADERSHIP

The Department of Human Services, Oregon Department of Education, Oregon Health Authority, and Oregon Housing and Community Services met with the Early Learning Council chair and the Early Learning System Director.











# Cross sector commitment

**EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS**

This symbol is next to strategies with a focus on infants and toddlers.

**Existing state plans and Raise Up Oregon have shared strategies, as indicated by the following symbols:**

-  Aligns with Department of Human Services 2016-2019 Self Sufficiency Programs (SSP) Strategic Plan, SSP Fundamentals Map and Child Welfare Action Plan
-  Aligns with Oregon Department of Education 2017-2019 Strategic Plan.<sup>1</sup>
-  Aligns with Early Learning Division's Child Care Supply and Quality; Preschool and Kindergarten Readiness; Community-based and Family Supports; and Workforce Quality, and with ELD Policy Option Packages (POP) and Legislative Concepts (LC) 2019-2021.
-  Aligns with Oregon Health Authority State Health Improvement Plan,<sup>2</sup> the Public Health Division Maternal and Child Health Section 2018 Strategic Plan,<sup>3</sup> and CCO 2.0 Recommendations of the Oregon Health Policy Board.<sup>4</sup>
-  Aligns with Oregon Housing and Community Services 2019 Statewide Housing Plan.
-  Aligns with Governor's Agenda, e.g., Health Care for All: Sustaining the Oregon Model of Health Care Coverage, Quality, and Cost Management; Education Policy Agenda: Every Oregon Student Engaged, Empowered, and Future Ready; Housing Policy Agenda: Housing Stability for Children, Veterans, and the Chronically Homeless and Increased Housing Supply for Urban and Rural Communities; Child Welfare Policy Agenda: Protecting Children, Supporting Families and Ending the Cycle of Poverty; and The Children's Agenda: Pathways Out of Poverty for Children to Achieve Their Full Potential.<sup>5</sup>





# PLAN STRUCTURE

Grouped by three system goals

Each system goal contains objectives

Each objective contains strategies

## RAISE UP OREGON AT-A-GLANCE

### SYSTEM GOAL 1: CHILDREN ARRIVE READY FOR KINDERGARTEN

- **OBJECTIVE 1: Families are supported and engaged as their child's first teachers.**

**Strategy 1.1** Expand parenting education and family supports.

**Strategy 1.2** Scale culturally responsive home visiting.

- **OBJECTIVE 2: Families have access to high-quality (culturally responsive, inclusive, developmentally appropriate) affordable early care and education that meets their needs.**

**Strategy 2.1** Expand access to, and build the supply of, high-quality (culturally responsive, inclusive, developmentally appropriate) affordable infant-toddler early care and education that meets the needs of families.

**Strategy 2.2** Expand access to, and build the supply of, high-quality (culturally responsive, inclusive, developmentally appropriate) affordable preschool that meets the needs of families.

- **OBJECTIVE 4: Early childhood physical and social-emotional health promotion and prevention is increased.**

**Strategy 4.1** Ensure prenatal-to-age-five health care services are comprehensive, accessible, high quality, and culturally and linguistically responsive.

**Strategy 4.2** Increase capacity to provide culturally responsive social-emotional supports for young children and their families.

**Strategy 4.3** Increase and improve equitable access to early childhood oral health.

**Strategy 4.4** Strengthen coordination among early care and education, health, and housing to promote health and safety for young children.

- **OBJECTIVE 5: Young children with social-emotional, developmental, and health care needs are identified early and supported to reach their full potential.**

# Governor's Children's Cabinet

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## Cabinet Membership

- Governor Kate Brown attends & facilitates all meetings
- Staffed by Deputy Chief of Staff Berri Leslie
- Includes directors of Early Learning Division, Health Authority, Department of Education, Human Services and Housing & Community Services
- Governor's policy advisors with the portfolios of the agencies listed above also attend
- Early Learning Council Chair

## Alignment of Governor's Requested Budget with *Raise Up Oregon*

### • 2018 Summer Workgroups:

- Early Care & Education – Chair: Mary Louise McClintock (Oregon Community Foundation)
- Preschool & Early Learning Workforce Development – Chair: Sue Miller (Early Learning Council chair)
- Healthy Families – Chair: Senator Steiner Hayward
- Housing Stabilization – Chair: Margaret Salazar (Director of Oregon Housing & Community Services)



# 2019 Legislative Prenatal to Three Wins!

HB 2005 – Paid Family Leave benefit program

SB 526 – Universally-Offered Home Visiting

HB 2257 – Addiction & Recovery Services for Pregnant Women through Project Nurture

HB 3427 & HB 5047 – Student Success Act

- Early Childhood Equity Fund
- Healthy Families Oregon
- Early Head Start

HB 2024 – Baby Promise



## The EARLY LEARNING ACCOUNT of the

# STUDENT SUCCESS Act

❑ HB 3047

❑ Raises \$1 billion per year through new gross receipts tax

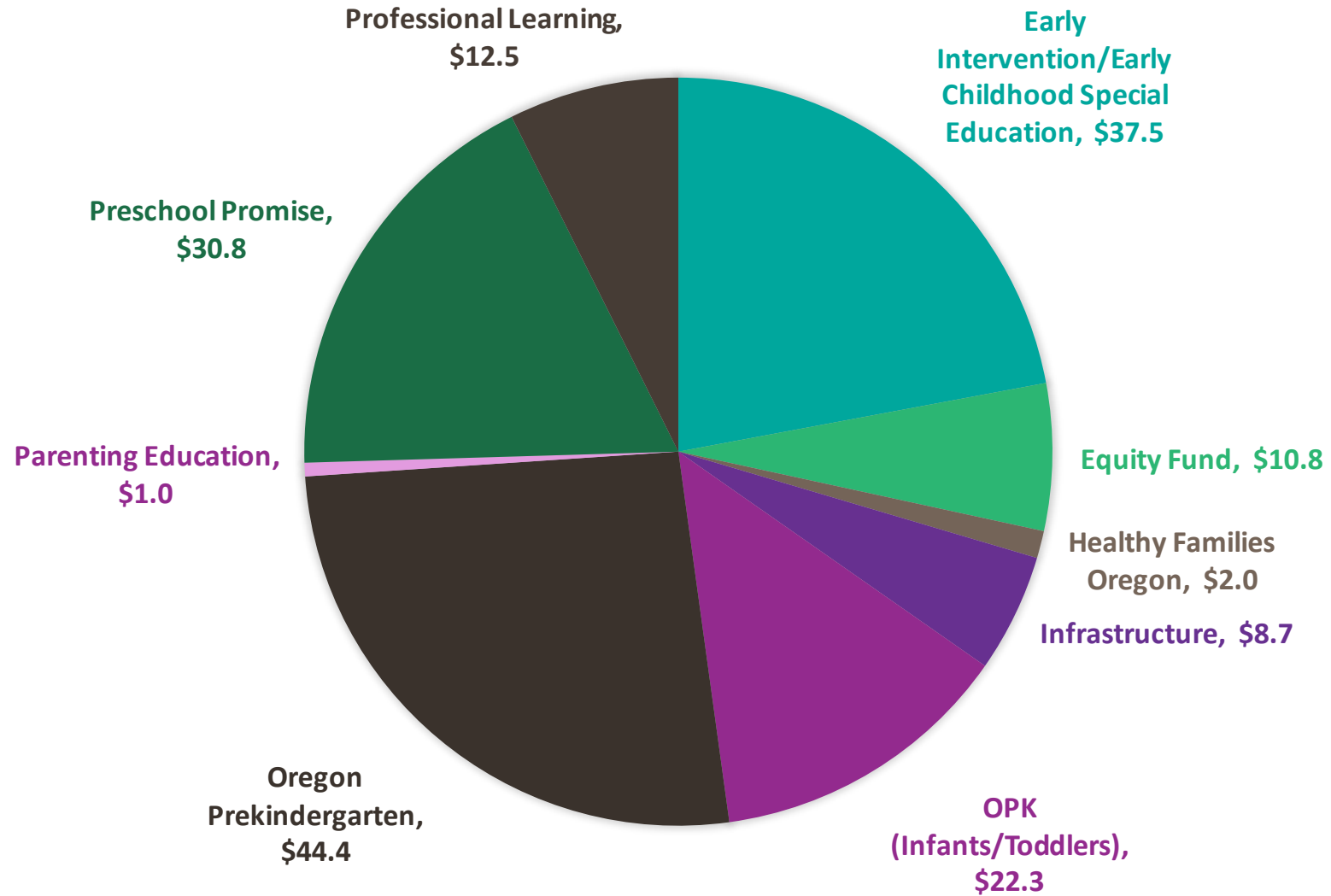
❑ At least 20% of funds directed to a dedicated Early Learning Account



## The EARLY LEARNING ACCOUNT of the



# STUDENT SUCCESS ACT





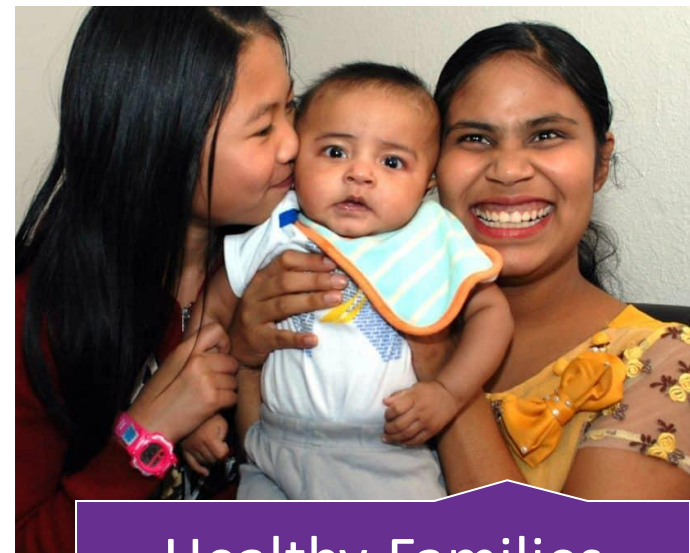
# STUDENT SUCCESS ACT



Equity Fund



Parenting Education



Healthy Families  
Oregon

# STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

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Relief Nurseries



Early Head Start



EI/ECSE



# HB 2024: Baby Promise

Contracted Slots for infant and toddler care that require higher standards, are accompanied by more robust training and supports, and higher rates of funding to support teacher pay and quality.

Baby Promise pilot funding:  
CCDF funding for Baby Promise  
approved at September 2018 E-  
Board

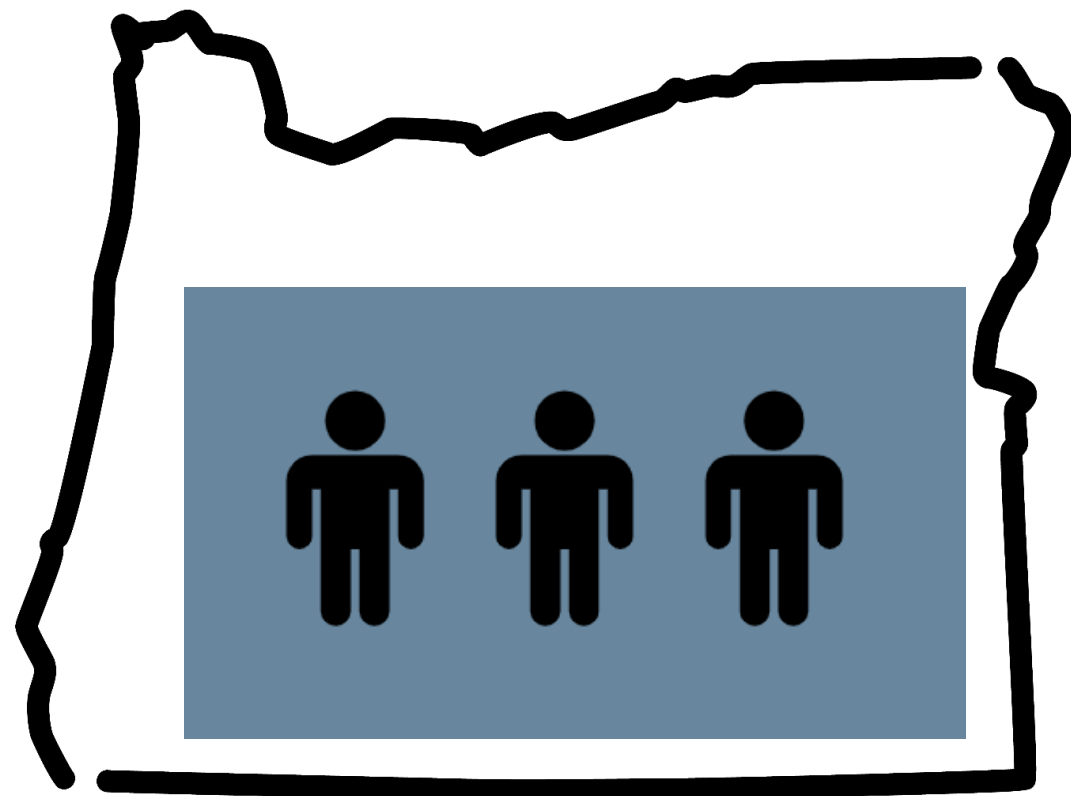
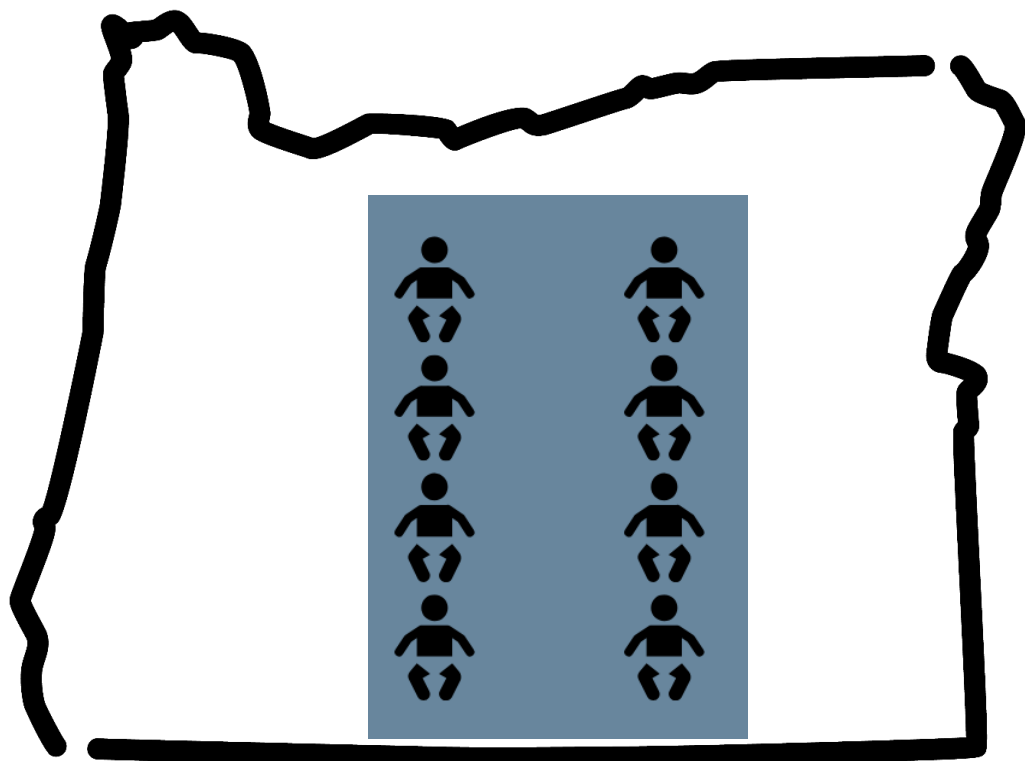
- \$3.3 million in child care assistance
- \$700K in quality supports





# Crisis in supply more extreme for infants & toddler

8 Infants & toddlers for single child care slot

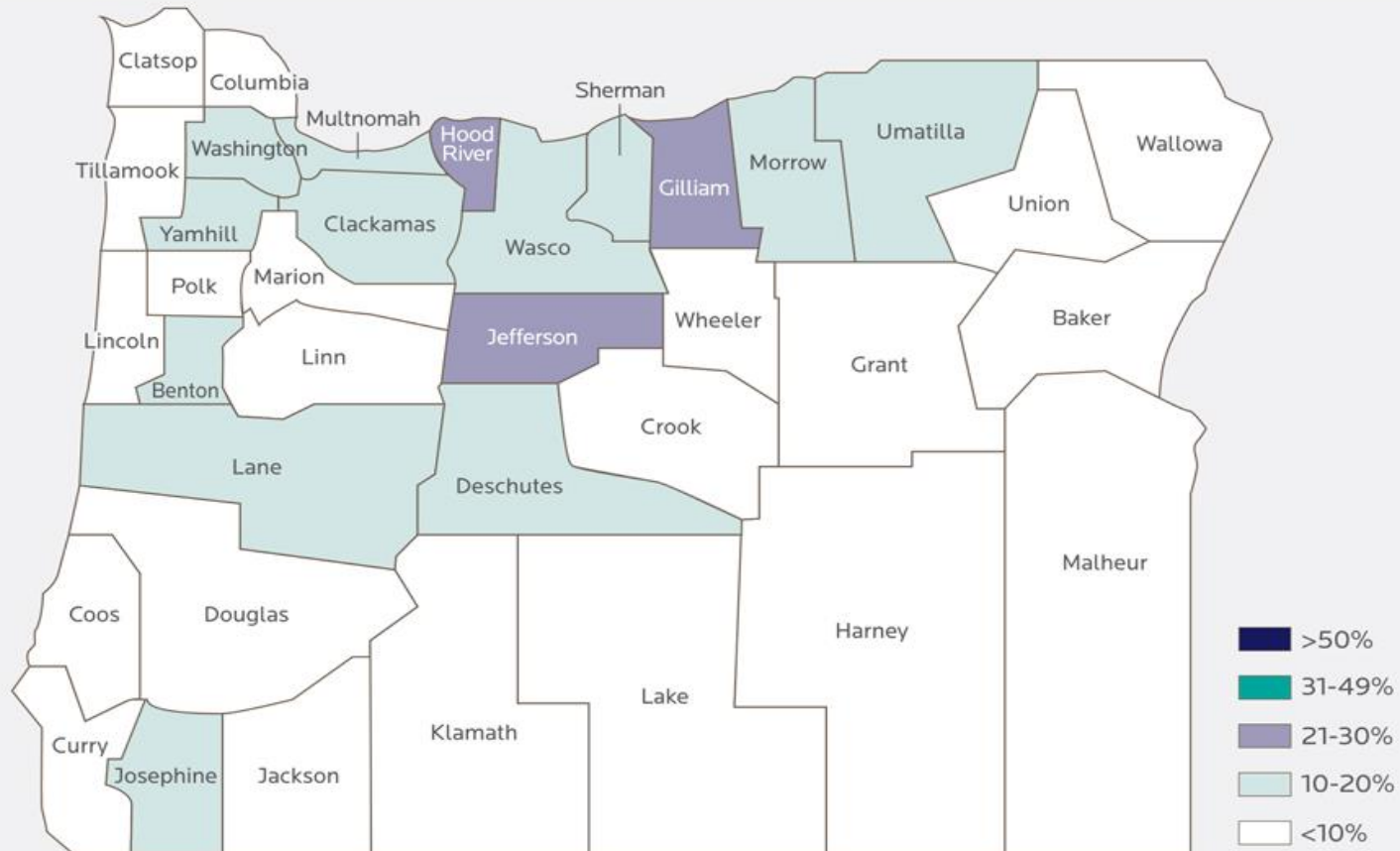


3 preschool-age children for single child care slot



# Oregon's Infant-toddler care deserts

**Figure 6. Percent of Oregon young children 0-3 with access to regulated child care<sup>xvii</sup>**





# The Baby Promise Concept

- ✓ Regional Early Learning Hubs develop community plans that identify populations and areas with greatest unmet need for quality infant & toddler care
- ✓ Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies recruit diverse array of providers (e.g., family-based, center-based, Early Head Start) that are most able to meet needs identified in community plans
- ✓ Contract with providers for the true cost of quality care, including fair compensation
- ✓ Contracts are tied to participation in quality supports & meeting quality standards
- ✓ Contracted providers offer subsidized care to eligible families



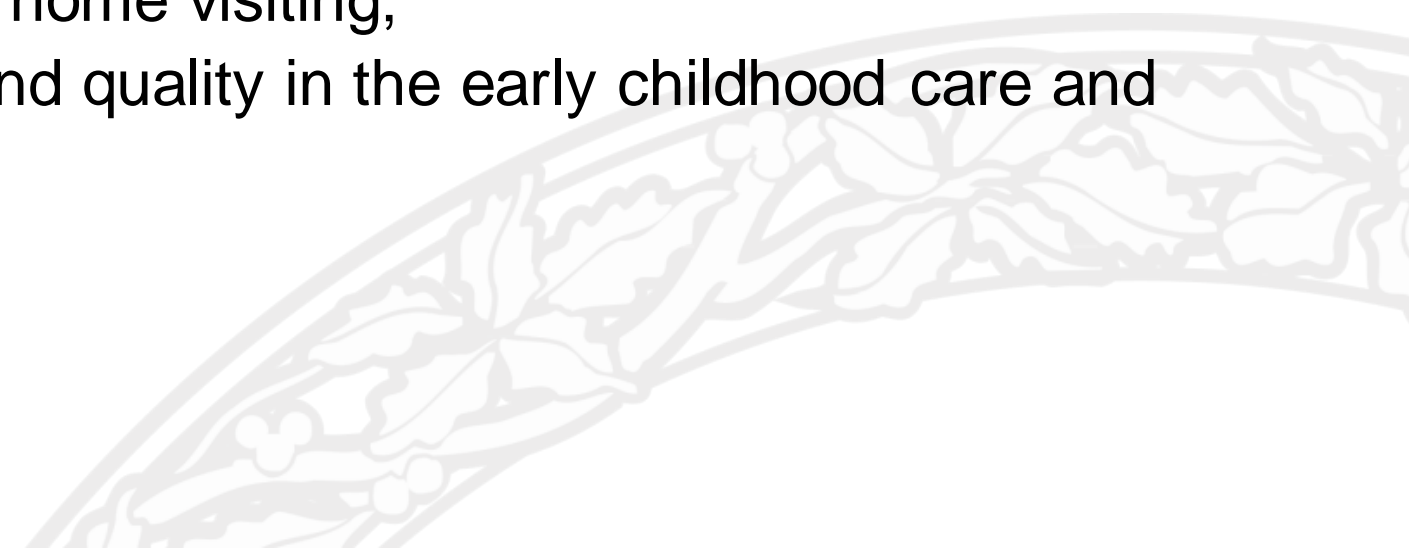
# The Way Ahead: Virginia's Whole Family Approach to Prenatal to Age Three Policy

