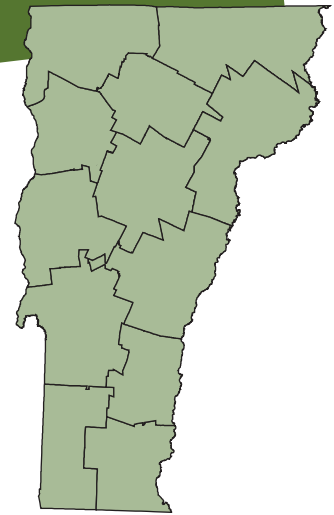


# Evaluation Results from

# 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

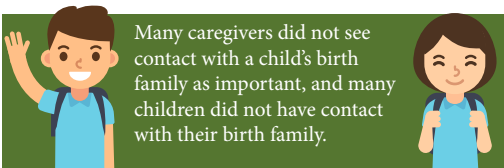


**91%** had never thought about ending adoption or guardianship

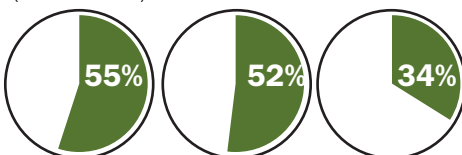


**86%** said that adoption/guardianship had a positive impact on their family

### 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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Funded through the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau, Grant #90CO1122. The contents of this presentation do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the funders, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This information is in the public domain. Readers are encouraged to copy and share it, but please credit the QIC-AG.

The QIC-AG was funded through a five-year cooperative agreement between the Children's Bureau, Spaulding for Children, and its partners the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.