



**Office of Children
and Family Services**
Healthy Families NY

Healthy Families NY

A stylized purple icon representing a family of three people: a larger figure on the left, a smaller figure in the middle, and another larger figure on the right, all with their arms raised in a celebratory or joyful pose.

2022-2023 Annual Report





About HFNY

Healthy Families NY (HFNY) is a Healthy Families America accredited home visiting program that seeks to improve the health and well-being of infants and children through home-based services delivered by non-profit organizations in local communities.

The program was established in 1995 by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) and is supported in its implementation by a Central Administration comprised of partners from OCFS, Prevent Child Abuse New York, and the Center for Human Services Research, State University of New York, University at Albany.

<https://www.healthyfamiliesnewyork.org>

Summary

This report serves as the Healthy Families NY (HFNY) system's primary mechanism for sharing statewide service delivery and family outcome data. Overall, HFNY programs are operating with fidelity to the model and achieving the outcomes that the program is intended to address. HFNY Central Administration will continue to work closely with each program site to provide technical assistance and support to address performance that does not yet meet statewide standards.



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Introduction

Healthy Families NY (HFNY) is an evidence-based prevention program accredited by Healthy Families America. HFNY seeks to improve the health and well-being of children and families by providing long-term support to expectant and new families within their own homes. Services are targeted to families living in communities with limited access to economic and concrete resources. Participation in the program is always voluntary.

We all need a little guidance to navigate the joys and challenges of parenthood.

Program Goals

HFNY uses an infant mental health approach that focuses on the relationship between the infant and the parent, and the attachment that develops between them, to achieve its mission of preventing child abuse and neglect.



Supports Parent-Child Bonding and Relationships

HFNY builds healthy, trusting, and nurturing relationships with parents and teaches parents how to build strong relationships with their children.



Promotes Health, Development, and Safety

HFNY promotes positive parenting strategies, provides age-appropriate child development information, and forges strong connections with medical providers and other community partners to address families' needs.



Enhances Family Independence and Self-Sufficiency

HFNY works with families to build personalized service plans and set meaningful and attainable goals. Family strengths are strategically emphasized to reinforce successes and overcome challenges.



Anyone can refer a family to HFNY. Families who are interested can contact a program themselves to see if they are eligible.

Eligibility

Pregnant and parenting families



Signature Model

Pregnant or infant under 3 months of age

and at least one risk factor



Under 21



Unmarried



Late or no prenatal care



Income or financial concerns



Child Welfare Protocol

Pregnant or child under 24 months of age

and

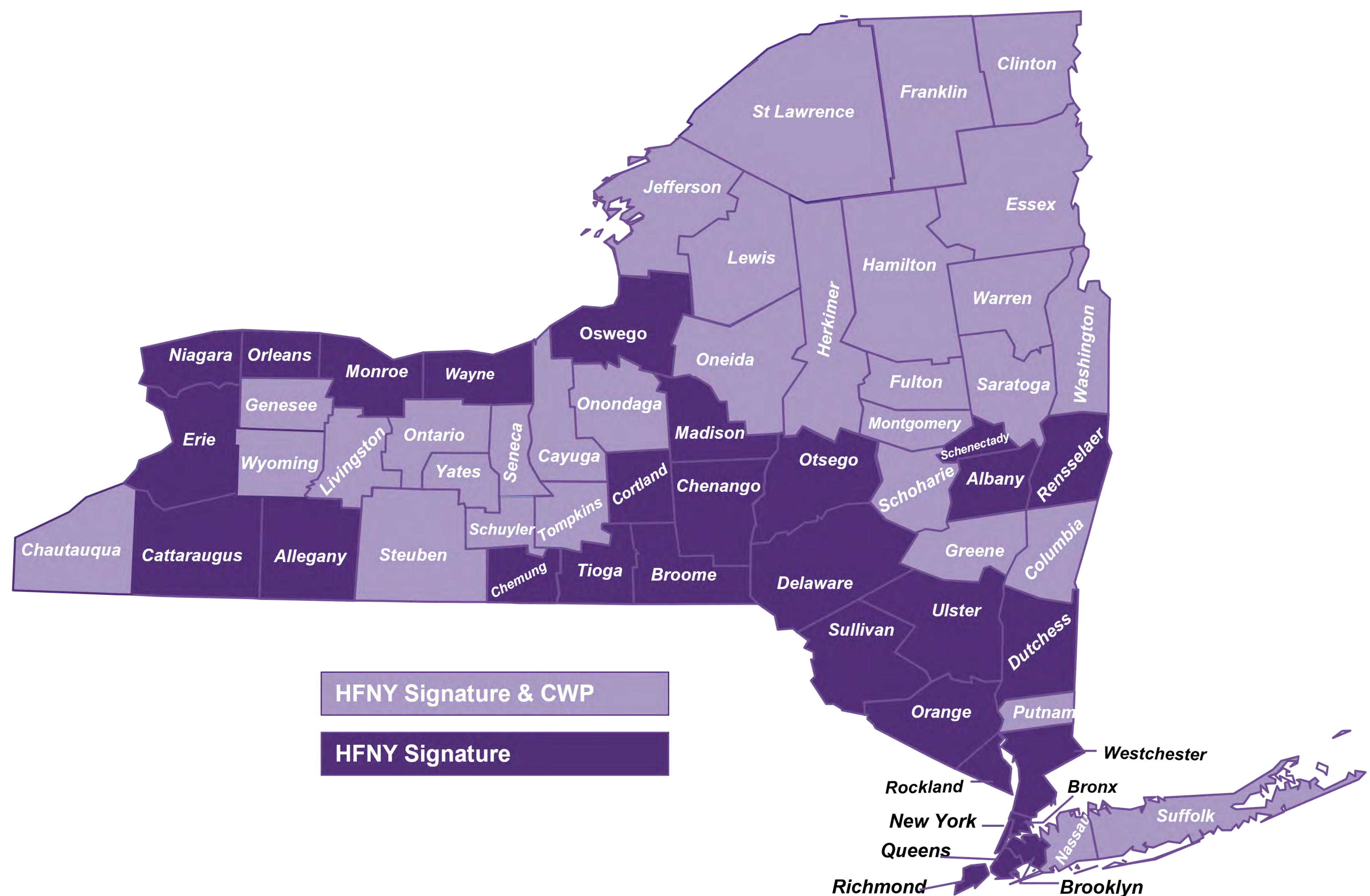


Referred from a child welfare agency

Home visits begin during pregnancy or shortly after birth. Weekly visits are offered initially and decrease over time as families' needs change. Families can stay enrolled until the child turns 5 years old.