November 14, 2019

Gena Berger, Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Virginia

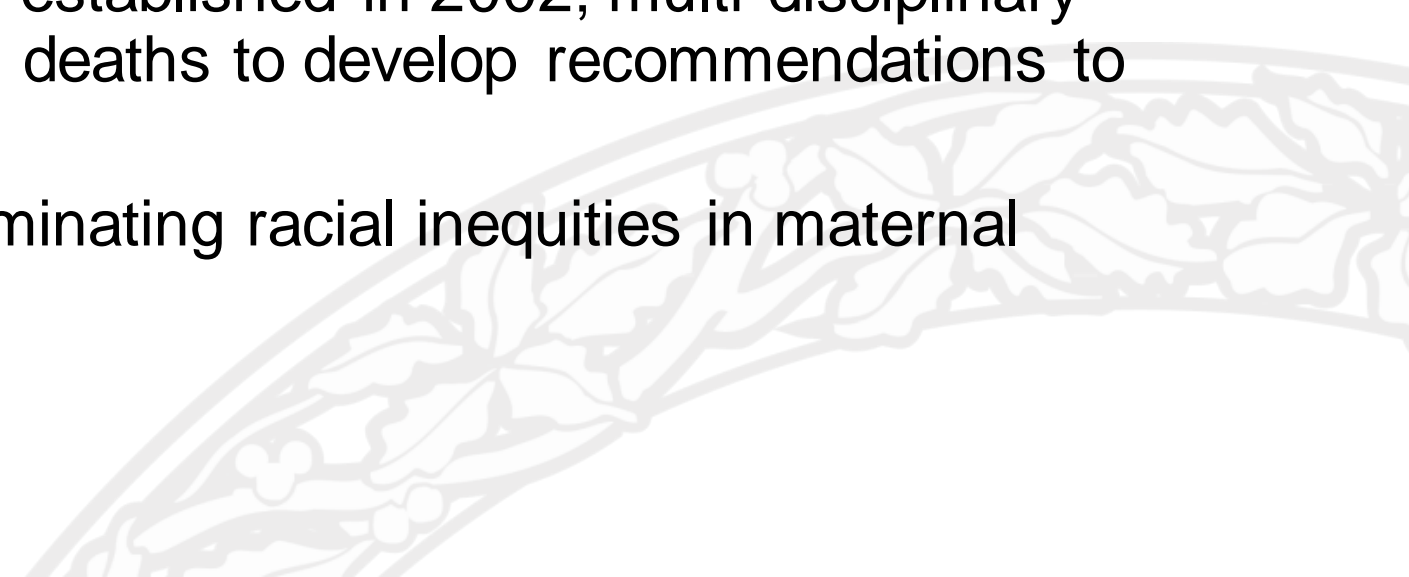
## Overview

**Virginia continues to strengthen its zero to age 3 policies through a whole family approach. The goal is to design policies that align three major areas:**

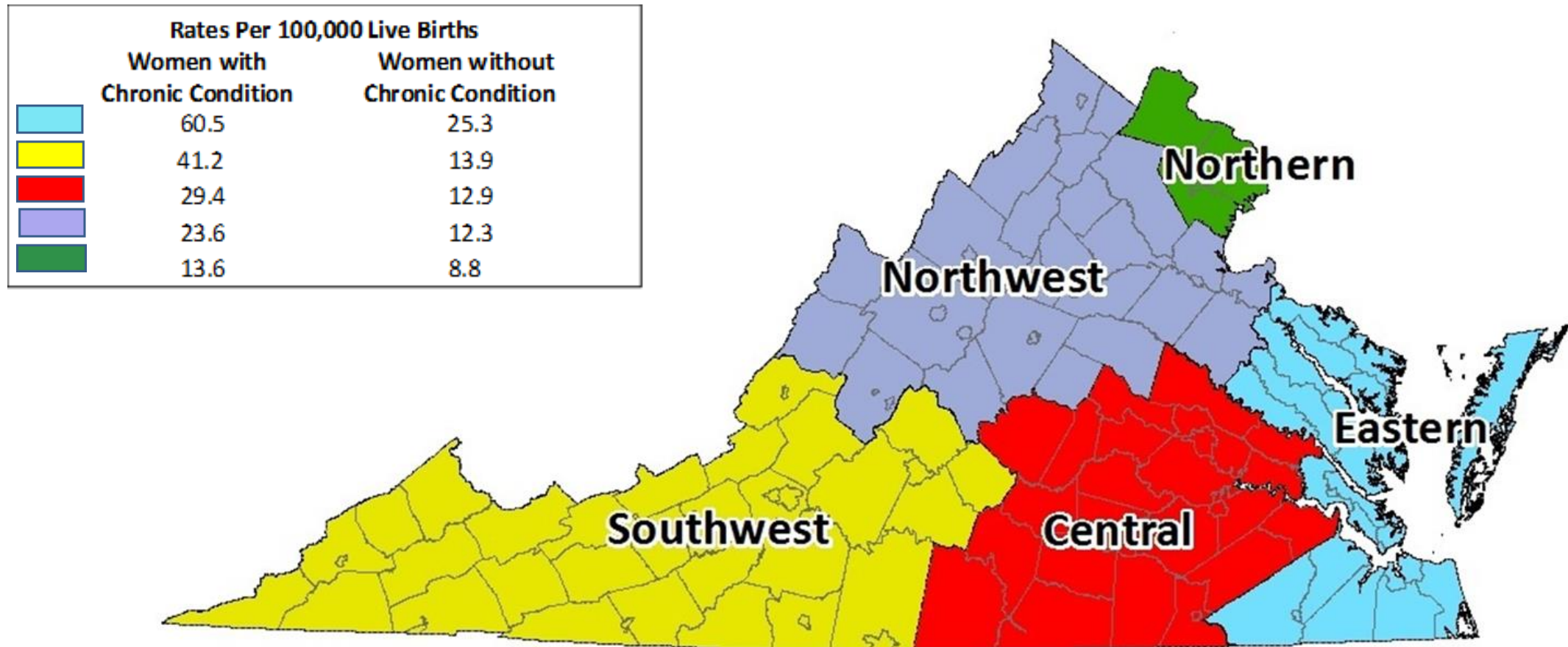
- Improving maternal health and eliminating racial inequities in maternal/infant mortality
  - Implementing a cohesive plan for home visiting;
  - Increasing access, affordability, and quality in the early childhood care and education system
- 



## Maternal Health

- Maternal mortality rate is increasing in U.S. and Virginia
  - Significant racial inequities in the rates, causes of deaths, manners of deaths and contributors to maternal mortality
  - Maternal mortality rate for Black women is over two times as high as White women in Virginia
  - Maternal Mortality Review Team established in 2002; multi-disciplinary team reviews pregnancy-related deaths to develop recommendations to reduce preventable deaths
  - Governor announced goal of eliminating racial inequities in maternal mortality rate by 2025
- 

## Map of Maternal Mortality Rates by Health Planning Region, 1999-2012































# CHILDREN'S CABINET



## MATERNAL HEALTH LISTENING SESSION

Following Governor Northam's announcement this year of a goal to improve maternal health and eliminate the racial disparity in the maternal mortality rate in Virginia by 2025, the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources will hold a series of Maternal Health Listening Sessions and Community Forums this fall across the Commonwealth. Each roundtable aims to bring together community organizations, local health care providers and hospital systems, elected officials, and leaders at state agencies to hear from individuals with lived experience and discuss strategies to improve maternal health. These sessions will help inform the development of a five-year strategic plan for achieving the Governor's goal to improve maternal health. All sessions are open to the public.

 <b>Thursday, September 26, 2019</b> Hampton, VA 6:30pm  Hampton University Turner Hall Building Auditorium Room #129 200 William R. Harvey Way Hampton, Virginia 23668  <b>Partners</b> • Delegate Jason Ward • Senator Mahesh Locke	 <b>Monday, September 30, 2019</b> Annandale, VA 6:00pm  Northern Virginia Community College Annandale Campus Ernst Community Cultural Center President's Dining Room 8333 Little River Turnpike Annandale, Virginia 22003  <b>Partners</b> • Delegate Cherrise Herring	 <b>Thursday, October 3, 2019</b> Lynchburg, VA 6:00pm  Community Access Network 800 5th St. Lynchburg, Virginia 24504	 <b>Monday, October 7, 2019</b> Petersburg, VA 6:00pm  Virginia State University Gateway Event Center 2804 Martin Luther King Dr. Colonial Heights, Virginia 23834  <b>Partners</b> • Delegate Latresce Aird • Senator Rosalyn Dance
 <b>Tuesday, October 8, 2019</b> Prince William, VA 7:30pm  Hyatt Education Center Sentara Northern Virginia Medical Center 2300 Opitz Blvd Woodbridge, Virginia 22191  <b>Partners</b> • Delegate Elizabeth Guzman • Delegate Jennifer Carroll Foy • Delegate Hala Ayala	 <b>Wednesday, October 9, 2019</b> Portsmouth, VA 6:00pm  Lucas Lodge 1214 County Street Portsmouth, Virginia 23705  <b>Partners</b> • Senator Louise Lucas	 <b>Thursday, October 17, 2019</b> Danville, VA 6:00pm  320 Holbrook St. Danville, Virginia 24541	 <b>Wednesday, October 23, 2019</b> Abingdon, VA 6:00pm  Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center One Partnership Circle Abingdon, Virginia 24212  <b>Partners</b> • United Way of Southwest Virginia
 <b>Monday, October 28, 2019</b> Richmond, VA 6:00pm  Richmond Main Branch Library 101 E Franklin St. Richmond, Virginia 23219  <b>Partners</b> • Senator Jennifer McClellan	 <b>Tuesday, October 29, 2019</b> Winchester, VA 6:00pm  Handley Regional Library 100 W. Piccadilly St. Winchester, Virginia 22601		

## Listening Session Themes

- Individual, system, structural bias is impacting ability to access high quality care prior to, during, and after pregnancy
- Need to invest in collaborative care models---This gives women and families more choices in providers/place of birth, and provides care coordination
- Need for greater emphasis on mental health trauma screenings in prenatal and postpartum period
- More focus on care and services in the postpartum period
- Policies and practices are causing women to be fearful of seeking prenatal and postpartum care (esp due to immigration status, SUD, or domestic violence)
- Healthy pregnancies start with healthy individuals prior to pregnancy
- All solutions must be community-driven and community-specific

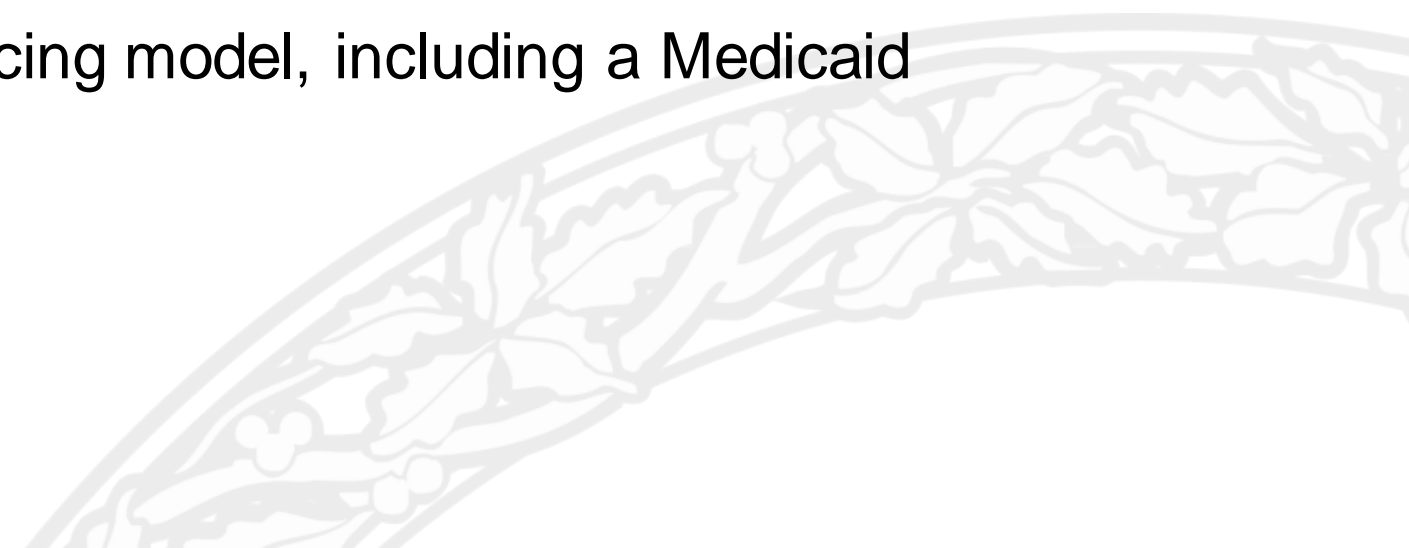
## Initial Focus Areas for Maternal Health

- Care Environment
  - Implicit bias training for health care providers and staff
  - Neonatal/Perinatal Collaborative to focus on quality improvement at targeted hospitals
  - Collaborative care models
- Coverage
  - Medicaid expansion
  - Expedite Medicaid enrollment for pregnant and postpartum women
  - Extend postpartum coverage to 12 months for 139-205% FPL
  - Eliminate barriers to coverage for immigrant community
  - Expand existing and explore new benefits for covered populations
- Community-Based Services
  - Home visiting, community doulas, midwives, community health workers, group prenatal and postpartum classes, care navigation



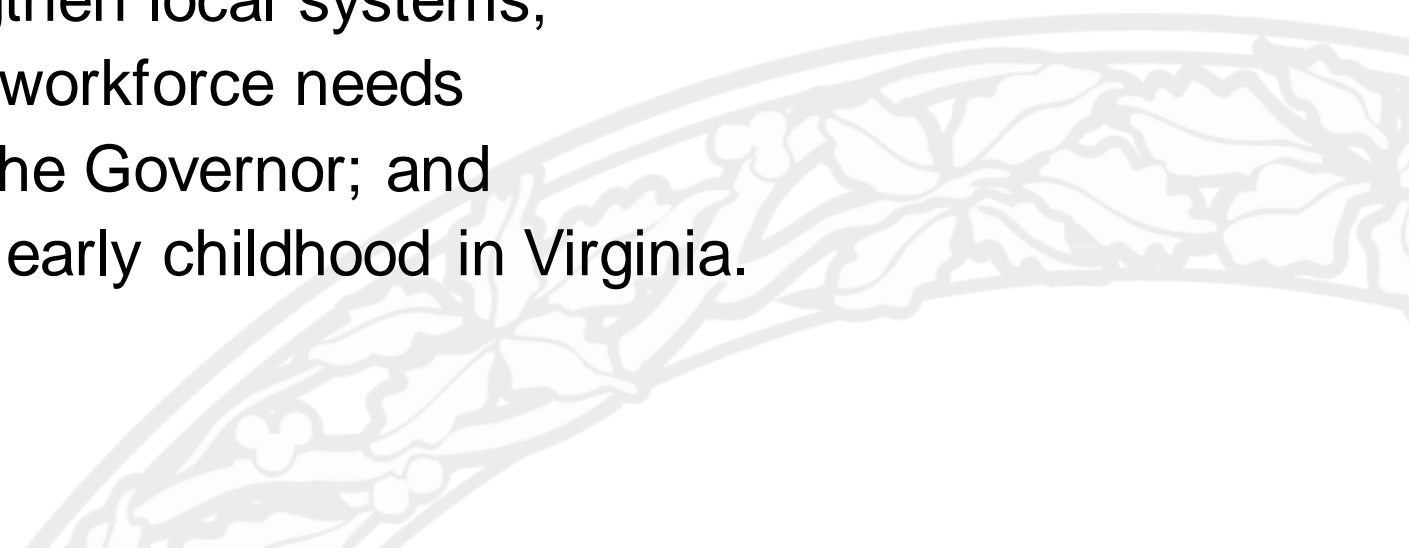
# Home Visiting Plan

**The Early Impact Leadership Council, which includes representatives from multiple agencies, is currently defining the Key Elements for Virginia's Plan for Home Visiting, including:**

- Adopting Uniform Indicators for Statewide Reporting and Accountability
  - Defining provider qualifications and exploring certification strategies; and
  - Establishing a sustainable financing model, including a Medicaid reimbursement model.
- 

## Early Childhood Care and Education

**Virginia continues to make progress in strengthening its early childhood care and education system in order to prepare all children for kindergarten. Specifically we are focused on:**

- Implementing a cohesive plan for home visiting;
  - Producing a statewide needs assessment;
  - Supporting communities to strengthen local systems;
  - Recognizing educators; focus on workforce needs
  - Producing recommendations for the Governor; and
  - Pursuing additional resources for early childhood in Virginia.
- 

## Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5)

**In January 2019, Virginia received and began to implement a \$9.9m PDG B-5 grant, focused on 3 key activities:**

1. A statewide vision, needs assessment, and strategic plan  
*Process and materials will be catalyst for strengthening the early childhood care and education system to improve outcomes including school readiness.*
2. Community models ready to scale  
*Eleven early adopter communities, representing Virginia's diversity, will demonstrate proof of concept with \$6 million in funding and support from state, including \$4 million in recognition grants for teachers.*
3. A stronger foundation at the state level  
*The Commonwealth will be well positioned to scale the efforts statewide, having built the necessary capacity and infrastructure.*



## PDG B-5: Accomplishments

**Since receiving a \$9.9 million Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five, we have:**

- Completed a needs assessment and final draft of a strategic plan
- Recruited new partners and built new relationships in all 11 pilots
- Registered more than 575 sites and 2,500 teachers across family day home, child care, Head Start and schools in 27 jurisdictions
- Collected more than 2,000 survey responses from teachers
- Conducted self-assessments in all pilots to determine how families learn about, apply and enroll in early childhood programs
- Distributed more than \$684,000 in funds via 1,140 checks to teachers and 228 checks to sites
- Collaborated to design, build and launch a new data portal (LinkB5)

## On the Horizon: New PDG B-5 Funding Opportunity

**Announced in September 2019, the PDG B-5 Renewal Grant is a funding opportunity to build and expand upon the previous grant work.**

Recipients will be able to apply for up to three years of funding to:

1. Update needs assessment and strategic plan.
2. Implement collaboration, coordination, and quality improvement activities as detailed in strategic plans.
3. Develop recommendations to better use existing resources to improve overall participation of children, particularly vulnerable, underserved or unserved children and children with, or at risk for, disabilities in mixed delivery settings.
4. Expand access to existing programs and develop new programs to address the needs of children and families eligible for, but not served by, existing early childhood education programs.
5. Pursue innovative approaches to coordinating enrollment, better serving infants and toddlers, and/or supporting transitions from early childhood to early grades.

## Executive Directive #4

**On July 27, the Governor signed Executive Directive #4 to establish an Executive Leadership Team to develop a set of recommendations.**

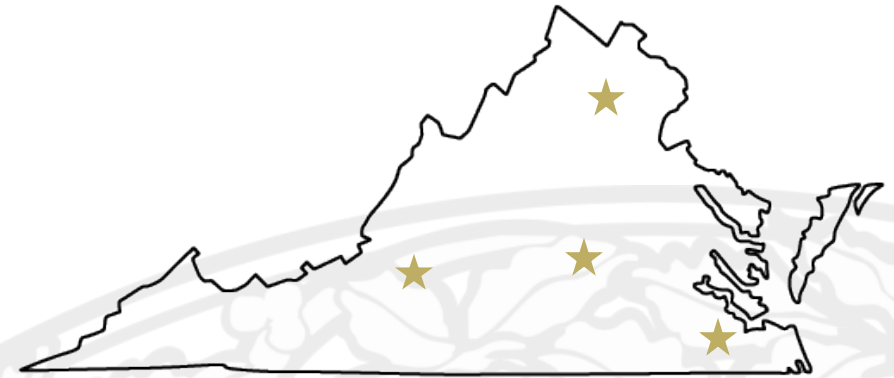
Specifically it directed a cross-agency team to:

- Conduct a series of stakeholder listening sessions on how to improve school readiness.
- Make recommendations on how to maximize access for underserved children and families, including offering an option to every underserved three-year-old and four-year-old by 2025 without jeopardizing access for infants and toddlers.
- Build, pilot, and scale a uniform quality measurement and improvement system for all early childhood care and education programs that accept public funds to serve children five and under outside of their homes.
- Develop recommendations to most effectively consolidate state oversight and administration for all early care and education programs.

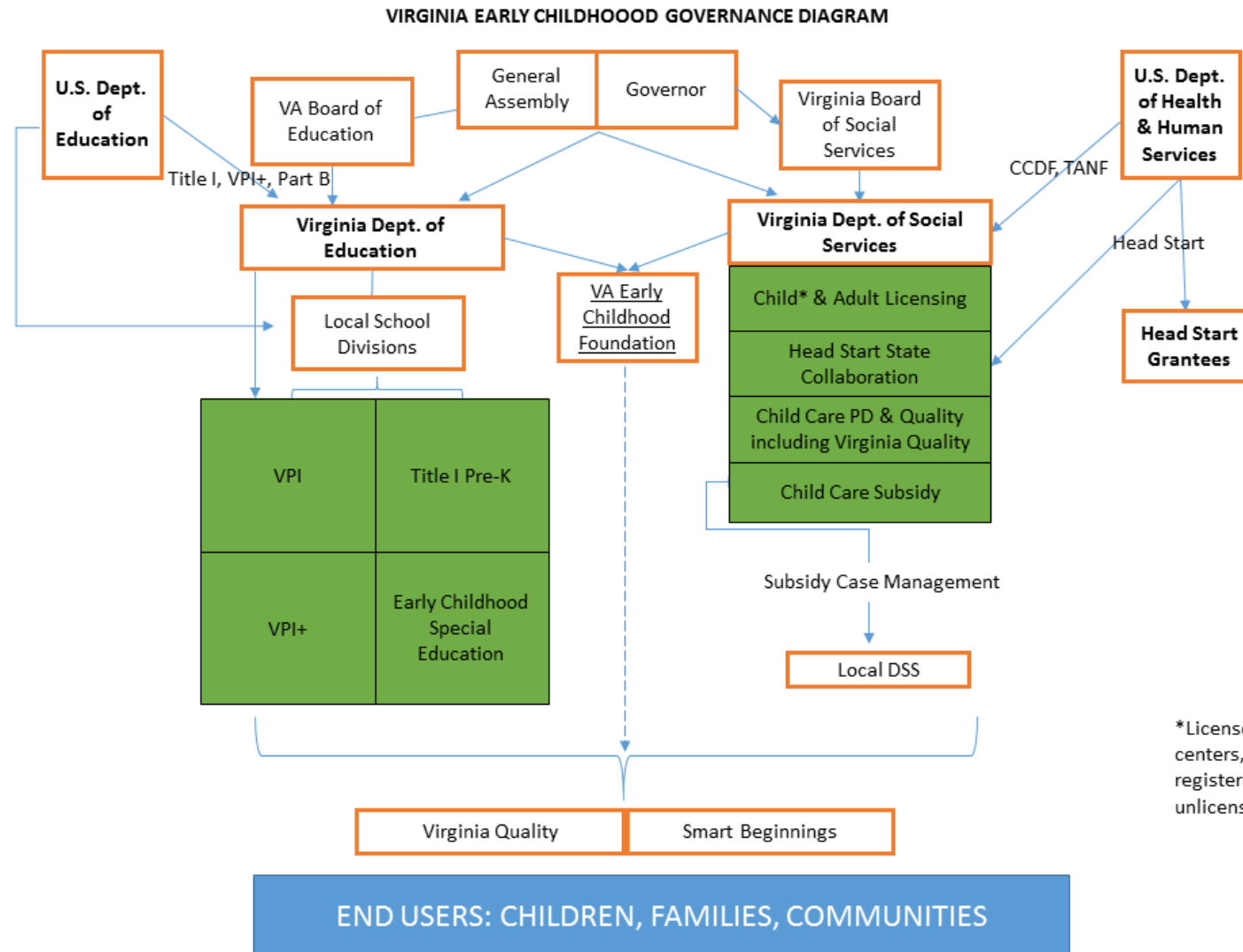
## Responding to Executive Directive #4

**More than 300 individuals participated in listening sessions and more than 30 state employees involved in planning process.**

- Partners were: Smart Beginnings, schools, social services, Head Start and child care programs
- Listening sessions in Norfolk, Annandale, Salem, and Chesterfield.
- More than 300 attendees representing 200+ organizations:
  - State, local, municipal government, elected officials
  - Head Start, Community Action agencies
  - Child care centers and family day home providers
  - Higher education and PreK-12 school systems
  - Non-profit organizations
  - Healthcare, consultants, media
  - Businesses



## Governance



\*Licensed & religious exempt centers, licensed and voluntary registered family day homes, unlicensed subsidy providers

Questions?

