



# Utilizing Family-Driven Strategies to Foster Advancements in Prevention

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## Coalition for Juvenile Justice Conference

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# Overview

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- Definition of Family-Driven
- Guiding Principles of Family Driven
- Family-Driven Organizations
- Practices of Family-Driven Organizations
- Challenges of Family Involvement
- National Resources
- NJPC Families Uplifted Prevention Initiative
  - Overview
  - Primary Goal
  - Family Strengthening Strategies & Activities
  - Evaluation





# Definition of Family Driven

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- Family-driven means ***families have a primary decision making role*** in the care of their own children as well as the policies and procedures governing care for all children in their community, state, tribe, territory and nation. This includes:
  - Choosing culturally and linguistically competent supports, services, and providers
  - Setting goals
  - Designing, implementing and evaluating programs
  - Monitoring outcomes
  - Partnering in funding decisions
  - Participating in advisory roles on boards, commissions, etc.

(Osher, Osher, & Blau, 2006)





# Guiding Principles of Family-Driven Care

- Families and youth, providers and administrators embrace the concept of ***sharing decision-making and responsibility for outcomes***.
- Families and youth are ***given accurate, understandable, and complete information necessary to set goals and to make informed decisions and choices*** about the right services and supports for individual children and their families.
- All children, youth, and families have a biological, adoptive, foster, or surrogate ***family voice advocating on their behalf*** and may appoint them as substitute decision makers at any time.
- Families and family-run organizations engage in ***peer support activities to reduce isolation, gather and disseminate accurate information, and strengthen the family voice***.
- Families and family-run organizations provide ***direction for decisions that impact funding for services, treatments, and supports and advocate for families and youth*** to have choices.

(Osher, Osher, & Blau, 2006)





# Guiding Principles of Family-Driven Care

- Providers take the initiative to ***change policy and practice from provider-driven to family-driven.***
- ***Administrators allocate staff, training, support and resources to make family-driven practice work*** at the point where services and supports are delivered to children, youth, and families and where family and youth run organizations are funded and sustained.
- Community attitude change efforts ***focus on removing barriers and discrimination created by stigma.***
- Communities and private agencies ***embrace, value, and celebrate the diverse cultures of their children, youth, and families and work to eliminate disparities*** in all systems.
- Everyone who connects with children, youth, and families ***continually advances their own cultural and linguistic responsiveness as the population served changes so that the needs of the diverse populations are appropriately addressed.*** (Osher, Osher, & Blau, 2006)





# Family Driven Organizations

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- An organization that is primarily governed and operated by family members caring for children who have been or are receiving public services in the following systems and/or communities:
  - Juvenile Justice
  - Mental Health
  - Child Welfare
  - Special Education
  - Developmental Disabilities
  - At-Risk Communities





# Practices of Family Driven Organizations

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- Information and Referral
- Information Dissemination
- Outreach
- Administrative Activities & Program Oversight
- Education & Training
- Individual Advocacy
- Family Care Management
- Support Groups





# Practices of Family Driven Organizations

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- Direct Services
  - Respite
  - Workforce/Apprenticeship
  - Mentoring
  - After School
  - Youth Reentry
- Educate/Influence Policy Makers
- Evaluation
- Capacity Building/Support to local family-run organizations





# Challenges of Family Involvement

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- ***Reaping the benefits of family involvement*** for children who are at risk or adjudicated as neglected or delinquent and placed outside their home, school and community ***is an ongoing challenge***
- Involving families can be further ***complicated by institutional restrictions or court orders***
- Paradigm Shift



# Family Driven Organizations – National Resources

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- Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health – [www.ffcmh.org](http://www.ffcmh.org)
- SAMHSA Statewide Family Networks – [www.uacf4hope.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=905&Itemid=211](http://www.uacf4hope.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=905&Itemid=211)





# NJPC Families Uplifted Prevention Initiative – Overview

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## NJPC's Families Uplifted Prevention Initiative for Paterson Parents, Caregivers & Youth

- Funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) October, 1 2007 – September 30, 2009
- Serves 1000 – 1500 families of Paterson youth, ages 7 to 15, who are at risk of becoming involved in the juvenile justice system
- Includes family strengthening strategies and programs focused on improving
  - Family support systems
  - Family economic success
  - Building thriving and nurturing communities in which healthy families can pursue long-term goals





