



# EVALUATING THE EFFICACY AND COST EFFECTIVENESS OF A POST-FOSTER CARE PROGRAM

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NEW YORK  
MEDICAL COLLEGE

A MEMBER OF THE Touro COLLEGE  
AND UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

## Background

### Statistics

- ❖ **>400,000:** number of children currently in foster care in the United States
- ❖ **8.6%:** federal standard for 12-month re-entry rate
- ❖ **>20%:** Westchester County 12-month re-entry rate in 2003

### Repercussions

Long-term consequences of repeated and continued involvement in foster care include:

- ❖ Homelessness
- ❖ Substance abuse
- ❖ Financial struggles
- ❖ Mental health concerns
- ❖ Poor physical health
- ❖ Unemployment
- ❖ Criminal activity

### Every Family Counts (EFC) Aftercare Program

- ❖ Developed by the Westchester Institute for Human Development (WIHD)
- ❖ Designed to ensure permanent reunification
- ❖ Funded by the Westchester County Department of Social Services (DSS)
- ❖ Provides long-term family-centered support services
- ❖ Participants' re-entry rates have dropped to less than 10%, on average

## Objectives

- ❖ Determine the impact of participation in the EFC Aftercare Program on the rate of re-entry to foster care
- ❖ Determine the cost effectiveness of the EFC Aftercare Program

## Community Partners

- ❖ Westchester County Department of Social Services: Program and Policy Office for Foster Care & Preventive Services
  - Lisa Swanson
  - Phil Goldstein
- ❖ New York Medical College Department of Health, Policy, and Management
  - Kenneth Knapp, PhD
  - Denise Tahara, PhD

## Methods

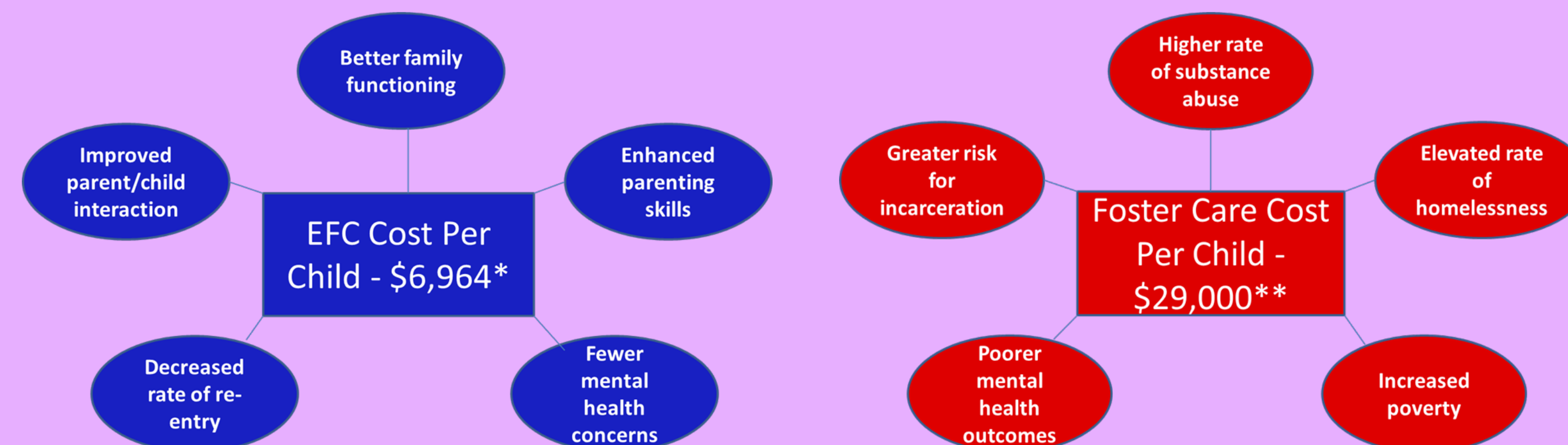
### Study Design:

This project is a retrospective review of EFC outcomes of re-entry rates and parenting success. A cost analysis was also conducted to determine the EFC Aftercare Program's financial effectiveness.