Gena Boyle Berger, MPA

Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Resources

Virginia, Office of the Governor

[gena.berger@governor.virginia.gov](mailto:gena.berger@governor.virginia.gov)



***Break***

# Special Presentation



# Update from Pritzker



**Brandy Jones Lawrence**  
State Program Manager  
Pritzker Children's Initiative

# State Team Time

# Affinity Groups Lunch

Health

Human Services

Early Learning

# Hot Topics Presentations

## Early Intervention



**Ron Benham**

Retired Massachusetts Department  
of Public Health

## Child Welfare



**Elizabeth Jordan**

Director of Policy Communications  
and Outreach  
Child Trends

## Home Visiting



**Dr. Monique Fountain Hanna**

Chief Medical Officer/CQI and  
Innovation Advisor  
U.S. Public Health Service

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic visual effect.

# NGA

## Prenatal to Age 3 (PN3) Policy Academy

Early Intervention as a  
Collaborative Partner

Charleston, South Carolina

November 13-15, 2019

# Ron's brief story

- ▶ 35 year career at Massachusetts Department of Public Health
- ▶ Retired end of state fiscal year 2018
- ▶ Twenty five years as Early Intervention (EI) Director and ten years as concurrent Title V Maternal and Child Health Director
- ▶ During final ten years had management responsibilities of Early Intervention, Title V Maternal and Child Health, Women Infants and Children nutrition program, federal Home Visiting program and a range of other young children and their families programs

# Collaborative Opportunities

- ▶ Building a comprehensive system of care for very young children and their families
- ▶ Embedding importance of maternal health and well being into all system models
- ▶ Interfacing with state's child welfare system
- ▶ Potential to broaden of program eligibility



## Opportunities continued...

- ▶ Potential incentives for meeting program system change milestones
- ▶ Engaging a broader coalition of influence and engagement for political support
- ▶ Shared training across served population

# Collaborative Challenges

- ▶ Building a sustainable system of care across multiple program platforms
- ▶ Successful on-going collaboration is hard
- ▶ Trusting shared leadership
- ▶ Turnover of leadership champions  
(Governor Office, Legislator, Advocates)

## Challenges continued...

- ▶ Categorical funding/ Disparate programmatic eligibility
- ▶ Evidence based service models vs best/promising practices
- ▶ Building effective political advocacy network
- ▶ Workforce requirements

# Concluding Thoughts

- ▶ Relationships are critically important
- ▶ Encouraging/incentivizing program's leadership to stay in their positions
- ▶ No individual program has all the answers
- ▶ There are plenty of children in need of services to go around to all players
- ▶ Funding is key
- ▶ Think like a community organizer/bring people together
- ▶ Don't kick sand in the sandbox



# Family First Act

New opportunities to support young children and their families



## Today's conversation

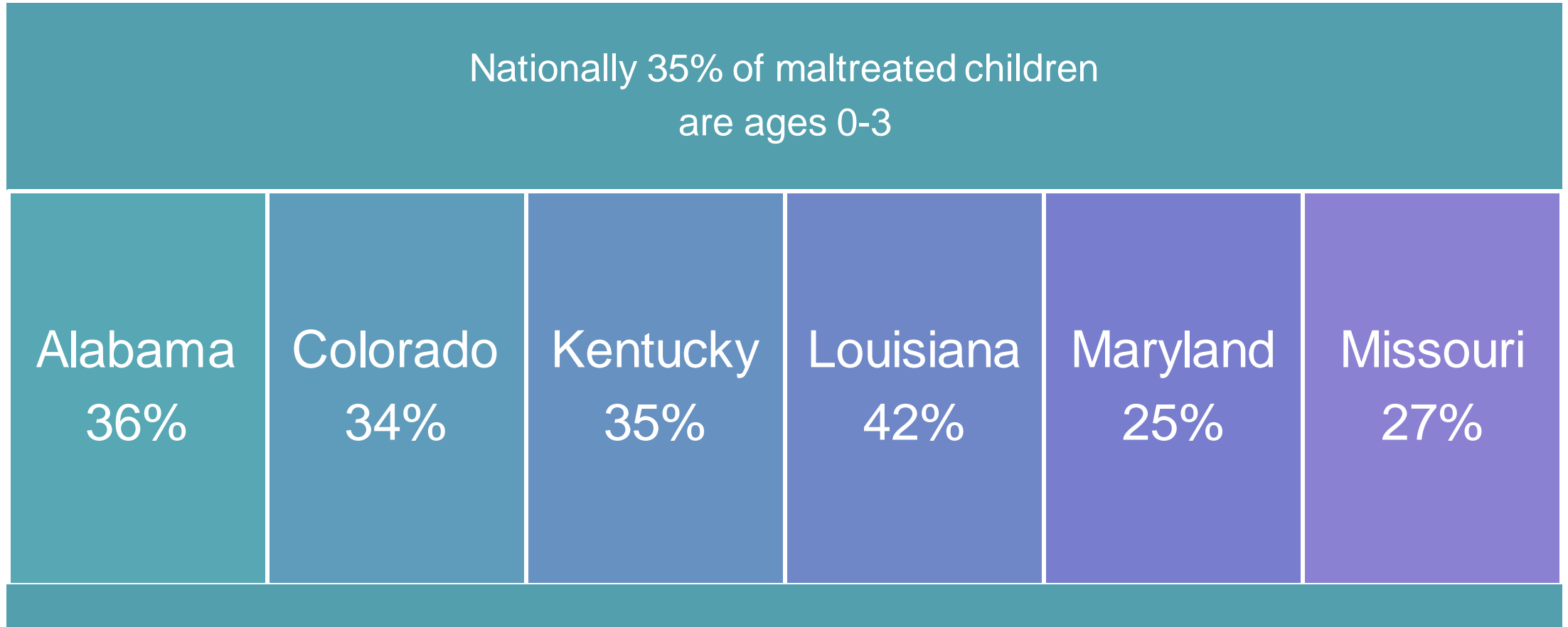
1. Snapshot of the purpose of the child welfare system
2. Data on young children involved in the child welfare system
3. Overview of the Family First Act
4. Strategies for leveraging Family First to support young children

“

*The goal of child welfare is to promote the well-being, permanency, and safety of children and families by helping families care for their children successfully or, when that is not possible, helping children find permanency with kin or adoptive families. Among children who enter foster care, most will return safely to the care of their own families or go to live with relatives or an adoptive family.*



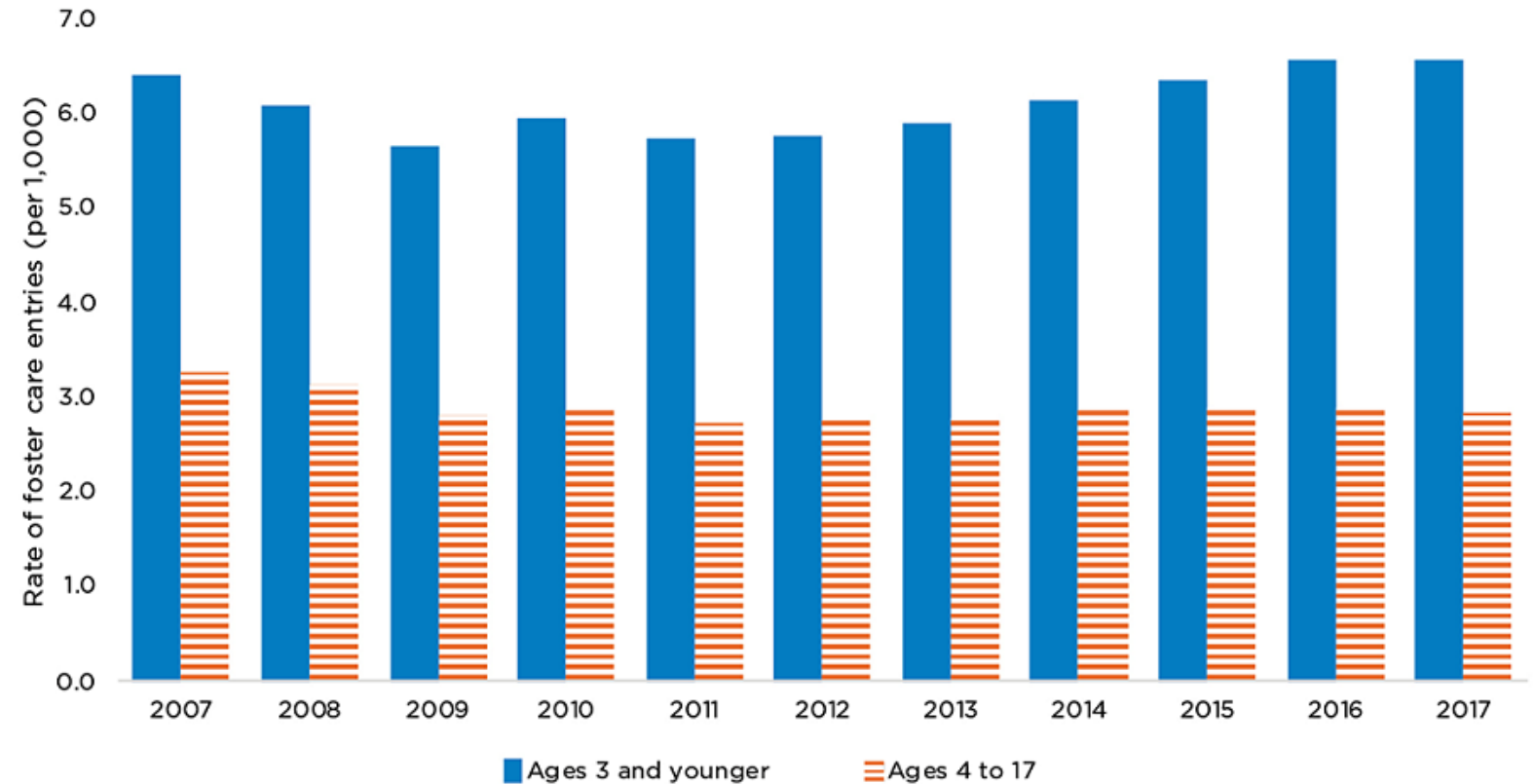
# Young children are disproportionately represented in the child welfare system



## Young children in foster care

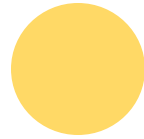
### The rate of children ages 3 and younger entering foster care in 2017 was double that of older children and youth

Rate per 1,000 children entering foster care in Fiscal Year 2017, by age group and all children

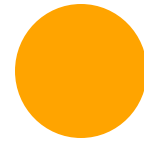


Foster care entry rates per 1,000 in the general child population (ages 17 and under) are calculated using the federal Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) and data from the U.S. Census Bureau. AFCARS data pertain to the FY 2017 reporting period (October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017). Data from the U.S. Census Bureau are from 2017 and are publicly available at the Kids Count Data Center.

## Key provisions of the Family First Prevention Services Act



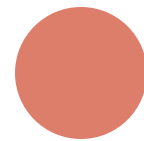
Prioritizes placement with family and in family-like settings



Broadens existing major federal funding stream to include services that prevent entry to foster care



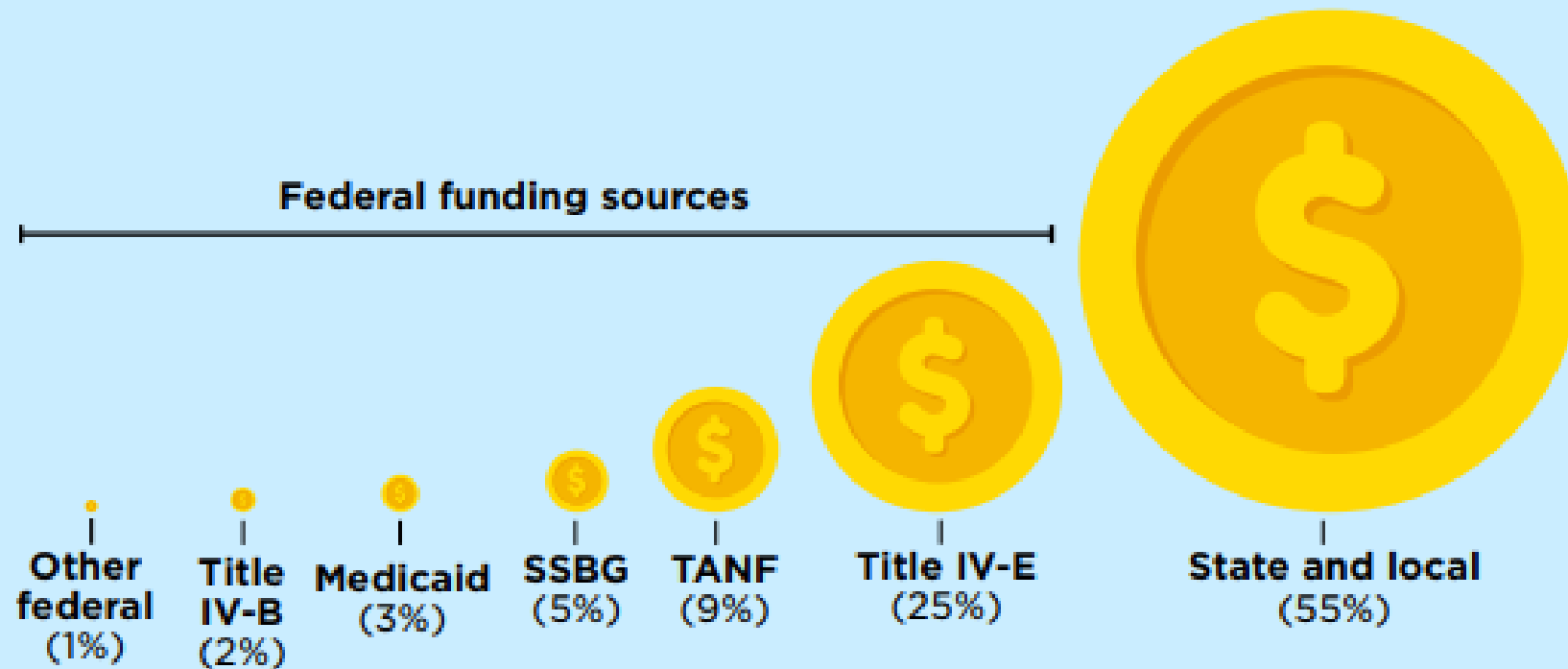
Promotes use of evidence-based programs that prevent entry to foster care



Provides additional supports to kinship caregivers

# Child welfare funding sources

## Sources of child welfare funding in SFY 2016



Note: Each state reported data based on its SFY 2016, which for most states is July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016. Of the 50 participating states, only six (AL, DC, MI, NY, TX, and WY) reported a different SFY calendar.

# Opportunities for supporting young children and their families in Family First

**Connect  
with child  
welfare  
efforts**

**Be a voice  
for young  
children**

**Share  
evidence &  
experience**

- Formal state planning process
- Existing knowledge base on young children and their needs
- Evidence-based programs
- Pregnant and parenting youth in foster care

# Thank you!

Elizabeth Jordan

202-520-9090

[ejordan@childtrends.org](mailto:ejordan@childtrends.org)







# The Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV)

National Governor's Association: *Integrating and Advancing State Prenatal to Age Three Policies*  
November 14, 2019

**Monique Fountain Hanna, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A.**

**Chief Medical Officer/CQI & Innovation Advisor, Division of Home Visiting and Early Childhood Systems (DHVECS)**

**Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB)**

**Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People**



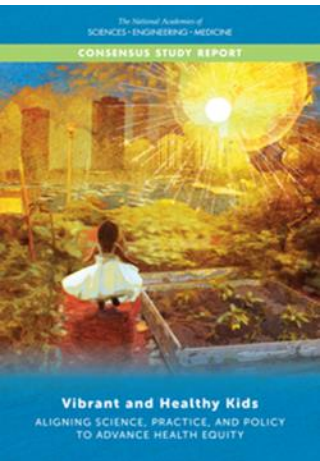


**We envision an America where all children and families are healthy and thriving, where every child and family have a fair shot at reaching their fullest potential.**



# Science of Early Development

- Early experiences are essential for building brain connections that underlie biobehavioral health, and current understanding of whole-child development relies on an interplay of organ systems with each other and the environment.
- Early adversity can change the timing of critical periods of brain development, impacting the “plasticity” of developmental processes that are driven by experiences in the life of the young child and the family.
- Both institutional racism and interpersonal experiences of discrimination can influence the health and well-being of both children and adults in multiple ways, including reducing access to material resources and services that promote long-term health and development and acting as a psychosocial stressor that can lead to worse outcomes over time.



National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2019. *Vibrant and Healthy Kids: Aligning Science, Practice and Policy To Advance Health Equity*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

The National Academies of  
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# Lessons from the Science of Early Development

- Healthy development of the child begins in the preconception period and is dependent upon a strong foundation built prenatally.
- Among all the factors that may serve to buffer negative outcomes produced by toxic stress, supportive relationships between the child and the adults in life are essential.
- Based on the abundant science, the influence of access to basic resources prenatally, particularly nutritional, psychosocial, and health care components, is powerful. Resources to help families to limit chronic stress may reduce risk for disrupted fetal development and help close disparities based on race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status (SES).



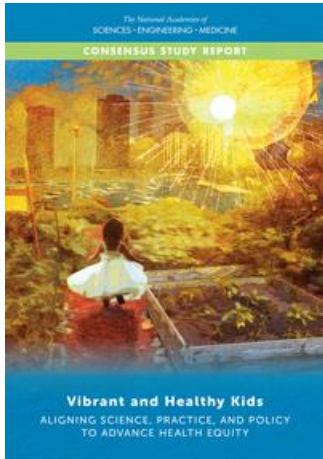
National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2019. *Vibrant and Healthy Kids: Aligning Science, Practice and Policy To Advance Health Equity*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

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# National Academy: Opportunities

- **Intervene early.** In most cases, early intervention programs are easier to implement, more effective, and less costly.
- **Support caregivers.** This includes both primary caregivers and caregivers in systems who frequently interact with children and their families.
- **Reform health care system services to promote healthy development.** Redesign the content of preconception, prenatal, postpartum, and pediatric care while ensuring ongoing access, quality, and coordination.
- **Create supportive and stable early living conditions:**
  - Reduce child poverty and address economic and food security,
  - Provide stable and safe housing, and
  - Eliminate exposure to environmental toxicants.
- **Maximize the potential of early care and education to promote health outcomes.**
- **Implement initiatives across systems** to support children, families, other caregivers, and communities. Ensure trauma-informed systems, build a diverse and supported workforce, and align strategies that work across sectors.
- **Integrate and coordinate resources** across the education, social services, and health care systems, and make them available to translate science to action.

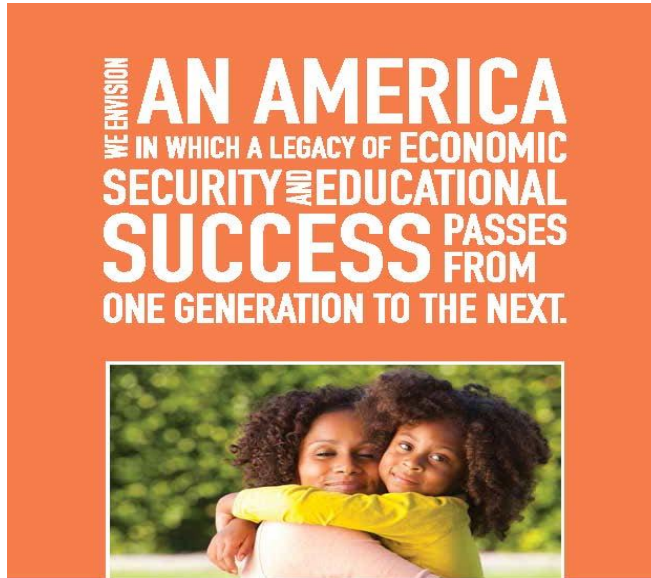


National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2019. *Vibrant and Healthy Kids: Aligning Science, Practice and Policy To Advance Health Equity*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

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# Design Principles for Improving Outcomes



## TWO-GENERATION PLAYBOOK

ASCEND  
THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

- Support responsive relationships for children and adults.
- Strengthen core life skills
- Reduce sources of stress in the lives of children and families



# What is Home Visiting?

Home visiting is a voluntary, evidence-based service to pregnant women and parents with young children from birth to kindergarten entry that is designed to improve maternal and child health outcomes via relationship between a professionally trained home visitor and parent.



# Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV)

- \$400 million appropriation annually for 2018-2022
- Formula Awards to states and territories for implementation of evidence-based home visiting (administered by HRSA)
  - Programs are in all 50 states, D.C. and five territories
  - Competitive innovation awards
- 3% set-aside for grants to Tribal entities (administered by ACF)
- 3% set-aside for research, evaluation, and corrective action technical assistance (HRSA in collaboration with ACF)





# Legislative Changes Highlights

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The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 included:

- Requirement to update the statewide needs assessment by October 1, 2020
- Pay for Outcomes authority
- Data exchange standards to promote interoperability
- Continuation of requirement for awardees to provide information demonstrating improvement in 4 out of 6 benchmark areas

# MIECHV Program Goals

---

MIECHV gives pregnant women and families, particularly those considered at-risk, necessary resources and skills to raise children who are physically, socially, and emotionally healthy and ready to learn.

