



BEIP to EI-3



THE SCIENCE OF EARLY INTERVENTION: FROM BUCHAREST TO BRAZIL

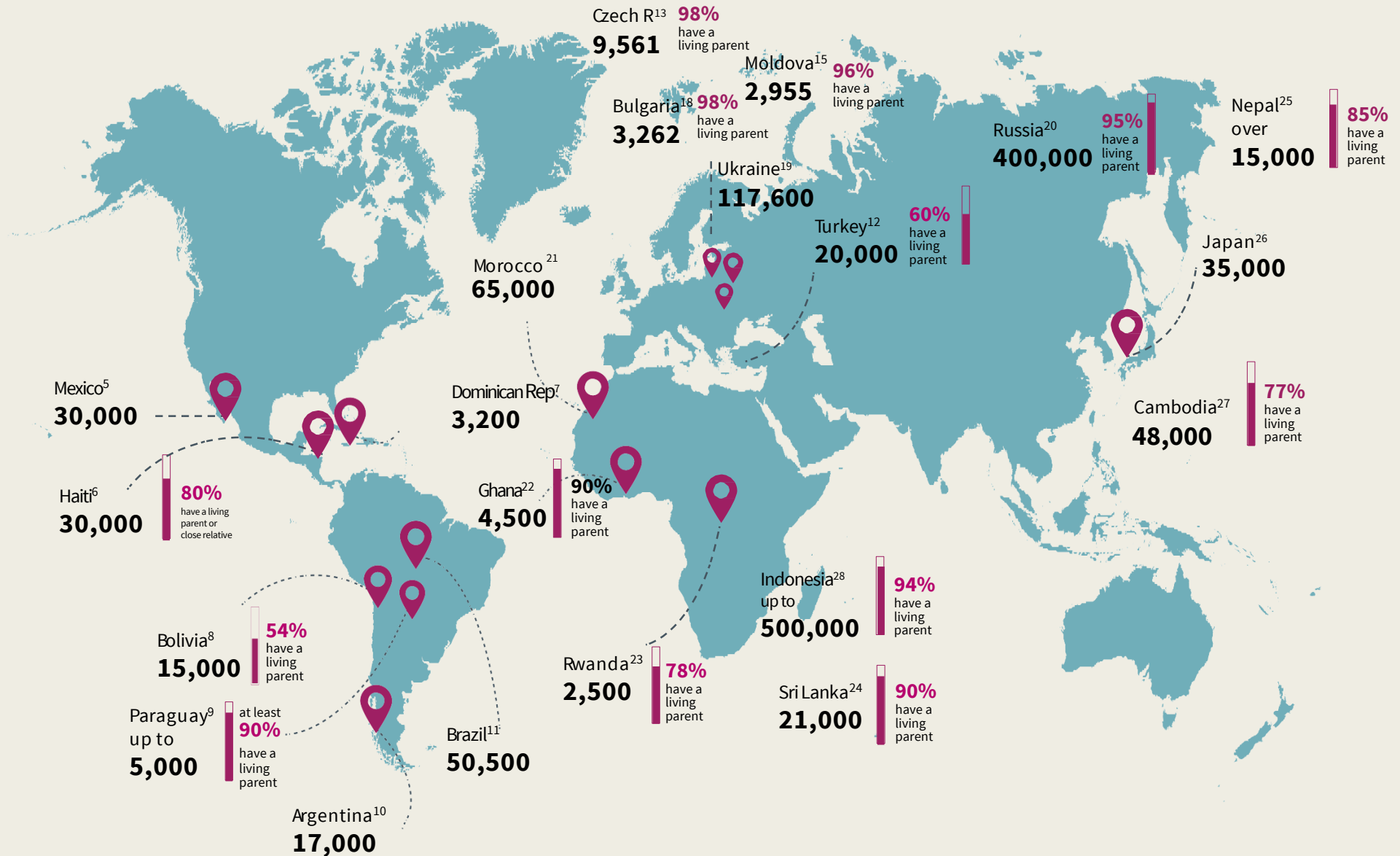
Brasilia, Brazil
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EI-3
Project



Children in institutions: The global picture



Atypical rearing environment

Children reared in institutions (orphanages) experienced extreme psychosocial deprivation