Service Delivery Area

HFNY began serving families in 1995. In state fiscal year (SFY) 2022-2023, OCFS awarded funding to 11 new HFNY programs and three existing HFNY programs to expand services. HFNY now operates 54 programs and serves all 62 counties in the state. At the same time, OCFS and HFNY began to implement the Child Welfare Protocol (CWP). The CWP extends the eligibility time frame from prenatal to three months from birth under the Signature Model (SM) to prenatal to 24 months from birth for families who are referred to HFNY from child welfare agencies. The new and expanded programs began implementing the SM and the CWP in 2023. OCFS and HFNY plan to extend the CWP to the programs already implementing the SM as funds are available. The image below shows the model(s) currently available in each county.



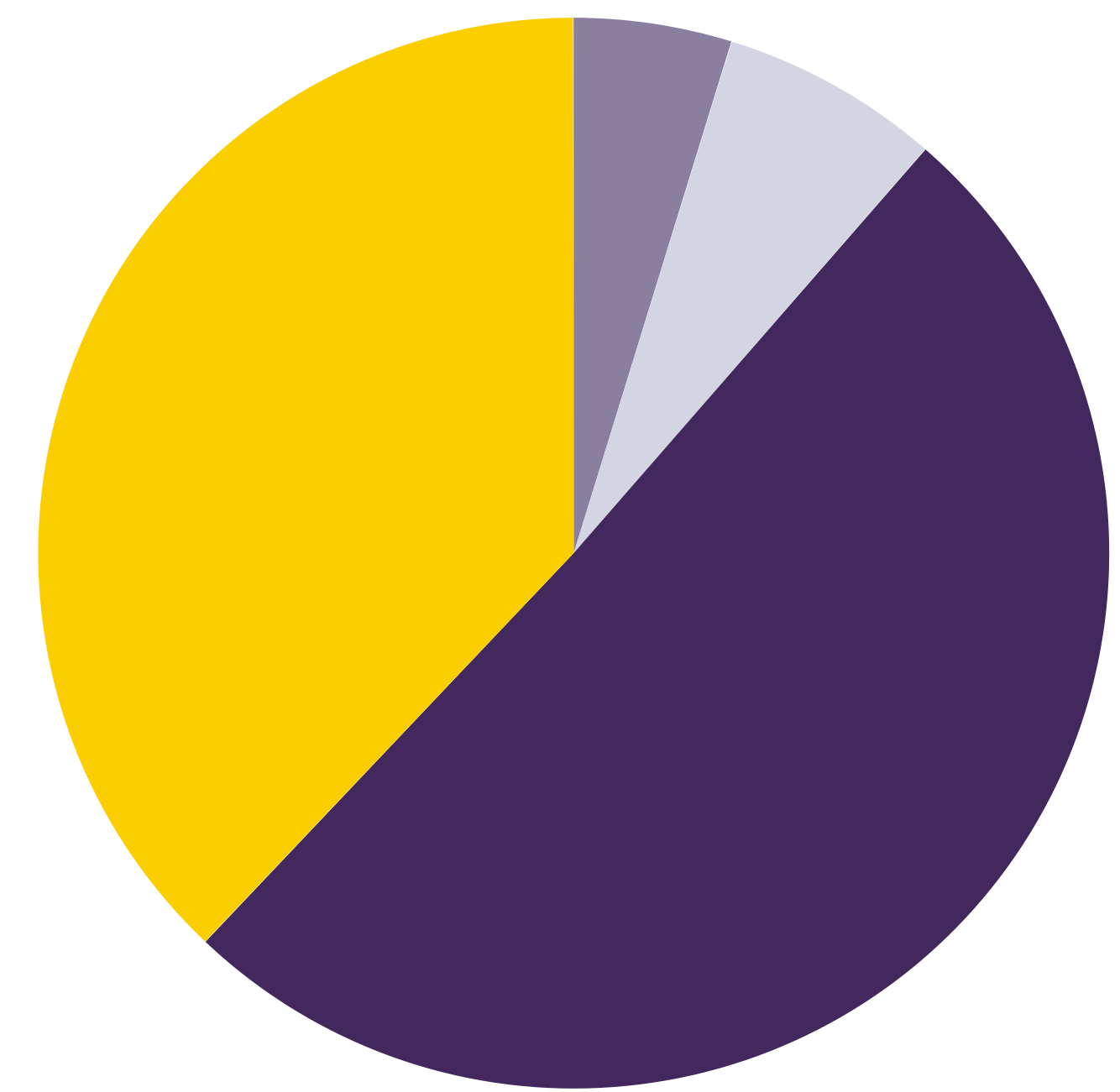
Caregiver Information

Between April 1, 2022, and March 31, 2023, HFNY programs provided services to 5,788 caregivers and their families.