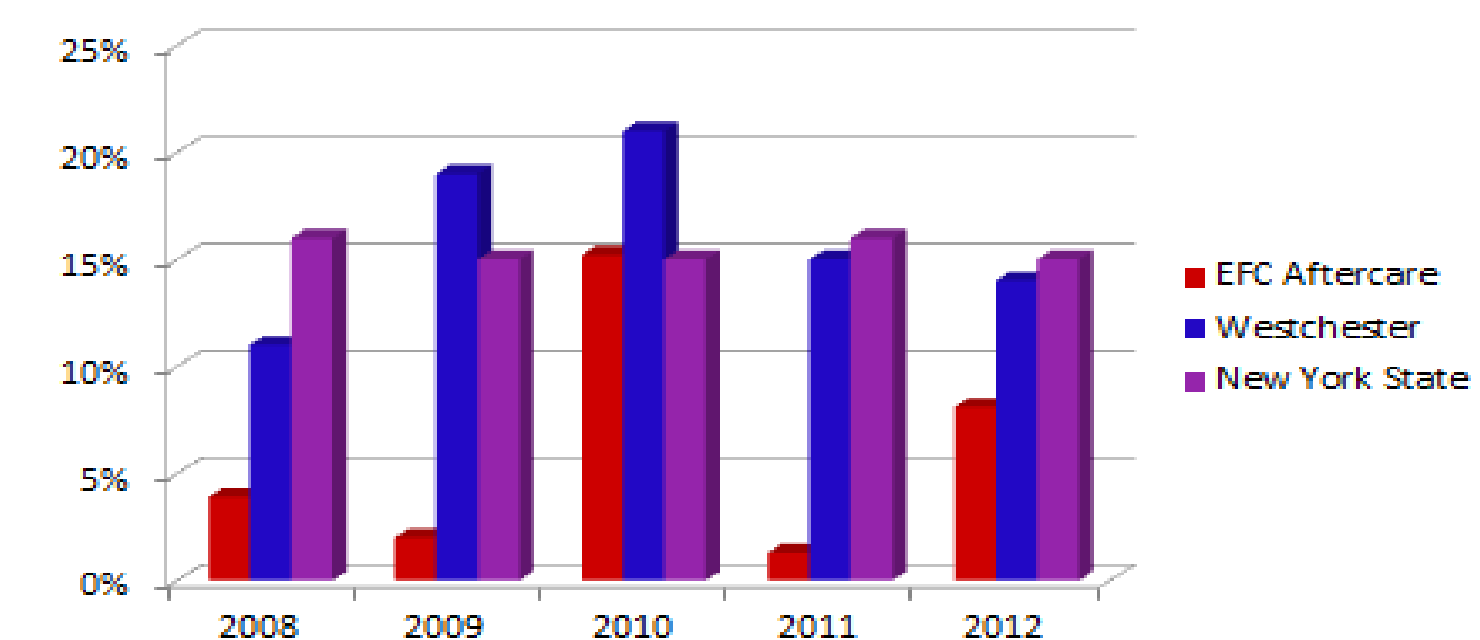
### Settings and Subjects:

Families who participated in the EFC Aftercare Program from 2008-2012 (N=149 families, 238 children) were included in the analyses.

## Results



EFC, Westchester, and NYS 12-Month Re-Entry Rates



## Conclusions

- ❖ The EFC program provides a cost-effective alternative to foster care that benefits individuals, families, and society as a whole.
- ❖ The EFC program has been successful in keeping the reentry rate below the national standard as well as that of New York State and Westchester County

\* 2014 EFC Budget Cost  
\*\* 2010 OCFS Budget Estimates

## Next Steps

- ❖ Examine parenting characteristics that contribute to successful reunification
- ❖ Assess long-term outcomes of participants post-aftercare program
- ❖ Conduct cost-benefit analysis of EFC program