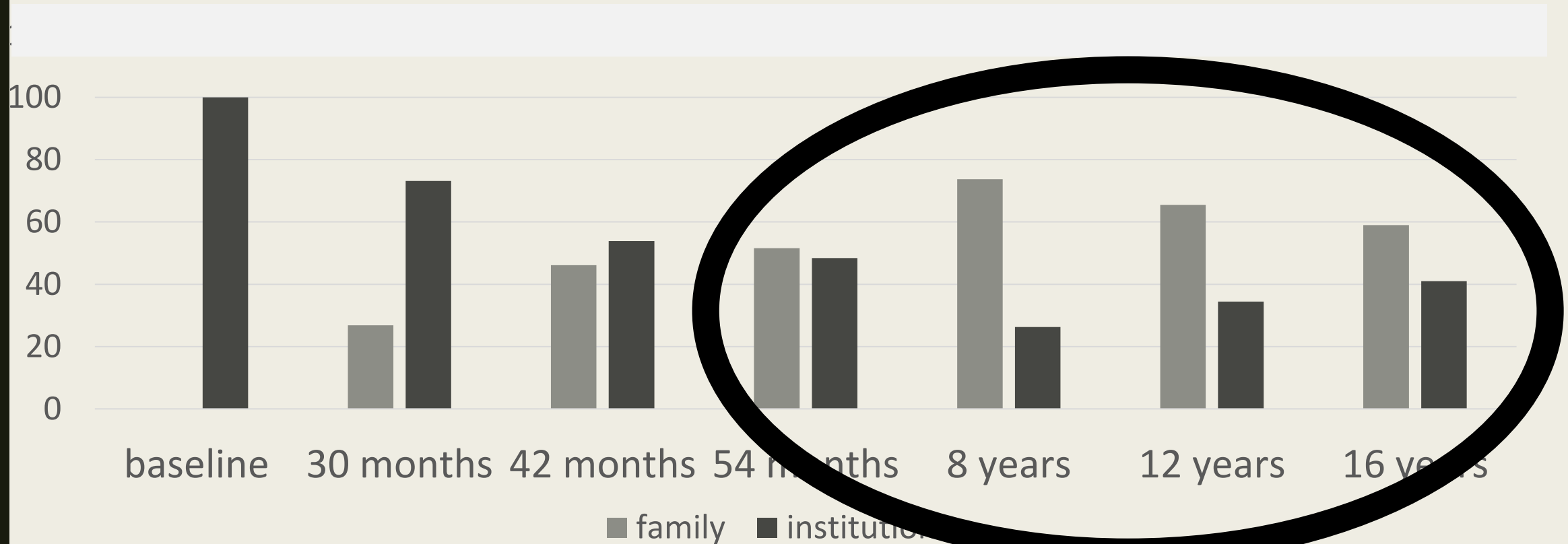


Institutional rearing associated with significant and lasting problems



- Across virtually every domain of development.
- But is it due to the experience of being raised in an institution, or do children with significant problems get placed in institutions selectively?

