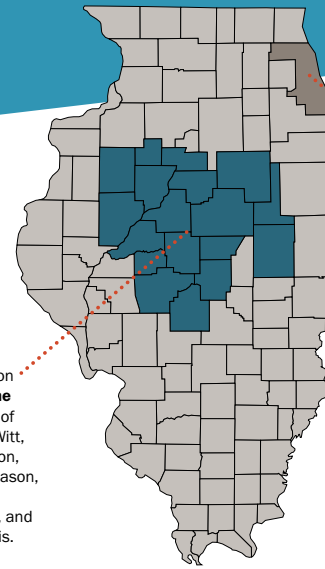


Evaluation Results from Illinois



Comparison and intervention groups were identified in **Cook County, IL.**

The target population was **children between the ages of 11 and 16 with a finalized adoption or guardianship.**

Comparison and intervention groups were identified in **the Central Region** composed of Champaign, Christian, De Witt, Ford, Fulton, Knox, Livingston, Logan, Macon, Marshall, Mason, McLean, Menard, Peoria, Sangamon, Stark, Tazewell, and Woodford Counties in Illinois.

PROJECT PARTNERS

QIC-AG partnered with the **Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Metropolitan Family Services and Baby Fold.**

CONTINUUM PHASE

Selective

INTERVENTION

Illinois DCFS implemented **Trauma Affect Regulation: Guide for Education and Therapy (TARGET)**. TARGET is a strengths-based, psycho-educational intervention for children affected by trauma or exposed to adverse childhood experiences that includes 7 essential core skills.

STUDY DESIGN

Experimental: **Cook County:** Random Assignment

Central Region: Random Consent Design

RESEARCH QUESTION

Will children between the ages of 11 and 16 in Cook County or in specific counties within the Central Region with a finalized adoption or guardianship, experience a reduction in post permanency discontinuity, improved wellbeing, and improved behavioral health if they are provided TARGET as compared to similar children who are provided services as usual?

Findings

OUTCOMES

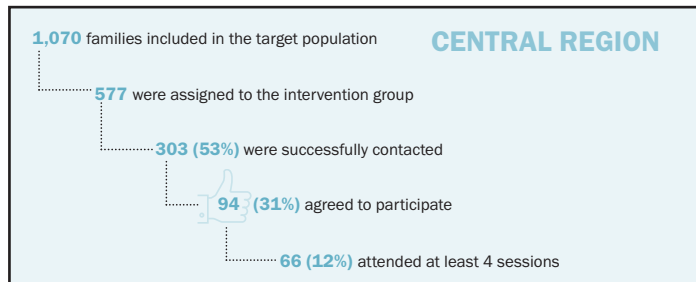
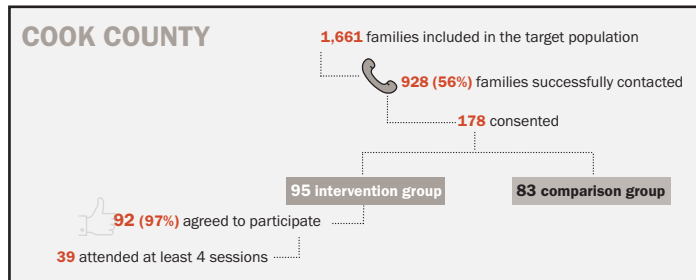
The study's short-term outcomes for Cook County and the Central Region were measured by examining differences between the TARGET participants and the comparison group on:



- Child behavioral issues
- School-based problematic behaviors
- Caregiver commitment
- Caregiver strain

There were no statistically significant intervention effects after six months; however, in both Cook County and Central Region, we did see fewer school-based problematic behaviors in children whose families received TARGET. It is important to keep in mind that TARGET families were experiencing significant needs at baseline that may require a longer observation period to detect change.

RECRUITMENT



TO PARTICIPATE OR NOT?

Compared to caregivers who chose not to participate, caregivers who chose to participate were, on average:

- Less confident in meeting their child's needs
- Struggling more to effectively manage their child's behavior
- Less likely to report a warm relationship with their child
- Less likely to view the impact of adoption or guardianship on their family as positive

WHAT CAREGIVERS HAD TO SAY...

The majority of families reported positive adoption and guardianship experiences.



"My adoption has given me fulfillment and purpose and an opportunity to pour into the life of my granddaughter. As we are going through her teen years, we have run into many challenges, as she is developing, maturing and finding her own way. Yet this has been rewarding."

Families also provided suggestions for improvements:



"I feel that the social worker should call and check-up. I reached out for help and help was never given."

Promoting the wellbeing of families formed through adoption and guardianship may require an approach where a variety of services are offered that take into account developmental considerations, cultural issues, lifestyle choices, and work or other life stressors faced by adoptive and guardianship families.



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