## Program Goals:

- Improve maternal and child health
- Prevent child abuse and neglect
- Encourage positive parenting
- Promote child development and school readiness
- Promote family economic self-sufficiency
- Support referrals for and provision of other community resources

# MIECHV Program Characteristics

---

- Evidence-based
- Place based systems strategy: locally designed and run
- Home visiting services are provided by trained professionals, such as social workers, nurses, and parent educators
- Meet regularly with at-risk expectant parents or families with young children in their homes, building strong, positive relationships with families
- Establish positive parenting practices and parent–child relationships while also addressing individual family needs
- Supports Families
- Voluntary

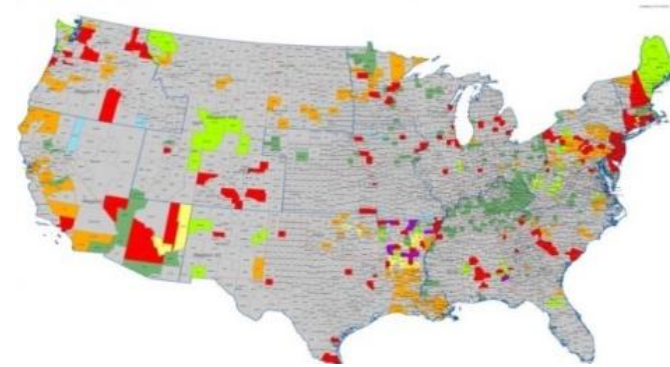
# MIECHV 101

- **Funding**
  - Majority of MIECHV funding allocated via formula awards with 5% allocated to 14 innovation awards
- **Supports Families**
  - Statewide needs assessments identify at-risk communities; states select home visiting models that best meet state and local needs
  - Partnership between parents and home visitors
- **Evidence-based**
  - Built on four decades of rigorous research and evaluation
  - Program models meet HHS criteria for evidence of effectiveness as well as criteria identified in statute for implementation under MIECHV
  - Includes a national random assignment impact study and local evaluations
  - Awardees can spend up to 25% of award implementing Promising Approaches



# MIECHV Implementation

- Programs are in all 50 states, D.C. and five territories and 896 counties (FY 2018)
- In FY 2018, states reported serving more than 150,000 parents and children.
- In FY 2018, states and territories provided over 930,000 home visits, and have provided 5.2 million home visits over the past seven years.



# MIECHV Families

## MIECHV Priority Populations

- Low-income families
- Pregnant women under age 21
- Families with a history of child abuse or neglect
- Families with a history of substance abuse
- Families that have users of tobacco in the home
- Families with children w/low student achievement
- Families with children w/ DD or disabilities
- Families with individuals who are serving or have served in the Armed Forces, including those with multiple deployments

## Populations Served in 2018

- 71% of families < 100% federal poverty
- 42% of families < 50% federal poverty
- 65% did not go to college
- 76% of participating adults and children relied on Medicaid or CHIP
- 13% of enrolled households included pregnant teens
- 19% of enrolled households had a history of child abuse and neglect
- 13% of enrolled households had a history of substance abuse



# Performance Measures

## Benchmark Areas

**I. Maternal and Newborn Health**

**II. Child Injuries, Maltreatment, and Reduction of ED Visits**

**III. School Readiness and Achievement**

**IV. Crime or Domestic Violence**

**V. Family Economic Self-Sufficiency**

**VI. Coordination and Referrals**

## Performance Measures

**Preterm Birth; Breastfeeding; Depression Screening; Well-Child Visit; Postpartum Care; Tobacco Cessation Referrals**

**Safe Sleep; Child Injury; Child Maltreatment**

**Parent-Child Interaction; Early Language and Literacy Activities; Developmental Screening; Behavioral Concerns**

**IPV Screening**

**Primary Caregiver Education; Continuity of Insurance Coverage**

**Completed Depression Referrals; Completed Developmental Referrals; IPV Referrals**



# MIECHV Program Performance Measures

Home visiting services are making a meaningful difference in the lives of vulnerable children and families. Some examples include:

- **Depression Screening:** In FY 2018, 78% of MIECHV caregivers were screened for depression within 3 months of enrollment or 3 months of delivery.
- **School Readiness:** In FY 2018, 70% of children enrolled in MIECHV had a family member who read, told stories, and/or sang with them on a daily basis.
- **Developmental Screening:** In FY 2018, 74% of children enrolled in MIECHV had a timely screening for developmental delays.
- **Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Screening:** In FY 2018, 82% of MIECHV caregivers were screened for IPV within 6 months of enrollment.

# FY17/FY18 Child Health Performance Data Summaries: AL, CO, KT, LA, MD, MO

Trends by Measures	
Early Language + Literacy Activities	1) 4/6 states improved in the Early Languages and Literacy Activities Performance Measure between 2017 and 2018
Developmental Screenings	2) 5/6 States performed higher than the national average in the Developmental Screenings Measure for 2018, 3/6 demonstrated improvement between 2017 and 2018
Behavioral Concern	3) 5/6 states improved in the Behavioral Concern performance measure between 2017 and 2018, 4/6 performed higher than the national average in this measure for 2018.
Preterm Birth (a decrease means improvement)	4) 5/6 States improved in the Preterm Birth Performance Measure, 3/6 performed higher than the national average in this measure for 2018
Well Child Care Visit	5) 3/6 States performed higher than the national average for the Well Child Care Visit for 2018, 3/6 states improved in the Well Child Visit Measure between 2017 and 2018
Child Maltreatment (a decrease means improvement)	6) 3/6 States performed higher than the national average for the Child Maltreatment Measure for 2018, 3/6 states improved in the Child Maltreatment Measure between 2017-

Nationally, all of the 6 performance measures improved between 2017 and 2018. The measures showing the greatest amount of change on a national level, in regards to percent change, were well child visit (+11.8% change), early language and literacy activities (+14.3% change)



# MIECHV Improves Child and Family Outcomes

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- Prevents child abuse and neglect
- Encourages positive parenting
- Promotes child development and school readiness
- Maternal depression
- Reduction of school drop out, substance use, teen pregnancy and crime
- Improved economic self-sufficiency
- On-going evaluations

# Return on Investment

James Heckman, from *Lifecycle Benefits*

High quality birth-to-five programs for disadvantaged children can deliver a

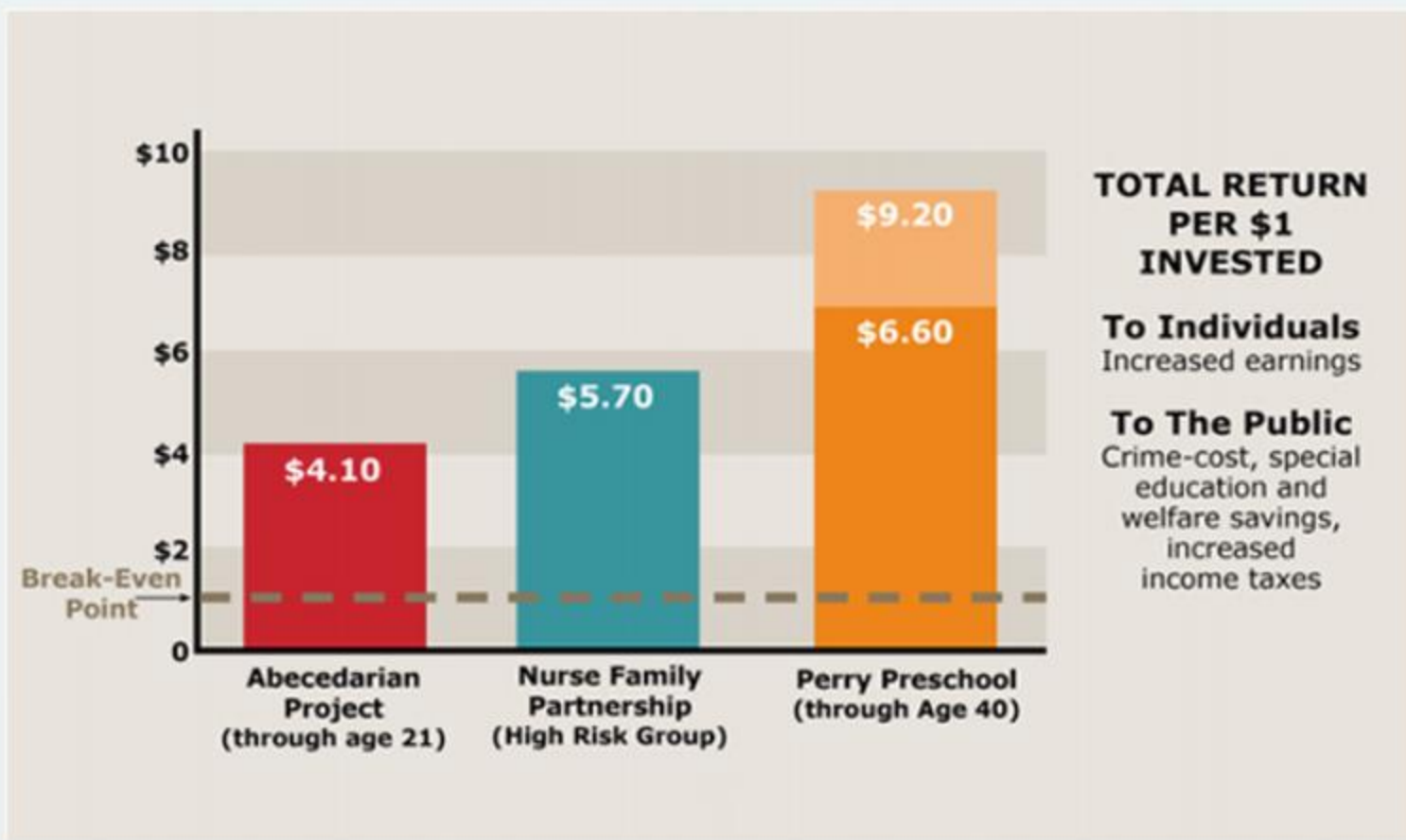
**13%**  
Return on Investment

Starting earlier provides greater returns. Learn more.

[www.heckmanequation.org](http://www.heckmanequation.org)

5

**\$4 - \$9 in Returns For Every Dollar Invested in Early Childhood Programs**



Sources: Masse, L. and Barnett, W.S., A Benefit Cost Analysis of the Abecedarian Early Childhood Intervention (2002); Karoly et al., Early Childhood Interventions: Proven Results, Future Promise

# National Home Visiting Resource Center

- <https://www.nhvrc.org/yearbook/>



## 2018 Home Visiting Yearbook

The *2018 Home Visiting Yearbook* uses 2017 data to present the most up-to-date look at home visiting on the national and state levels. It features data from evidence-based home visiting models and awardees of the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV). There is also a new section highlighting data from nine emerging models



## Summary of Prior Research – Outcomes of Home Visiting

Domain	# of Models that Achieved Positive Impacts in Prior Research*	Examples of Outcomes Achieved
Child Health	10 Models	Evaluation research shows that the Family Connects model has been effective in reducing the number of emergency medical care episodes, and hospital stays among children who participate in the program.
Maternal Health	11 Models	Evaluations of the HANDS models show that participation in the program reducing maternal complications during delivery, improves maternal weight gain during pregnancy, and helps to ensure that mothers obtain adequate prenatal care.
Child Development and School Readiness	12 Models	Evaluation research shows that young children who participated in HIPPO performed better on vocabulary tests and were less likely to delay entry into school than their peers who were not in the program.
Reductions in Child Maltreatment	8 Models	One evaluation of the HFA program in New York found that participating mothers were one-fourth as likely to report engaging in serious abuse or neglect than mothers not participating in the program (5% compared to 19%).
Reductions in Juvenile Delinquency, Family Violence, and Crime	2 Models	A long-term follow-up evaluation of NFP found that children who participated in the program were less likely to have been arrested (21% compared to 37%) or convicted (12% compared to 28%) of a crime by the time they were 19 years old than their peers who did not participate in the program.
Positive Parenting Practices	14 Models	An evaluation of Family Spirit found that At 12 months postpartum, mothers participating in the program had significantly greater parenting knowledge, parenting self-efficacy, and home safety attitudes than mothers in the control group.
Family Economic Self-Sufficiency	6 Models	One evaluation of EHS-HV found that two years after completing the EHS-HV program, families that participated earned an average of \$300 more per month than families in a control group.
Linkages and Referrals	5 Models	An evaluation of the Child First model found that intervention families were successfully connected with 91% of desired community-based services and resources, compared to only 33% for Usual Care families.



\* Prior research refers to research and evaluations that have been reviewed by HomVEE, and meet the criteria to be considered high quality

# Home Visiting: Part of the Solution

## Optimal Early Learning and Long-Term Academic Achievement

Because the early years of life are critical to brain development, parent-child activities like reading together are linked to future academic achievement. Nationally, many children do not get the start they need to launch a positive academic trajectory:

- Sixty-five percent of fourth graders failed to meet standards for reading proficiency in 2017.<sup>xxv</sup>

### Home Visiting as Part of the Solution

Home visitors offer parents timely information about child development, helping them recognize the value of reading and other activities for children's learning. This guidance translates to improvements in children's early language and cognitive development, as well as academic achievement in grades 1 through 3.<sup>xxvi, xxvii</sup>

## Self-Sufficient Parents

Many people do not have the education and job opportunities they need to successfully navigate the transition to parenting and adulthood:

- For 14 percent of children under 18, the head of household had less than a high school diploma.
- For another 44 percent of children under 18, the head of household had only a high school diploma.<sup>xxviii</sup>
- Approximately 3 in 10 children under age 18 lived in families where no parent had regular, full-time employment.<sup>xxix</sup>

### Home Visiting as Part of the Solution

Home visitors help parents set goals to promote their financial self-sufficiency. This support translates to better education and employment outcomes. Compared with their counterparts, parents enrolled in home visiting have higher monthly incomes, are more likely to be enrolled in school, and are more likely to be employed.<sup>xl, xli, xlii, xliii</sup>

National Home Visiting Resource Center. (2018). Home Visiting Primer. Arlington, VA: James Bell Associates and the Urban Institute.





# Home Visiting: Part of the Solution

## Healthy Babies

Access to prenatal care prevents birth complications for both infants and mothers and reduces health care costs.<sup>xxv</sup> Unfortunately, national data reveal that not all babies get a healthy start:<sup>5</sup>

- Six percent of expectant mothers had delayed or no prenatal care.<sup>xxvi</sup>
- Ten percent of infants were born prematurely.<sup>xxvii</sup>
- Approximately 6 percent of infants died before age 1.<sup>xxviii</sup>

## Home Visiting as Part of the Solution

Home visitors work with expectant and new mothers to ensure optimal care in pregnancy and infancy. Indeed, pregnant home visiting participants are more likely to access prenatal care and carry their babies to term.<sup>xxix</sup> Home visiting also promotes infant caregiving practices like breastfeeding, which has been associated with positive long-term outcomes related to cognitive development and child health.<sup>xxx</sup>

## Safe Homes and Nurturing Relationships

Preventable injuries and abuse happen all too frequently to children in the United States:

- Twenty-five percent of children aged 0-5 visited the emergency room because of accident or injury between 2010 and 2013.<sup>xxxi</sup>
- Unintentional injuries were a leading cause of death and disability among children aged 1-4.<sup>xxxii</sup>
- The rate of substantiated child abuse was 9 per 1,000 children under 18, with the majority of victims under age 1.<sup>xxxiii</sup>

## Home Visiting as Part of the Solution

Home visitors provide parents with knowledge and training to make their homes safer. For example, educating parents about how to “baby proof” their home can reduce unintentional injuries. Home visitors also teach parents how to engage with their children in positive, nurturing, and responsive ways, thus reducing child maltreatment.<sup>xxxiv</sup>



National Home Visiting Resource Center. (2018). Home Visiting Primer. Arlington, VA: James Bell Associates and the Urban Institute.

# CHALK TALK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ePS41tV8w-8&feature=youtu.be>





**"The economic benefits of investing in children have been extensively documented. Investing fully in children today will ensure the well-being and productivity of future generations for decades to come. By contrast, the physical, emotional and intellectual impairment that poverty inflicts on children can mean a lifetime of suffering and want – and a legacy of poverty for the next generation... "**

**-- [Carol Bellamy](#) , *Former Executive Director of Unicef***



# Contact Information

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**Monique Fountain Hanna, MD, MPH, MBA**  
**Chief Medical Officer/CQI & Innovation Advisor**  
**Division of Home Visiting and Early Childhood Systems**  
**(DHVECS)**  
**Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB)**  
**Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)**  
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**Web: [mchb.hrsa.gov](http://mchb.hrsa.gov)**





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# Deep Dives with Hot Topic Experts

## Early Intervention



**Ron Benham**

Retired Massachusetts Department  
of Public Health

## Child Welfare



**Elizabeth Jordan**

Director of Policy Communications  
and Outreach  
Child Trends

## Home Visiting



**Dr. Monique Fountain Hanna**

Chief Medical Officer/CQI and  
Innovation Advisor  
U.S. Public Health Service

***Break***



# Understanding the Science of Serving Children and Families



## **Dr. Stacy Drury**

Chief Research Officer, Children's Hospital New Orleans;

Remigio Gonzalez, MD, Professor of Child Psychiatry;

Associate Director, Tulane Brain Institute;

Director, Behavioral and Neurodevelopmental Genetics Laboratory, Tulane University





Tulane





**Children's Hospital**  
New Orleans  
LCMC Health

# THE SCIENCE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTIONS

STACY DRURY, MD PHD

CHIEF RESEARCH OFFICER, CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

REMIGIO GONZALEZ MD PROFESSOR OF CHILD PSYCHIATRY

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, TULANE BRAIN INSTITUTE

Tulane



# DISCLOSURES OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS

- Research funding:
  - NIH
  - SMASHA
  - NSF
  - NARSAD
  - Russel Sage Foundation
  - Tulane
  - Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- I will mention medication use to illustrate neuroscience concepts, however I do not have any ties to the pharmaceutical industry and will mention generic classes of medications

## KEY POINTS

- Kids are different than adults
- What kids need changes
- Parents are important
- Trauma is bad



# Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Theory

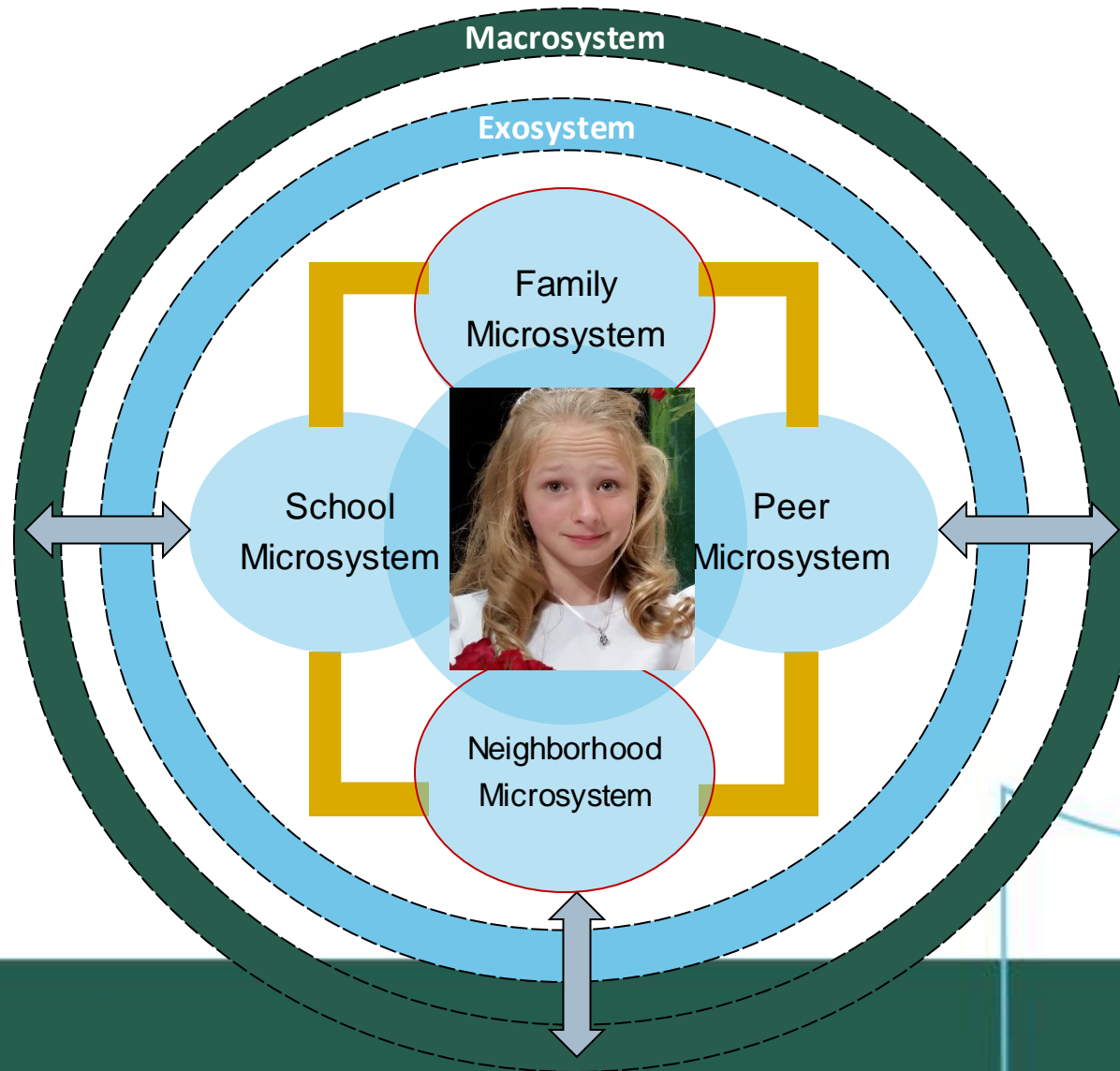
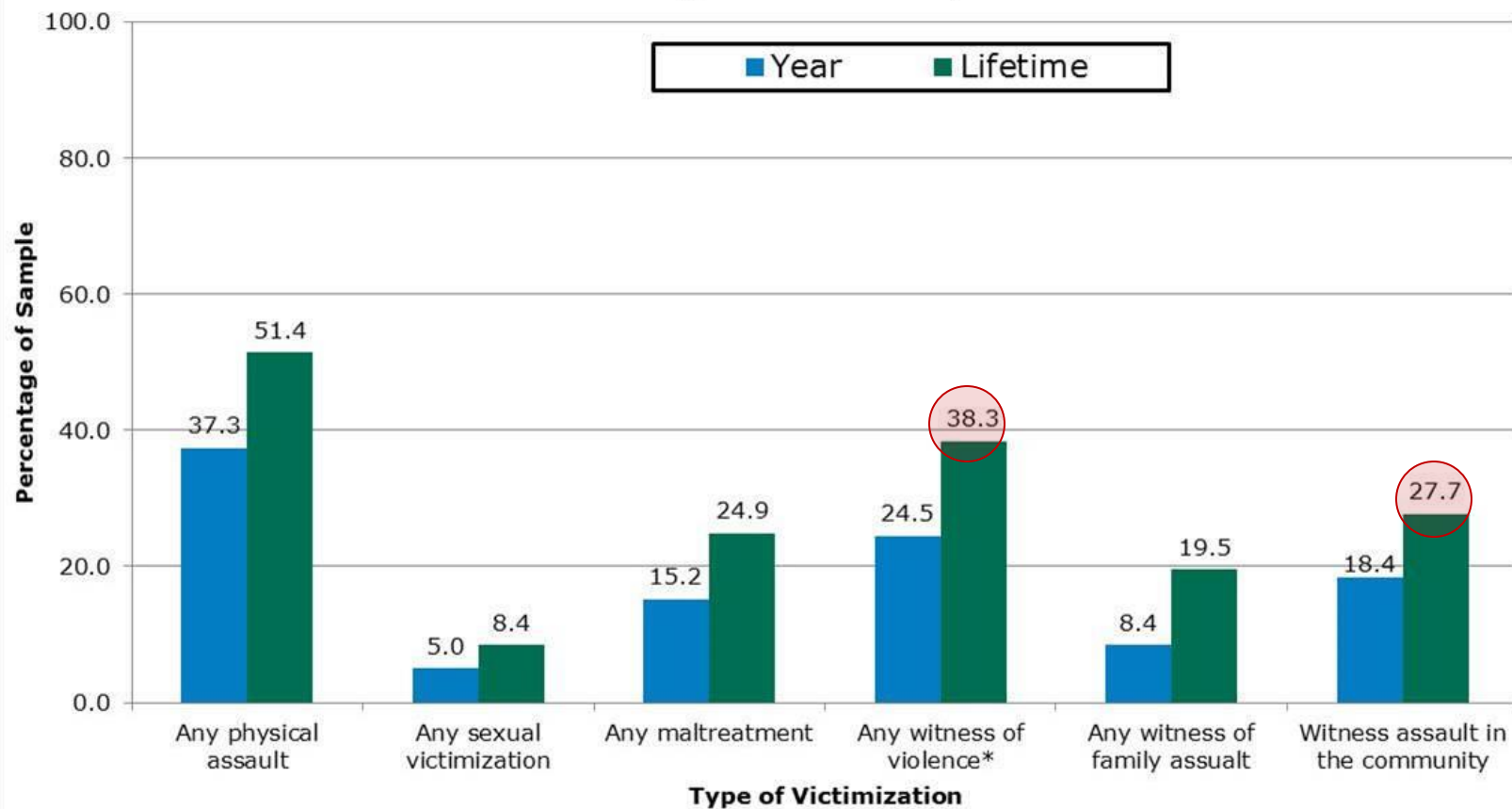