Most children were in families by age 4 years



Only children in the usual care group

Better outcomes were due to foster care



Cognitive development

Higher IQs

Enhanced expressive and receptive language

Physical development

Greater height and weight

Fewer stereotypies

Emotional development

More positive emotion expressed

Less anxiety and depression

Social development

Enhanced competence

More secure and organized attachments

Fewer attachment disorders

Better social relatedness

Psychopathology

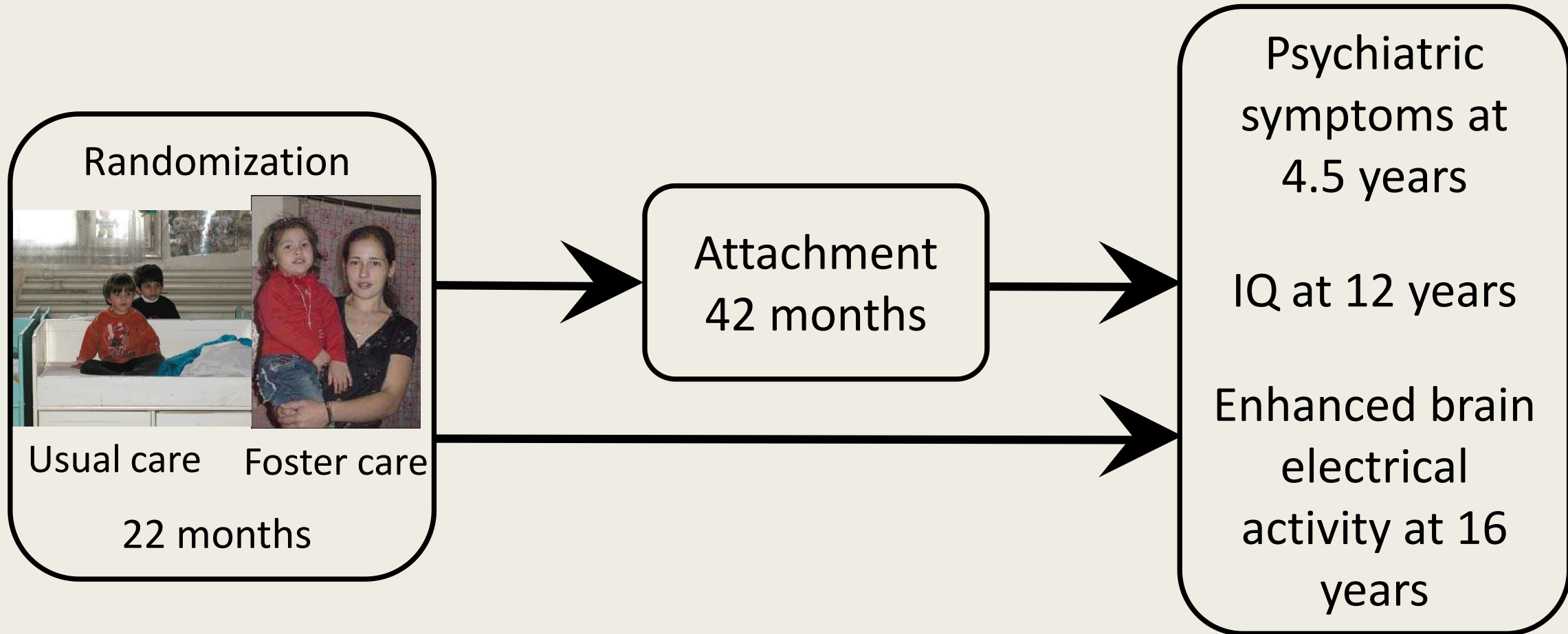
Fewer psychiatric symptoms, disorders and less impairment

Quality of foster care matters

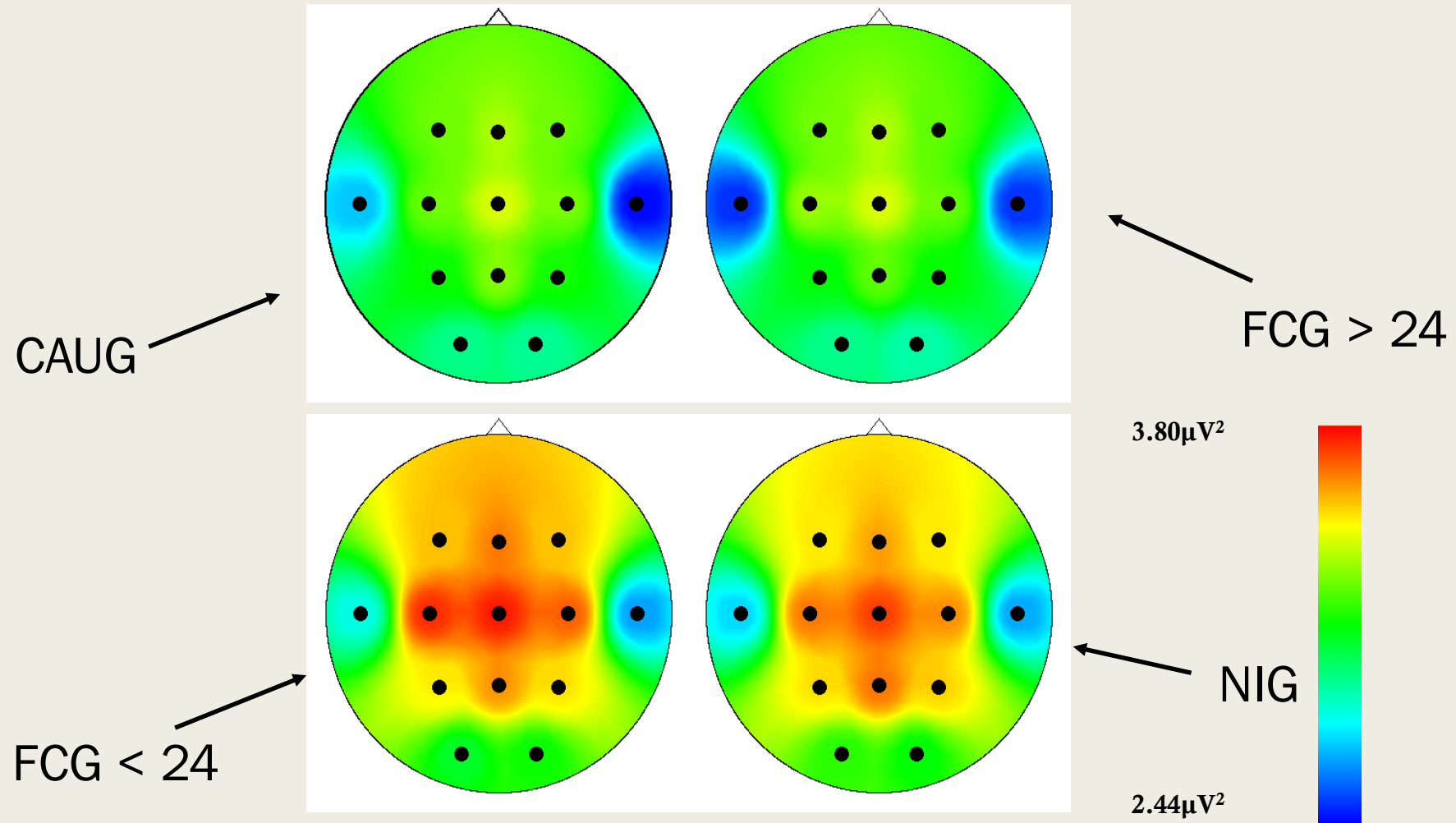
- Better support to foster families and reasonable caseloads led to better outcomes.
- Better quality of care provided by foster parents, better outcomes in children.