# NJPC Families Uplifted Prevention Initiative

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*To empower families and build on their strengths and capacities to nurture their children and lead their communities by increasing access to care. This can only be achieved when parents, caregivers, and other family members are **educated and informed**, and can partner with community agencies and service providers by playing an integral role in the design, development and delivery of services, as well as the decision-making process. By Uplifting Families, communities will be strengthened; Together, they will define, assess, and allocate resources, by building on the assets of their community.*





# NJPC Families Uplifted Prevention Initiative

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- Increase number of parents ***who are informed of available services and supports*** through service providers, community, and government agencies in their local community, county and state, and such things as what to do about a child's behavior.
- Increase number of parents ***who receive peer support*** and offers them opportunities to meet other parents and share their strategies for addressing the needs of their children and families.
- Increase number of parents ***who are better able to make informed decisions*** about the services their children receive.
- Increase the number of parents ***who are better prepared to partner with service providers and advocate*** for their children and families .
- Increase the number of ***trained and certified parents who are empowered to deliver trainings in their local communities and provide informal support*** to their communities.





# NJPC Families Uplifted Prevention Initiative – Program Activities

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- ***Governance***

- ***County Advisory Board***

- Broad collaboration among Parents & Caregivers, Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice, Special Education, Mental Health, Prevention and other Community-based Organizations

- ***Community Outreach***

- *Street Outreach*
- *Community Presentations*
- *Families Uplifted Brochure & DM Campaign*
- *Website*

- ***Advocacy & Informal Support***

- *Information & Referral*
- *Family Advocacy – Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice, Mental Health, Special Education, Developmental Disabilities*
- ***In-Home Assessments for Cross-System Involved Families***
- ***School-Based Advocacy/Care Management Services***
- *800 Support Line (9AM – 7PM, M-F)*
- *Parent Support Groups*



# NJPC Families Uplifted Prevention Initiative – Program Activities

- ***Training & Education - The Parents' Empowerment Academy***
  - *Professional Parent Advocacy – Five Week Trainings (Saturday)*
    - *Professionalism & Communications Skills*
    - *Empowering the Parent Voice: Motivation & Assertiveness*
    - *Conflict Resolution Skills & The Power of Persuasion*
    - *Enabling vs. Empowering*
    - *Navigating The Special Education System & the IEP Process*
    - *Developing a Transitional Plan*
    - *Understanding Childhood Challenges & the DSM IV*
    - *The Adolescent Brain*
    - *Influencing Cultural Competency & Diversity in the Professional Community*
    - *Understanding the Juvenile Justice System*
    - *Strengthening the Child Welfare System through Family Involvement*
    - *Collaborating with Agencies Dedicated to Children's Services*
    - *Role of Agencies Dedicated to Children's Services (Panel of Professionals/Providers)*
    - *Empowering the Parent Trainer - Train the Trainer*



# NJPC Families Uplifted Prevention Initiative – Program Activities

- ***Survival Skills Workshops for Parents***
  - *Parenting Strategies for Your Learning Disabled Child*
  - *Parenting Children With Emotional and Behavioral Challenges – ADD/ADHD*
  - *Parenting Children With Emotional and Behavioral Challenges – Oppositional Defiant Disorder(ODD)*
  
- ***Employment Opportunities***
  - *The Role of Family Members - Volunteer & Paid Opportunities*
    - *Trainers*
    - *Support Group Facilitators*
    - *Parent Advocates*
    - *Administrators*
    - *Board Members*
    - *Educators*
    - *Evaluators*
    - *Care Managers*





# NJPC Families Uplifted Prevention Initiative

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- Achievement of these goals, strategies and activities is expected to increase access to care that is individualized, culturally-competent, strength-based and planned and delivered in partnership with the child and family. Once achieved, the following outcomes will be realized –
  - children will abide by the law
  - children will be better able to succeed in school
  - children will remain in their communities
  - families will remain together and be strengthened
  - Ultimately, children and families will thrive



# Families Uplifted Prevention Initiative – 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Results

Families Uplifted Prevention Initiative - 1st & 2nd Quarter Results								
	Parent Slots	Parent Slots-Carryover	Total Parent Slots	Children Slots	Children Slots-Carryover	Total Children Slots	Grand Total Slots-ALL	Grand Total Hours*
<b>1st Q</b>	<b>120</b>		<b>120</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>1363</b>
<b>2nd Q</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>1325</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>2688</b>



