

# Understanding the Family First Target Population

April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Prevention Services Workgroup

**Family First**

The logo features the word "BLUEPRINT" in large, bold, white capital letters. Below it, the word "FAMILY FIRST" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The word "For" is written in a light blue, cursive script to the left of "FAMILY FIRST". The entire logo is set against a dark blue circular background, which is itself centered within a larger, lighter blue circular graphic that has a pie chart-like appearance with several segments.

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# Desired results

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## RECAP:

The purpose of this workgroup is to form **recommendations about which EBP services Georgia should offer** under Family First.

## TODAY:

To select the *right* EBPs for children and families who will be served by Family First, we need to understand **who they are and what they need**.

We will answer the following questions:

1. What are the **characteristics** of children & families who are most critical to serve through Family First in Georgia?
2. What are the most prevalent **service needs** among the Family First target population?

*...Through review of data and input from families, as well as input from **YOU**.*



# Agenda for today

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- **Welcome**
- **The approach to selecting evidence-based programs**
- **The Family First target population in Georgia**
- **What are the characteristics and needs of the target population in Georgia?**
  - Review of data on age, race and ethnicity, and service needs.
- **Next steps**

# Our approach to selecting evidence-based programs





# Selecting EBPs for GA's Prevention Plan

The suggested approach to selecting Evidence-Based Programs in Georgia:

I

Select and determine Evidence-Based Programs for inclusion in Georgia's Title IV-E Prevention Plan

*Informed by the work of the Prevention Services Workgroup*

- Select among EBPs that are **approved** as well-supported or **likely to be approved** as well-supported before plan submission on the Title IV-E Clearinghouse

← *This workgroup's charge*

II

Potential expansion of EBPs through plan amendment or resubmission

III

Identify and build evidence for 'home-grown' EBPs

*Ad hoc/continuous basis*



# Selecting EBPs for GA's Prevention Plan

I

## Select and determine Evidence-Based Programs for inclusion in Georgia's Title IV-E Prevention Plan

*Informed by the work of the **Prevention Services Workgroup** prior to submission of Georgia's Title IV-E Prevention Plan 2021*

EBP-selection will be focused on Evidence-Based Programs that are rated 1) **well-supported** or 2) **likely to be rated well-supported\*** before plan submission on the Title IV-E Clearinghouse















EBPs *likely to be well-supported* are EBPs that:

- Are currently *under review* by the Title IV-E Clearinghouse
- Have any amount of presence in Georgia; based on provider-survey conducted in February-March 2021, and
- Are rated *well-supported* or *supported* on the [California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse \(CEBC\)](#)



# Selecting EBPs for GA's Prevention Plan

We will focus on the **10 well-supported EBPs** on the Title IV-E Clearinghouse

Evidence-based program	Service type
Brief Strategic Family Therapy	  
Family Check-up	 
Functional Family Therapy	
Healthy Families America	
Homebuilders - Intensive Family Preservation and Reunification Services	
Motivational Interviewing	
Multisystemic Therapy	 
Nurse-Family Partnership	
Parent-Child Interaction Therapy	
Parents as Teachers	



Mental health services



Substance abuse treatment and prevention services


















In-home, skill-based parenting programs



# Selecting EBPs for GA's Prevention Plan

We will focus on the following 11 EBPs – that are **'likely to be well-supported'**

Evidence-based program	Service type
Acceptance and Commitment Therapy	 
Alternatives for Families: A Cognitive Behavioral Therapy	
Beyond Trauma + Helping Women Recover	
Child First	 
Cognitive Processing Therapy	
Coping Cat	
Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing	
Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy	
Parenting with Love and Limits	 
Safe Environment for Every Kid (SEEK)	
Together Facing the Challenge	 



Mental health services



Substance abuse treatment and prevention services



In-home, skill-based parenting programs





# How will we select EBPs?

**FIT**  
*with  
Georgia's  
children &  
families*

How many families could be served by the EBP?

Does the EBP meet the needs of the children and families in Georgia?

How effective is the EBP with GA's racial and ethnic groups?

**FEASIBILITY**  
*of  
implementation*

Is the EBP already offered in GA?

What is the cost of the EBP?

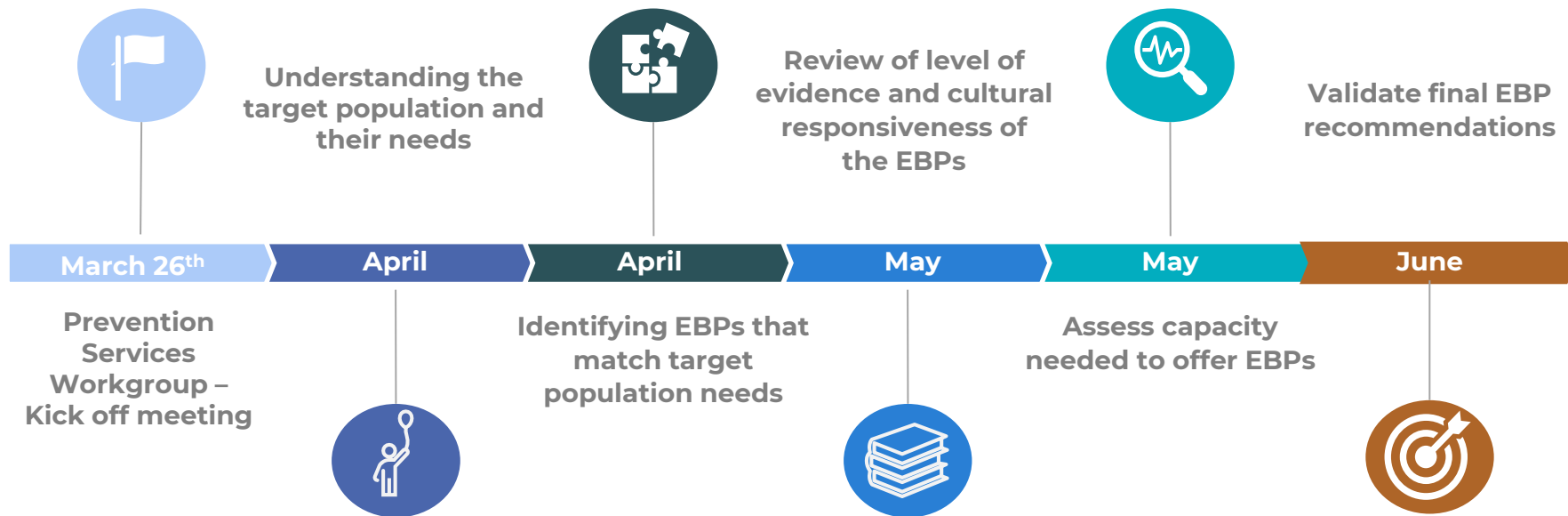
Are current staff qualified to deliver EBP?

Does EBP leverage existing infrastructure?





# Process and Timeline



# Who will be Eligible for Family First Services in Georgia?



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# Who will be eligible for Family First in Georgia?

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1. Children and families in Ongoing Services/  
Family Preservation and their caregivers
2. Children/youth post permanency and their  
caregivers
3. Pregnant and parenting youth in foster care



# When we talk about Family First services....

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- We are **NOT** talking about all DFCS support services.
- We are **NOT** talking about creating a new designation of “Family First families”
- We are talking about evidence-based services for families, children and youth being served in Family Preservation, pregnant and parenting foster youth, and children and youth in post-permanency.

Family First services will be part of the broader service array, and will be woven into that array to serve the target populations.

The background features a large, faint, circular seal of the State of Georgia Department of Family and Children Services. The seal contains the text "DIVISION OF FAMILY & CHILDREN SERVICES", "STATE OF GEORGIA", "CONSTITUTION", and "1776".