Race/Ethnicity



Age

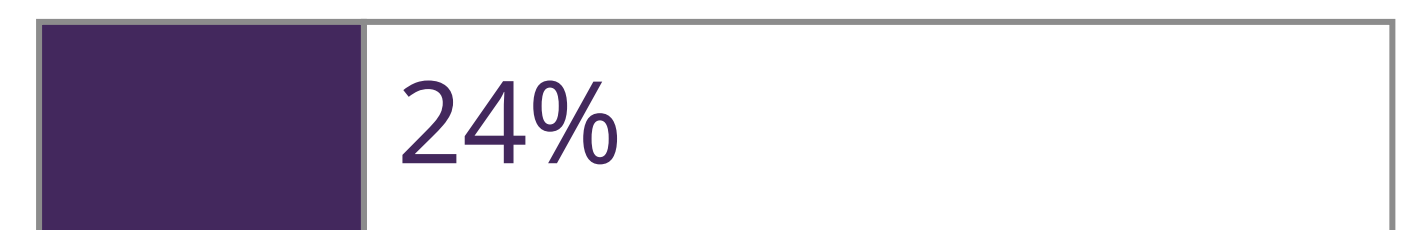


Under 18 (4.77%) 18 to 20 (6.64%)
 21 to 30 (50.67%) Over 30 (37.92%)

Additional Characteristics



Married



Employed



First-Time Parent



Enrolled Prenatally

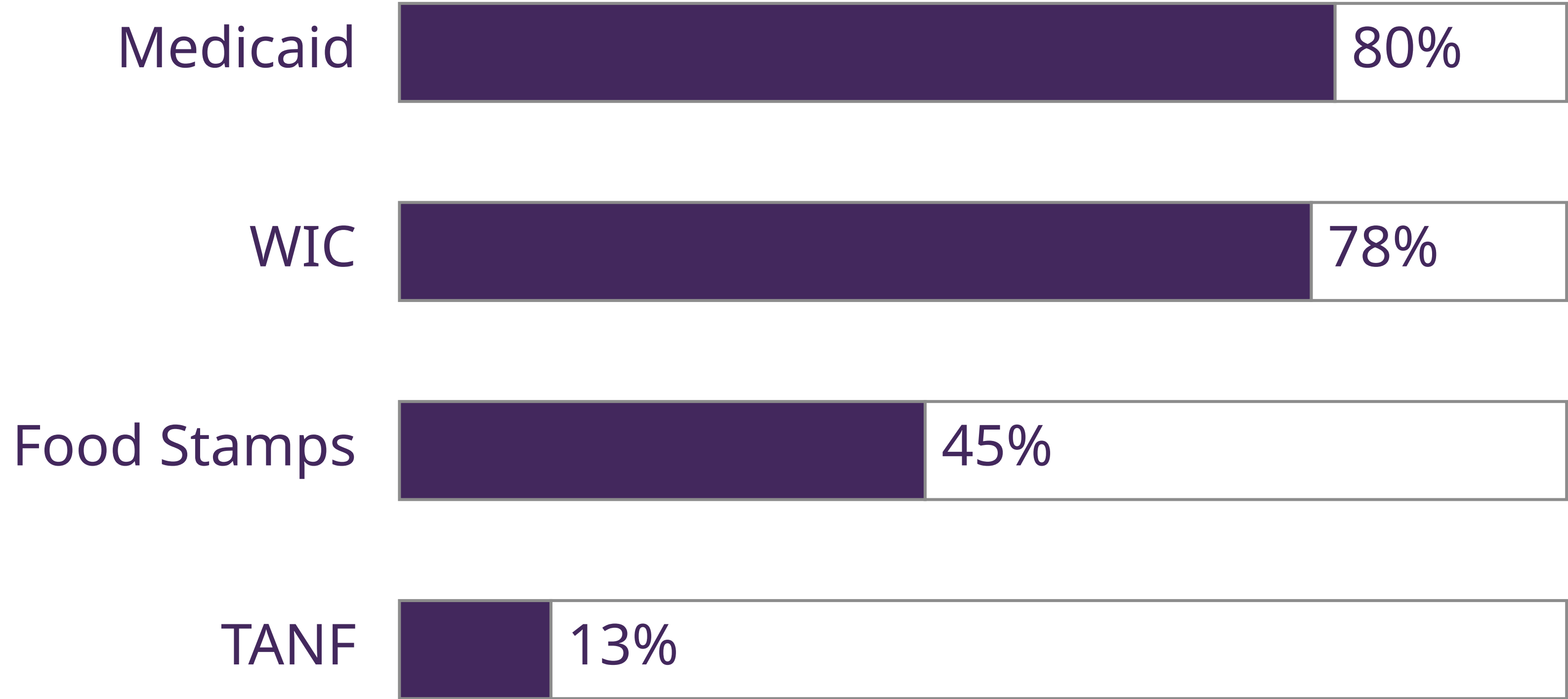


High School Education or Greater



Service Connections at Enrollment

Many of the families served by the program entered with low income. A large percentage were already connected to services for low-income families when they enrolled.

