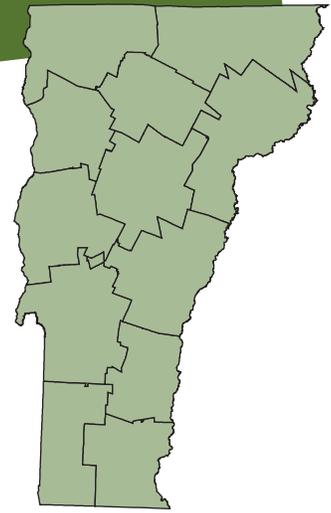


Evaluation Results from

Vermont



PROJECT PARTNERS

QIC-AG partnered with the **Vermont Department for Children and Family Services, Family Services Division (DCF/FSD)** and **Lund**.

CONTINUUM PHASE

Universal

INTERVENTION

The **Vermont Permanency Survey** was developed to:

1. Identify the strengths and challenges of families formed through adoption and guardianship;
2. Learn from families about their support and service needs; and
3. Recommend ways to deliver data-driven, relevant and timely prevention and intervention services.

STUDY DESIGN

Descriptive

The target population included **all families with children in the state of Vermont** whose parents or guardians **received an Adoption or Guardianship Assistance Agreement Subsidy**.

- ✓ Surveys were collected in cycles based on FSD district about 6 months apart. Altogether, 1,470 families were asked to participate across the state.



809
PARTICIPANTS
(55% OF FAMILIES
RESPONDED)

RESEARCH QUESTION

Will families with children in the state of Vermont whose parents or guardians currently receive an Adoption or Guardianship Assistance Agreement Subsidy experience a reduction in post permanency discontinuity and improved child and family wellbeing if families are provided assertive outreach to complete a survey?

Findings

FAMILY WELLBEING



98% of caregivers were committed to their child for life

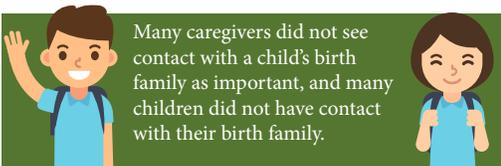


91% had never thought about ending adoption or guardianship

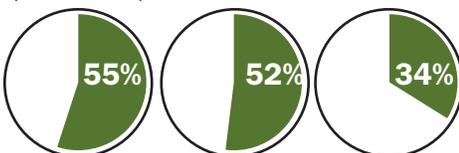


86% said that adoption/guardianship had a positive impact on their family

BIRTH FAMILY CONTACT



Birth sibling (not in home) Birth mother Birth father



% WITH CONTACT IN LAST 6 MONTHS WHEN CONTACT WAS POSSIBLE

OVERALL, FAMILIES ARE THRIVING! HOWEVER, SOME FAMILIES MAY NEED MORE SUPPORT.

If you knew then what you know now, do you think you still would have adopted or assumed guardianship of your child?

78%
Definitely would

22%
Uncertain or would not



Caregivers who were **UNCERTAIN** or **WOULD NOT**, on average:

- had older children with more behavior challenges;
- felt less confident in meeting their child's needs
- had more difficulty coping in times of stress;
- experienced higher levels of strain attributed to parenting; and
- were less likely to be related to their child

compared to families who said they **'DEFINITELY WOULD.'**

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Some families may benefit from additional follow-up with timely, adoption-competent and trauma-informed services. Services should assess and support the entire family (not just the child) and be offered to families throughout their journey.
2. Routine follow-up with families, particularly as children get older, may be helpful in preventing future discontinuity.
3. Caregivers may need additional training and support to help them talk to their children about healthy connections with their birth family members.



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JACK, JOSEPH AND MORTON MANDEL
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