Figure 1

## Children's Exposure to Violence: Percentage Victimized, 2014



\*Excludes indirect exposure to violence

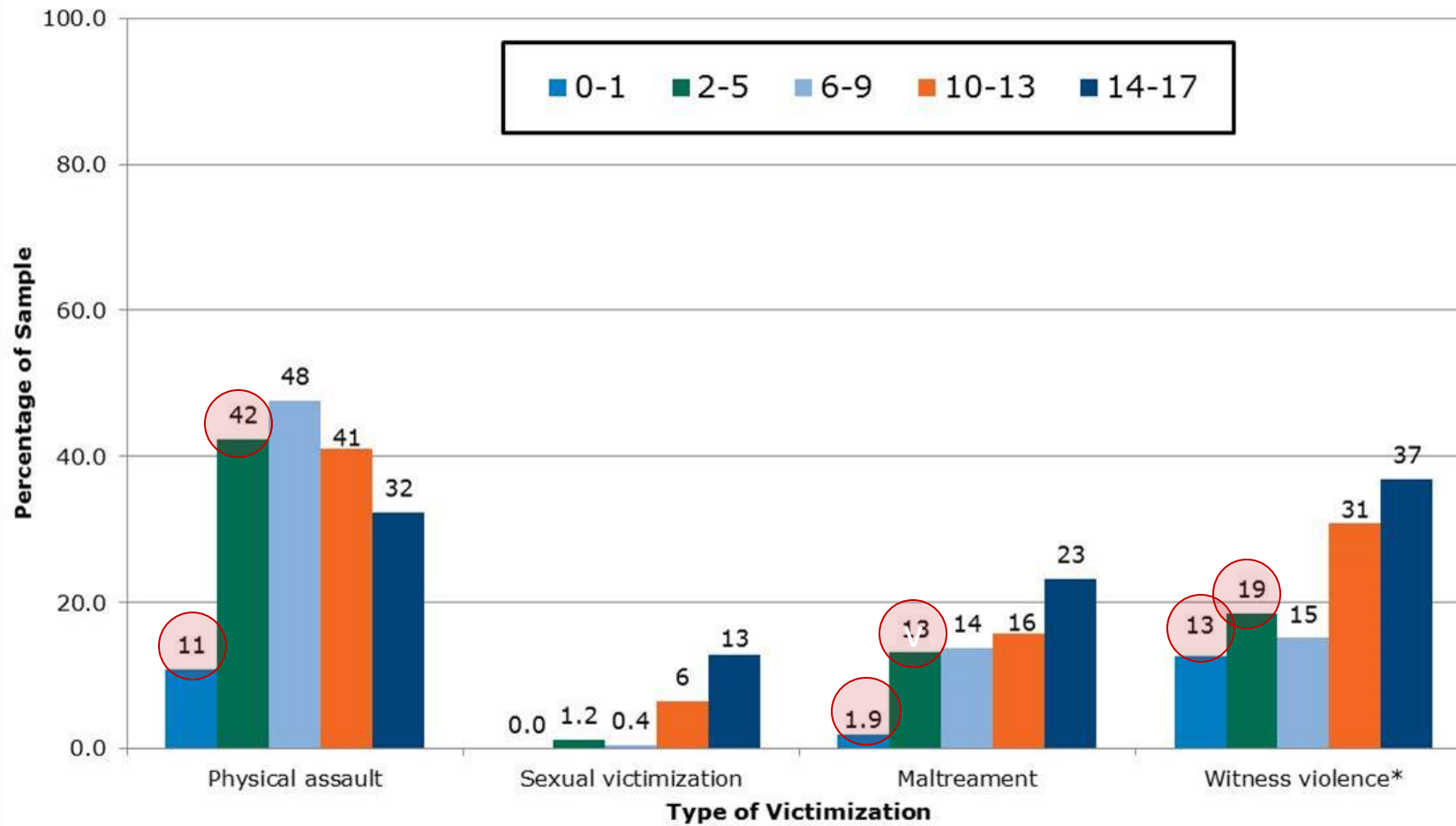
Source: Finkelhor, D., Turner, H. A., Shattuck, A., & Hamby, S. L. (2015) Prevalence of childhood exposure to violence, crime, and abuse: Results from the national survey of children's exposure to violence. JAMA Pediatric, 169(8), 746-754.

Child Trends  
**DATABANK**



Figure 3

## Children's Exposure to Violence in the Past Year: Percentage Victimized, by Child's Age, 2014



\*Excludes indirect exposure to violence

Source: Finkelhor, D., Turner, H. A., Shattuck, A., & Hamby, S. L. (2015) Prevalence of childhood exposure to violence, crime, and abuse: Results from the national survey of children's exposure to violence. JAMA Pediatric, 169(8), 746-754.

Child Trends  
**DATA BANK**

# WHAT AGE CHILDREN ARE AT GREATEST RISK OF MALTREATMENT?

< 4

# BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

- From conception through adult
- Areas of the brain develop at different rates
- Experience expectant and experience dependent

Experiences, both positive and negative, have a differential impact depending on when in development they occur

Areas of the brain that are most rapidly developing at the time of exposure are the areas most impacted

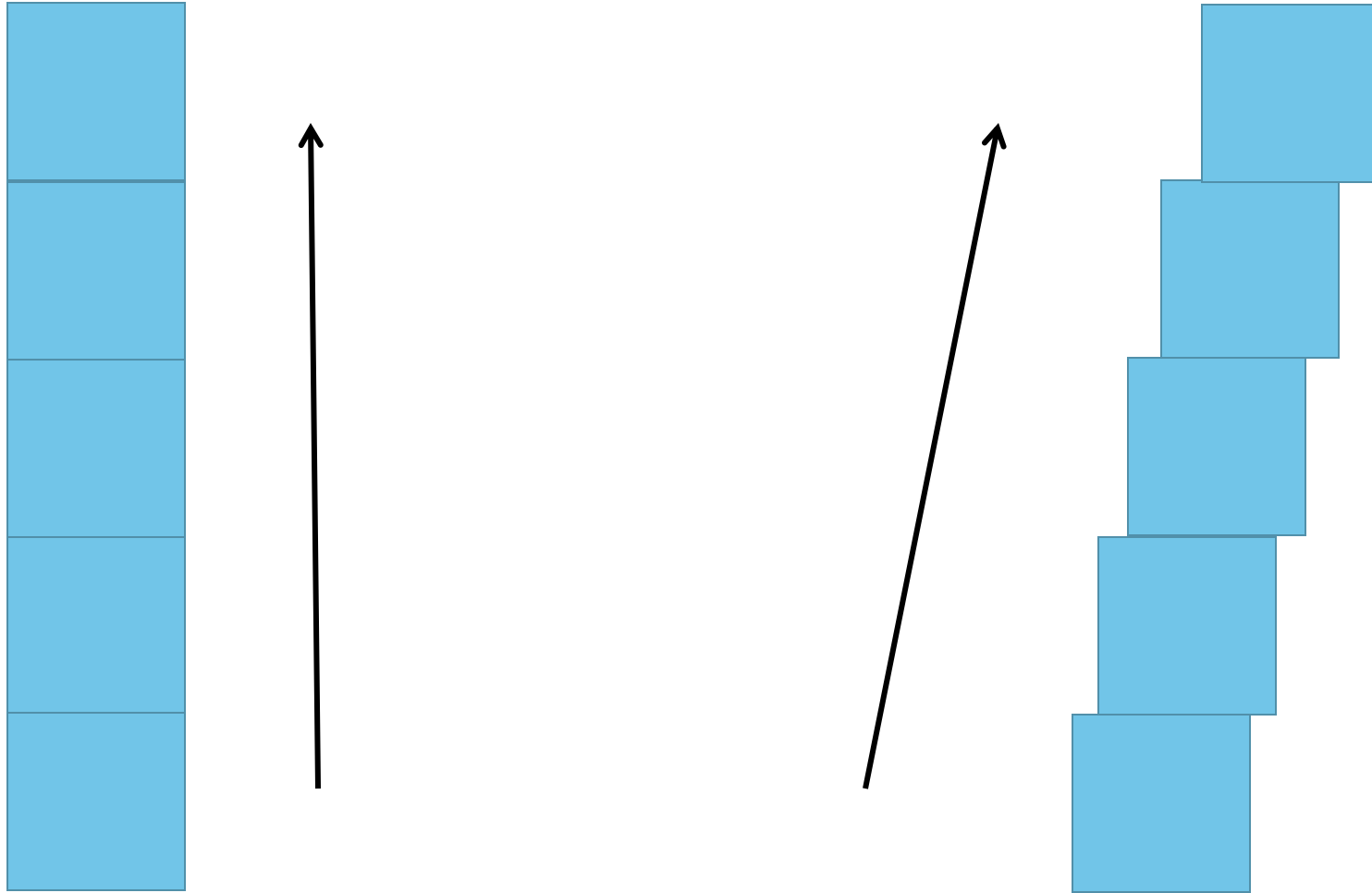
The age at which trauma occurs matters



<http://medstat.med.utah.edu>

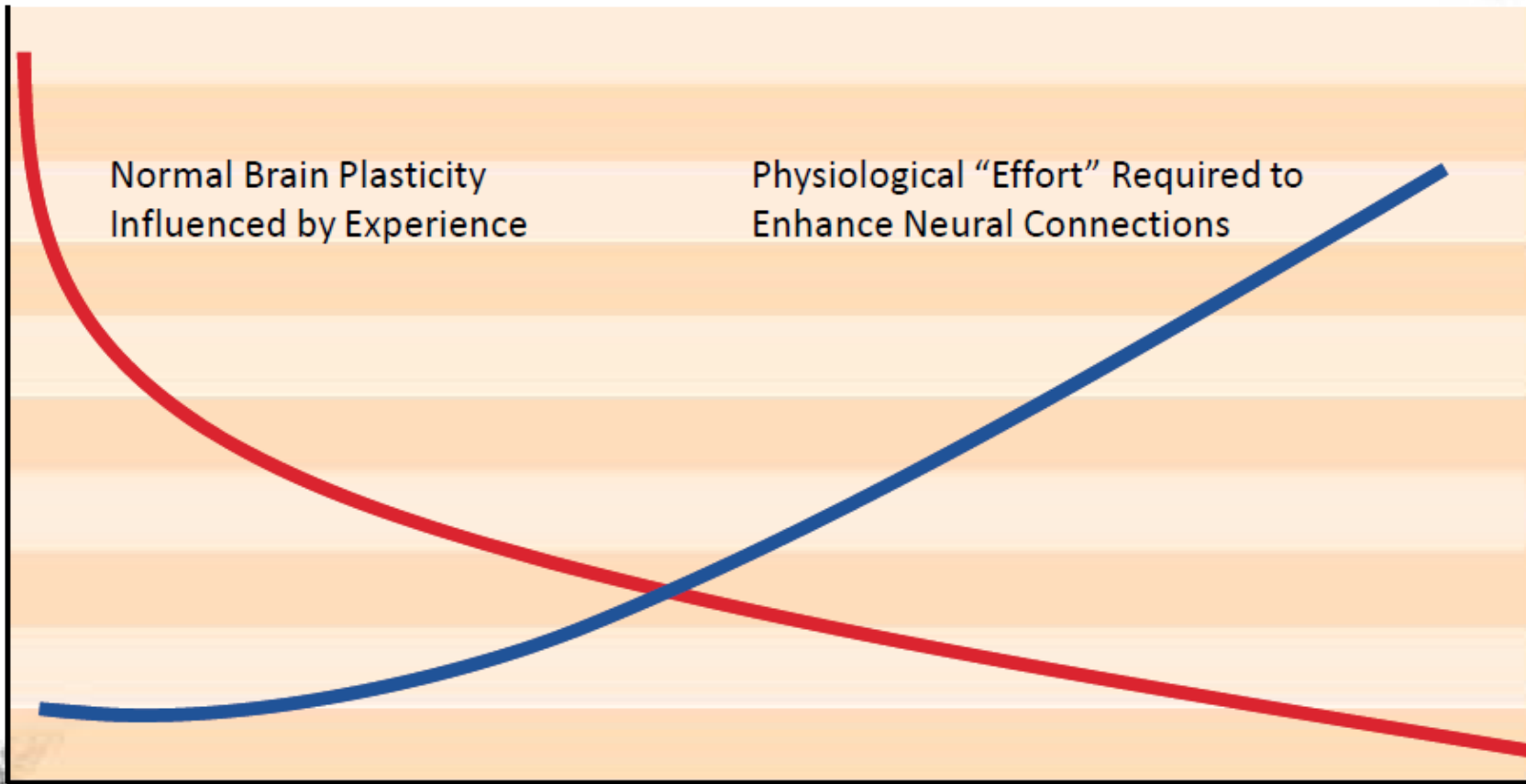
Tulane

# The building blocks of the brain

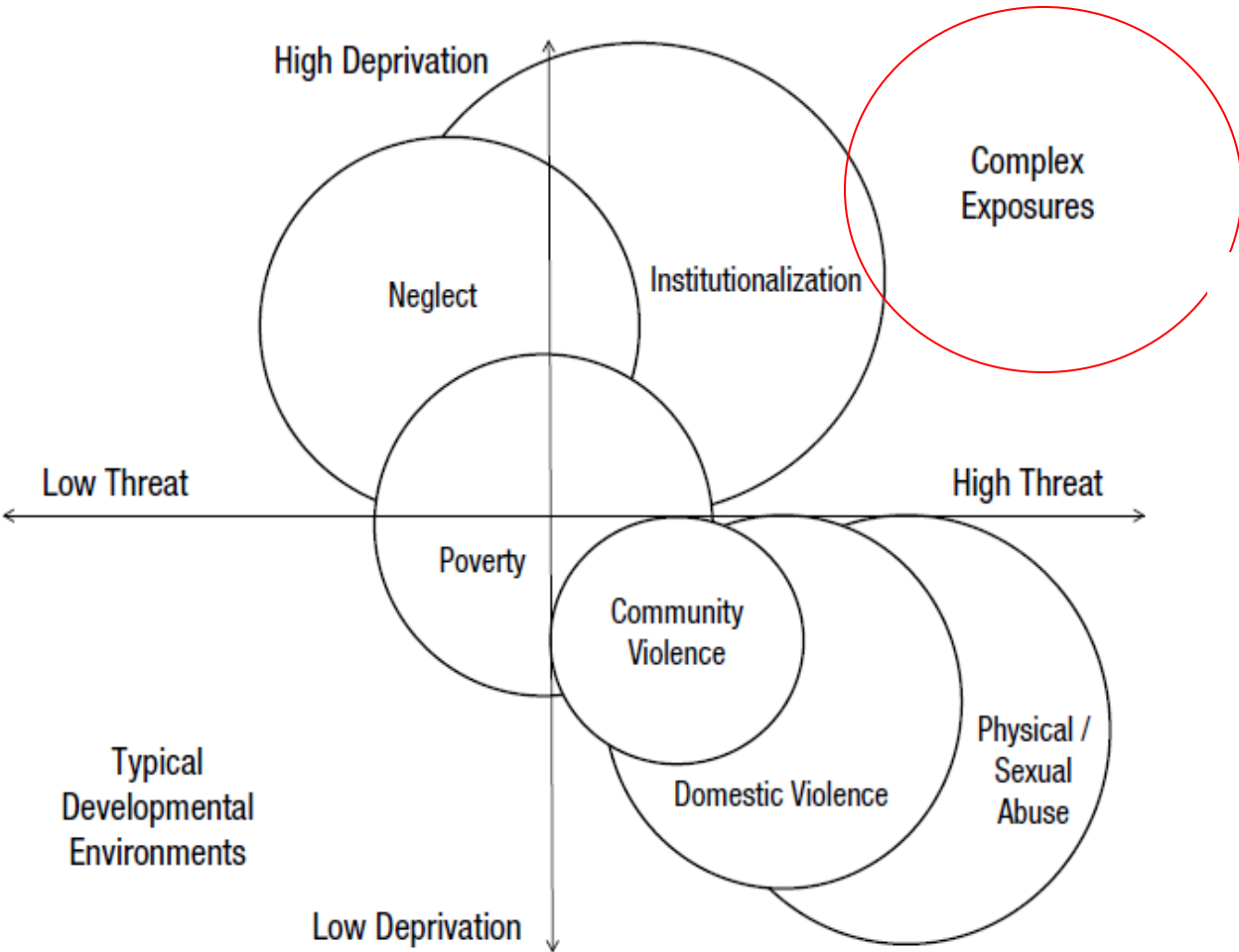


Tulane

# THE ADAPTABILITY OF THE BRAIN CHANGES ACROSS DEVELOPMENT



Tulane



Sheridan and McLaughlin

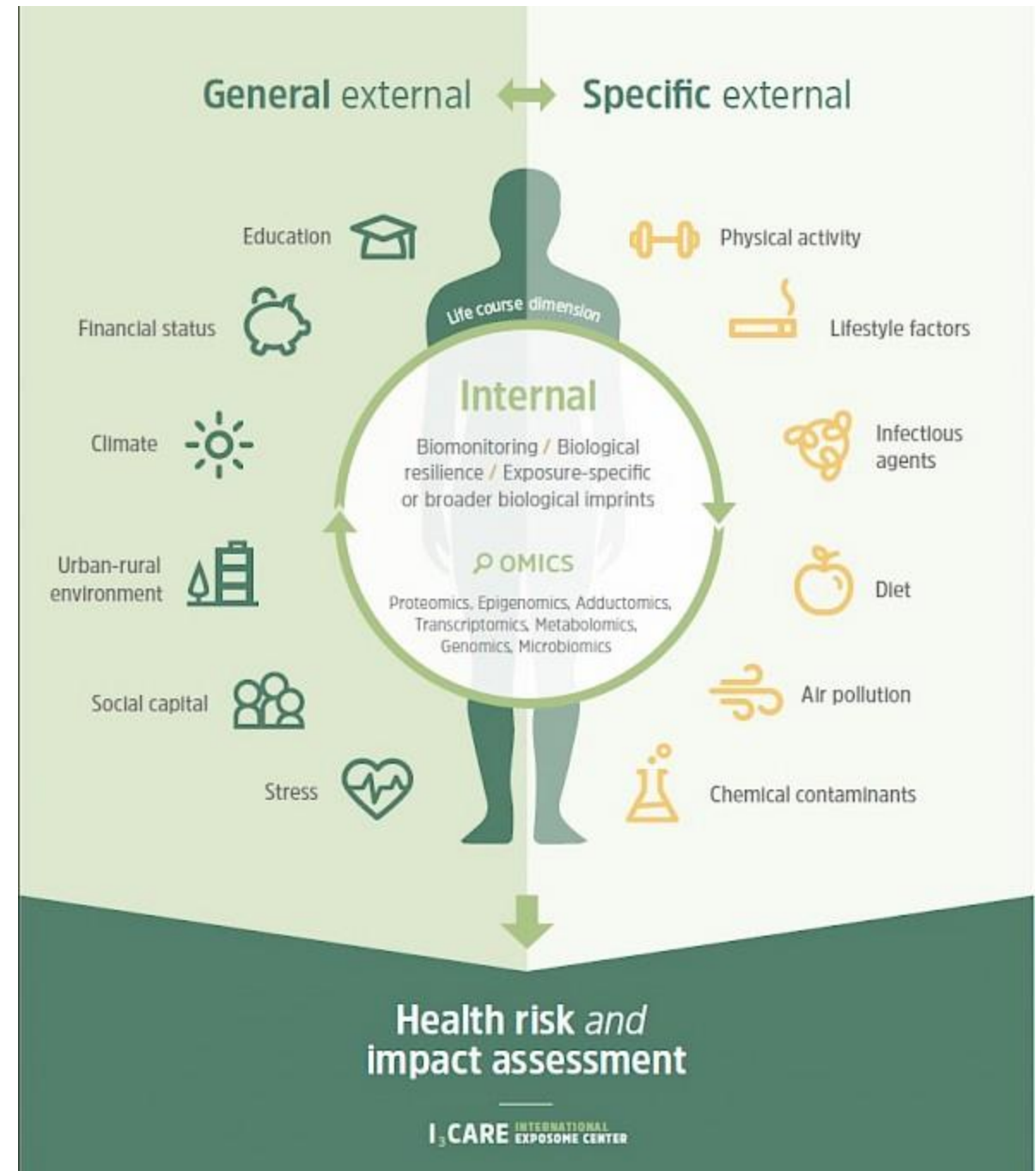
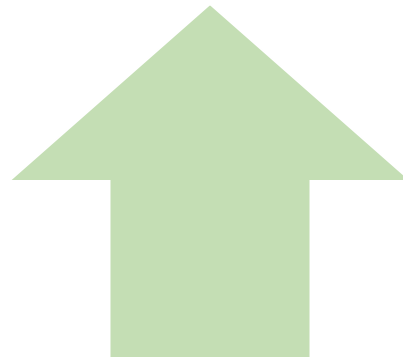