**What are the ages of children,  
that could be served by  
Family First?**

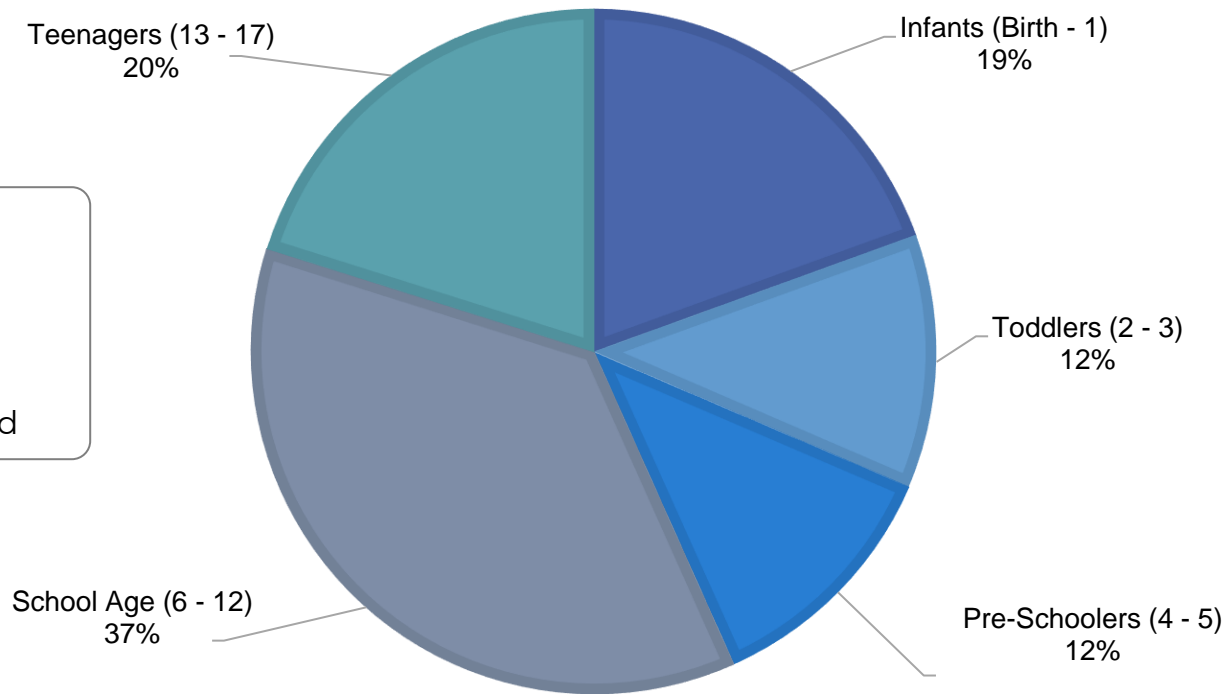
The logo consists of the words "BLUE PRINT" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below "PRINT" is a teal horizontal bar with the words "For FAMILY FIRST" in white, lowercase, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a dark blue circular background.

**BLUE  
PRINT**  
For FAMILY FIRST

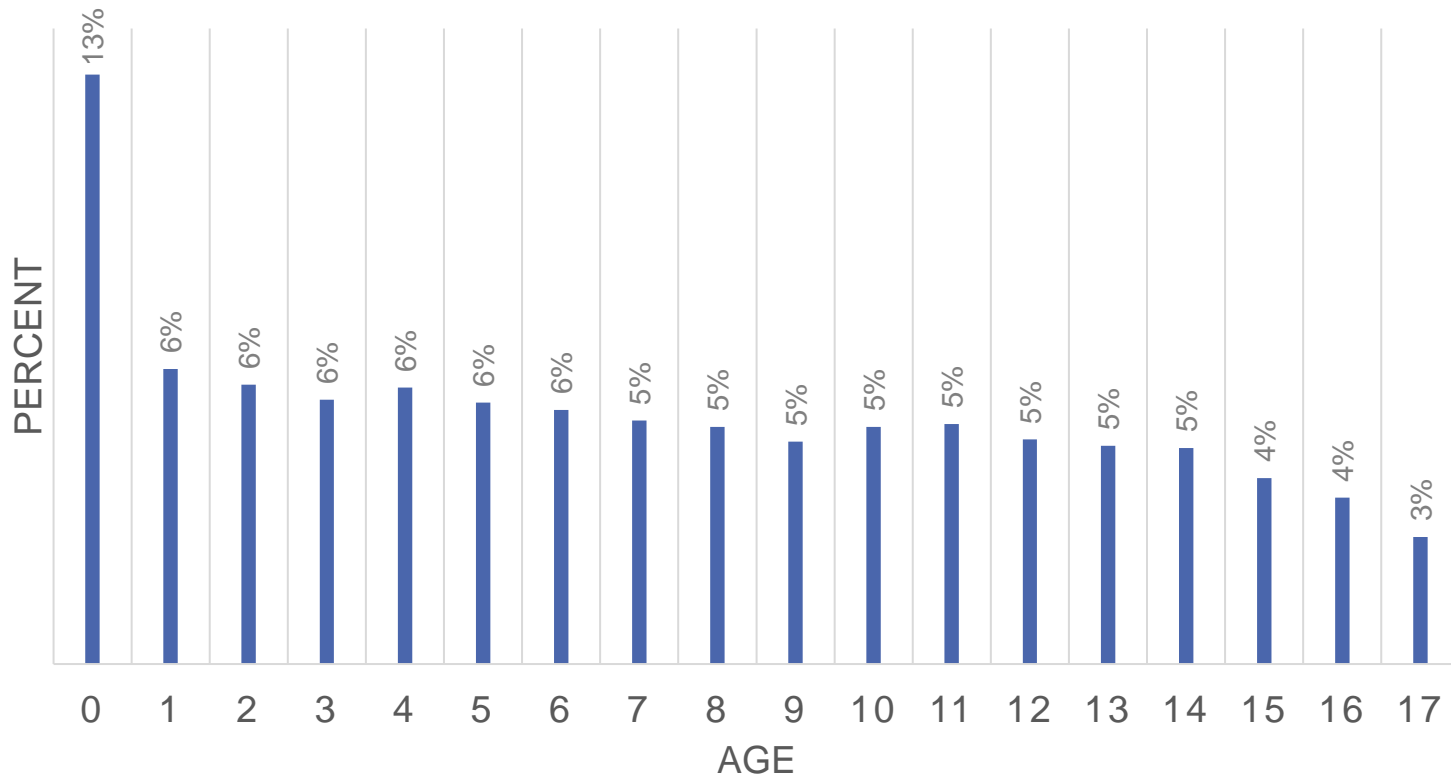
## DATA: Age of children in Family Preservation, 2020

Quick take-aways:

- Nearly half are age 0-5
- Infants are most over-represented
- Teens under-represented



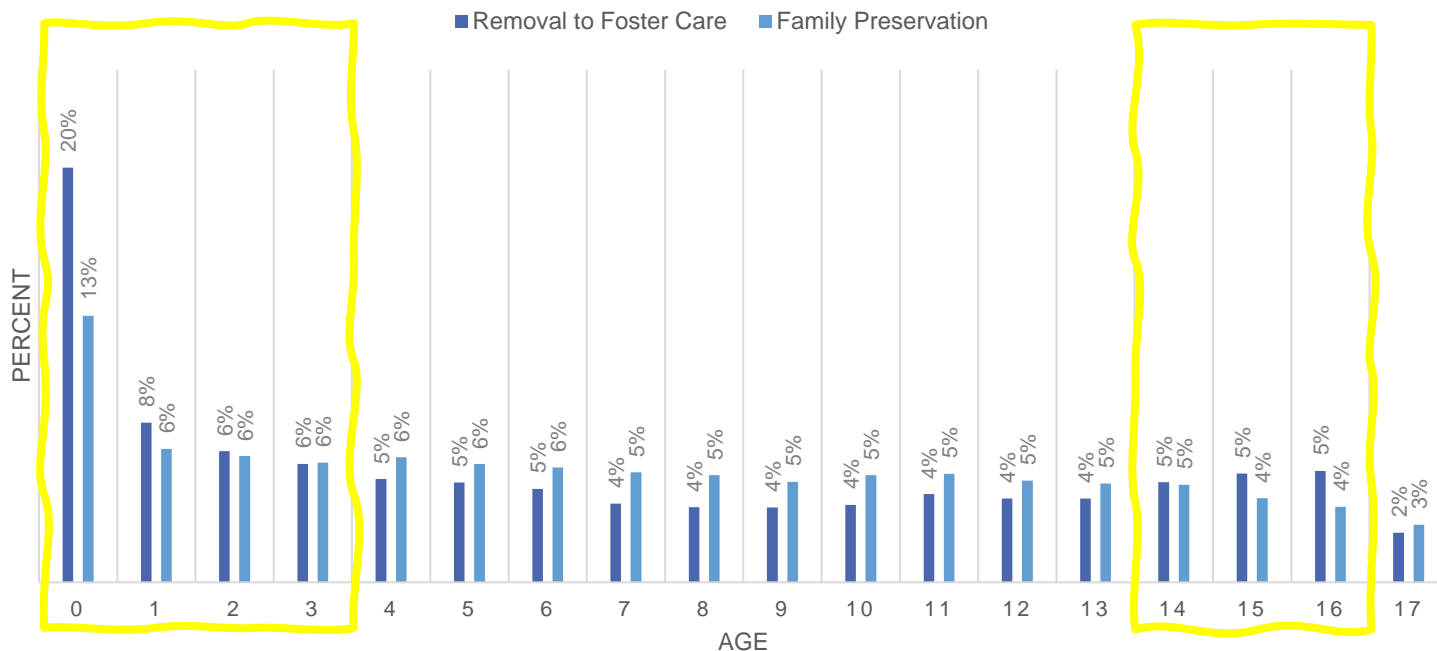
## DATA: Age of children in Family Preservation, 2020







## DATA: Age of children in foster care vs. Family Preservation, 2020



**Infants, toddlers, & teens** are more likely to enter foster care than receive family preservation services.

*What EBP services could keep these children & youth safely at home?*



## FOCUS GROUP INPUT

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DFCS Family First Team conducted two focus groups:

One interview with 10 youth (co-facilitated by youth)

One interview with 7 caregivers , that are members of DFCS Parent Advisory Council

The interviews were facilitated virtually and were each approximately 90 minutes.