Foster care improved outcomes by enhancing attachment



Alpha power 8 years of age



Earlier placement in families led to better outcomes

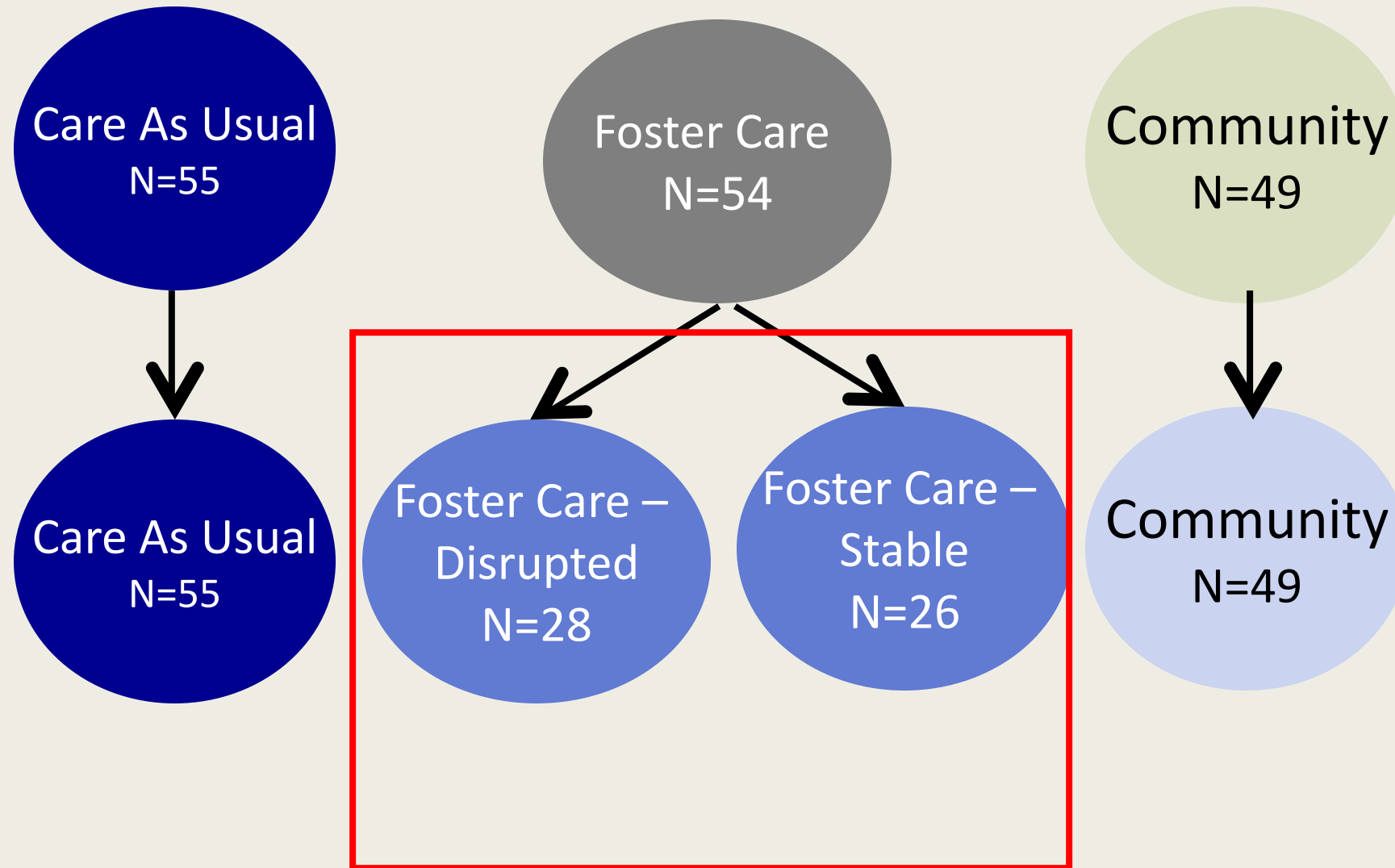
Domain assessed

- Stereotypies
- Expressive language
- Receptive language
- Reading ability
- Security of attachment
- Organization of attachment
- IQ at 54 months
- Error monitoring
