

Early preventive services in Germany

New beginnings and the challenges to collaborate among youth welfare and health services

ISSOP congress 2018 “Early Intervention”
Bonn, 27.09.2018

Ilona Renner
National Centre for Early Prevention / Federal Centre for Health Education

AGENDA

1. Early Childhood Intervention (national activities)
2. Federal Action Program → Federal Foundation for Early Childhood Intervention
3. The Theory of Change
 - 3.1 Nationwide implementation
 - 3.2 Strong collaboration
 - 3.3 Families in need use support measures
 - 3.4 Early childhood intervention is positively assessed
 - 3.5 Measures are effective
4. Discussion

1. Early Childhood Intervention

Starting Point of the Commitment of the National Government

- Severe cases of child abuse and neglect since 2005 (Jessica, Kevin, Lea-Sophie...)

Strong Pressure for Political Action

- Not only intensified control and protection measures,
- Experts advocate for:
 - preventive strategies based on *promoting parental competence, voluntary activities, participation*
 - strengthening collaboration between the *health & child and youth welfare sectors* to reach the target group.



Main Target Group

- Early: Expecting mothers and families with children aged 0 – 3
- Families in need for psychosocial support

Source: Ilona Renner, Anna Neumann, Victoria Saint, Daria Ukhova, Sabine Horstmann, Ullrich Boettinger, Martina Dreibus, Astrid Kerl-Wienecke, Pilar Wulff, Mechthild Paul, Heidrun Thaiss (forthcoming) Promoting early childhood intervention in Germany through cross-sectoral collaboration. In: *British Medical Journal*

Target group:
Families with children
0-3 years

Early childhood intervention in Germany

support

comprised of:

Municipal networks
Cross-sectoral collaboration

Support Measures:

Pilotage services for new
parents

→ Identification, information, and referral

Home visiting measures

→ e.g. Midwives, nurses, and other health professionals with qualifications related to psychosocial care for families