## FOCUS GROUP INPUT

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### **Families in Georgia would benefit from EBPs specifically targeting:**

- **Infants and toddlers** and their caregivers, because of limited available services and supports to keep these children safely at home and out of foster care.
- **Teenagers**, due to the lack of services for this group in general, and because of the unique needs of teenagers to be intentionally involved in own service planning and decision-making - e.g., choosing their service and transparency regarding progress toward goals.



## INPUT FROM THIS WORKGROUP - POLL

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*Based on the presented data and your own professional expertise and experiences...*

What age children (and their caregivers) do you think are most critical to prioritize serving through Family First?

Check all that apply.

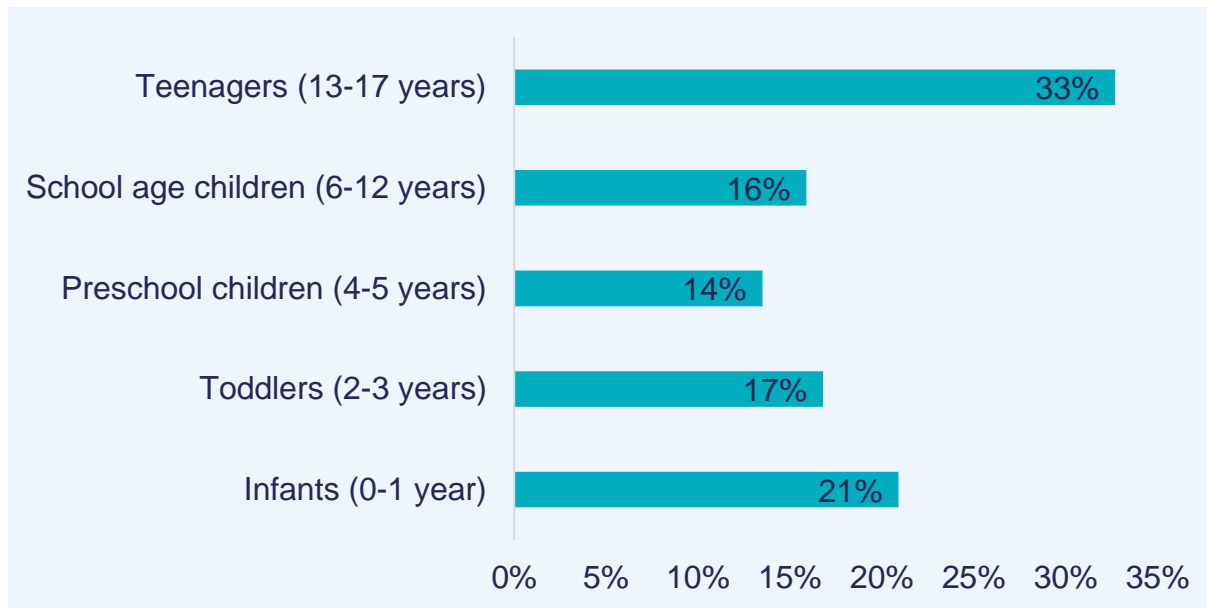
Answer categories:

- Infants (Birth-1 year)
- Toddlers (2-3 years)
- Pre-schoolers (4-5 years)
- School age (6-12 years)
- Teenagers (13-17 years)

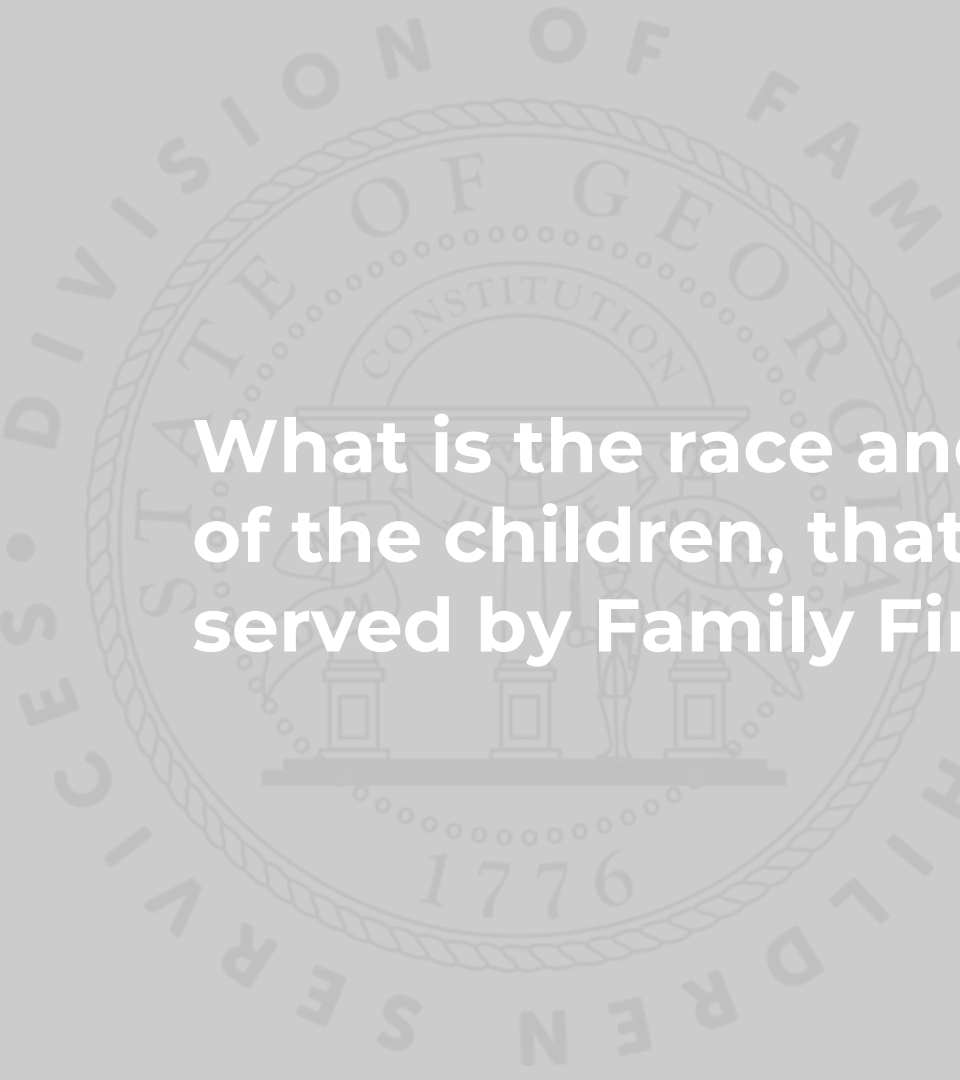


## INPUT FROM THIS WORKGROUP – POLL RESULTS

**What age children (and their caregivers) do you think are most critical to prioritize serving through Family First?**



*Poll reflects responses from members of the Prevention Services Workgroup at 4.16.21 meeting. For more information on the workgroup see <https://www.blueprintfamilyfirst.org/prevention-services-workgroup>*

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**What is the race and ethnicity  
of the children, that could be  
served by Family First?**