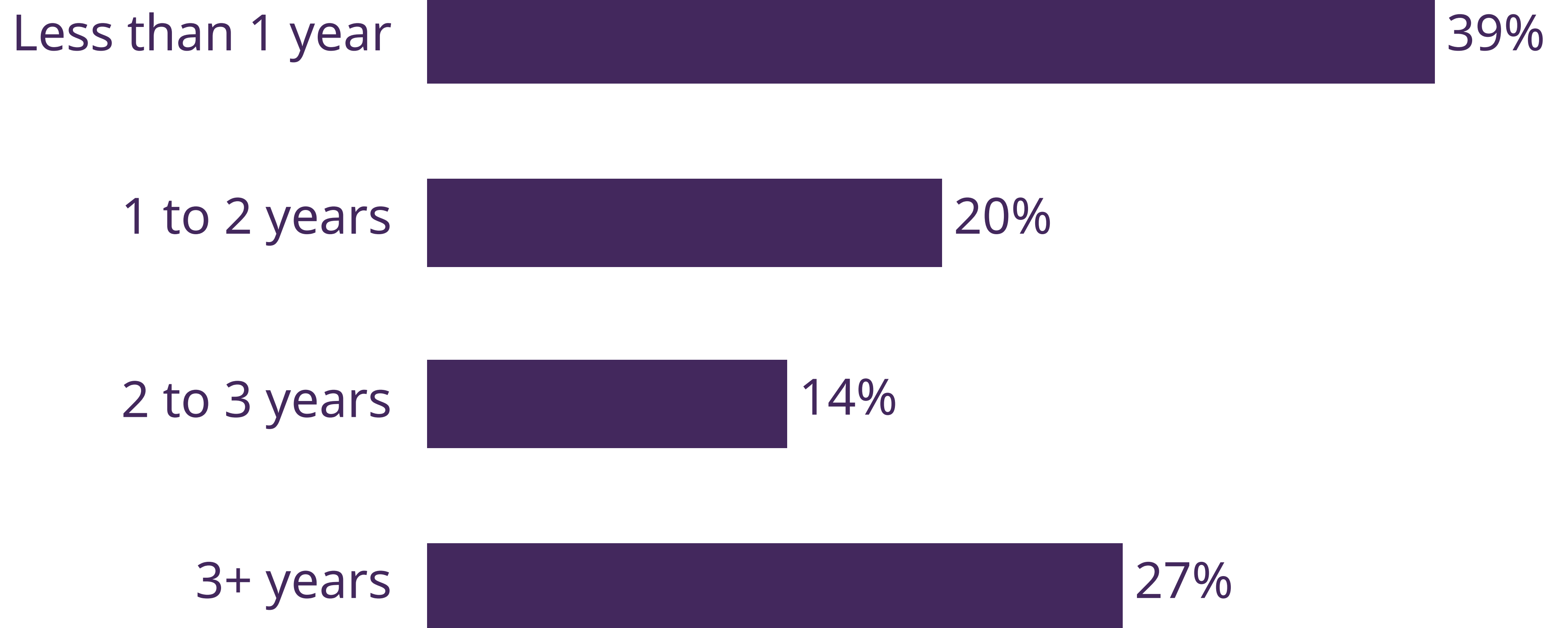


Service Delivery



Length of Enrollment

Families receiving services during SFY 2022-2023 had been enrolled for:



Home Visit Completion Rate

Most families received the intended level of service (i.e., at least 75% of their expected visits).

Received at least 75% of expected visits



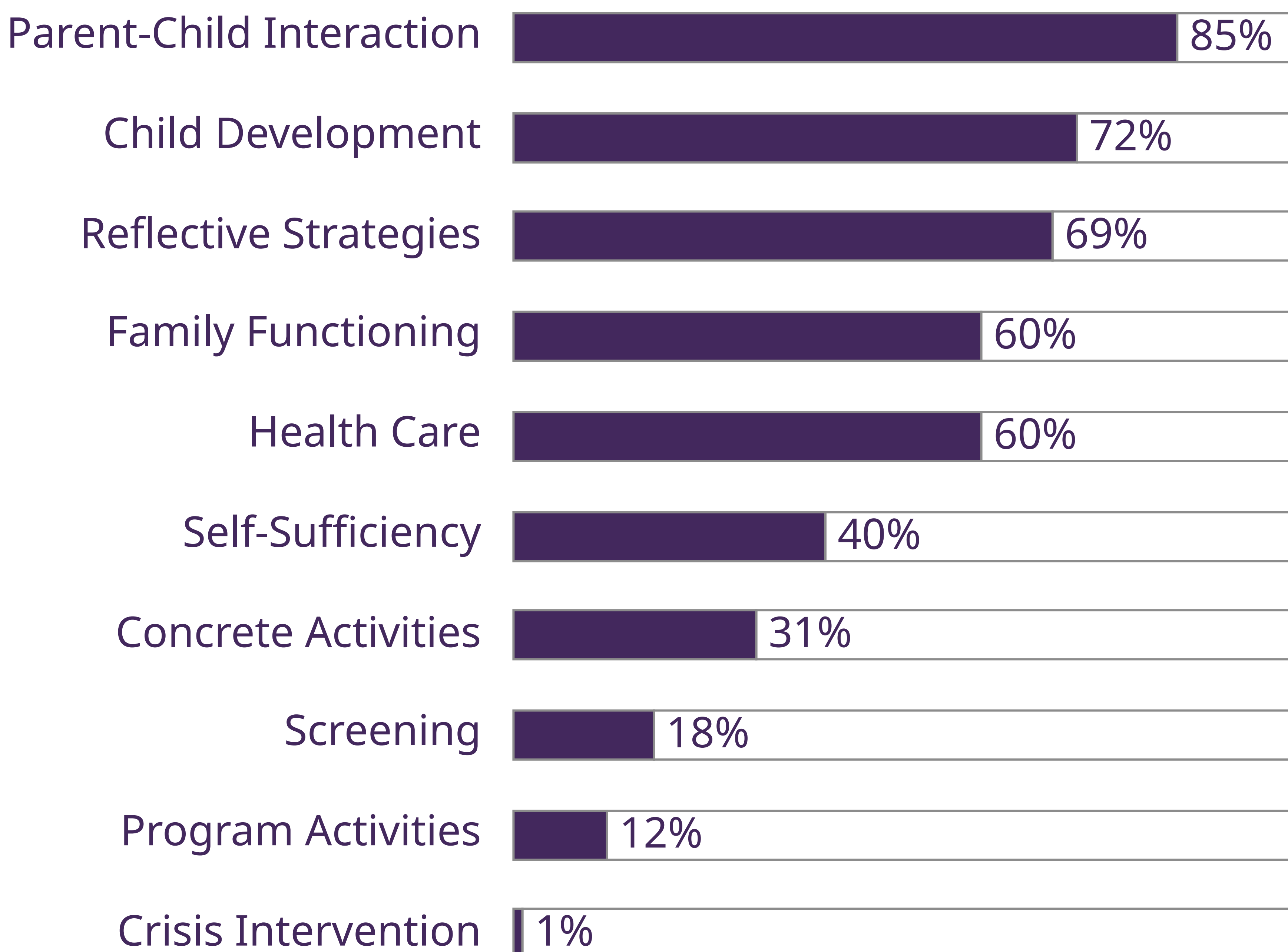
Received at least 90% of expected visits