\*Represents Parent Support Groups, I&R Intakes, Advocacy Cases, Training & Education

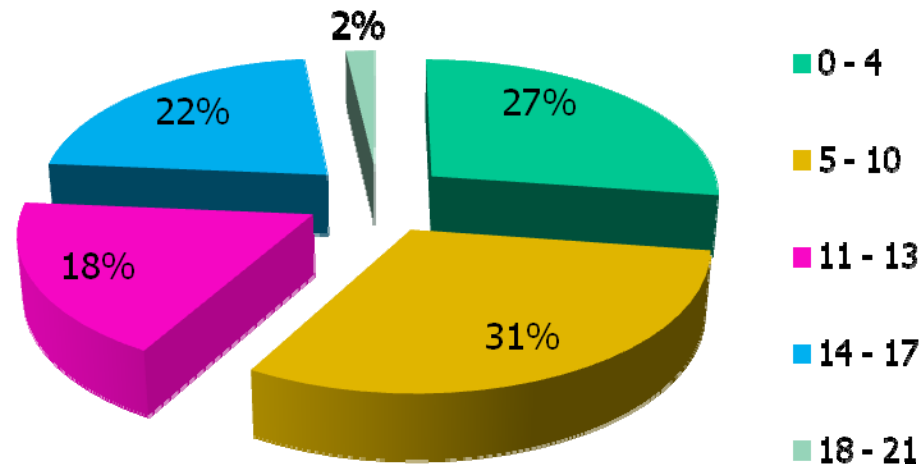
# Families Uplifted Prevention Initiative - *Program Evaluation Information: Professional Parent Advocacy Training Summary*

Professional Parent Advocacy Training Session 1: November 17 - January 5, 2008 Session II: January 19 - March 29	Baseline Assessment	Community Trainings Scheduled by Newly Certified Parents & Caregivers	Post-Training Assessment (6 Months)	Post-Training Assessment (12 Months)
Total number of Participants Registered (parents, caregivers and family members)	147			
Total number of Participants Trained	88			
Total number of Participants Certified to Train	29	3		
Total number of Participants Who Completed Evaluation Questionnaire #1	40			
Total number of Participants Who Completed Evaluation Questionnaire #2	44			
Total number of Children Represented Based on Evaluation Questionnaire	55			
Total number of Children (0-21) Represented Based on Sign In Sheets	105			
Total number of Participants Educating Policy Makers on Issues Related to Children's Services		11		
Total Number of Participants Placed on Advisory Boards, Commissions & Councils		5		
Total number of Participants Providing Volunteer Parent Advocacy in FUPI		7		



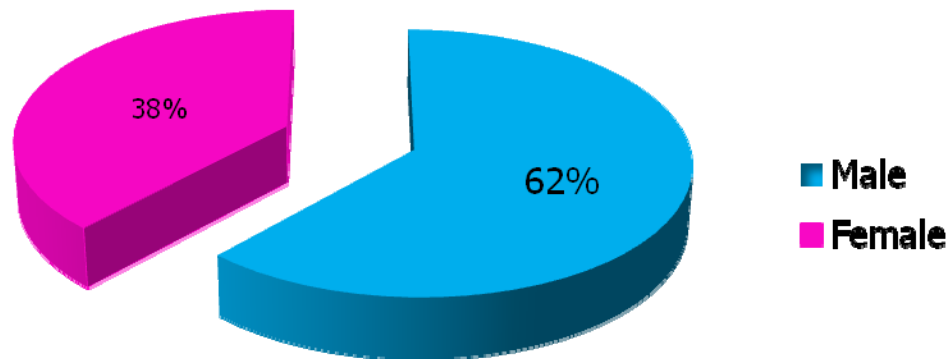
# Families Uplifted Prevention Initiative - *Program Evaluation Information: Professional Parent Advocacy Training - Children's Age*