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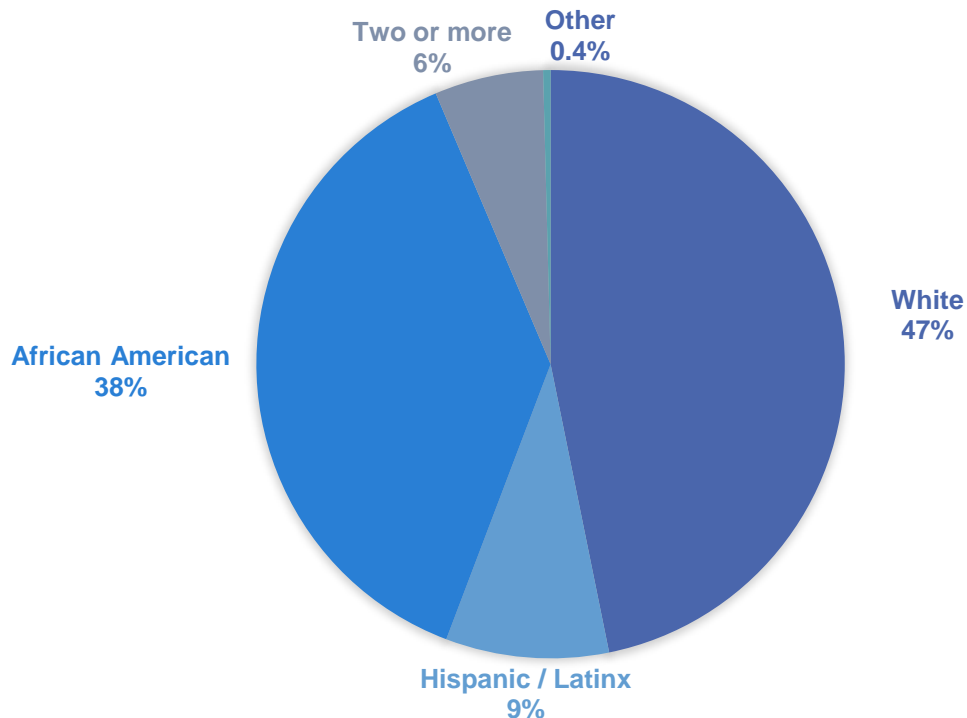
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## DATA: racial breakdown of children in Family Preservation, 2020

### Quick take-aways:

- Most children are white or black
- Nearly 1 in 10 is Hispanic
- Regional variation should be considered when initiating services



1. Other includes a combination of three racial groups: Asian with 0.33%, Native Hawaiian with 0.03%, and Native American at 0.05%.



## FOCUS GROUP INPUT

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### **Families in Georgia would benefit from EBPs, that:**

- Are **effective** across racial and ethnic subgroups, including tribal and indigenous populations.
- Are equipped to **support the complexity of families** from diverse backgrounds and/or diverse religions and beliefs.
- Ensure a **focus on unbiased decision making** with an inclusive approach to service delivery.
- **Involve and engage the community** in targeted and continued outreach efforts.





# Input from the workgroup - POLL

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*Based on your own professional expertise and experiences, to what extent do you agree with the following statement?*

In our work we **ensure an inclusive approach** to serving families of all racial and ethnic groups, gender identities, sexual orientations, religious beliefs, and cultural identities?

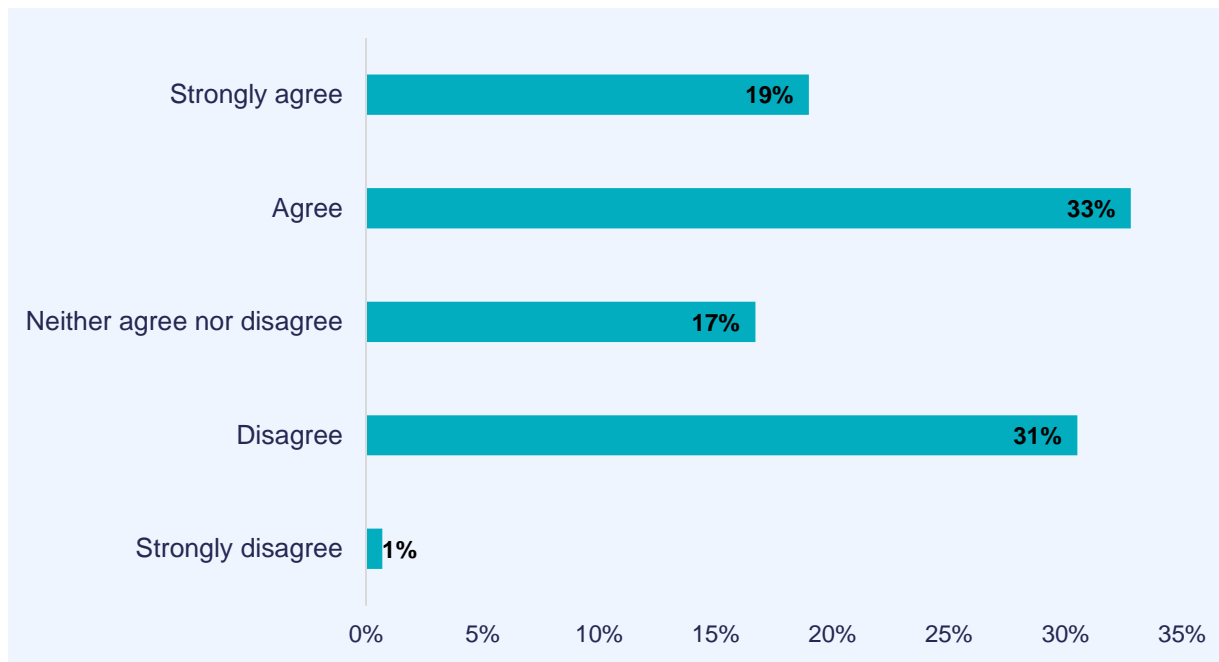
Answer categories:

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree



# Input from the workgroup – POLL results

**In our work we ensure an inclusive approach to serving families of all racial and ethnic groups, gender identities, sexual orientations, religious beliefs, and cultural identities?**



*Poll reflects responses from members of the Prevention Services Workgroup at 4.16.21 meeting. For more information on the workgroup see <https://www.blueprintfamilyfirst.org/prevention-services-workgroup>*



## Input from the workgroup

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*Based on your own professional expertise and experiences...*

*As DFCS works to create a service array aligned with the racial, ethnic, and cultural characteristics of families in GA, what do you think DFCS should consider? What input do you have?*

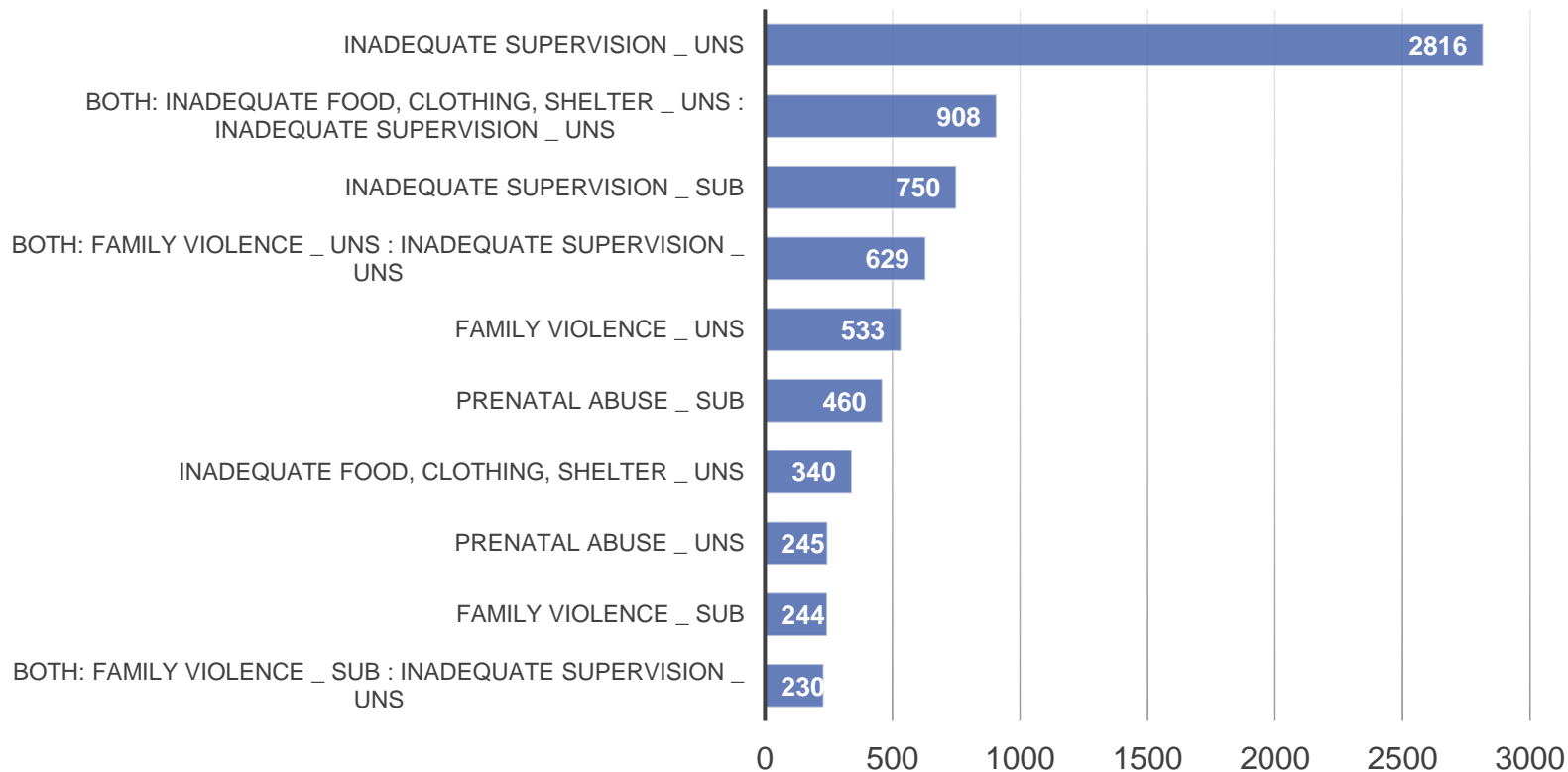
Please note your responses to this question in the chat.