Home Visit Content

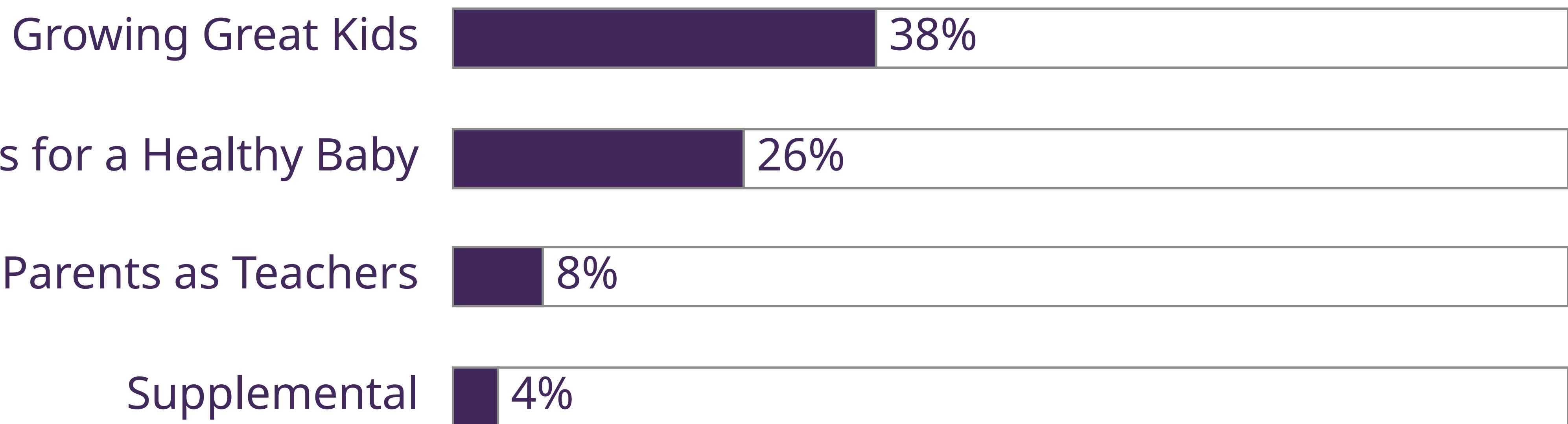
68,739 home visits were completed in SFY 2022-2023.



Curricula

Home visiting programs often use curricula in their work with families. The curricula used depends on the needs and characteristics of the families and communities being served. Programs have to use at least one of three primary curricula and may use other supplemental curricula or materials to meet the specific needs of their families.

Home Visits Using Curricula

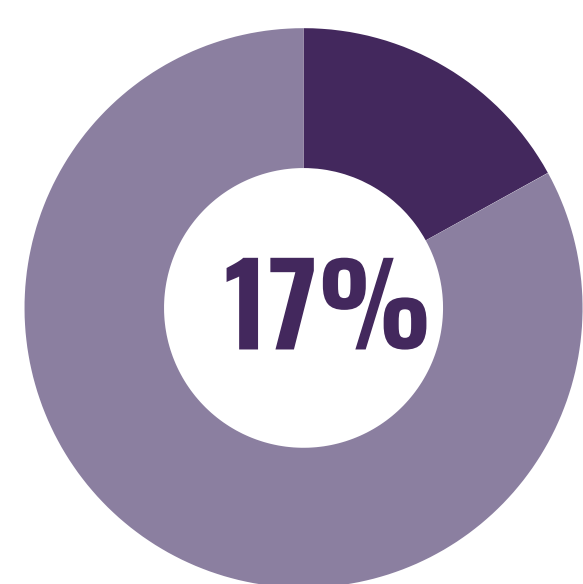




Engaging Fathers

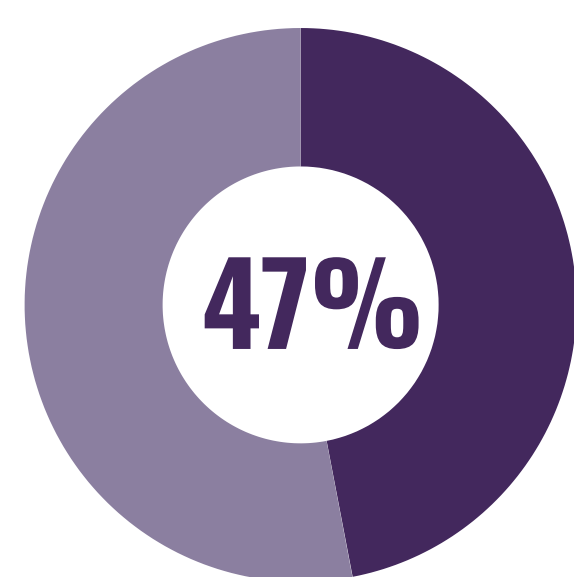
HFNY recognizes the essential role of fathers in supporting the growth and development of children and works to actively and consistently engage them in visits.