**Age of Children  
N=55**



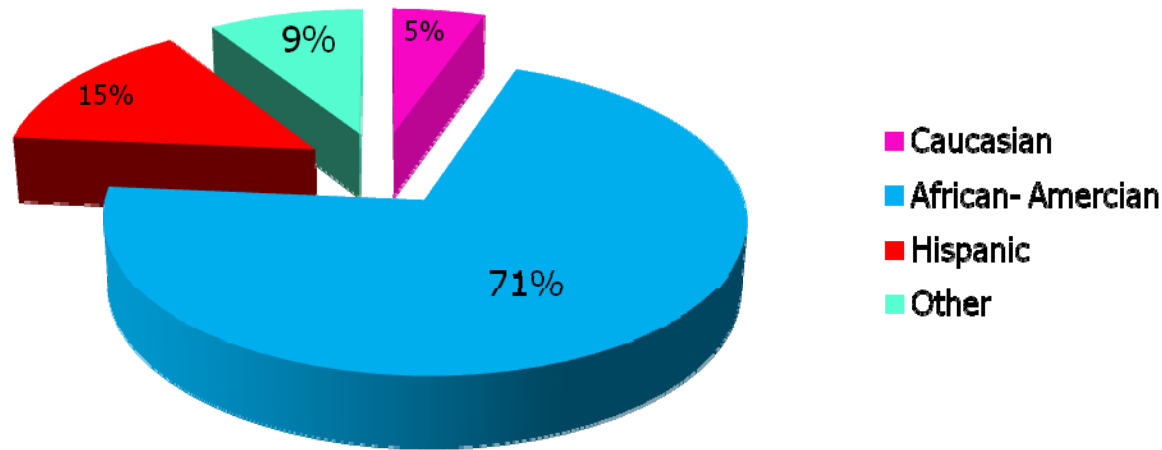
Families Uplifted Prevention Initiative - *Program Evaluation Information: Professional Parent Advocacy Training - Children's Gender*

**Gender of Children  
N=55**



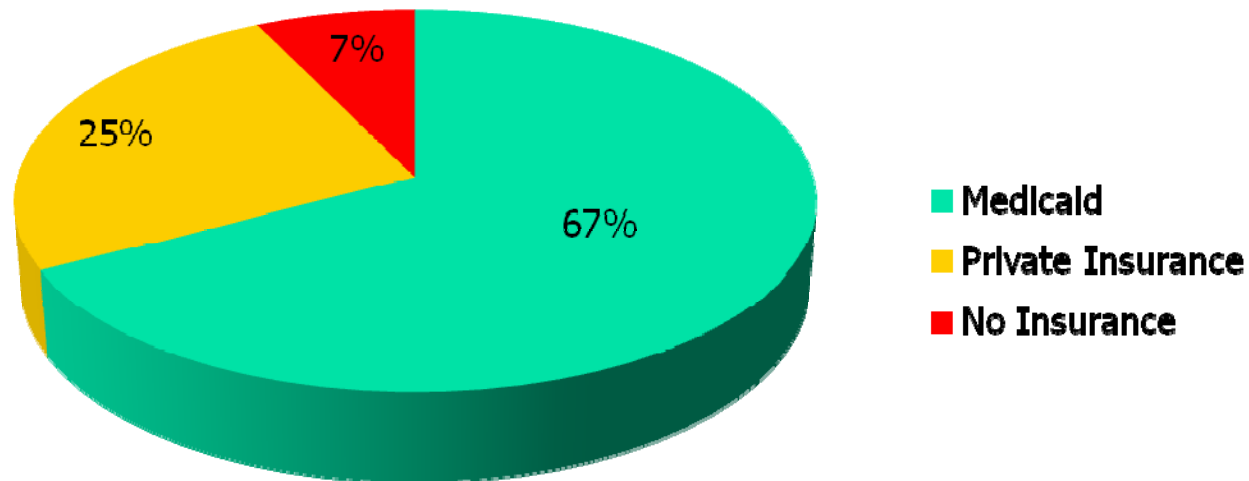
# Families Uplifted Prevention Initiative - *Program Evaluation Information: Professional Parent Advocacy Training - Children's Ethnicity*

**Ethnicity of Children  
N=55**



Families Uplifted Prevention Initiative - *Program Evaluation Information: Professional Parent Advocacy Training - Children's Insurance*

**Children's Insurance  
N=55**



# Families Uplifted Prevention Initiative - *Program Evaluation Information: Professional Parent Advocacy Training - Children's Diagnosis*