Other measures

→ e.g. support groups for single parents

Child protection

protect

General health
promotion

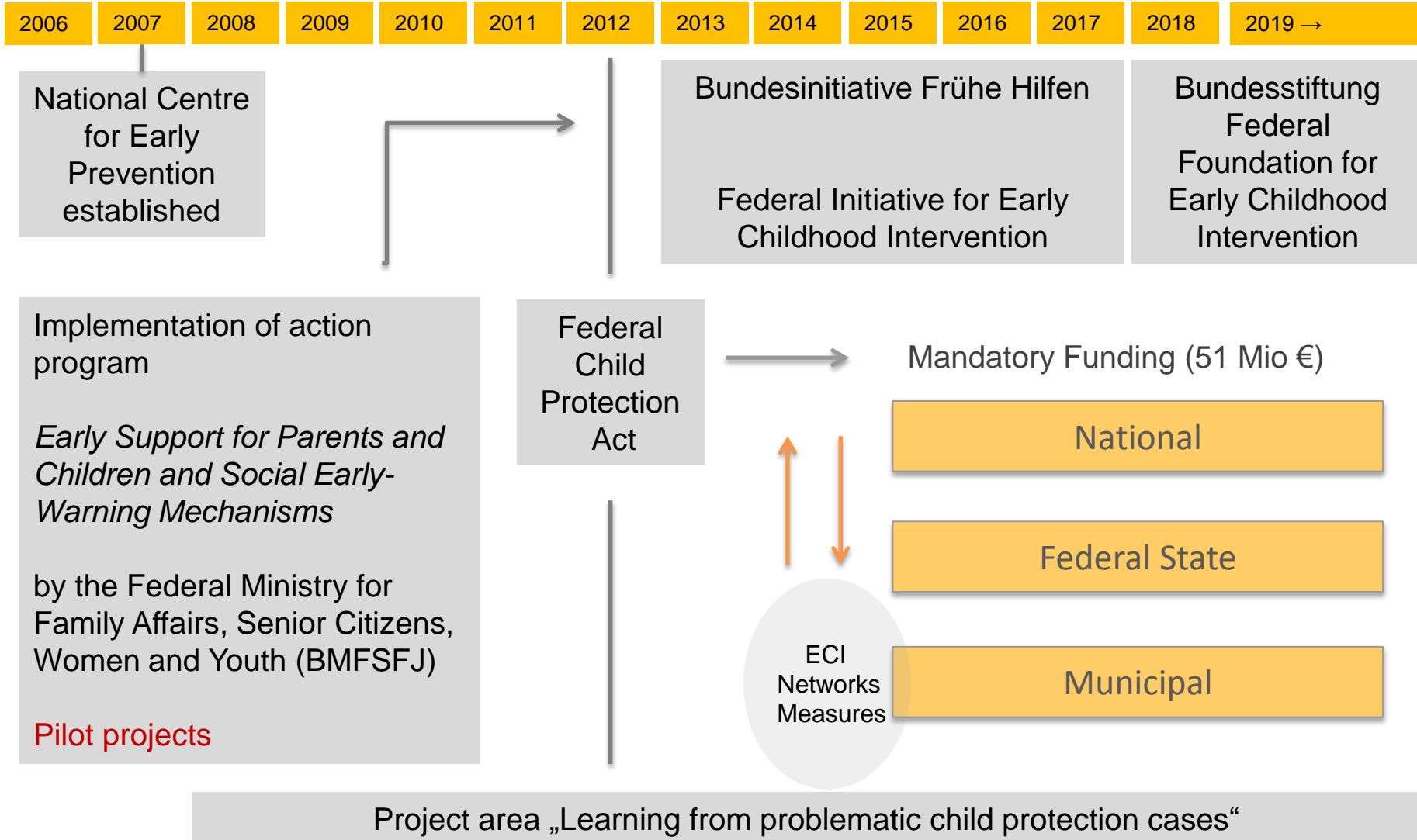
foster

**WHO:
Targeted
Support**

2. Federal Action Program



Federal Foundation for Early Childhood Intervention



3. Theory of Change

Goal of early childhood intervention: Improved psychosocial care for families through measures of early childhood intervention

→ The vision: Every child is able to develop their full potential and no child is left behind (WHO: Nurturing Care Framework)

(5) Measures of early childhood intervention are effective

(4) Early intervention is positively assessed by the target group

(3) Families in need make use of early intervention measures

(2) Strong collaboration: Health & child and youth service sectors

(1) Nationwide municipal implementation of early childhood intervention

3.1 Nationwide municipal implementation of early childhood intervention

Indicators for successful implementation of „Frühe Hilfen“ on municipality level

| | 2013 | 2015 |
|---|------|------|
| Networks „Frühe Hilfen“ are implemented | 93,7 | 98,4 |
| Municipalities implemented home visiting programs | | 87,9 |
| Activities in „Frühe Hilfen“ are documented | 65,7 | 76,6 |
| There is an overall concept of municipal policy concerning „Frühe Hilfen“ (Leitbild Frühe Hilfen) | 46,5 | 62,3 |
| There is a binding agreement on intersectoral collaboration | 42,3 | 60,0 |

Prozentuale Anteile der Kommunen. Quelle „Kommunalbefragung des NZFH“ 2013 (n = 452) und 2015 (n = 432)

Sources: Ernst-Uwe Küster, Christopher Pabst, Alexandra Sann (2017): Kommunale Netzwerkstrukturen Frühe Hilfen. Faktenblatt 3 zu den Kommunalbefragungen zum Auf- und Ausbau der Frühen Hilfen. Herausgegeben vom Nationalen Zentrum Frühe Hilfen (NZFH). Köln

Ernst-Uwe Küster, Christopher Pabst, Alexandra Sann (2017): Einsatz von Gesundheitsfachkräften in den Frühen Hilfen. Faktenblatt 7 zu den Kommunalbefragungen zum Auf- und Ausbau der Frühen Hilfen. Herausgegeben vom Nationalen Zentrum (NZFH). Köln

However, further requirements were indicated by municipalities:

- development of networks
- meeting families' needs for home visiting care (e.g. by family midwives)

| | 2013 | 2015 |
|---|-------|---------------------|
| „Early childhood intervention networks need to be further developed“ | 49,0% | <u>36,8%</u> |
| 87,9 % municipalities offer home visiting care (e. g. by family midwives) | | |
| ➡ Home visiting care offered in my municipality is sufficient: | | |
| - Yes | | 40% |
| - <u>No</u> | | <u>53%</u> |