In SFY 2022-2023:



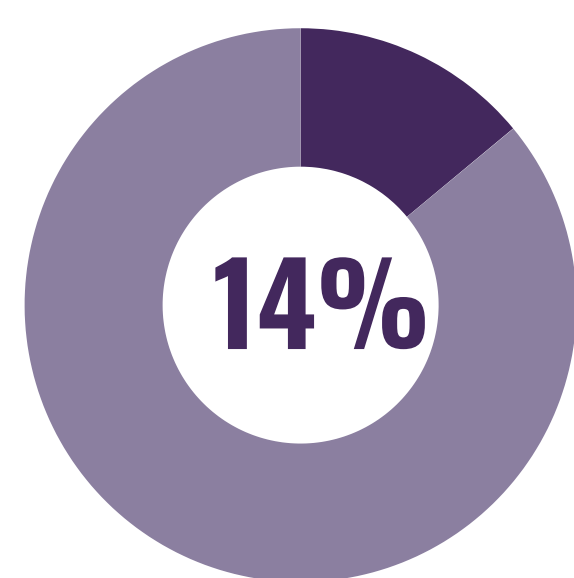
of fathers attended at least one

PRENATAL HOME VISIT



of fathers attended at least one

POSTNATAL HOME VISIT

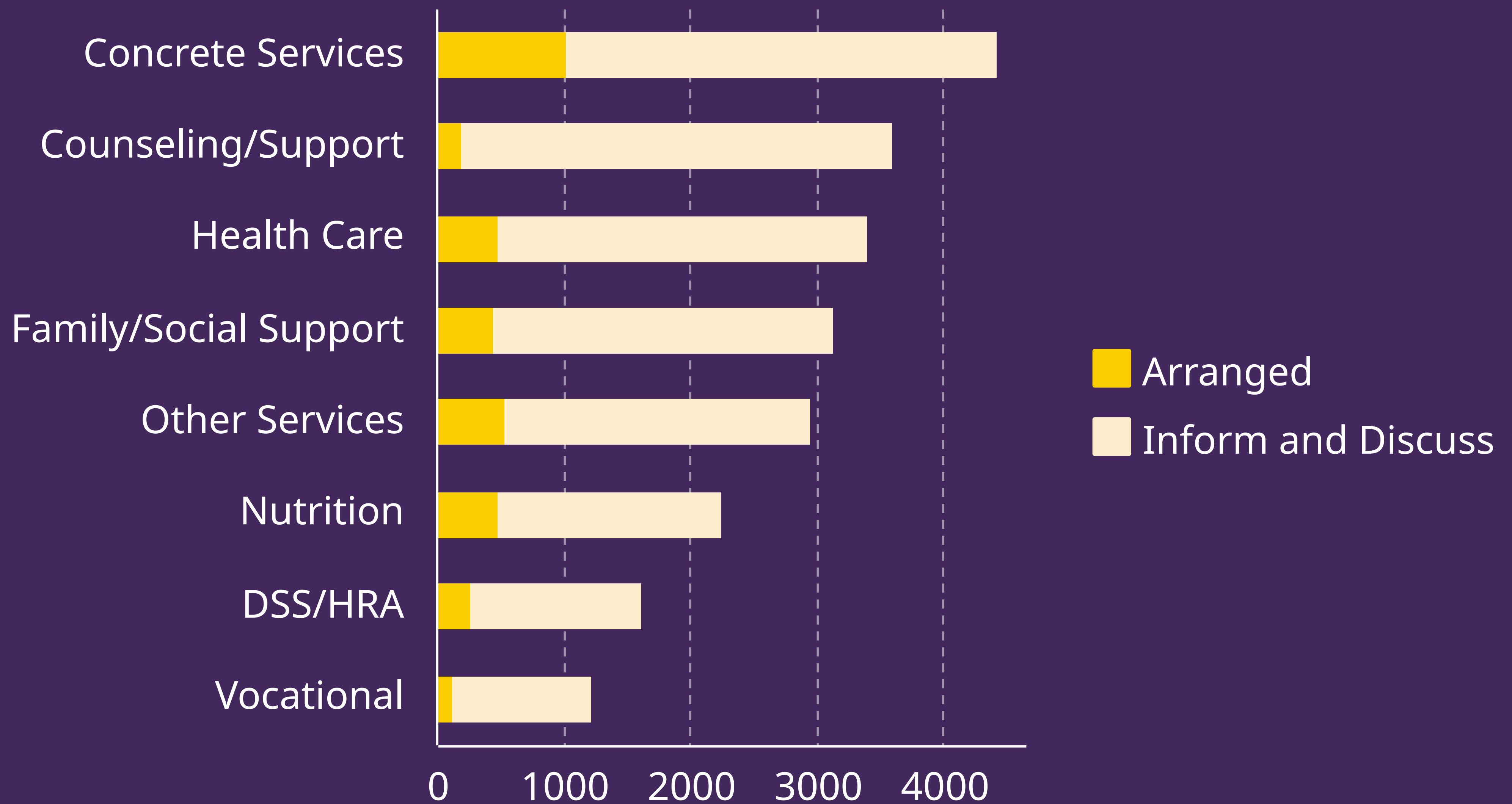


of fathers attended

10 OR MORE POSTNATAL HOME VISITS

Referrals

Connecting families to needed services is a primary goal of HFNY. During SFY 2022-2023, home visitors documented 22,605 referrals to community-based services.



Referral Outcomes

40%

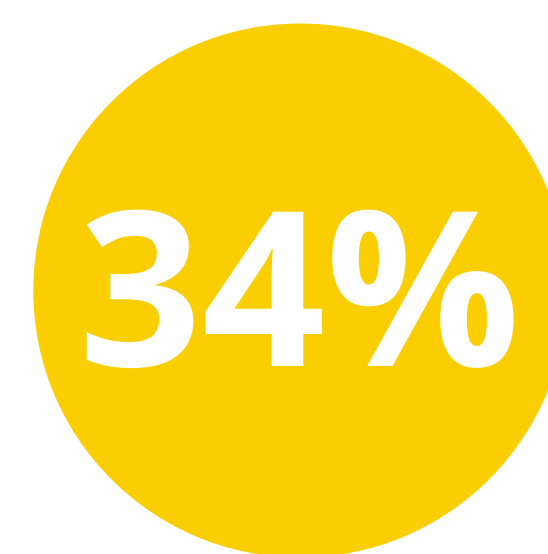
of all referrals made in 2022-2023 resulted in a service being received.

