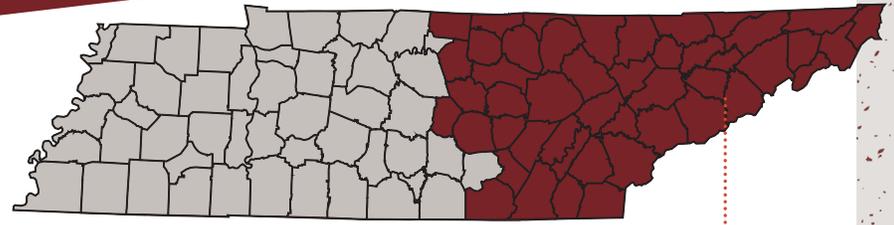


Tennessee



PROJECT PARTNERS

QIC-AG partnered with the **Tennessee Department of Children's Services (DCS)** and **Harmony Family Center**.

CONTINUUM PHASE

Intensive Services

INTERVENTION

The **Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics (NMT)** includes training/capacity building for family counselors to use the NMT with adopted children, assessment of trauma experiences on brain development and individualized, comprehensive treatment plans based on the assessment.

STUDY DESIGN

Quasi-Experimental

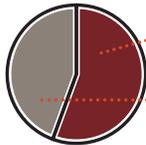
The target population was adoptive families served by the ASAP program. Families served by ASAP in the East, Northeast, Tennessee Valley, Knox, Smoky Mountain, and Upper Cumberland regions were in the intervention group. Families in the remainder of the state were assigned to the comparison group.

RESEARCH QUESTION

Will children and youth from families who have adopted and are referred (or self-refer) to ASAP's post adoption services in the East, Northeast, Tennessee Valley, Knox, Smoky Mountain and Upper Cumberland regions who receive the NMT experience a reduction in post permanency discontinuity, improved wellbeing, and improved behavioral health when compared to similar children and youth who receive services as usual?

Findings

386
families
participated in
the study

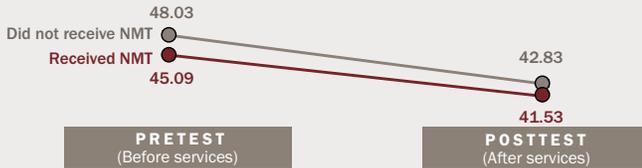


215 received the **treatment (NMT)** at Harmony Family Center.
171 received **services as usual** (comparison) at Catholic Charities.

CAREGIVER CONCERN



Caregivers reported less parental concern



Scores are from the Parental Feelings Form (PFF). This scale runs from 0-60. A lower score = less parental concern.

CHILD BEHAVIOR

Change in BPI Internalizing Score



Fewer internalizing behaviors

The arrows to the left represent the average reduction in BPI Internalizing Behavior Subscale scores from pretest to posttest for families who received NMT and those who did not. While behaviors improved for both groups, NMT families showed a greater improvement.

EMOTIONAL SECURITY & COMMITMENT

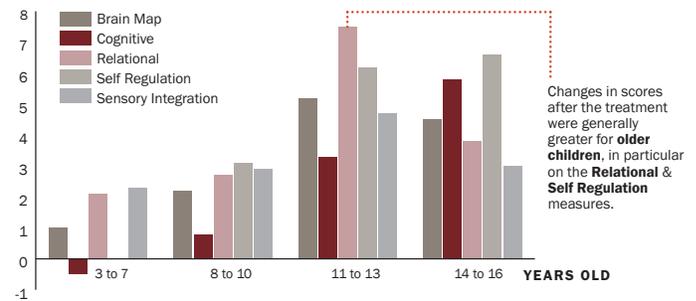


Caregivers reported a higher sense of belonging and stronger claim to their child.



Scores are from the Belonging and Emotional Security Tool-Adoption & Guardianships (BEST-AG). This scale runs from 13-65. a higher score = greater sense of family belonging.

PERCENT CHANGE IN NMT METRICS BEFORE & AFTER TREATMENT



RECOMMENDATION

More research using larger samples and longer observation windows are needed to examine the effects of the NMT with post-adoptive children and families. Incorporating the NMT Metric as a post-adoption intervention is a long-term investment designed to help children who have experienced significant trauma and may have a positive impact on children and families over time.



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JACK, JOSEPH AND MORTON MANDEL
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