# of Children reflect the fact that some children have multiple diagnoses - (N =55)

	# Children	% of Total
Bipolar Disorder	1	2%
Depressive Disorder/Other Depressions	2	3%
ADD/ADHD	13	21%
PTSD	1	2%
Schizophrenia/Schizoaffective Disorder	2	3%
Conduct Disorders	4	6%
Drug & Alcohol Disorder	0	0%
Autism	2	3%
Learning Disability	11	18%
Developmental Disability	1	2%
No Disability Indicated	10	16%
Unknown	7	11%
Missing Data	8	13%



# Families Uplifted Prevention Initiative - *Program Evaluation Information: Professional Parent Advocacy Training - Children & System Involvement*

# of Children reflect the fact that some children have multi-system involvement  
(N =55)

System	# of Children	% of Total
Juvenile Justice	3	5%
Mental Health*	5	8%
Child Welfare (DYFS)	29	48%
Special Education	11	18%
Developmental Disabilities	7	12%
Other	2	3%
No System Involvement	3	5%

\* Lack of Access, Knowledge; Lack of Services, Stigma, Cultural Competency (22 children)



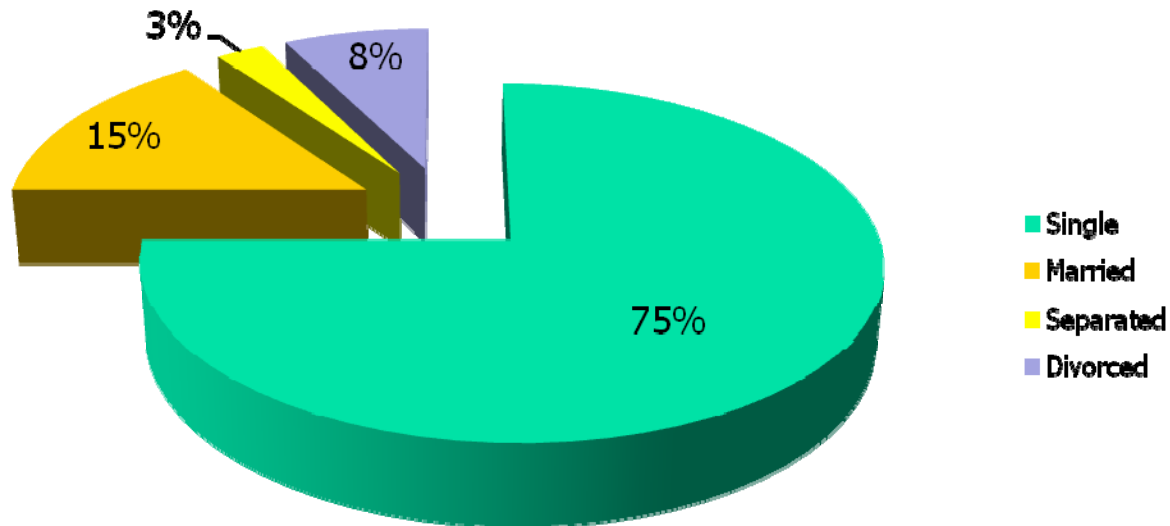
# Families Uplifted Prevention Initiative - *Program Evaluation Information: Professional Parent Advocacy Training - Children's Living Arrangements*

(N =55)