# Exposome

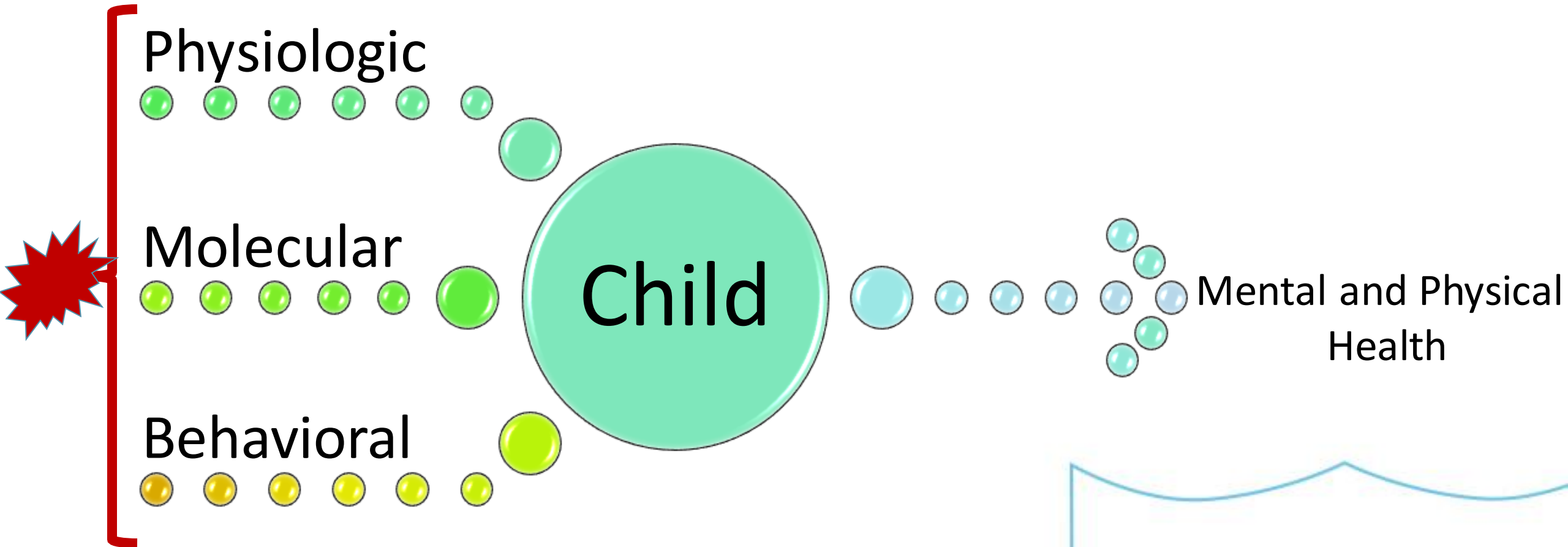


Negative  
exposures

Positive  
exposures

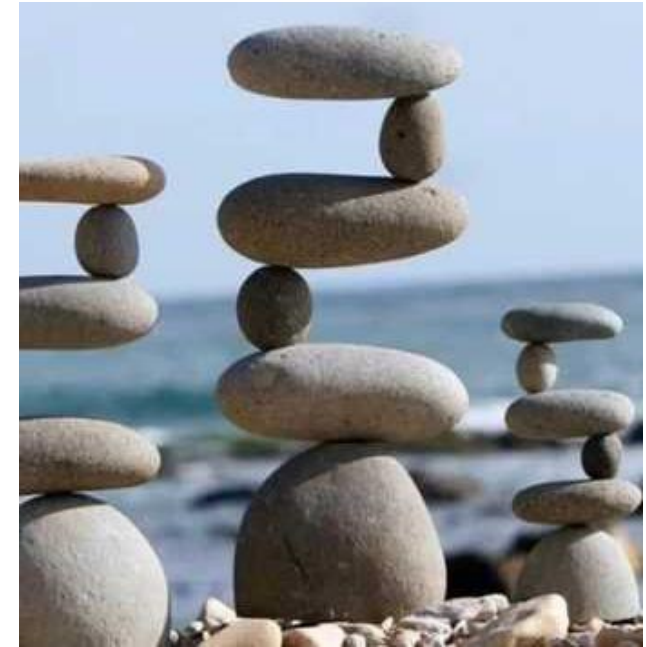


# IMPACT OF ADVERSITY



# PHYSIOLOGIC STRESS RESPONSE SYSTEMS

- Autonomic nervous system
- Hypothalamic Pituitary Adrenal Axis
- Hypothalamic pituitary Gonadal Axis
- Cellular stress
- Immune system



## MYTH BUSTER #1

Cortisol is THE stress hormone and all stress is bad



# CORTISOL

- Fight or flight hormone
- Attention and awareness of the environment- key to learning
- Designed to alert individual to change in the environment
- Diurnal and reactive (social evaluative stress) patterns
- Early trauma can influence EITHER/ BOTH diurnal or reactivity
- Potentially “always on” or alternatively “never raises”



- [Joey's Story](#)



Tulane

- PTSD
  - Criteria A: exposure
  - Criteria B: re-experiencing
  - Criteria C: avoidance
  - Criteria D: hyper-arousal

Restricted  
range of  
emotions

Marked diminished  
interest

Irritability or  
outbursts

difficulty  
concentrating

Exaggerated startle







Tulane

## MYTH BUSTER #2

- Attention, impulsivity and oppositional behavioral problems in children are ADHD and should be treated with medication

Family stress

Sleep problems

Hunger

Anxiety

Attention problems  $\neq$  ADHD

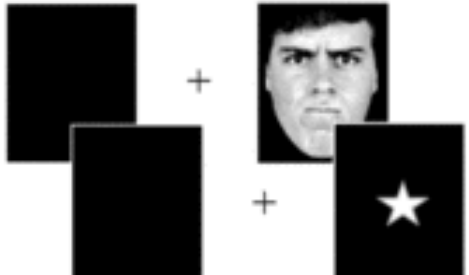

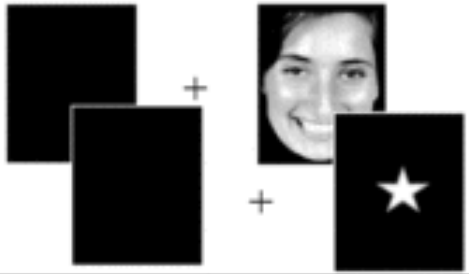
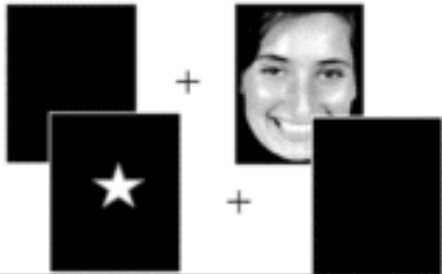
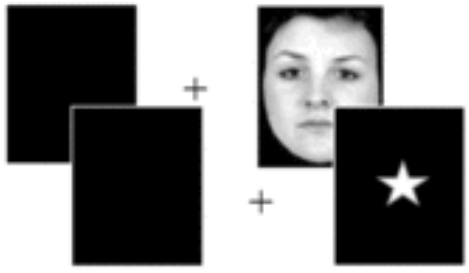
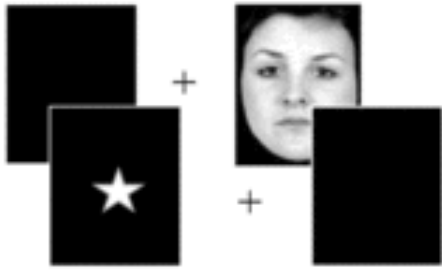
Interpersonal  
violence

PTSD

Hearing/learning  
disability

Tulane

# Attention Bias to Threat

Trial Type	Valid (78%)	Invalid (22%)
<b>Angry</b> 240 trials		
<b>Happy</b> 240 trials		
<b>Neutral</b> (No response) 160 trials		

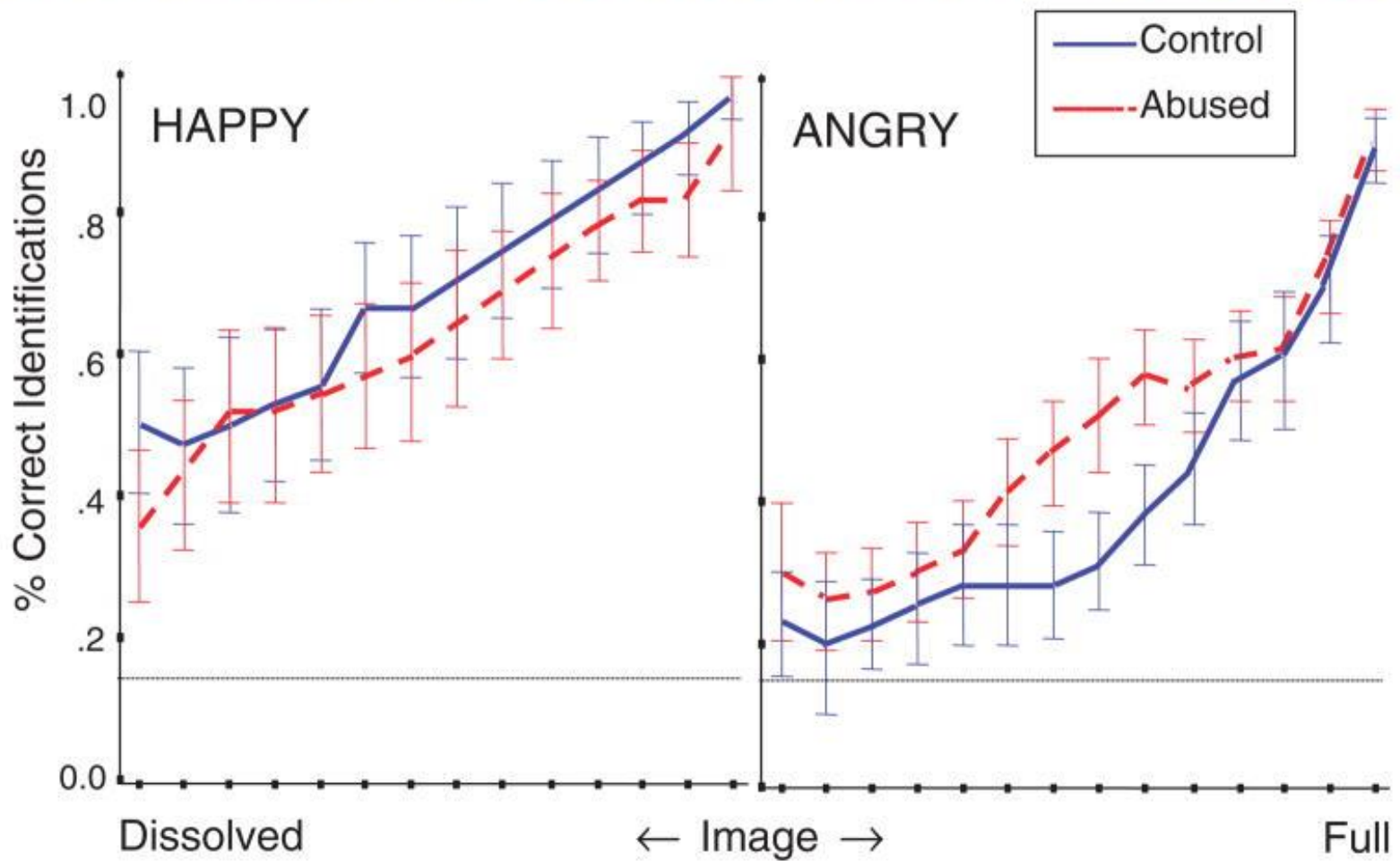


Tulane

## MYTH BUSTER #3

Just because kids say that they are not scared, doesn't mean their body isn't processing threat





Tulane

[Curr Dir Psychol Sci. 2008 Dec; 17\(6\): 370–375.](#)  
doi: [10.1111/j.1467-8721.2008.00608.x](#)



## MYTH BUSTER #4

All oppositional and aggressive behavior is  
because kids are stubborn

# TELOMERES



Tulane



# META ANALYTIC/SIGNIFICANT REPLICATION: TELOMERES, HEALTH, & EXPOSURES

Obesity

Cardiovascular disease

Gender

Race

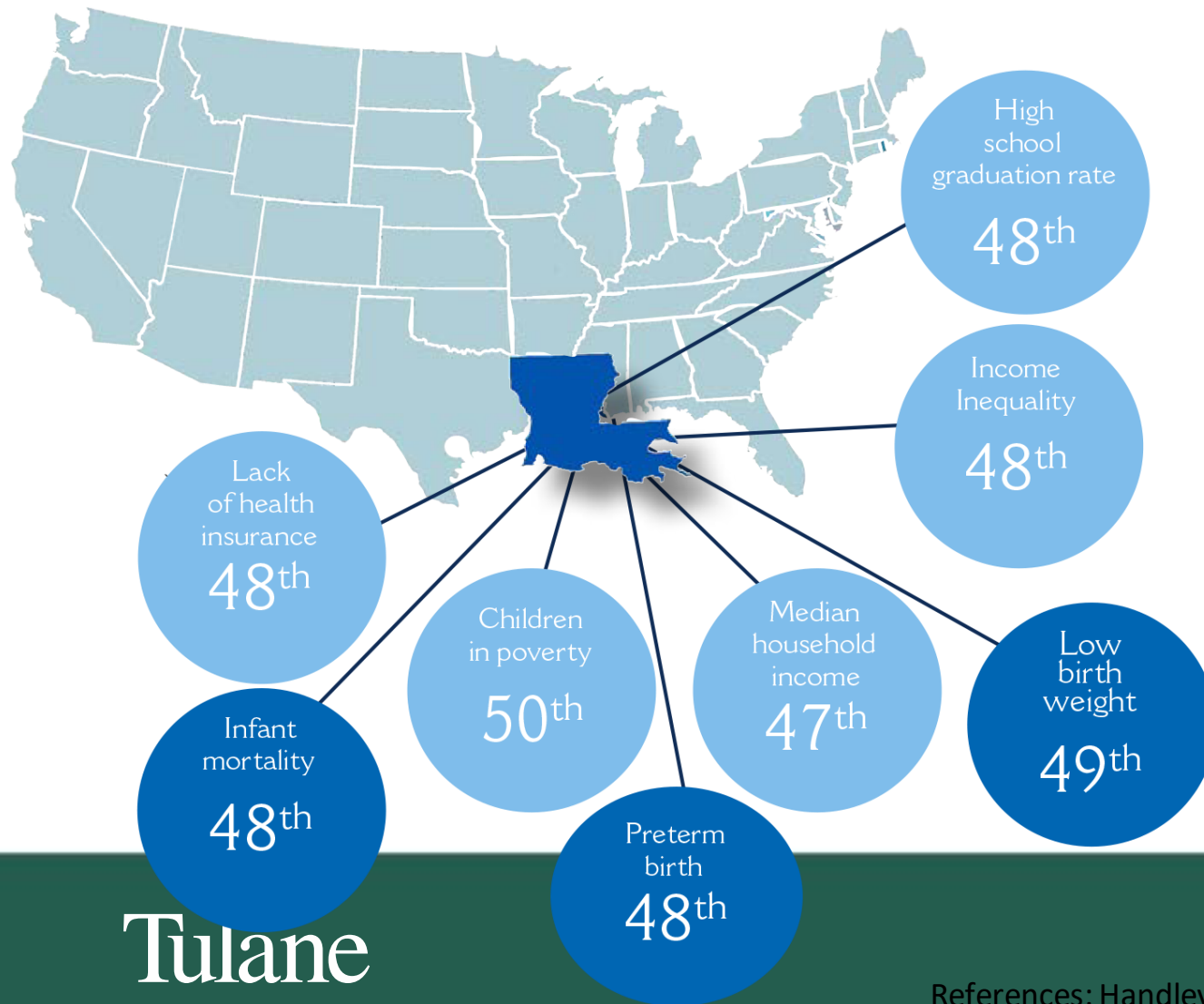
Child Abuse

Early adversity

Tulane



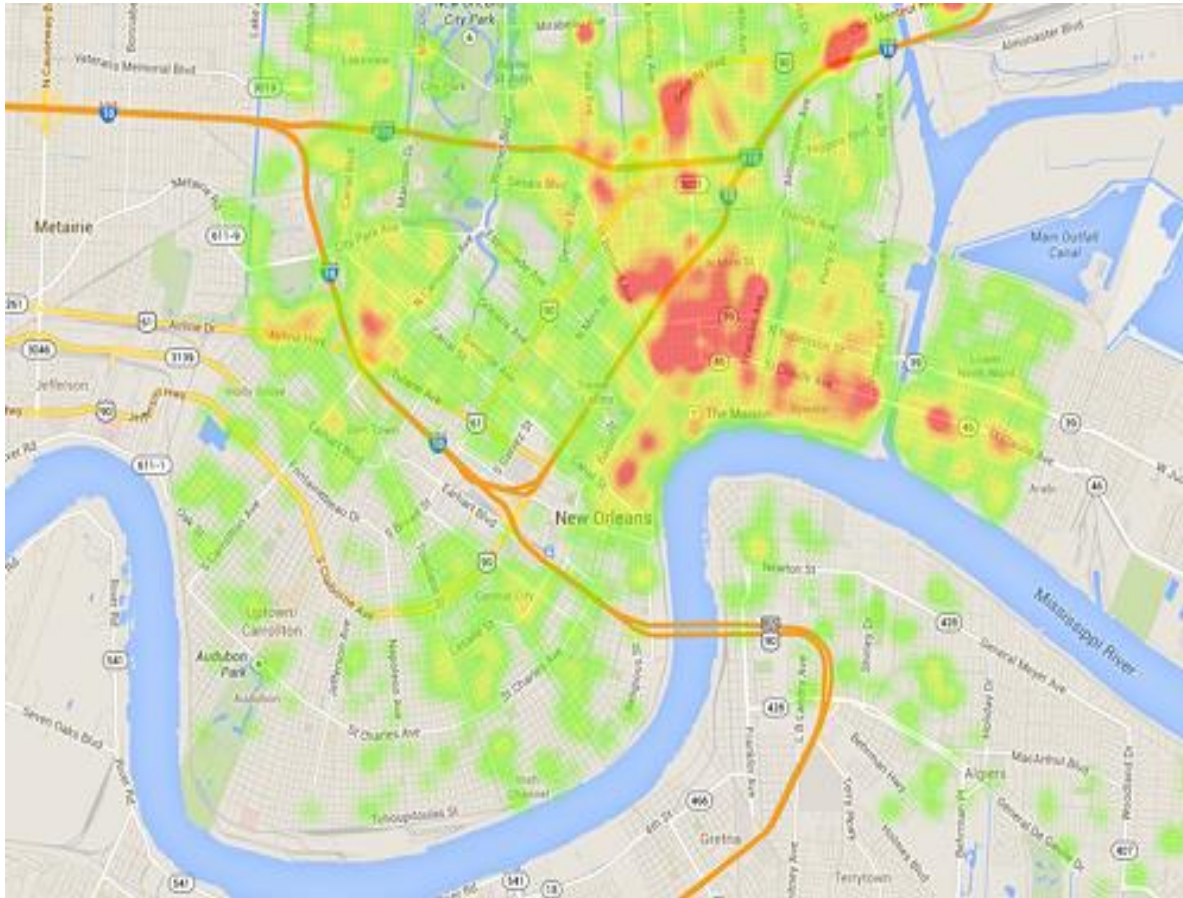
# NEW ORLEANS CONTEXT



- One of the most violent states
  - Based on homicide, violent crime, high availability of firearms
- Also...
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> in the country in the rate of women murdered by men (majority are partners)