**What are the challenges  
faced by families that  
could be served by Family  
First?**



## DATA: *top 10 allegations of cases in Family Preservation in 2019*

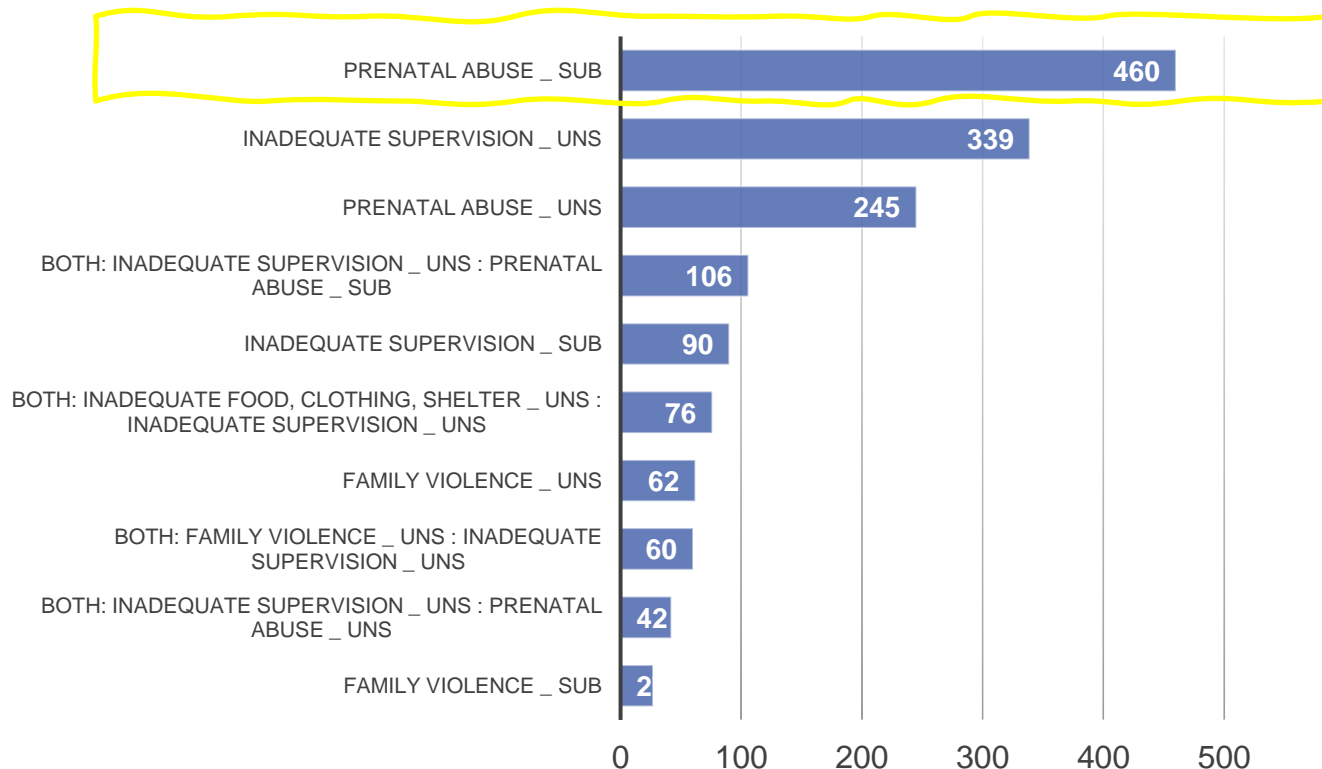


## DATA: top 10 allegations of cases in Family Preservation in 2019 by age group

Top 10 allegations of infants aged 0 – 12 months.

### Quick take-aways:

- Of all top substantiated and unsubstantiated allegations, children aged 0 – 12 mo. face the following the most:
  - Prenatal Abuse
  - Inadequate supervision
  - Inadequate food, clothing and shelter
  - Family violence

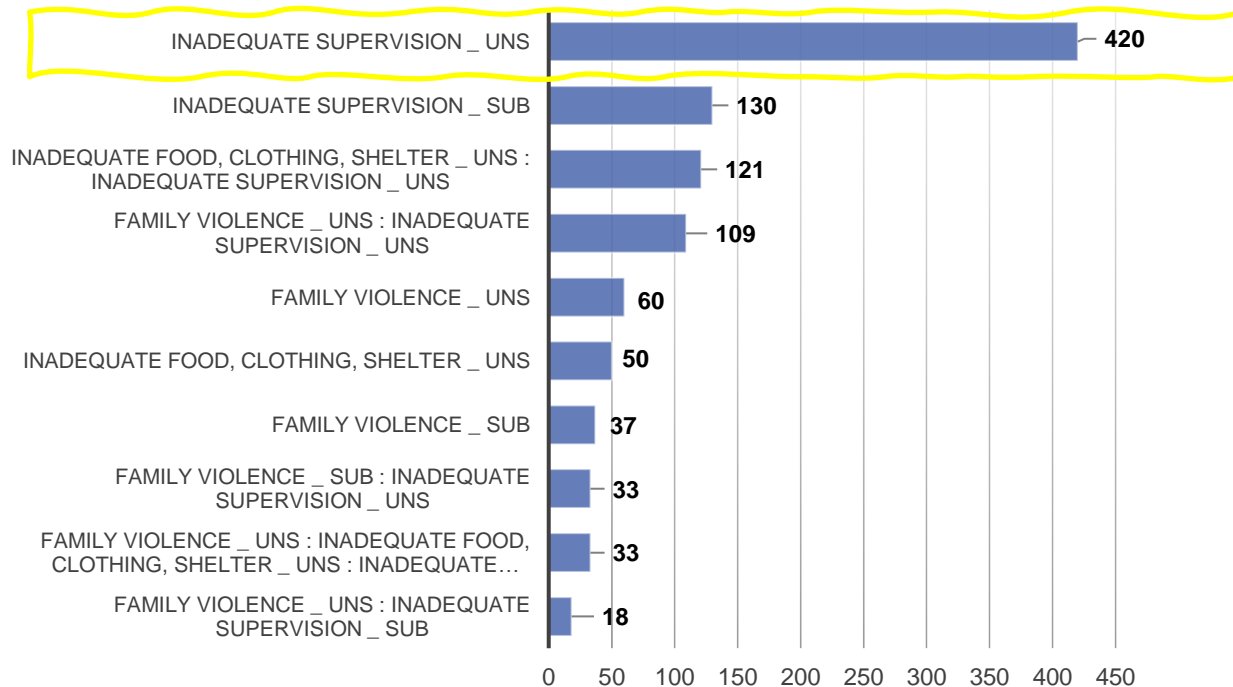


## DATA: top 10 allegations of cases in Family Preservation in 2019 by age group

Top 10 allegations of preschoolers aged 1 – 3 years old.