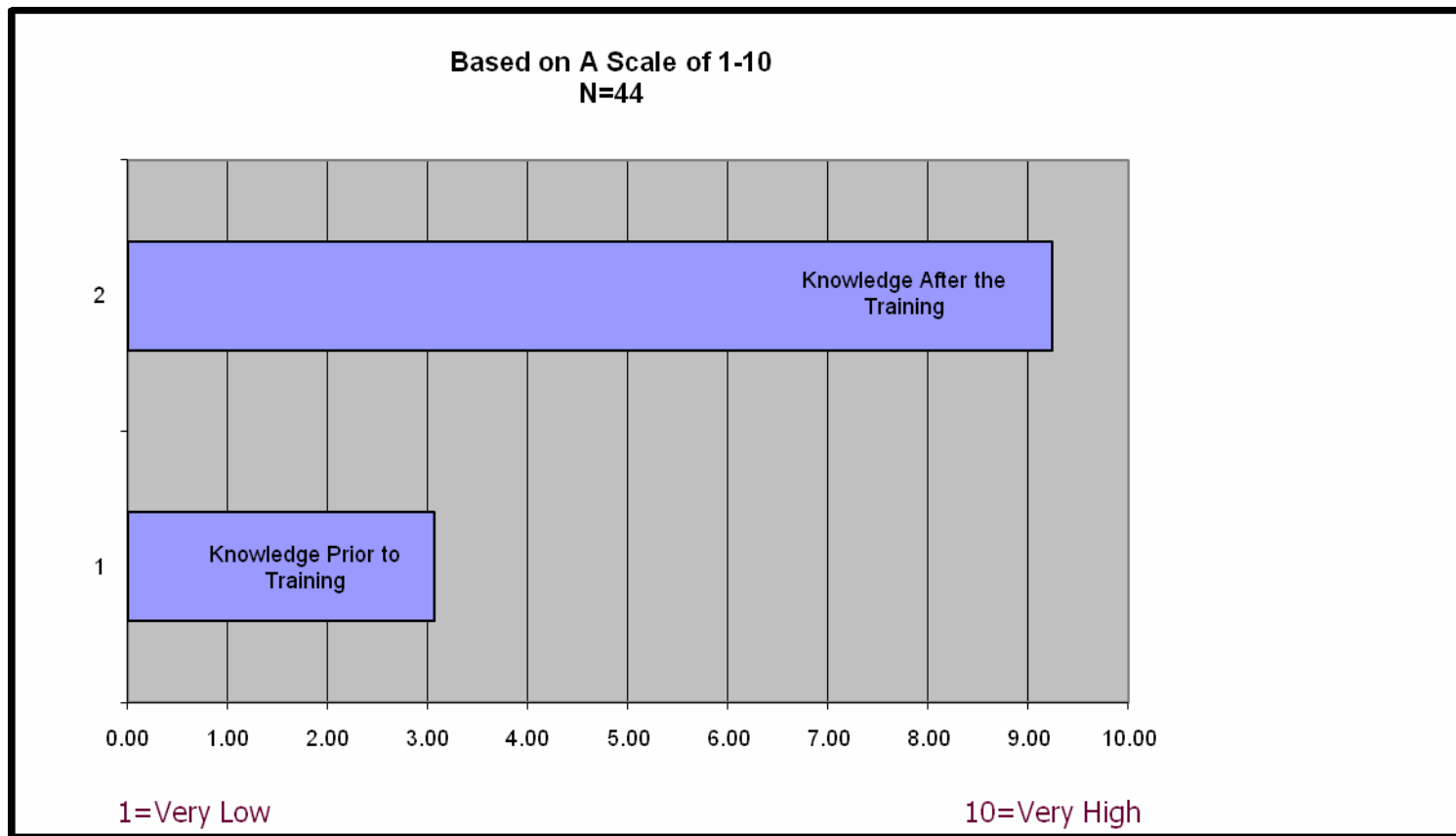
<b>Living Arrangements</b>	<b># of Children</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
<b>Home</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>49%</b>
<b>Foster Home</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>Adoptive</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Kinship</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Other Relative</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>CCIS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Group Home</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Residential</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Detention</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4%</b>