Arranged



Inform and Discuss

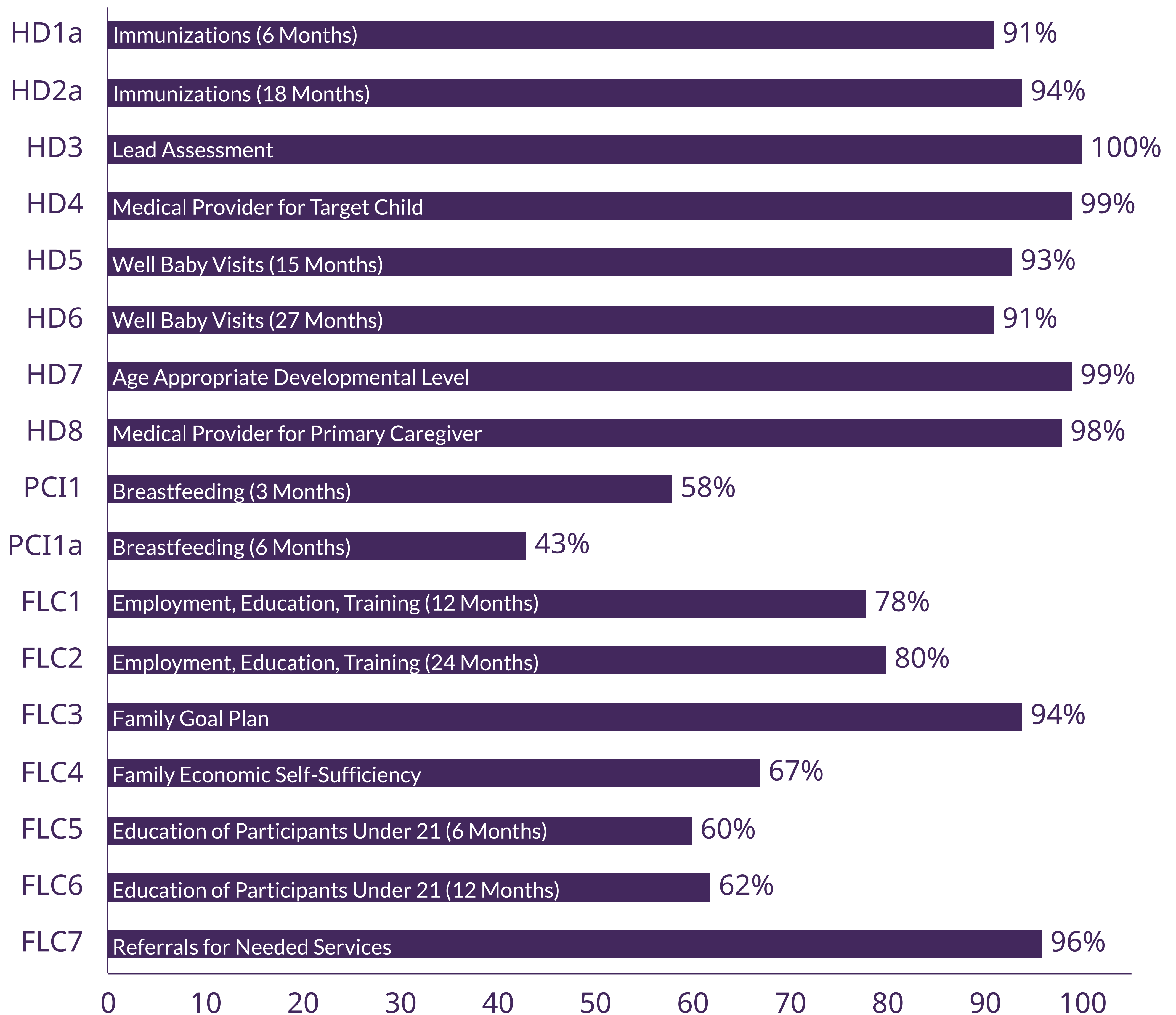
vs



Arranged referrals were more likely to result in a service being received than inform and discuss referrals. Home visitors use their best judgment to determine the most appropriate mechanism for connecting families with community resources (i.e., arranging referrals directly or providing information about a referral and discussing it with families). Supporting families in obtaining resources for themselves is often part of the goal setting process and is a useful strategy to support future successes.

Family Outcomes

HFNY programs work toward achieving family outcomes that align with the goals that were described earlier in this report, specifically: Health and Development (HD), Parent-Child Interaction (PCI), and Family Life Course (FLC). The majority of programs were meeting their targets for these family outcomes.



Retention

Retention rates measure how long programs keep families engaged in services. Retention often varies based on caregiver demographic characteristics and social and programmatic factors.

To better understand which factors influence retention, HFNY looked at families who enrolled in the previous year (SFY 2021-2022). Understanding these factors allows HFNY to develop strategies to address them and reduce disparities.

56%

of families who enrolled in 2021-2022 remained enrolled for at least one year.

Retention Patterns

Families who stayed enrolled for at least one year were more likely to:



Be older

Have other children

Have never been married

Be more highly educated

Speak Spanish as a primary language

Be of Hispanic/Latinx ethnicity

Participate in more home visits

Enroll in mid to late pregnancy

Reasons for Leaving

Most of the families who left simply declined further service or identified school or employment commitments as their primary reasons for leaving. Some families were unable to be reached and their spots were eventually closed after consistent outreach by the program to locate them.