### Quick take-aways:

- Of all top substantiated and unsubstantiated allegations, children aged 1 – 3 face the following the most:
  - Inadequate supervision
  - Inadequate food, clothing and shelter
  - Family violence

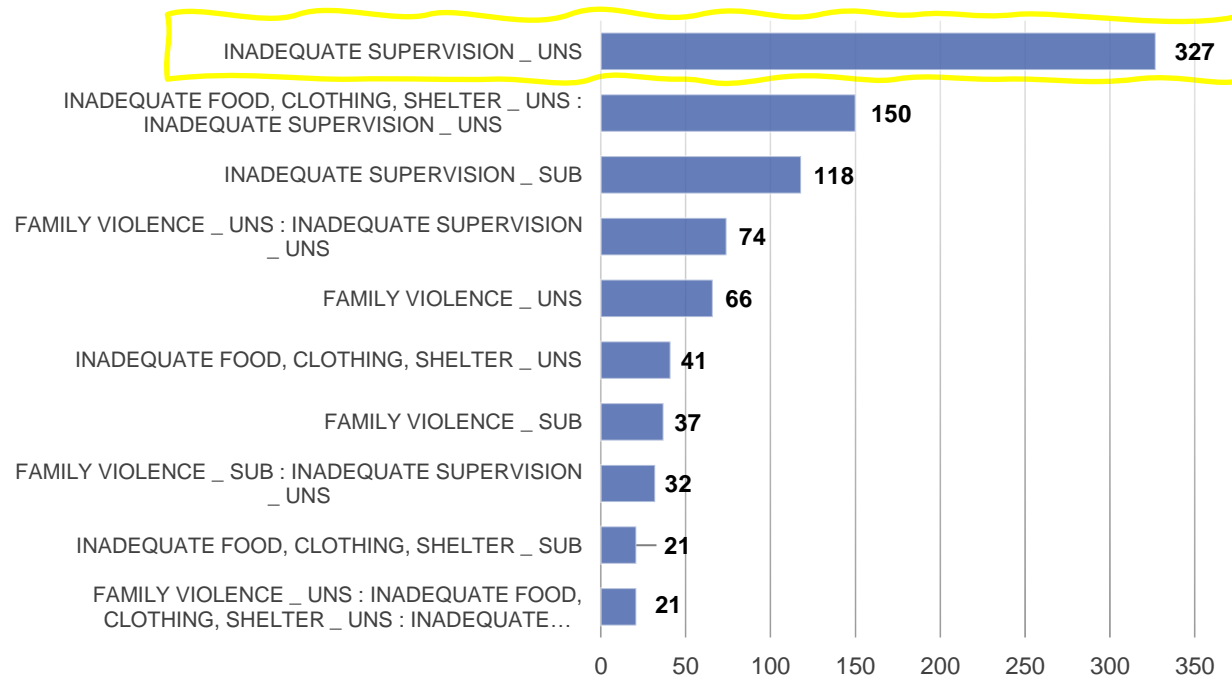


## DATA: top 10 allegations of cases in Family Preservation in 2019 by age group

Top 10 allegations of school aged 3 - 5 years old.

### Quick take-aways:

- Of all top substantiated and unsubstantiated allegations, children aged 3 – 5 face the following the most:
  - Inadequate supervision
  - Inadequate food, clothing and shelter
  - Family violence



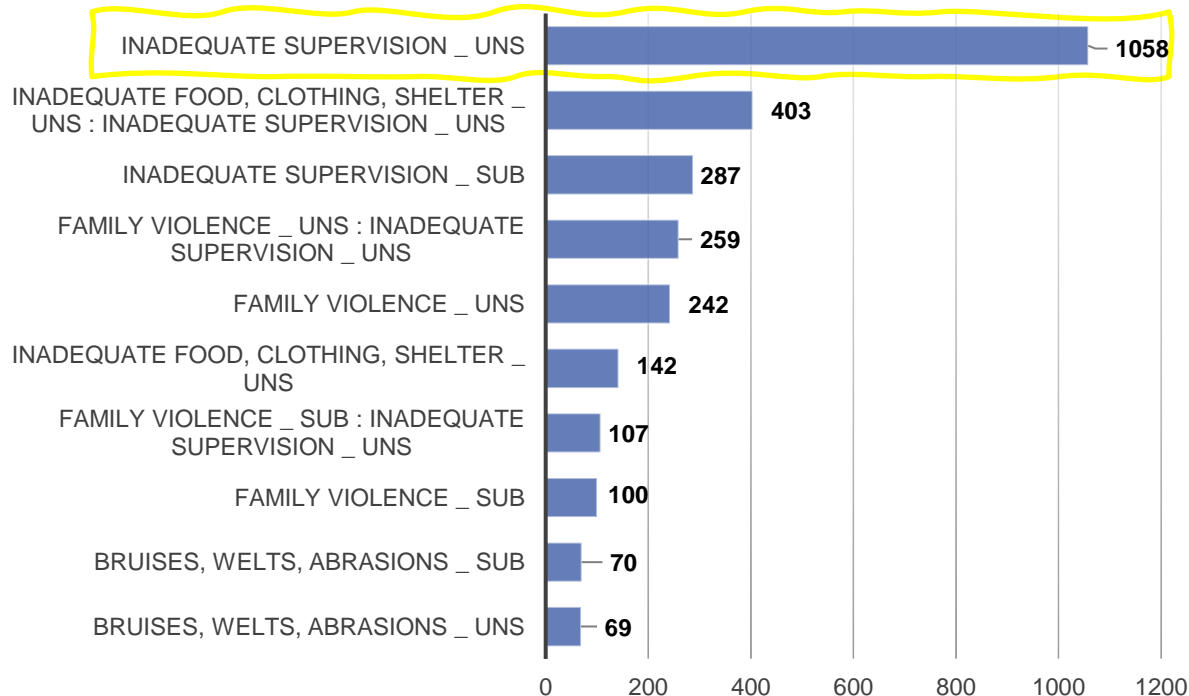


## DATA: top 10 allegations of cases in Family Preservation in 2019 by age group

Top 10 allegations of school aged 5 - 12 years old.

### Quick take-aways:

- Of all top substantiated and unsubstantiated allegations, children aged 5 - 12 face the following the most:
  - Inadequate supervision
  - Inadequate food, clothing and shelter
  - Family violence
  - Bruises, Welts, Abrasions

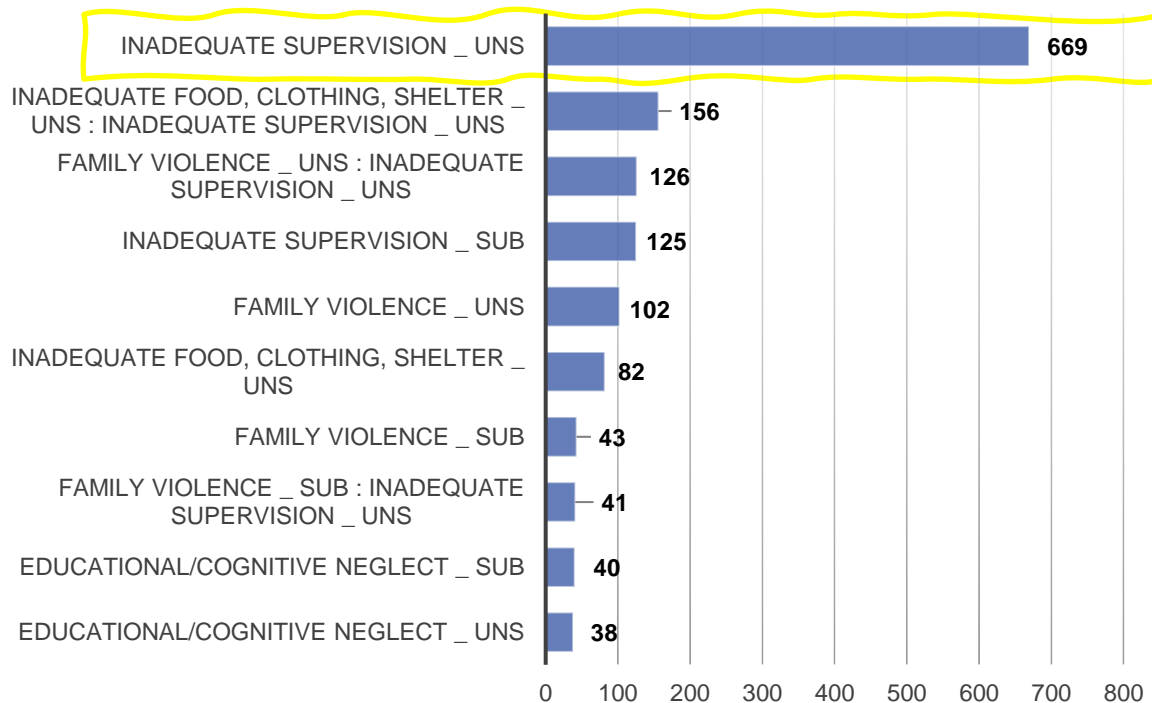


## DATA: top 10 allegations of cases in Family Preservation in 2019 by age group

Top 10 allegations of teenagers 12 - 18 years old.