# Neighborhoods and health

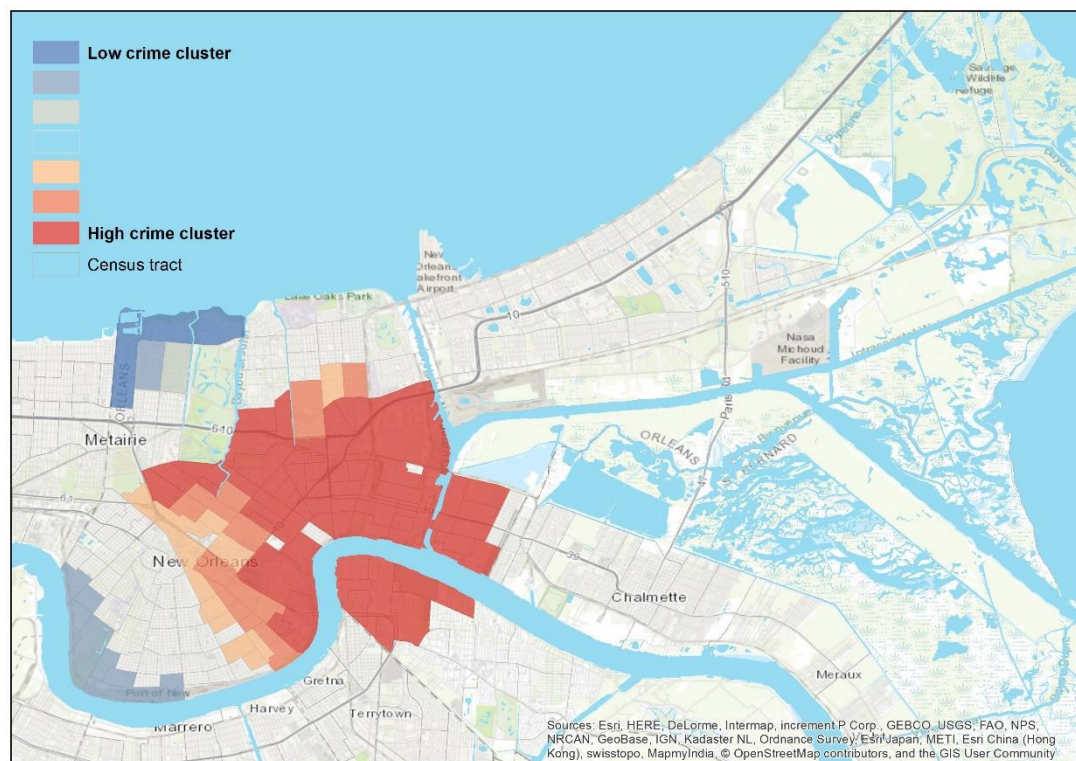


<http://crime-heatmap.herokuapp.com/>

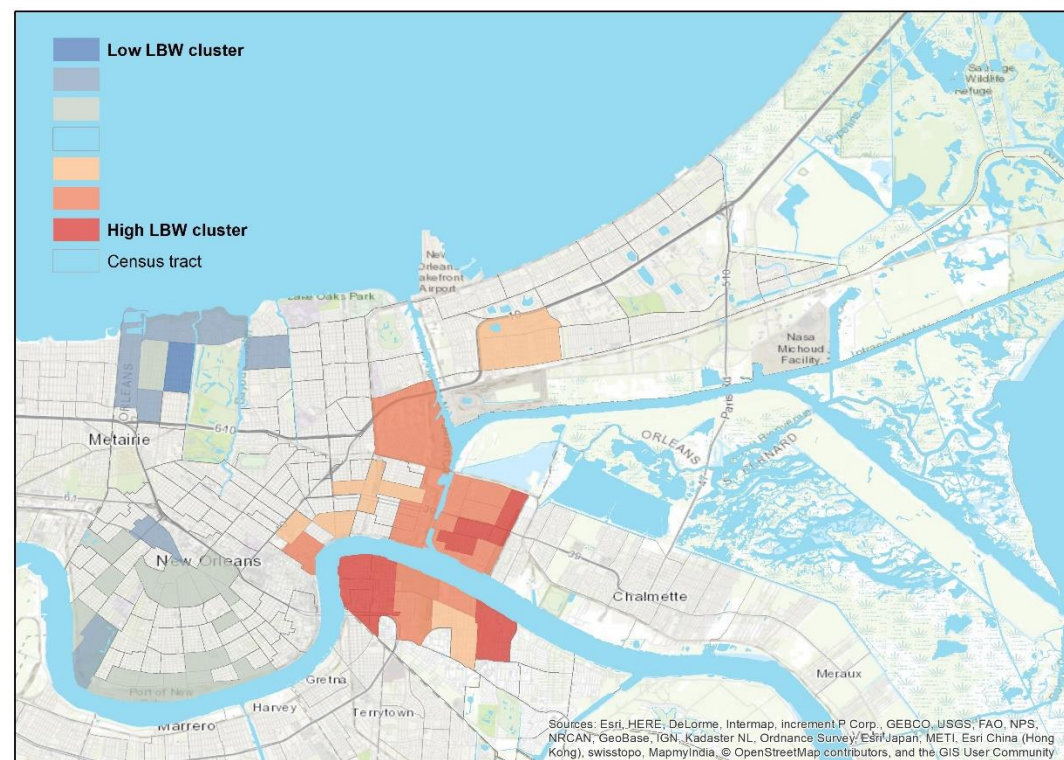


# The overlap between early childhood predictors and neighborhood factors

## Heat map of crime



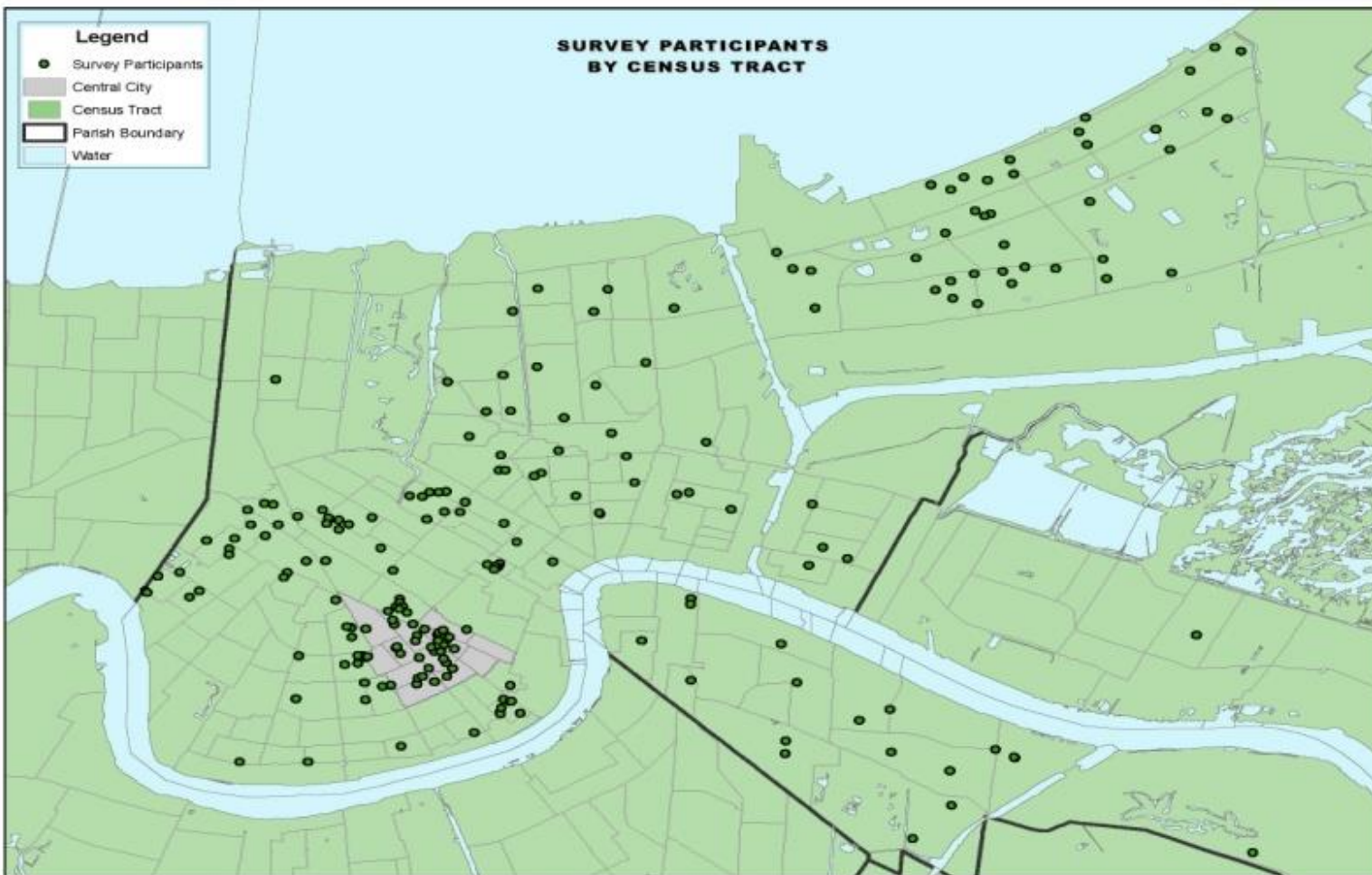
## Heat map of low birth weight





# New Orleans Stress Physiology and Children Study

- ❖ Community recruited African American children: age 4-16
- ❖ Examine the effect of multiple stressors on telomere length



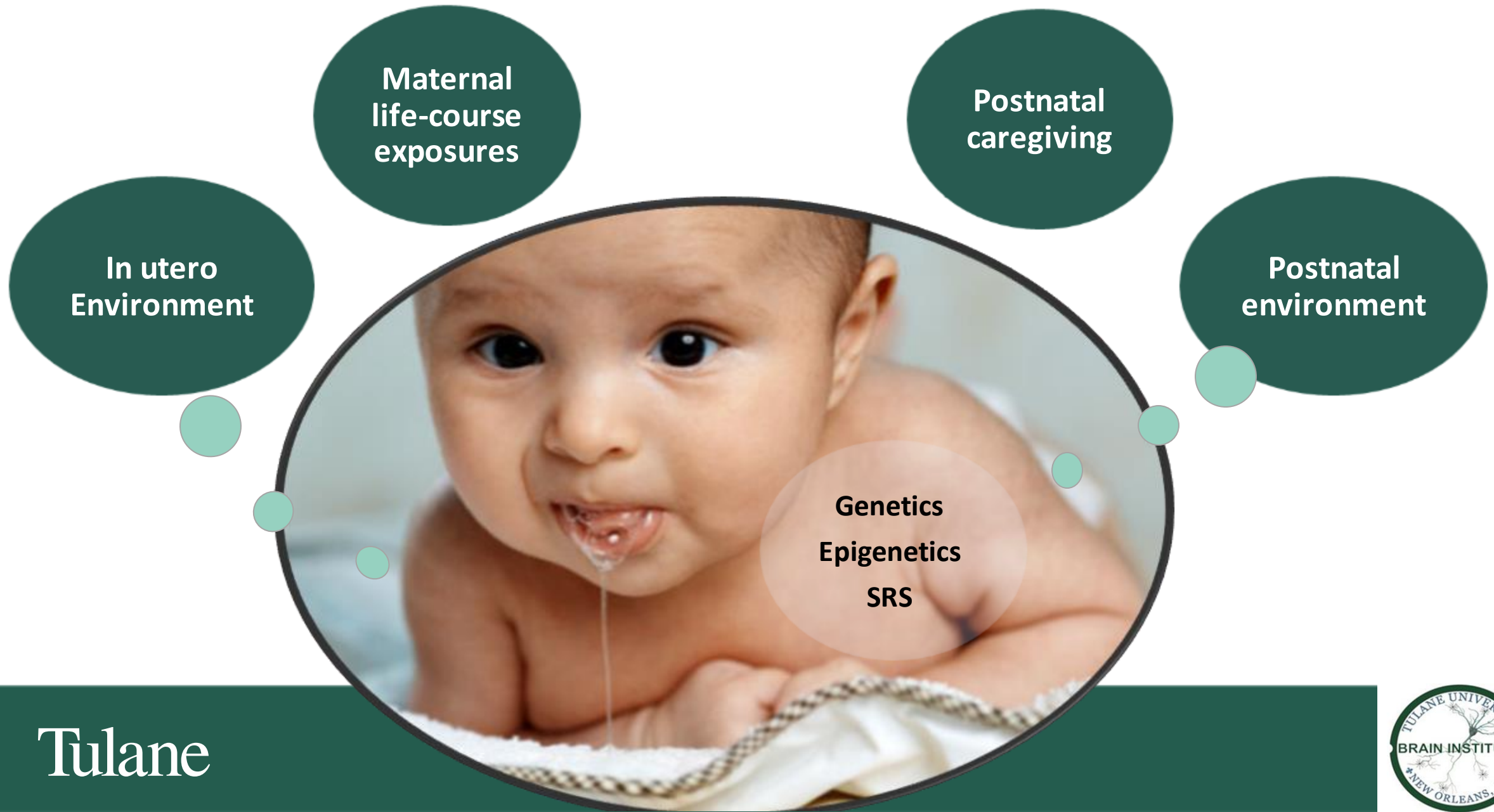
Katherine Theall, PhD



**Table 2. Neighborhood Violence Environment's Impact on Telomere Length (T/S ratio) (N=85)**

	Beta coefficient ( $\beta$ )	Standard Error (SE)	p-value
<i>Model 2. Direct Effect of Neighborhood Domestic Violence</i>			145
Intercept	1.46	0.014	< 0.001
<b>Domestic violence calls within 1 mile</b>	<b>-0.007</b>	<b>0.001</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
Child sex (female vs. male)	0.081	0.004	< 0.001
Maternal age (years)	0.0003	0.001	0.50
Maternal education (ordinal)	-0.002	0.002	0.37
Prenatal smoke exposure (yes)	-0.005	0.006	0.36
Current smoking in child's home (yes)	-0.007	0.006	0.26
Child witnessed neighborhood violence	-0.025	0.004	0.53
R-square	6.7%		
<i>Model 3. Direct Effect of Neighborhood Violent Crime</i>			
Intercept	1.45	0.014	< 0.001
<b>Violent crimes within 1 mile</b>	<b>-0.006</b>	<b>0.002</b>	<b>0.0002</b>
Child sex (female vs. male)	0.082	0.003	< 0.001
Maternal age (years)	0.0004	0.001	0.43
Maternal education (ordinal)	-0.002	0.002	0.48
Prenatal smoke exposure (yes)	-0.002	0.005	0.73
Current smoking in child's home (yes)	-0.006	0.005	0.28
Child witnessed neighborhood violence	-0.003	0.002	0.42
R-square	5.9%		

# THE INFANT DEVELOPMENT STUDY (R01 MH101533)



# Neighborhood Effects: newborns

NEIGHBORHOOD VIOLENCE DURING PREGNANCY AND BIOMARKERS IN INFANTS		
	Total Crime per 1000	Domestic Violence Calls per 1000
TELOMERE LENGTH NEWBORN	-0.05(0.02); <b>p=0.028</b>	-0.04(0.04); p=0.38
TELOMERE LENGTH 4 MONTHS	-0.53(0.16); <b>p=0.002</b>	-0.01(0.006); <b>p=0.05</b>
TELOMERE LENGTH 12 MONTHS	-0.19(0.05); <b>p=0.001</b>	-0.17(0.14); p=0.24
CORTISOL REACTIVITY 12 MONTHS	-0.15(0.05); <b>p=0.01</b>	0.01(0.02); p=0.53
CORTISOL RECOVERY 12 MONTHS	-0.05(0.02); <b>p=0.02</b>	-0.04(0.02); p=0.08

# BLIGHTED PROPERTIES AND FAMILY VIOLENCE IN LOCAL COHORTS

- Longitudinal cohort of mothers and children (N=500)
  - Experiencing physical or psychological maltreatment, or neglect at 18-months of age > 2x's as high for children living in neighborhoods with a high blighted property rate (**OR=2.12, 95% CI=1.08, 4.59**)
  - Likelihood of experiencing maltreatment increased by 2% for each unit increase in the rate of blighted property

# HOW DO WE THINK IT WORKS?



Disorder



Stress



More serious  
crime

Weak social  
control



Less  
Intervening

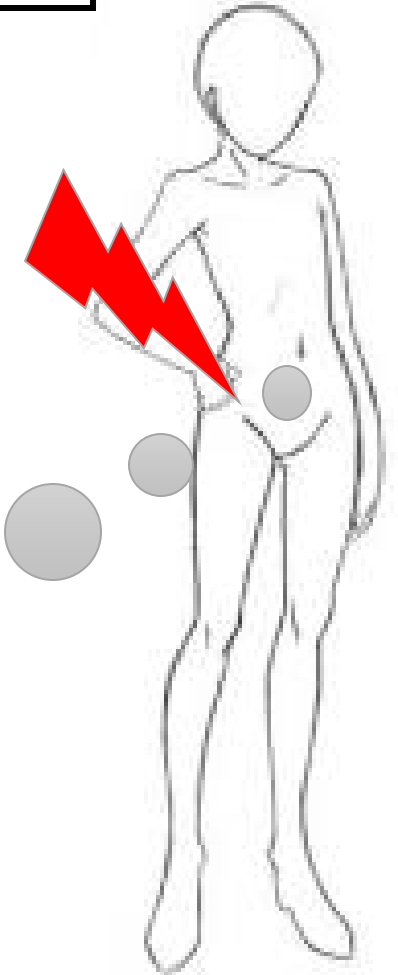
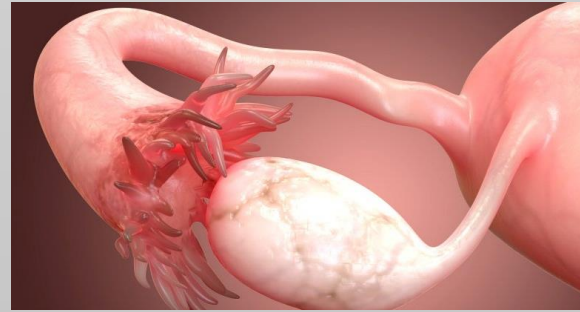




## Childhood Adversity



**Prenatal stress**





# Maternal Stress

## ACE

### ABUSE



Physical



Emotional



Sexual

### NEGLECT



Physical



Emotional

### HOUSEHOLD DYSFUNCTION



Mental Illness



Incarcerated Relative



Mother treated violently



Substance Abuse

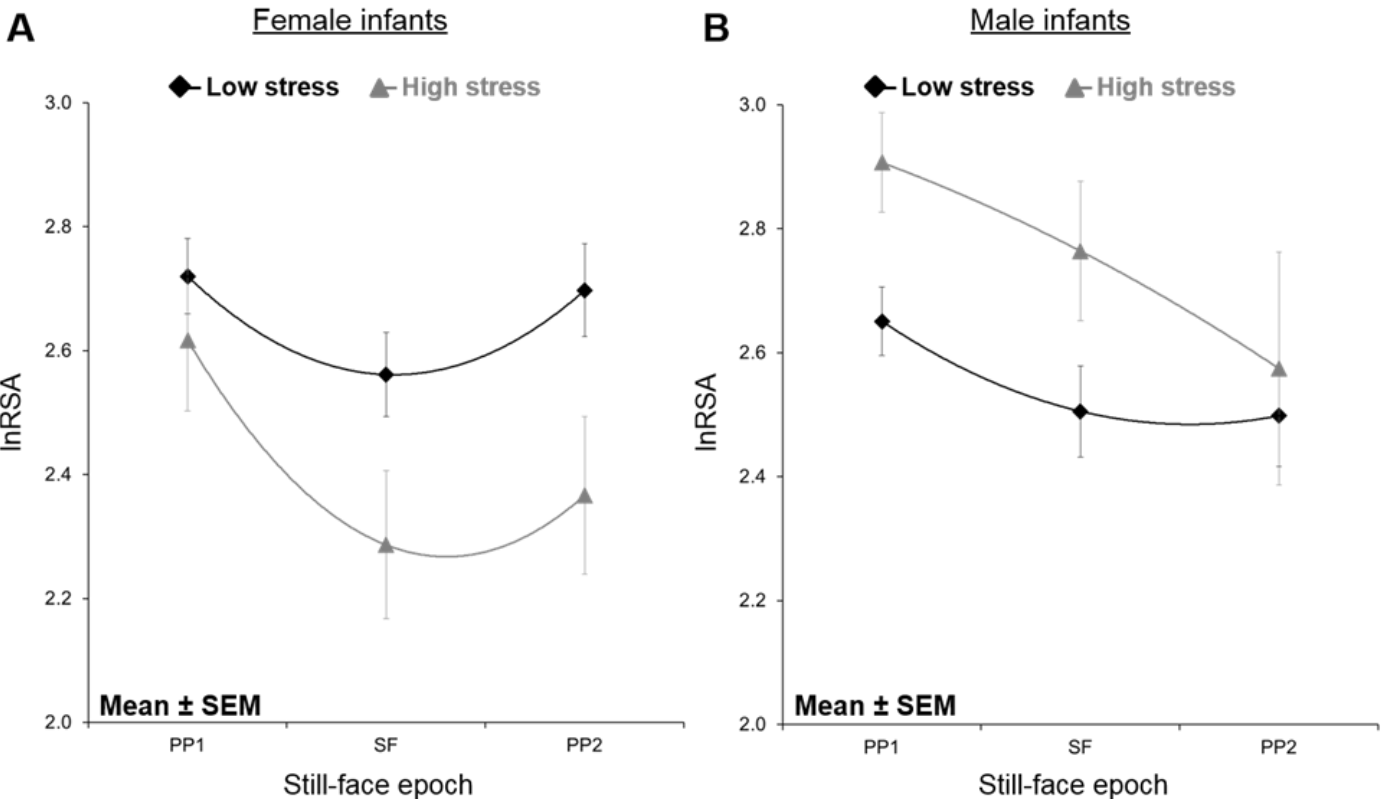


Divorce

## Prenatal Stress

- Five measures- factor analyses
  - Depression (EDS)
  - Prenatal life events
  - Chronic Strain
  - Perceived stress
  - RINI anxiety
- 17% of mothers reported as High Prenatal stress

# Maternal stress and INFANT RSA at 4 Months

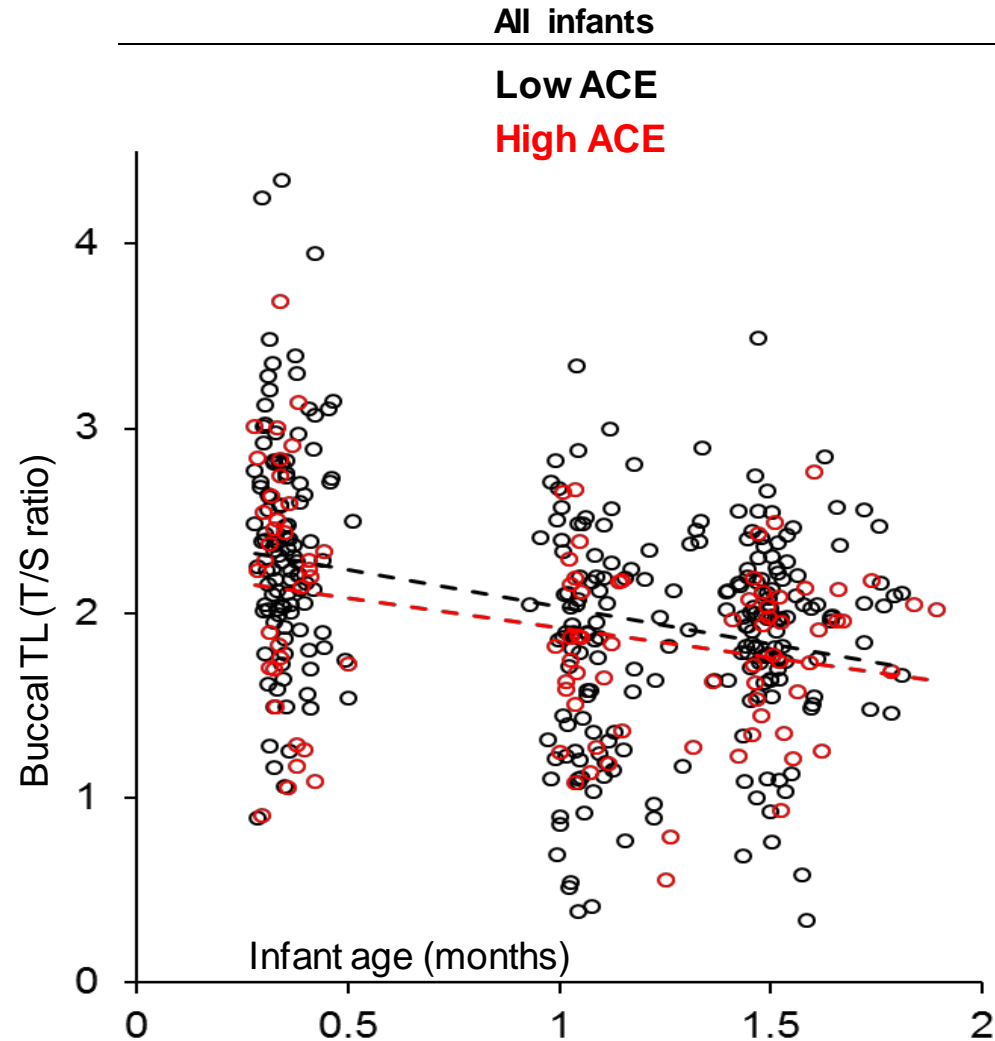


Infant RSA	B (SE)	p Value
Intercept	<b>3.22 (0.89)</b>	<b>&lt;.001</b>
Time	<b>−0.48 (0.13)</b>	<b>&lt;.001</b>
Time <sup>2</sup>	<b>0.07 (0.03)</b>	<b>.05</b>
Sex	0.03 (0.09)	.75
Race	0.09 (0.02)	.26
Prenatal stress	<b>0.75 (0.04)</b>	<b>.05</b>
ACEs	<b>−0.20 (0.09)</b>	<b>.04</b>
Gestational age	−0.00 (0.02)	.84
Maternal education	−0.02 (0.03)	.55
Prenatal stress×time <sup>2</sup>	<b>−0.02 (0.01)</b>	<b>.05</b>
Prenatal stress×sex	<b>−0.43 (0.18)</b>	<b>.02</b>
Time <sup>2</sup> ×sex	<b>0.02 (0.01)</b>	<b>.02</b>