Summary

Overall, HFNY programs are operating with fidelity to national model requirements and achieving the outcomes that the program is intended to address. HFNY Central Administration partners work closely with each program in the multi-site system to provide technical assistance and support to address performance that does not yet meet state targets.



Serving a Diverse Array of Families Across the State

HFNY served a diverse array of families across the state with a particular focus on families living in low-resourced communities and worked diligently to engage fathers in program services.



Providing Services as Expected by the Model

Most families received services as intended. HFNY programs addressed the core model components during home visits and made appropriate referrals to other community-based services as needed.



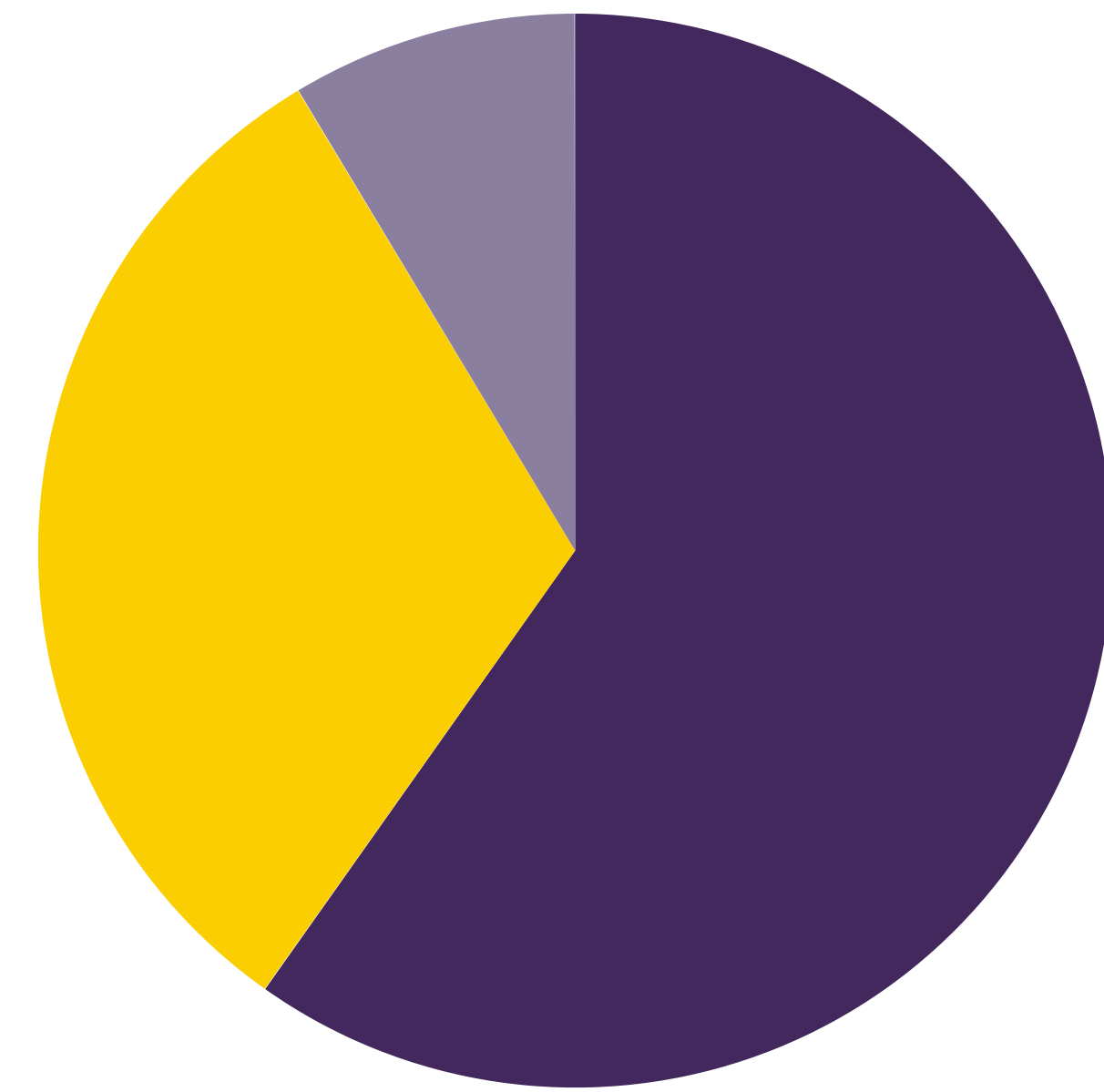
Achieving Positive Outcomes for Families

HFNY programs kept families engaged in services, supporting them in achieving their personal and programmatic goals.

Fiscal Information

In SFY 2022-2023, HFNY received \$43,743,131 from a variety of sources. These funds supported the implementation of HFNY programs throughout the state, training and staff development, data collection system design and maintenance, and external evaluation.

The cost to administer the program and evaluate its effectiveness at OCFS is not included in the total amount provided above.



- State Appropriations (59.81%)
- State Adoption Delinking Appropriations (31.58%)
- Federal MIECHV (8.61%)



Conclusion

This report summarizes the services provided and the family outcomes achieved by the HFNY home visiting program for SFY 2022-2023. HFNY uses an ongoing, data-responsive approach to develop strategies to address identified challenges and reinforce successes. These quality improvement activities are an essential component of the model, fostering equitable and sustainable services and enhancing child and family well-being.

By understanding the context within which positive outcomes occur and taking steps to further promote them, HFNY paves the way for a resilient and prosperous future for children and families.



Healthy Families NY



<https://www.healthyfamiliesnewyork.org>



Office of Children
and Family Services



Prevent Child Abuse
New York™



CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY State University of New York