Sources: Ernst-Uwe Küster, Christopher Pabst, Alexandra Sann (2017): Kommunale Netzwerkstrukturen Frühe Hilfen. Faktenblatt 3 zu den Kommunalbefragungen zum Auf- und Ausbau der Frühen Hilfen. Herausgegeben vom Nationalen Zentrum Frühe Hilfen (NZFH). Köln

Ernst-Uwe Küster, Christopher Pabst, Alexandra Sann (2017): Einsatz von Gesundheitsfachkräften in den Frühen Hilfen. Faktenblatt 7 zu den Kommunalbefragungen zum Auf- und Ausbau der Frühen Hilfen. Herausgegeben vom Nationalen Zentrum (NZFH). Köln

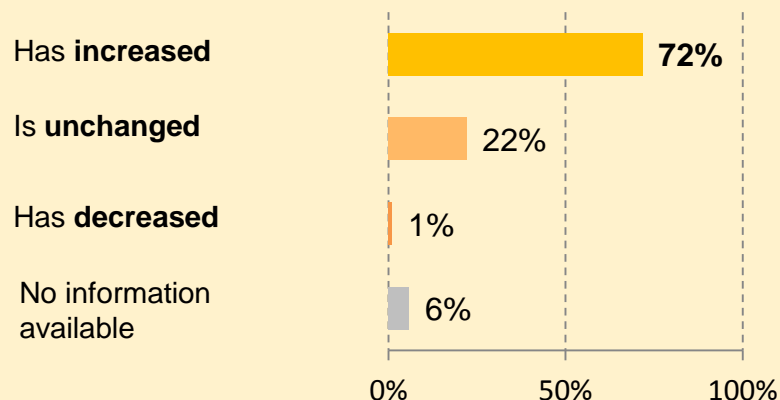
3.2 Strong collaboration: Healthcare & child and youth welfare

Outpatient healthcare integrated in early childhood intervention (ECI) networks in 2013 und 2015

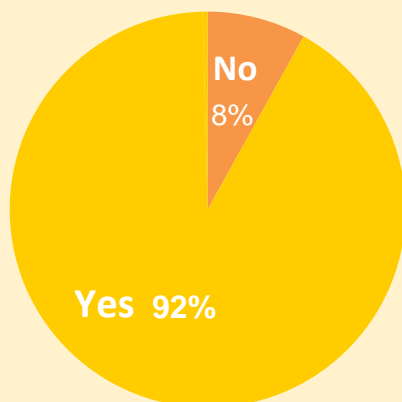
| | Percentage of municipalities that integrated outpatient healthcare actors in local ECI networks | | Assessment of the quality of collaboration by municipal professionals responsible for ECI networks | |
|---|---|------|--|------|
| | 2013 | 2015 | 2013 | 2015 |
| Paediatrician surgeries | 66,6 | 76,4 | 2,6 | 2,6 |
| Gynaecologist surgeries | 37,6 | 50,9 | 3,3 | 3,3 |
| Psychiatric or psychotherapist surgeries (children) | 25,0 | 33,6 | 2,8 | 2,8 |
| Primary care physician surgeries | 15,3 | 18,8 | 3,3 | 3,3 |

Quality of Collaboration: Mean Value on a five step scale 1 (very good) to 5 (very bad), referring to municipalities with one ECI network. 2013 (N=452) und 2015 (N=432). Source: Ernst-Uwe Küster, Christopher Pabst, Alexandra Sann (2017): *Vernetzung der ambulanten medizinischen Versorgung mit den Frühen Hilfen. Faktenblatt 4 zu den Kommunalbefragungen zum Auf- und Ausbau der Frühen Hilfen. Herausgegeben vom Nationalen Zentrum Frühe Hilfen (NZFH). Köln*

Has the proportion of psychosocially burdened families in your practice changed in recent years?



Do you perceive the care of psychosocially burdened families as a challenge?