### Quick take-aways:

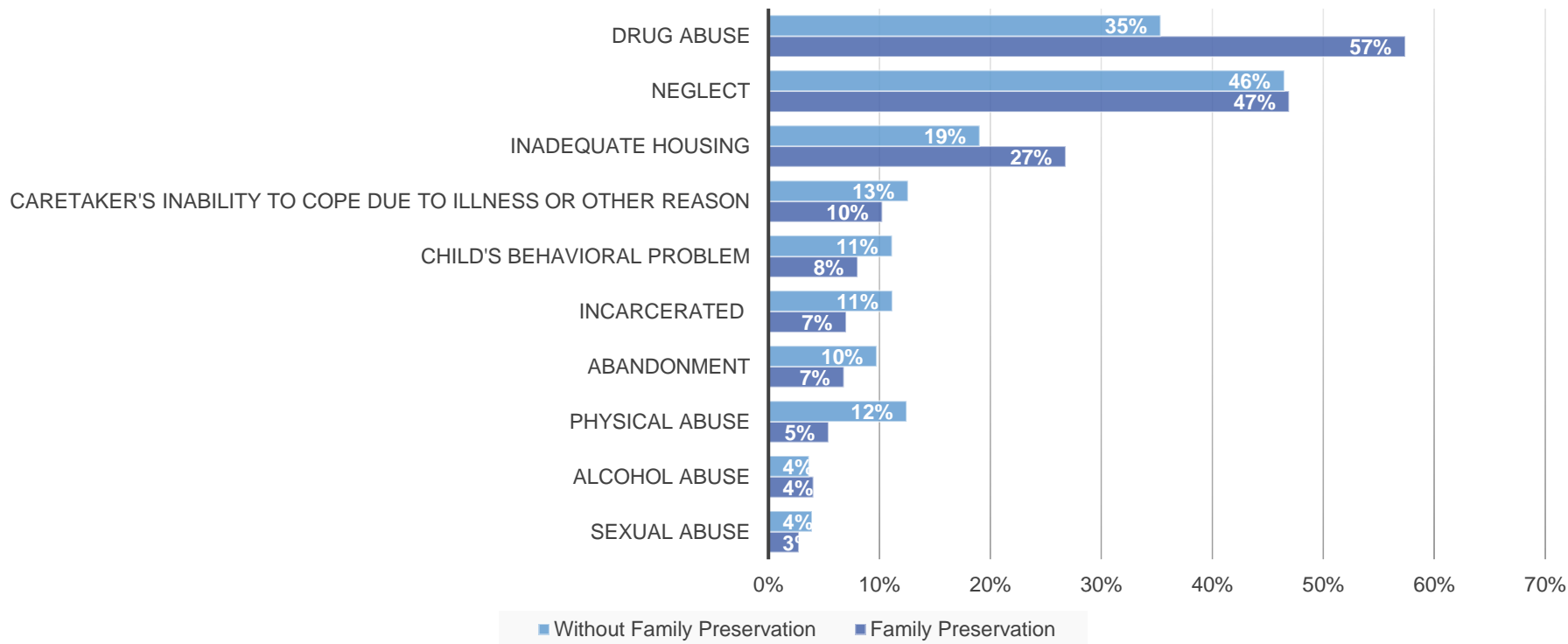
- Of all top substantiated and unsubstantiated allegations, children aged 12 - 18 face the following the most:
  - Inadequate supervision
  - Inadequate food, clothing and shelter
  - Family violence
  - Educational / Cognitive Neglect





## DATA: *removal reasons for 2020*

The percent of foster care cases by **removal reason** with a Family Preservation stage compared to cases without a Family Preservation stage.





## FOCUS GROUP INPUT I

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### **Families in Georgia would benefit from EBPs, that:**

- Focus on **mental health needs** of caregivers and children/youth through counseling, therapy or other types of support that target their unique mental health needs.
- Build **parenting skills** specifically aimed to meet the needs of the parent/caregiver. For example, building skills to handle conflicts and ensure positive interactions between parents and children/youth.
- Have elements of **peer guidance, advocacy and/or mentoring** for caregivers/parents from other caregivers/parents in a similar situation. Both in order to normalize challenges, and to build the participants' capacity to manage relationship with their children and with DFCS.



## FOCUS GROUP INPUT II

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### **Families in Georgia would benefit from EBPs, that:**

- Offer **concrete supports for families**; for example, reviewing financial options and offering support when possible, assessing housing needs and offering material assistance in general.
- **Facilitating networks and community support systems** that meet families where they are, to prevent issues from escalating into crises and provide ongoing support after DFCS involvement.



# Input from the workgroup - POLL

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*Based on the presented data and your own professional expertise and experiences...*

What are the most essential child, youth and family needs that we should aim to meet through Family First?

Check all that apply.

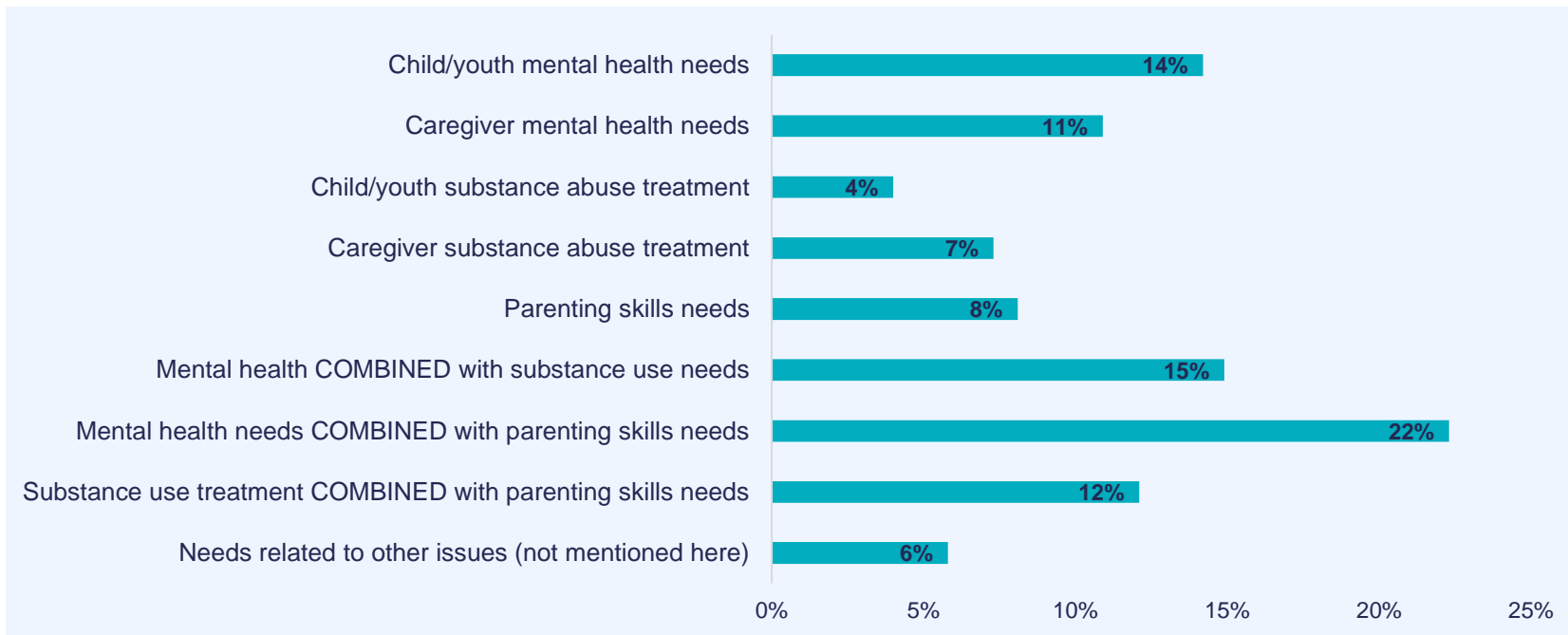
## Answer categories:

- *Child/youth* mental health needs
- *Caregiver* mental health needs
- Parenting skills needs
- *Child/youth* substance use needs
- *Caregiver* substance use needs
- Mental health combined with parenting skills needs
- Mental health combined with substance use needs
- Substance use needs combined with parenting skills needs
- Needs related to other issues (not mentioned here)



# Input from the workgroup – POLL results

**What are the most essential child, youth and family needs that we should aim to meet through Family First?**



*Poll reflects responses from members of the Prevention Services Workgroup at 4.16.21 meeting. For more information on the workgroup see <https://www.blueprintfamilyfirst.org/prevention-services-workgroup>*



## Input from the workgroup

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*Based on your own professional expertise and experiences...*

What child, youth, or family needs do you think are most important for Family First Services to address?