*Note: Data in boldface indicate significant effects.*

Gray S et al. (2017). Thinking across generations (JAACAP)

# Maternal ACE and infant TL trajectory

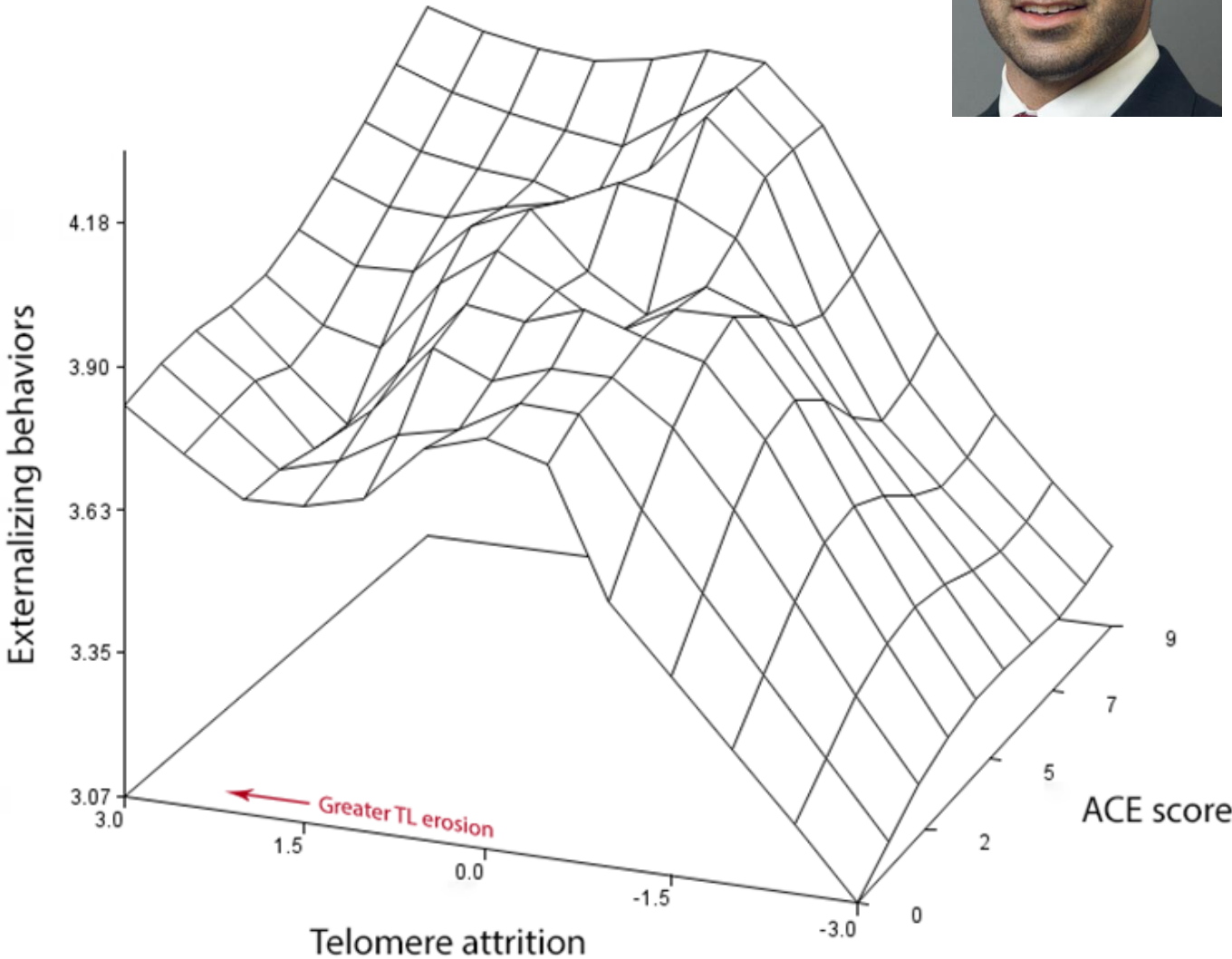


	Model 1: Main effects		Model 2: Adjusted model	
Sample size	155 (428 obs.)		155 (428 obs.)	
	$\beta$	P-value	$\beta$	P-value
Age	-1.757	<0.0001	-1.145	<0.0001
Age <sup>2</sup>	0.744	<0.0001	0.005	<0.0001
ACE score	-0.031	0.033	-0.038	0.024
PNMS score			0.027	0.30
Sex			-0.050	0.41
Maternal depression			0.003	0.97
SES			-0.013	0.51
Race			-0.036	0.49
Maternal age			-0.002	0.79
Gestational age			-0.009	0.66

# The moderation of maternal ACE exposure and infant externalizing by infant TL attrition.



	EXT			
	Main effects		Moderation by TL attrition	
Sample size	136		136	
	$\beta$	P-value	$\beta$	P-value
Intercept	3.798	<0.0001	3.845	<0.0001
ACE score	0.029	0.005	0.014	0.17
TL attrition			-0.105	0.024
ACE x TL attrition			0.031	0.027
PNMS score	-0.014	0.41	-0.010	0.53
Sex	-0.027	0.48	-0.035	0.35
Race	-0.004	0.91	-0.006	0.84
SES	0.008	0.46	0.013	0.25
Maternal depression	0.118	0.034	0.111	0.044



# Caregivers as Biological bubble wrap?



# Interventions that get at Biology: ABC



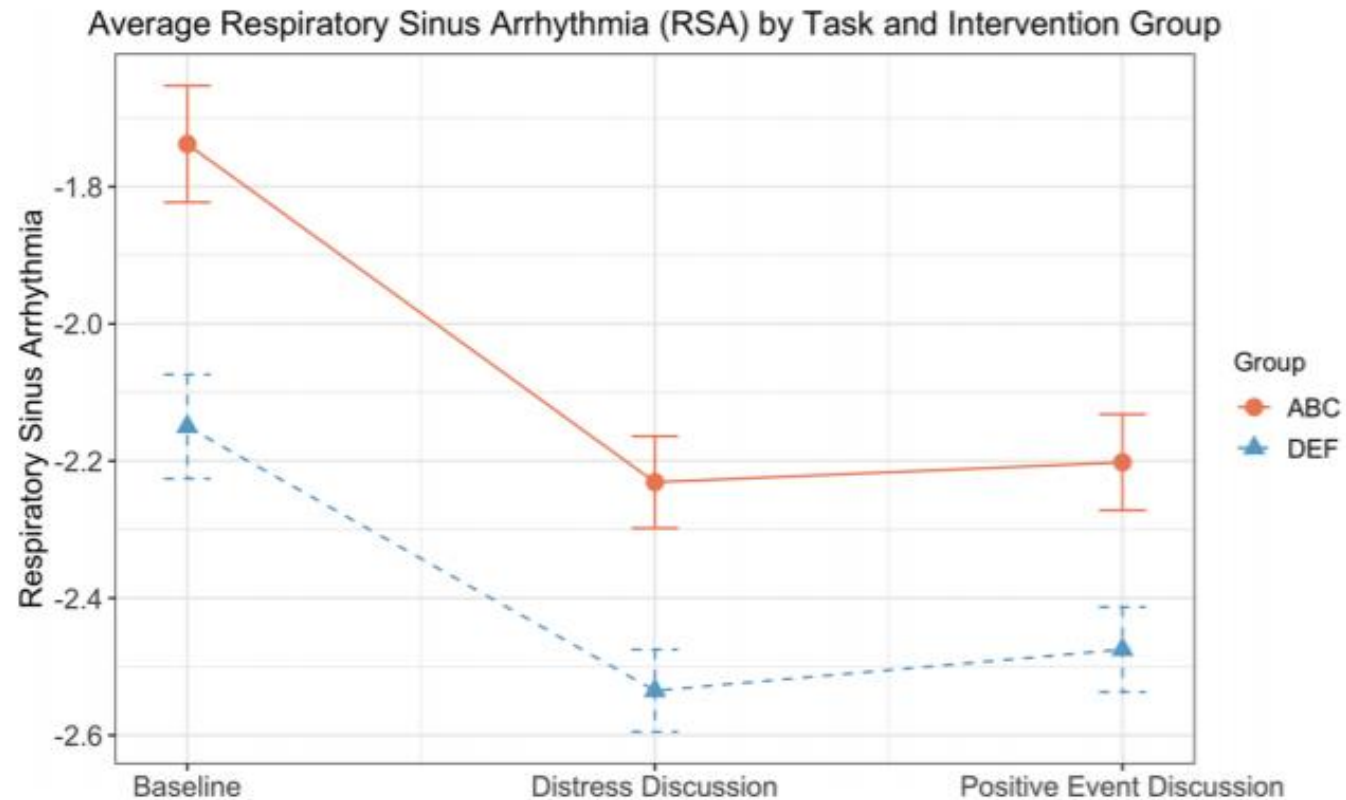
**Attachment &  
Biobehavioral  
Catch-up**

Tulane



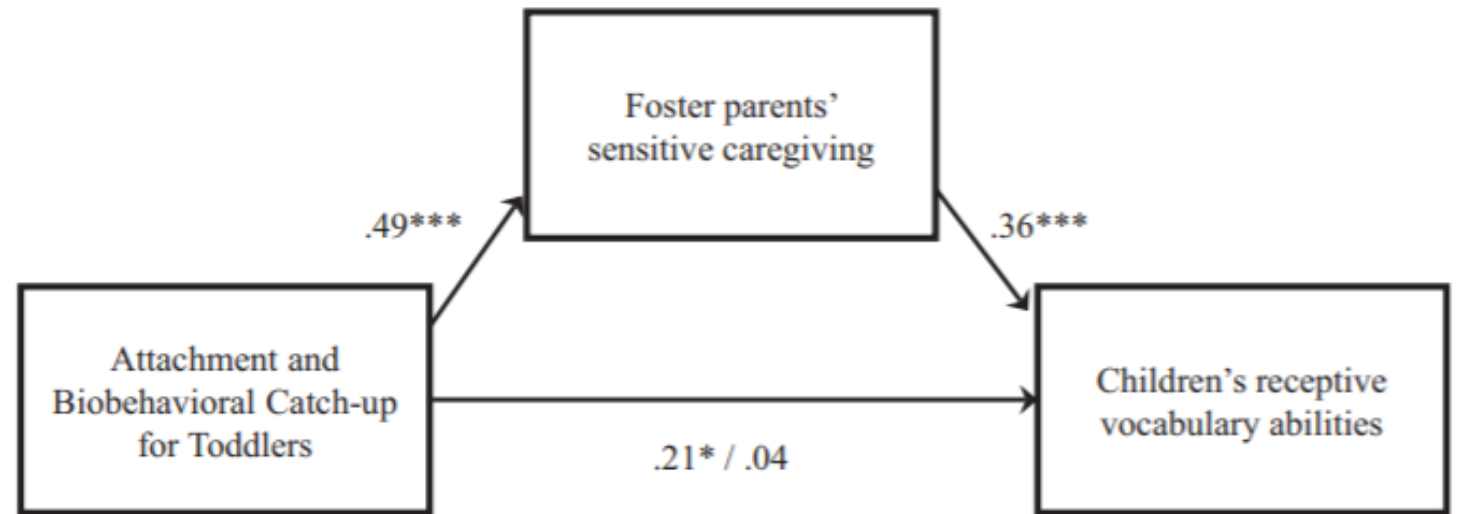
# IMPACT OF ABC ON ANS- AGE 9

A.R. Tabachnick, et al.



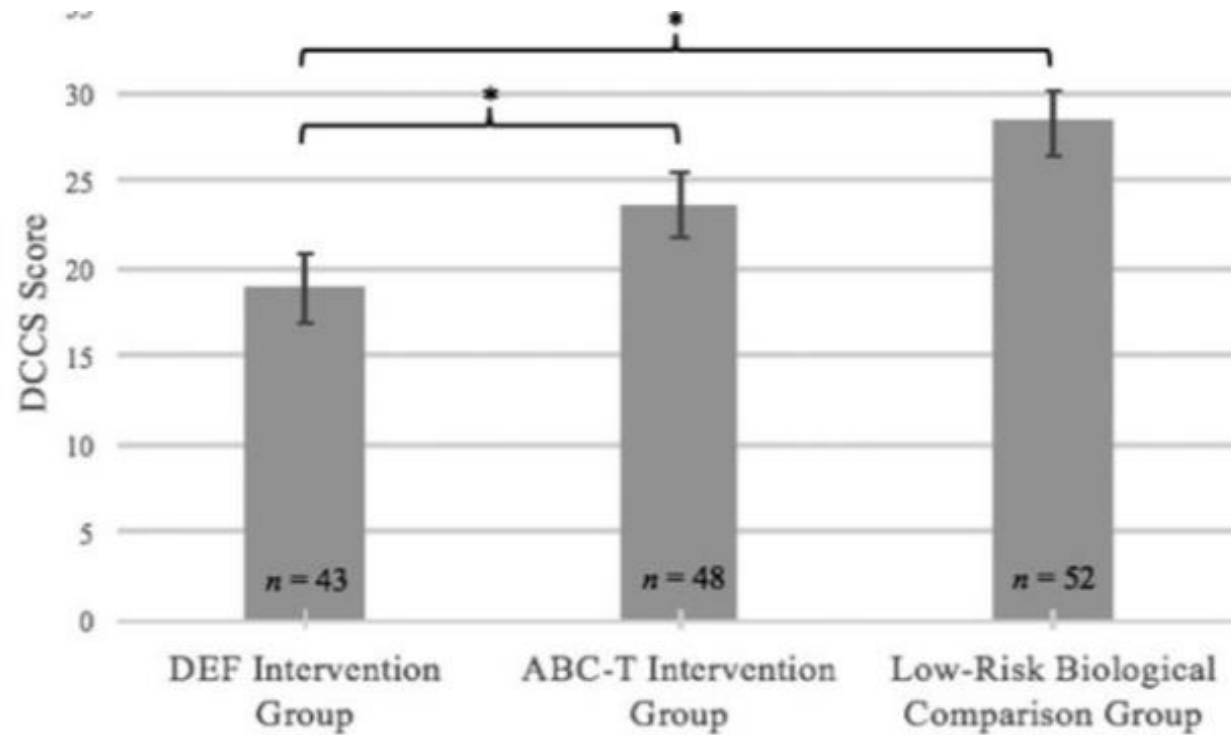
# IMPACT OF ABC ON LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

**FIGURE 2** The positive effect of the Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-up for Toddlers intervention on the receptive vocabulary abilities of toddlers in foster care through improvements in foster parents' sensitive caregiving. Values represent standardized regression coefficients ( $N = 88$ ,  $*p < 0.05$ ,  $***p < 0.001$ )



DOI: 10.1111/desc.12753

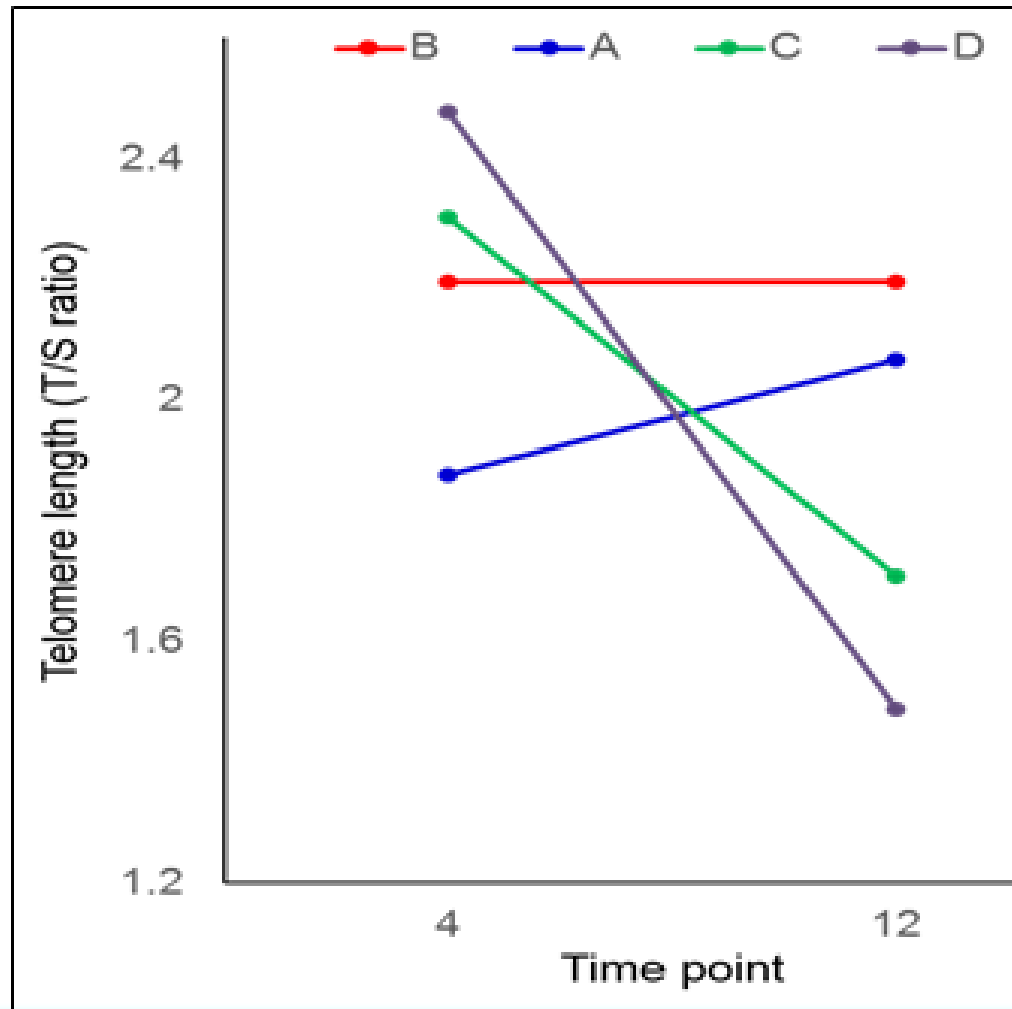
# Impact of ABC on Executive function



**Figure 2.**

Children's cognitive flexibility as measured by performance on the Dimensional Change Card Sort Task (DCCS). ABC-T, Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-up for Toddlers; DEF, Developmental Education for Families. \* $p < .05$ .

# BUFFERING IMPACT OF ATTACHMENT



- Attachment
  - Develops between 7-9 months
  - Parents are “goto” person
  - Parents also “safe base”
- Classifications
  - Secure
  - Avoidant
  - Resistant
  - Disorganized

Preconception

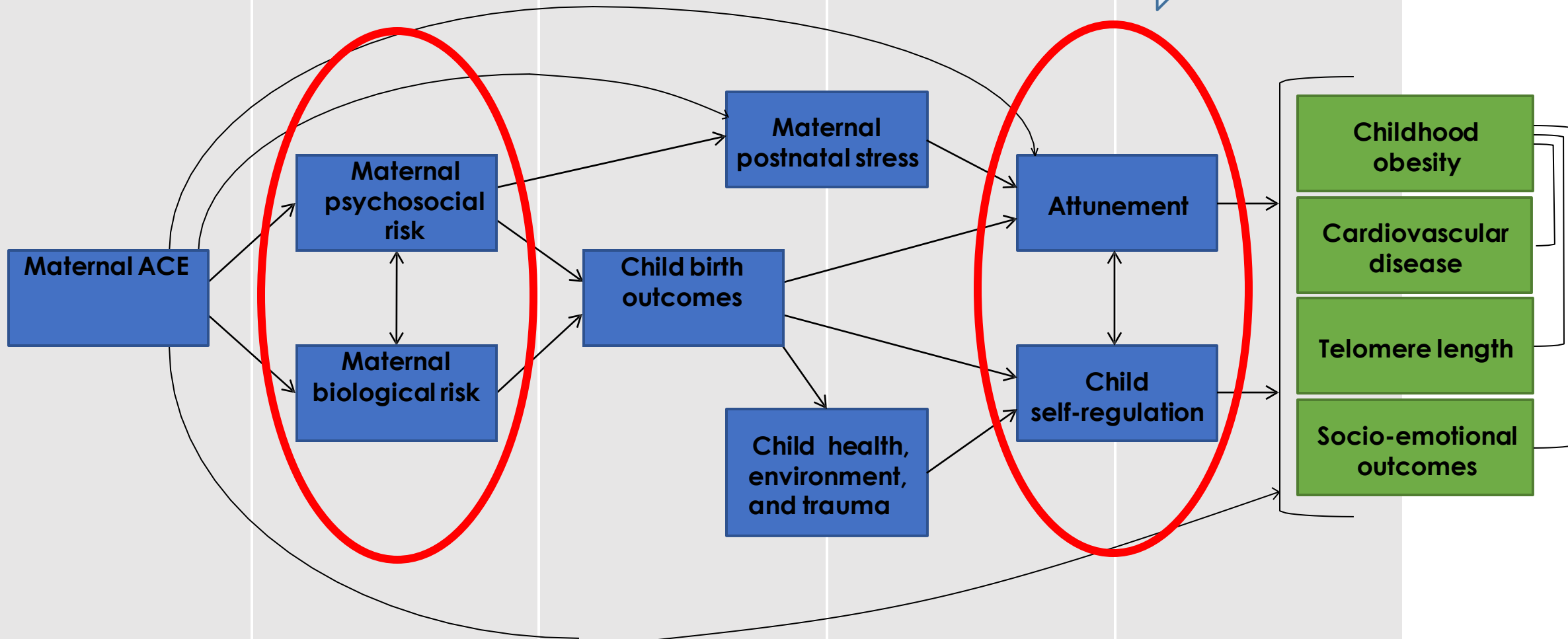
Prenatal

Birth

Toddler

Childhood

Infant response system development



# TAKE HOME POINTS

- Adversity and trauma effect the cells and connections in the brain
- Adversity, within and across generations, may influence developmental tempo
- Caregiving may be the ultimate bubble wrap



**"UNLESS SOMEONE LIKE YOU  
CARES A WHOLE AWFUL LOT,  
NOTHING IS GOING TO GET BETTER.  
IT'S NOT."**

**-THE LORAX**



### IDS:

- **Stacy Drury, PI**
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- Rachel Lee
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- Daisy Furlong
- Kelsey Confreda
- Tegan Clarke
- Michael Wren
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- Hannah Wiggins
- Devin Videlefsky
- Keegan Collarame
- Ali Sebold
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- Lauren McLester-Davis
- Celia Mayne
- Sam Shovers
- Hanan Rimawi
- Kennis Htet
- Ivy Adams

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### COLLABORATORS:

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- Katherine Theall
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- Charles Zeanah
- Elizabeth Shirtcliff
- Melissa Middleton
- Celia Gambala



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Questions?



**Children's Hospital**  
New Orleans  
LCMC Health



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# Leveraging your Advocacy and State Partners

## Presenters

- **Libbie Sonnier-Netto**, Executive Director, Louisiana Policy Institute for Children
- **Jennifer Stedron**, Executive Director, Early Milestones Colorado
- **Pamela Harris**, President and CEO, Mile High Early Learning