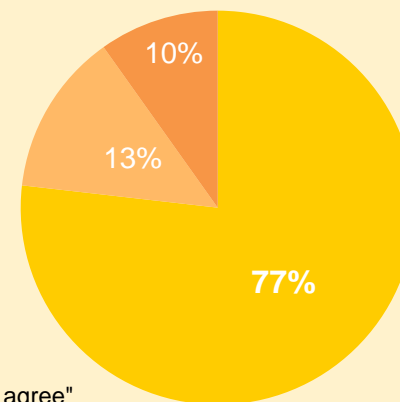
Early childhood intervention is (would be) a relief for my work/activities as a paediatrician.*

■ Agreement (values 5+4)

■ Neutral (Value 3)

■ Disagreement (Values 2+1)

*5-point scale of 1 "disagree" to 5 "fully agree"

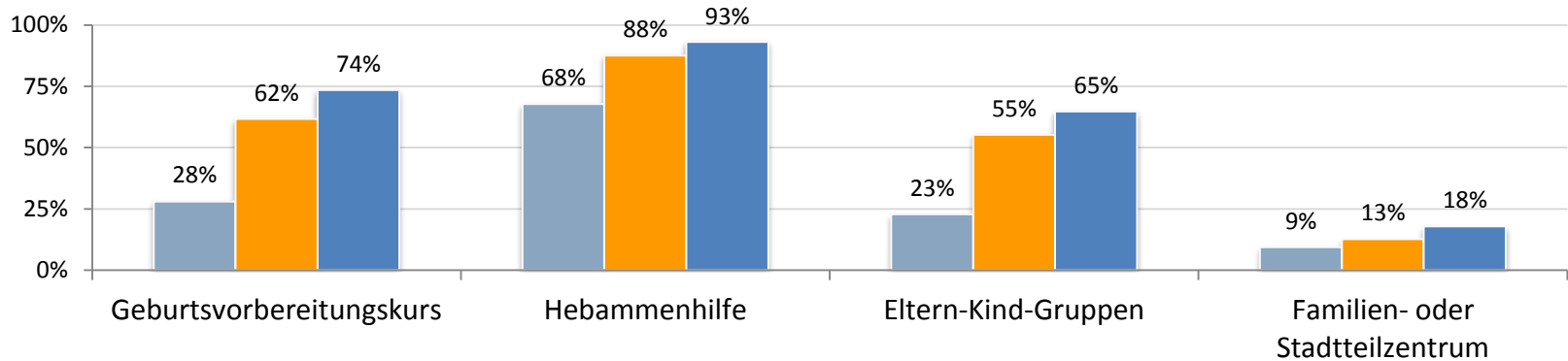


Source: Ilona Renner, Sara Scharmanski, Juliane van Staa, Anna Neumann & Mechthild Paul (forthcoming) The health sector and early childhood intervention: Cross-sectoral collaboration in research. In: Bundesgesundheitsblatt.

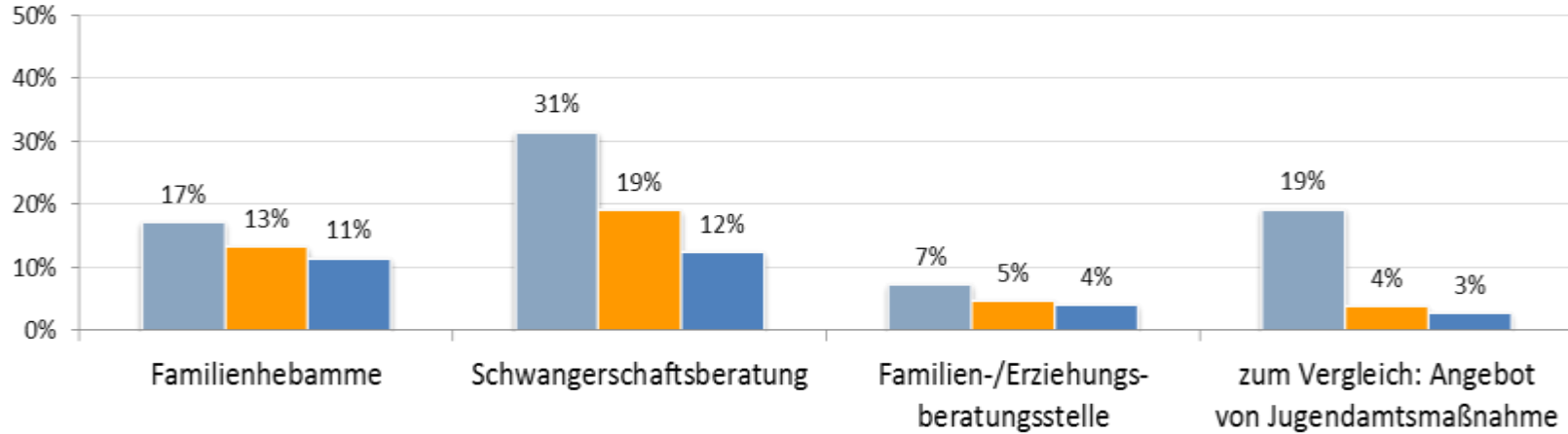
3.3 Families in need make use of early intervention measures