- Brain electrical activity 8 years
- Teacher rated social skills 8 years
- Cortisol stress response 12 years
- Autonomic stress response 12 years
- Competence 12 years

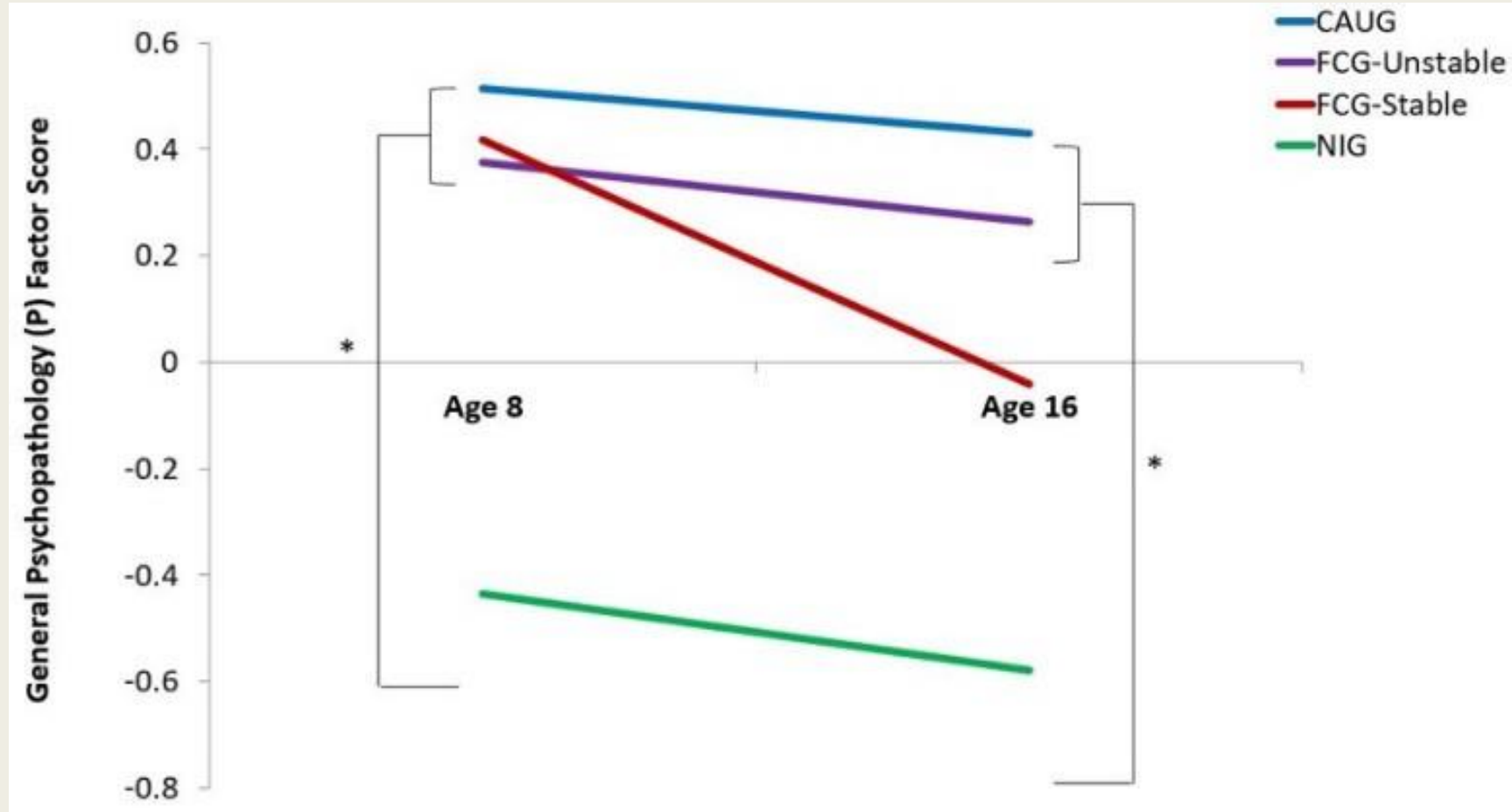
Better if placed before

- 12 months
- 15 months
- 15 months
- 24 months
- 24 months
- 24 months
- 24 months
- 20 months
- 24 months
- 20 months
- 24 months
- 18 months
- 20 months