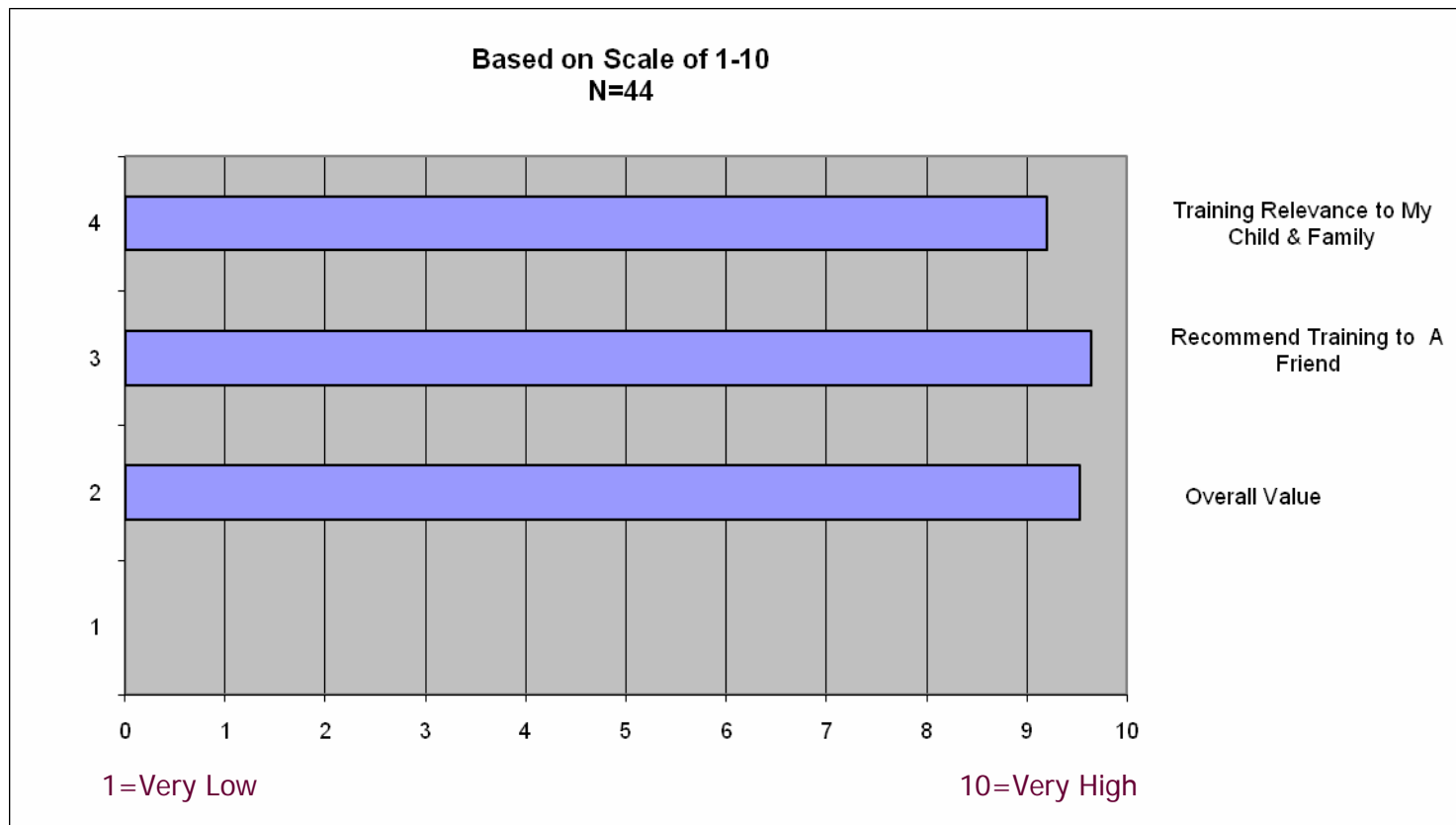
Families Uplifted Prevention Initiative - *Program Evaluation Information: Professional Parent Advocacy Training - Parent's Marital Status (n=40)*



# Families Uplifted Prevention Initiative - *Program Evaluation Information: Professional Parent Advocacy Training - Knowledge Exchange I*



# Families Uplifted Prevention Initiative - *Program Evaluation Information: Professional Parent Advocacy Training - Knowledge Exchange II*





## Families Uplifted Prevention Initiative – *Spillover Factor*

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- Professional Parent Advocacy Training Approved by NJ's Child Welfare System for Foster & Adoptive Parent Continuing Credits
- Beyond Grant Requirements for Paterson parents & caregivers per training,
  - 11 Additional Counties
  - Probation Officers
  - Faith-based Leaders
  - Child Welfare Workers
  - Educators
  - Psychologist
- Support Group for Parents Involved in the Child Welfare System
- Support Group for Parents Who Are Childhood Victims of Sexual Abuse
- Man Talk Educational Series for Male Caregivers (46/3/11)
  - Probation and Child Welfare
- Understanding Special Education Services in the Juvenile Justice System Workshop
- School-Based Advocacy Services
- New Jersey Youth Justice Initiative





## Families Uplifted Prevention Initiative – *Challenges*

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- Systems Collaboration
- Evolution of Evaluation of Preventive Efforts
- Evaluation of Parent Advocacy
- Evidence Based Practice vs. Practice Based Evidence