3.3

Families in need make use of early intervention measures



■ Niedrige Bildung ■ Mittlere Bildung ■ Hohe Bildung



■ Niedrige Bildung ■ Mittlere Bildung

Source: Andreas Eickhorst, Andrea Schreier, Christian Brand, Katrin Lang, Christoph Liel, Ilona Renner, Anna Neumann & Alexandra Sann (2016): Inanspruchnahme von Angeboten der Frühen Hilfen und darüber hinaus durch psychosozial belastete Eltern. In: Bundesgesundheitsblatt, Heft 10, S. 1271–1280

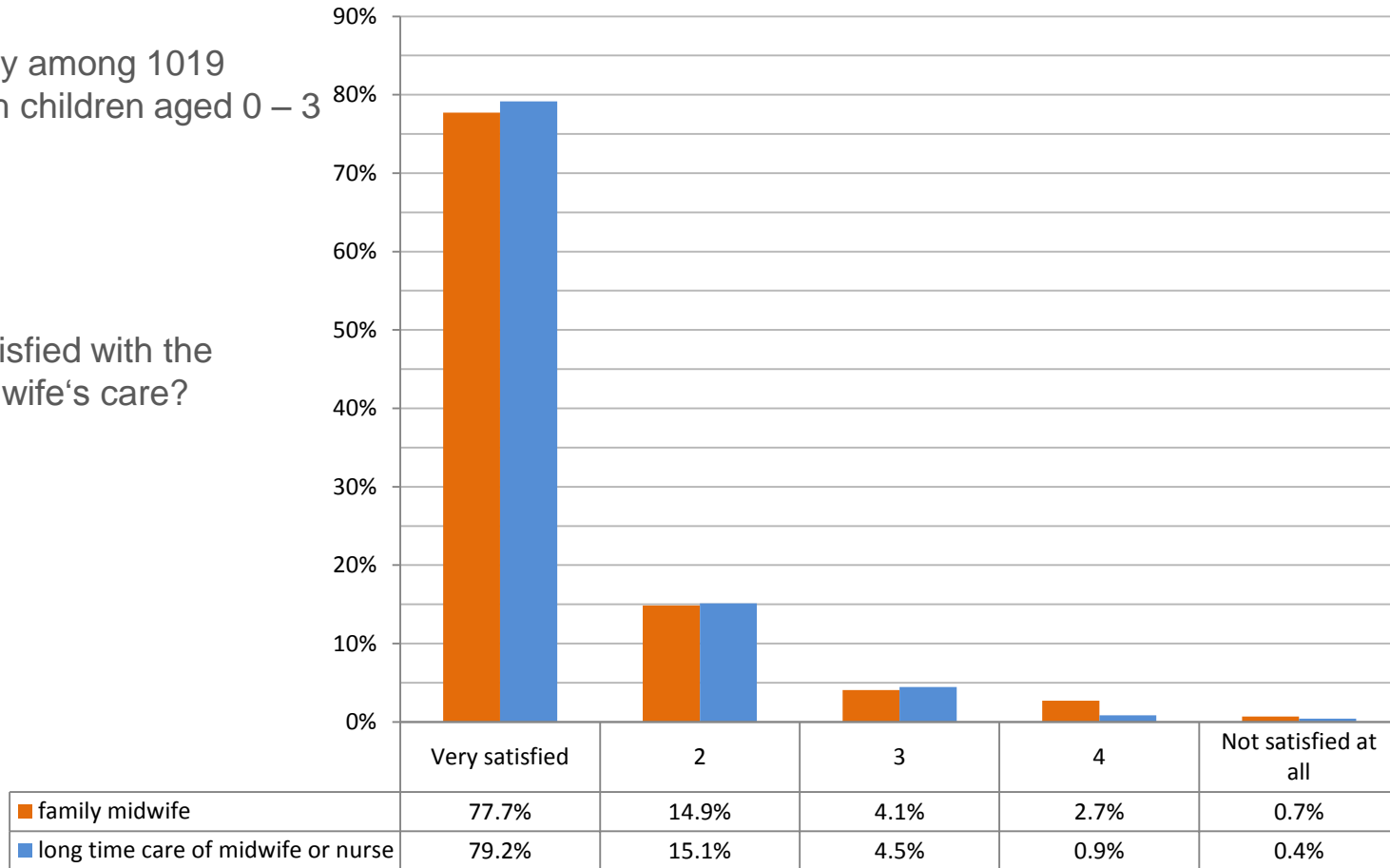
3.4 Early intervention is positively assessed by the target group