Intervention Effects and Stability of Placements



Psychopathology over time in stable and disrupted foster placements over time

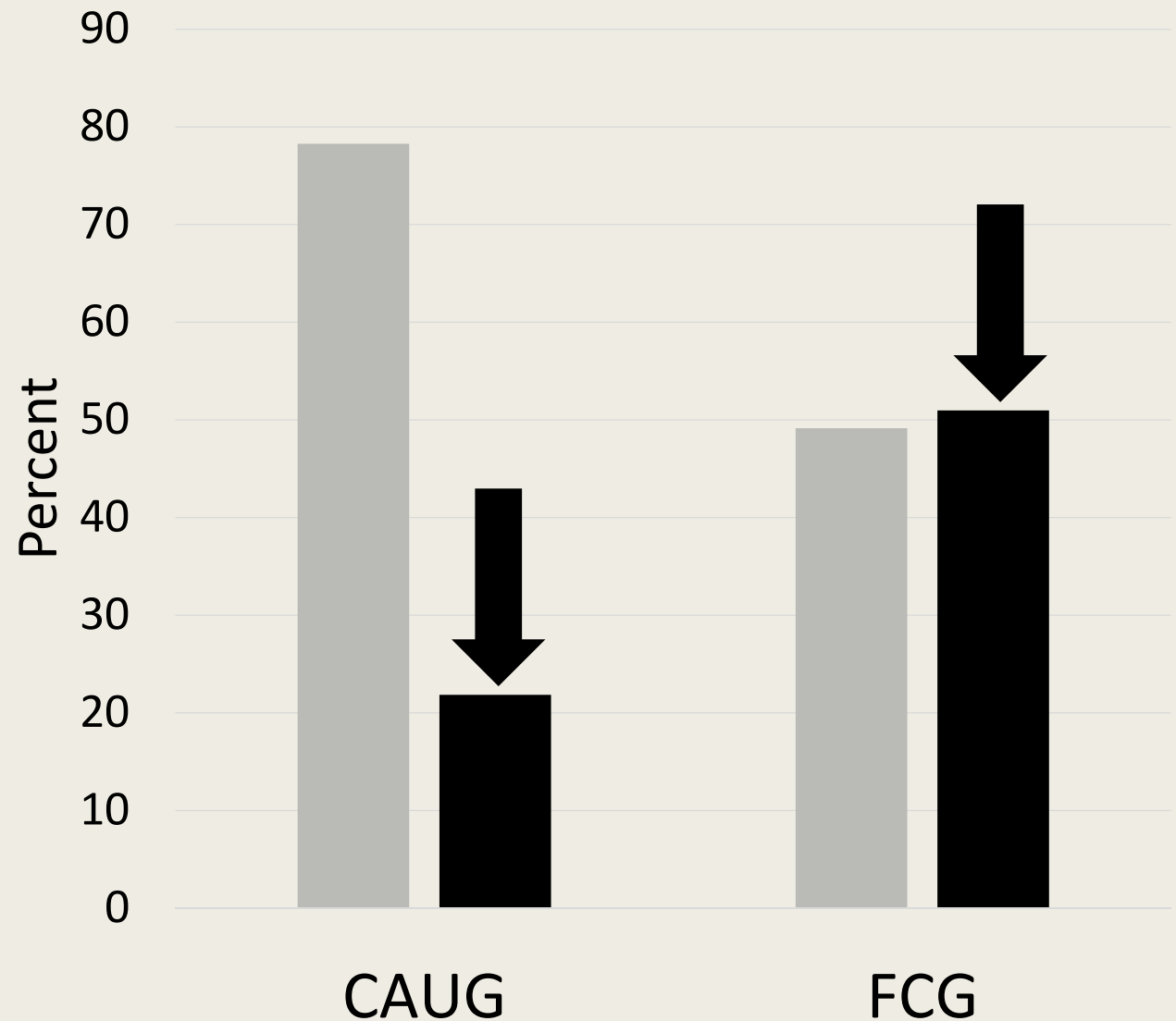


Stability of foster placements led to better outcomes

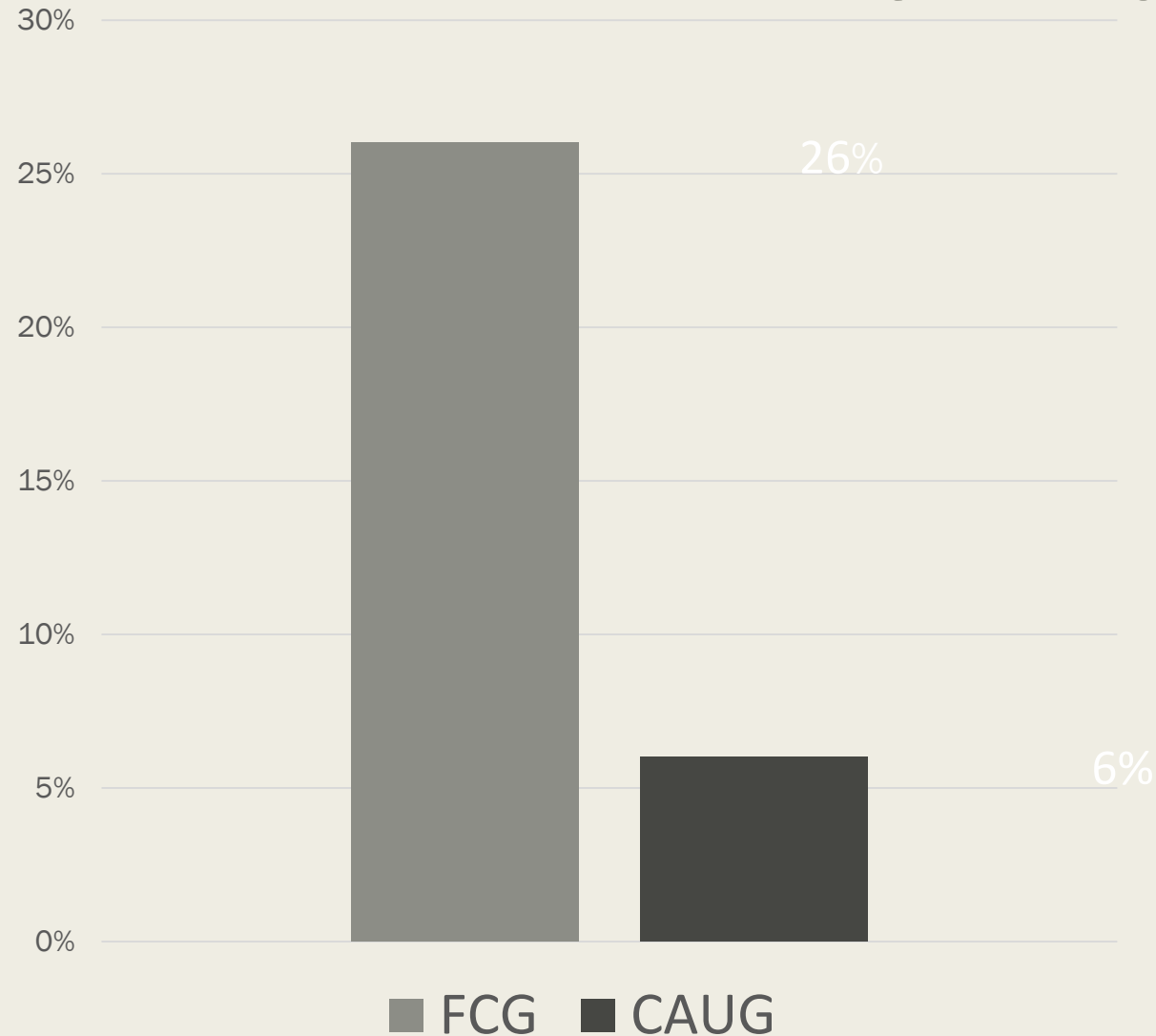
- Reduced psychiatric symptoms and disorders at 12 and 16 years for children in their original foster placements.
- Increasing numbers of disrupted placements, was associated with lower IQ and more behavior problems.

Competence in early adolescence

Family relations
Peer relations
Scholastic performance
Physical health
Impairment from
psychiatric symptoms
Tobacco and alcohol use
Risk-taking



Foster care children were 4x more likely to be consistently competent 8-16 years



Impact of the Bucharest Early Intervention Project

Science, Medical Journals, Psychology Journals, Foreign Affairs

>100 other scientific publications to date

Romania's Abandoned Children; Deprivation, Brain Development and the Struggle for Recovery

published by Guilford Press in 2014

Changes in Romanian laws

UNICEF Better Care Network 2007

U.S. Government Action Plan on Children in Adversity 2011

European Union Parliament Experts Roundtable on
“Institutionalization and its Impact on Child Development” 2012

British Parliament 2015

Lancet Commission on Children in Institutions 2019

BEIP Limitations

Romania – is it applicable elsewhere?