Please note your responses to this question in the chat.





# The process moving forward



## The process moving forward

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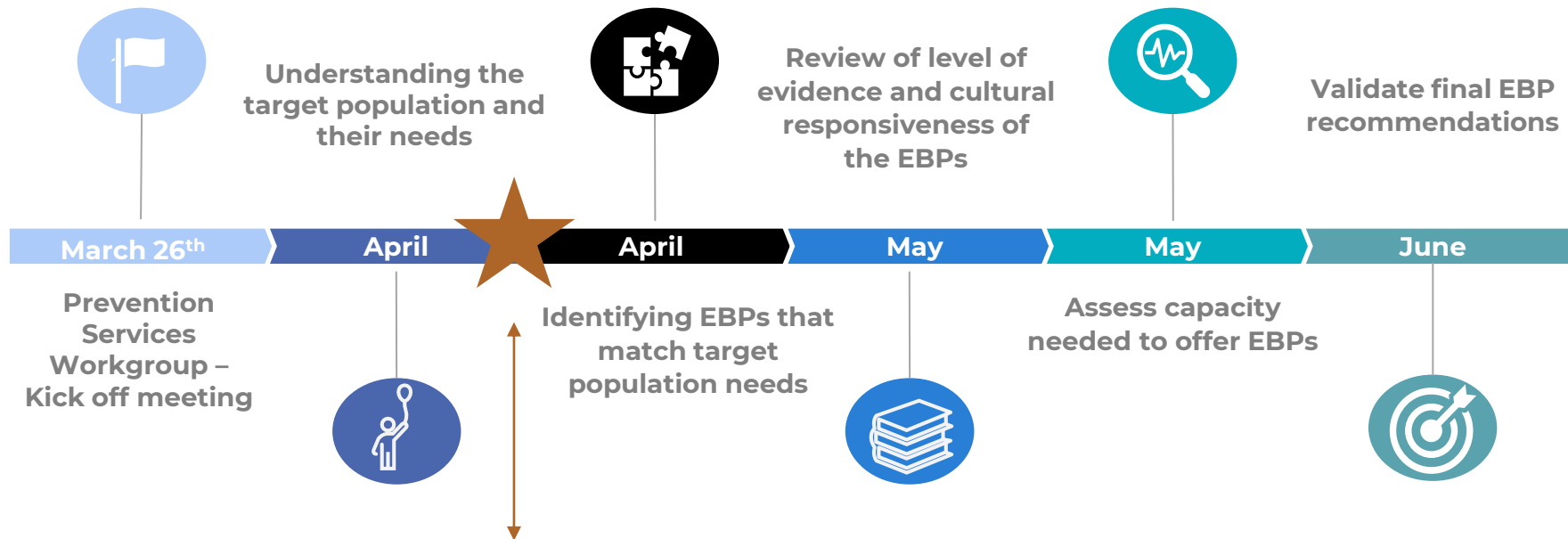
Today we have been focused on answering the following questions:

1. *What are the **characteristics** of children & families who are most critical to serve through FF?*
2. *What are the most prevalent **service needs** among the target population?*

The target population data, the input from the focus groups, and your valuable input via poll and chat will provide (part of) the foundation needed to assess if the EBP is the right 'fit' for Georgia.



# Process and Timeline



Before we meet again (on April 30<sup>th</sup>), DFCS Family First Team and Chapin Hall will assess each EBP according to the identified essential characteristics and needs.



## The process moving forward

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Chapin Hall and DFCS Family First Team will assess each EBP according to the following criteria:

Questions to be answered	Rating
To what extent does the EBP align with the <i>demographic characteristics</i> of the TP?	EBPs serving priority age ranges identified through data and workgroup input receive a “★”
To what extent does the EBP align with the <i>service needs</i> of the TP?	EBPs serving priority service needs identified through data and workgroup input receive a “★”

This will serve as the first (of several) step in the EBP selection process whereby EBPs will be assigned a “★” if they meet priority criteria.



# Input from the workgroup – POLL results

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***Based on the presented information, the rating process is clear to me***

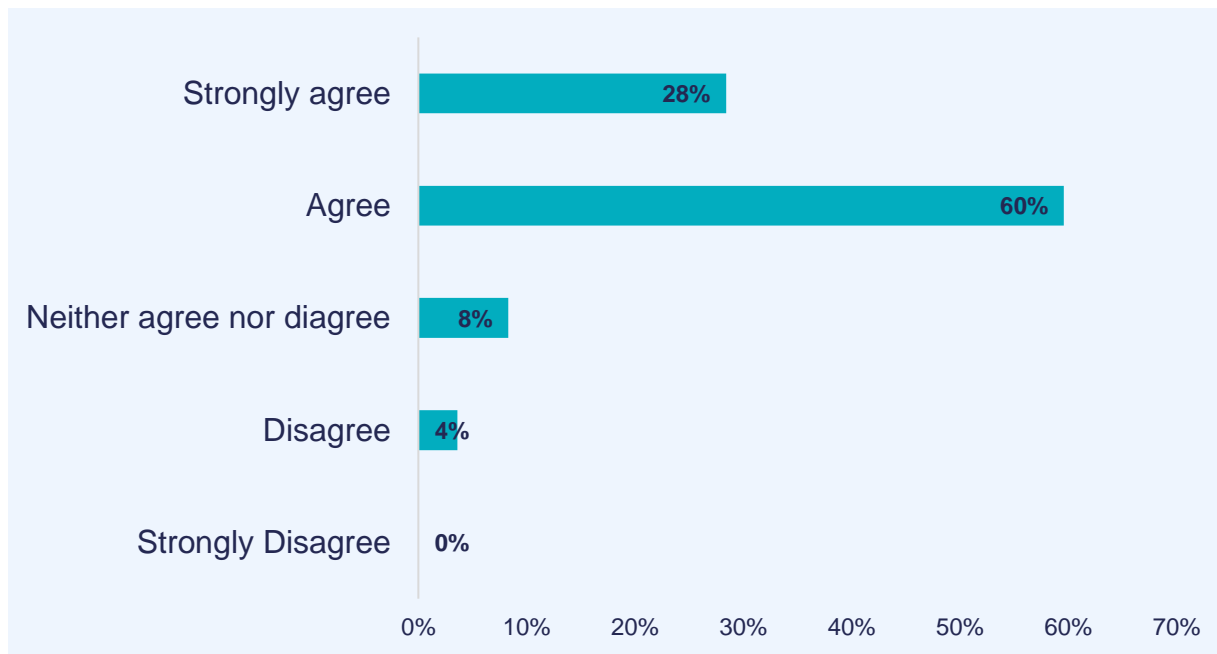
Answer categories:

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree



# Input from the workgroup – POLL results

Based on the presented information, the rating process is clear to me...



Poll reflects responses from members of the Prevention Services Workgroup at 4.16.21 meeting. For more information on the workgroup see <https://www.blueprintfamilyfirst.org/prevention-services-workgroup>

# Next steps





# Next steps and questions?

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Next meeting of the Prevention Services Workgroup is April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 1-2.30 EST.

We will be focusing on **identifying EBPs that match target population needs.**

***Any questions about the purpose or process?***

Please enter your questions in the chat.

The DFCS Family First team will review your input and address the most frequent questions before and/or during the next meeting.

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The background features a large, faint, circular seal of the Division of Family and Children Services, State of Georgia. The seal contains the text "DIVISION OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES", "STATE OF GEORGIA", "CONSTITUTION", "1776", and "WISDOM JUSTICE MODERATION".

**Thank you for your  
participation today!**

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