3.4

Early intervention is positively assessed by the target group

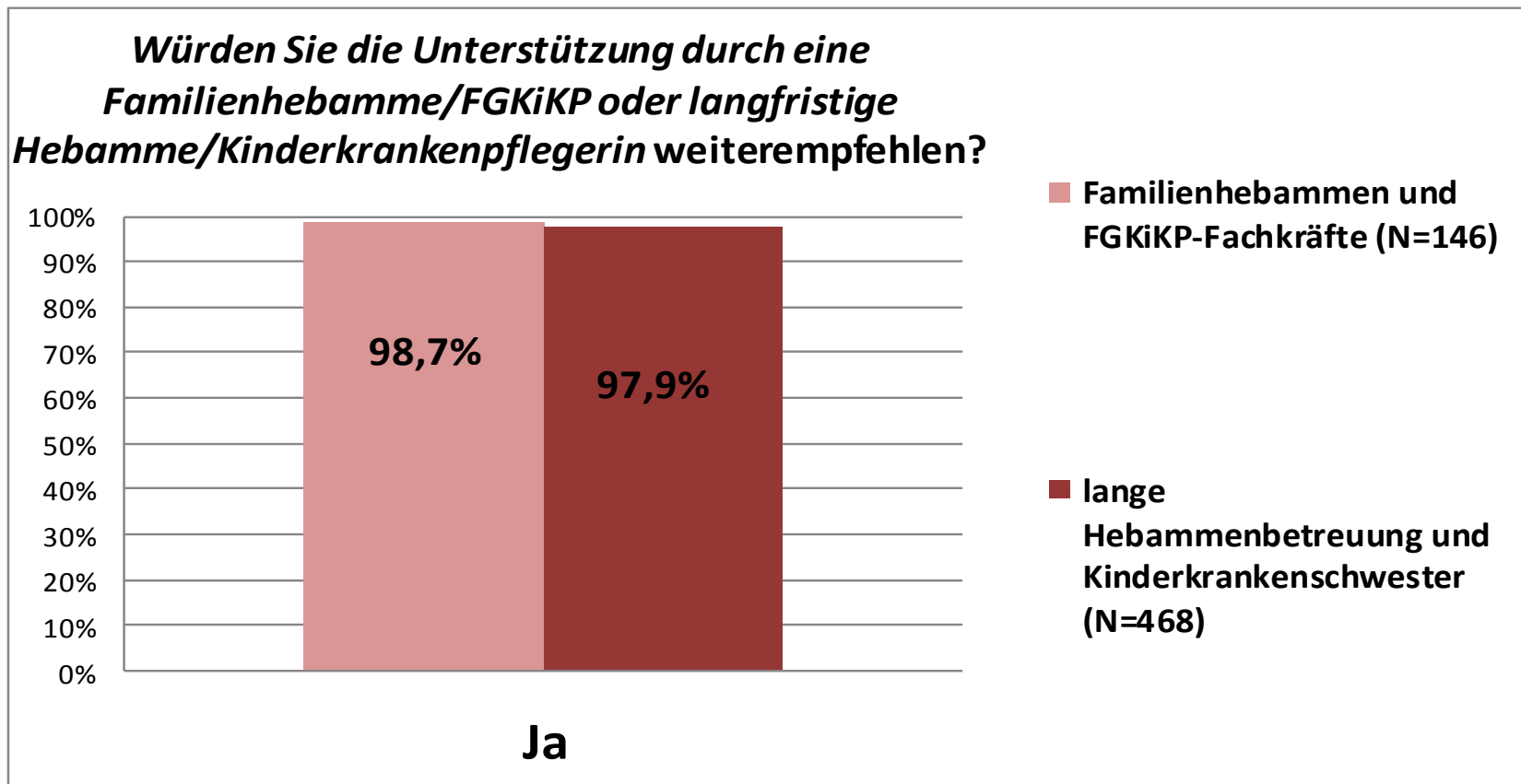
NZFH survey among 1019 mothers with children aged 0 – 3