Poor quality institutional care

Limited prenatal data

Enhanced foster care vs. institutional care as usual

Intervention too late—6-30 months, 22 months average

Intervention began after months of deprivation

Advantaged comparison group

No cost benefit analysis

Early Institutionalization Intervention Impact Project (EI-3)



EI-3
Project

Abrigos

Number of Children between 0-3 yrs in Shelters and Average Time Spent in Shelters in São Paulo	
0 – 11 months Average Time Spent in Services months	200 4
1yr – 1yr 11 months Average Time Spent in Services months	145 1yr and 2
2yrs – 2yrs 11 months Average Time Spent in Services months	87 1yr and 11
3yrs – 3yrs 11 months Average Time Spent in Services months	116 1yr and 3
Total Children 0-3 yrs in System Average Time Spent in Services months	548 8

Adequate numbers of
young children to
conduct the proposed
study

Study design in São Paulo

Infants newborn -24 months

Follow Up 12 months

Outcome 24 months

Outcome 36 months

Phase 1

100 in Shelter

100 in Shelter
CAU

100 in Shelter
CAU

100 in Shelter
CAU

Phase 2

Children
Removed
or
Abandoned

R
C
T

100 in Shelter
(Institutions)

100 in foster
care

VIPP
Intervention

5 sessions
over 10
weeks

100 in Shelter
post
intervention

100 in foster
care post
intervention

100 in Shelter
post
intervention

100 in foster
care post
intervention

100 in Shelter
post
intervention

100 in foster
care post
intervention

100 in Bio-
Families

100 in Bio-
Families

100 in Bio-
Families

100 in Bio-
Families

Recruiting and training foster parents

■ Recruitment

- *Advertising via social media*
- *Interviews*
- *Background checks*

■ Training

- *Method of Fazendo História*
- *Other NGOs*

Enhanced training for foster parents and shelter caregivers

- Video Intervention to Promote Positive Parenting and Sensitive Discipline (VIPP-SD).
- 5 sessions for one caregiver and one infant/toddler delivered over two months.
- Derived from attachment theory and behavioral therapy
- Randomized clinical trials with various groups of young children.

Outcomes we will assess

- Brain functioning
- Cognitive, language and motor development
- Growth and physical development
- Emotional expressiveness
- Attachment
- Competence
- Psychiatric symptoms, disorders and impairment

Advancing BEIP findings in São Paulo

Romania findings not applicable elsewhere

Another continent

Poor quality institutions

Smaller—15 children total, with better ratios

No prenatal data

More consistent prenatal and pre-placement circumstances

Foster care augmented but not institutional care

Both arms enhanced in RCT; compared to pre-enhanced care as usual

Intervention applied too late

Instead of 22 months—initiation likely to be less than one year of age

Intervention immediate—prior to institutional exposure

Comparison group more advantaged

More impoverished comparison group

No economic analysis

Cost benefit comparison of two interventions

Important partners and collaborators

- **Department of Social Development and Assistance** (Secretaria Municipal da Assistência e Desenvolvimento Social)
- **Family Court Judges** from the **11 regional Child Protection Courts** of the Municipality of São Paulo
- **Center for Social Assistance Referral** (Centro de Referência da Assistência Social – CRAS e o Centro de Referência Especializado da Assistência Social – CREAS)
- **Instituto Pensi**, local research institute which is part of a children's hospital, Hospital Sabara. They are our primary research partner
- **Harvard David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies**, facilitates ties between Harvard and Brazilian academic research institutions.
- **Instituto Fazendo História**, a local NGO that has a small foster care program
- **Local NGOs that run Abrigos (i.e., Bom Parto)**

Committed and Potential Funding

- Lumos Foundation
- Inter-American Development Bank
- Pensi Institute “in kind” research support
- Lemann Brazil Research Fund
- Two Lilies Fund
- Harvard David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies
- Maria Cecilia Souto Vidigal Foundation
- NIMH application
- U.S.A.I.D. application
- Bernard van Leer application

Brazil as a Site

Important public policy implications

Judges support strong scientific design

Collaborative partner in Pensi institute

Experience of local partners with foster care and shelters

Support of municipal and state government

Harvard Center provides logistical support and connections

El-3 Summary

Provide scientific evidence about the best and most economical form of care for orphans and vulnerable children.

Enable policy makers to make more rational investments to improve the lives of children who need care beyond their families.