Are you satisfied with the (family) midwife's care?



Source: Ilona Renner, Sara Scharmanski, Anna Neumann, Mechthild Paul (2018): *Wie bewerten Mütter den Einsatz von Gesundheitsfachkräften in den Frühen Hilfen? Faktenblatt 1 zu den Ergebnissen der NZFH Elternbefragung zum Einsatz von Gesundheitsfachkräften in den Frühen Hilfen.* Herausgegeben vom Nationalen Zentrum Frühe Hilfen (NZFH). Köln

Recommendation of a (family) midwife or nurse by mothers



3.5 Measures of early childhood intervention are effective

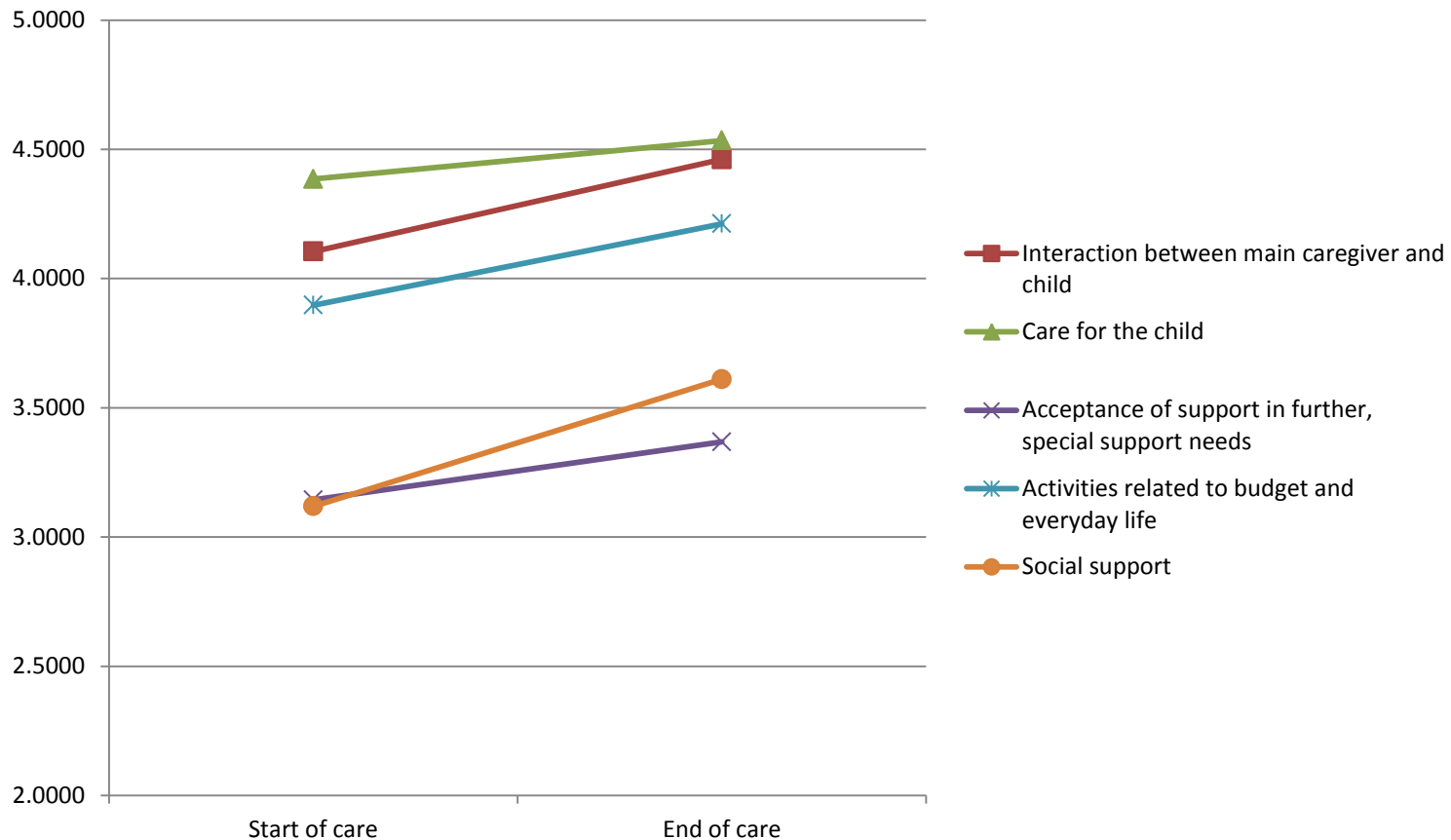
3.5 ECI Measures are effective

| | Internal Consistency (Cronbach`s α) | Range and Mean of Selectivity (r_{itc}) |
|---|--|---|
| Interaction between main caregiver and child (6 Items) | ,950 | ,815 - ,893; M = ,847 |
| Care for the child (6 Items) | ,868 | ,470 - ,774; M = ,671 |
| Acceptance of support in further, special support needs (6 Items) | ,921 | ,642 - ,868; M = ,775 |
| Activities related to budget and everyday life (4 Items) | ,852 | ,614 - ,798; M = ,694 |
| Social Support (2 Items) | ,803 | ,671 |

- Participants: 190 Family Midwives and Nurses took part in the online survey
- They reported data concerning resources, stresses, competencies of 937 families (anonymized / voluntary)
- Start of care – End of care

Source: Sara Scharmanski & Ilona Renner (2016) Familiäre Ressourcen und Hilfebedarfe erfassen: Zur Konstruktvalidität und Reliabilität des Systematischen Explorations- und Verlaufsinventars für Gesundheitsfachkräfte in den Frühen Hilfen (SEVG). In: Zeitschrift für Evidenz, Fortbildung und Qualität im Gesundheitswesen.

Enhancement of competencies over time



Source: Ilona Renner & Sara Scharmanski (2016) Gesundheitsfachkräfte in den Frühen Hilfen: Hat sich ihr Einsatz bewährt? In: Bundesgesundheitsblatt, Band 59, Heft 10, S. 1323–1331

3.5 ECI Measures are effective

Enhancement of competencies over time

| measurement duration | Start of care period | End of care period | t-Test | |
|---|----------------------|--------------------|---------|-------------|
| | M (SD) | M (SD) | p | Cohen`s d + |
| Scales SEVG | | | | |
| Interaction | 4,10 (,872) | 4,46 (,706) | ,000*** | ,45 |
| Care | 4,39 (,671) | 4,53 (,596) | ,000*** | ,23 |
| Acceptance of support | 3,14 (1,222) | 3,37 (,1,232) | ,001** | ,18 |
| Activities related to budget and everyday life | 3,90 (,911) | 4,21 (,814) | ,000*** | ,37 |
| Social Support | 3,12 (1,287) | 3,61 (1,206) | ,000*** | ,39 |

* sig. $p < .05$; ** sig. $p < .01$; *** sig. $p < .001$

Quelle: Ilona Renner & Sara Scharmanski (2016) Gesundheitsfachkräfte in den Frühen Hilfen: Hat sich ihr Einsatz bewährt? In: Bundesgesundheitsblatt, Band 59, Heft 10, S. 1323–1331

4. Discussion

Goal of early childhood intervention: Has psychosocial care for families been improved?

So far, yes – but there is much future work to be done

(5) Measures of early childhood intervention are effective

(4) Early intervention is positively assessed by the target group

(3) Families in need make use of early intervention measures

(2) Strong collaboration: Health & child and youth service sectors

(1) Nationwide municipal implementation of early childhood intervention

Thank you for your attention

ilona.renner@nzhf.de