



adoption-share

*Leveraging Technology to Help Create Families*

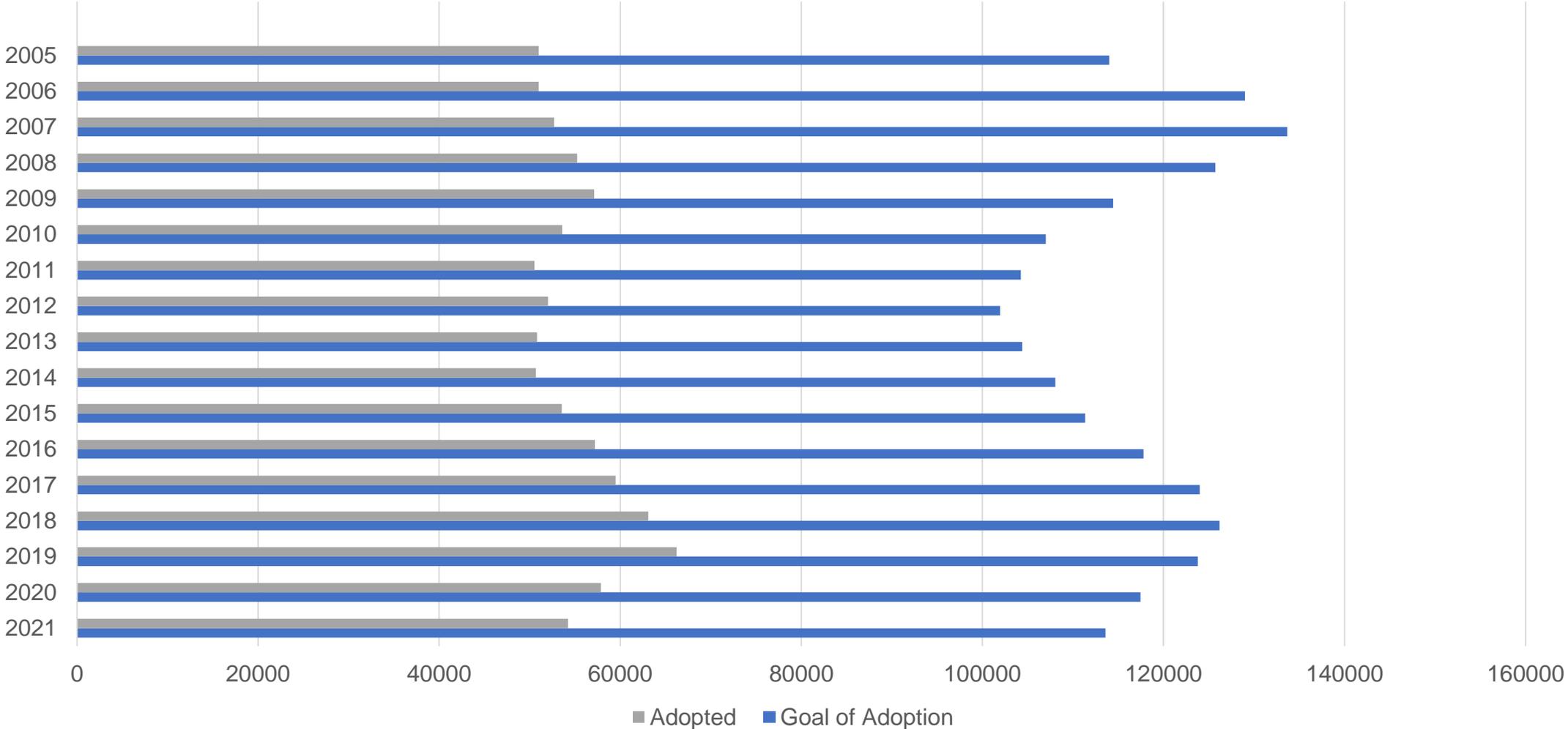
Adoption-Share is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization leveraging technology to bring efficiency, transparency, and reform to the adoption process.

*[www.adoption-share.com](http://www.adoption-share.com)*



+113,000

Waiting to be adopted (blue) vs. Adopted (grey)





## Our Main Premise



There are children in the US foster care system who are eligible for adoption and do not have a family identified to adopt them. Yet, prospective adoptive families outnumber children who are waiting to be adopted by a ratio of 5:1.<sup>1</sup>

Technology can help increase efficiency and appropriate connections between these waiting children and waiting families.

Kamarck et al, (2011). Eliminating Barrier to the Adoption of Children in Foster Care.

**THERE ARE PLENTY OF FAMILIES AND  
CHILDREN READY TO CONNECT—AND  
WE PROVIDE THE TOOL.**

**IT'S NOT A NUMBERS PROBLEM—IT'S  
A CONNECTION PROBLEM.**

## >> Long-term Impacts

Failure to provide a stable home for foster youth affects jails, education, and social services for everyone.



40% of former foster youth have been incarcerated, costing the US \$5.1B per year.<sup>2</sup>



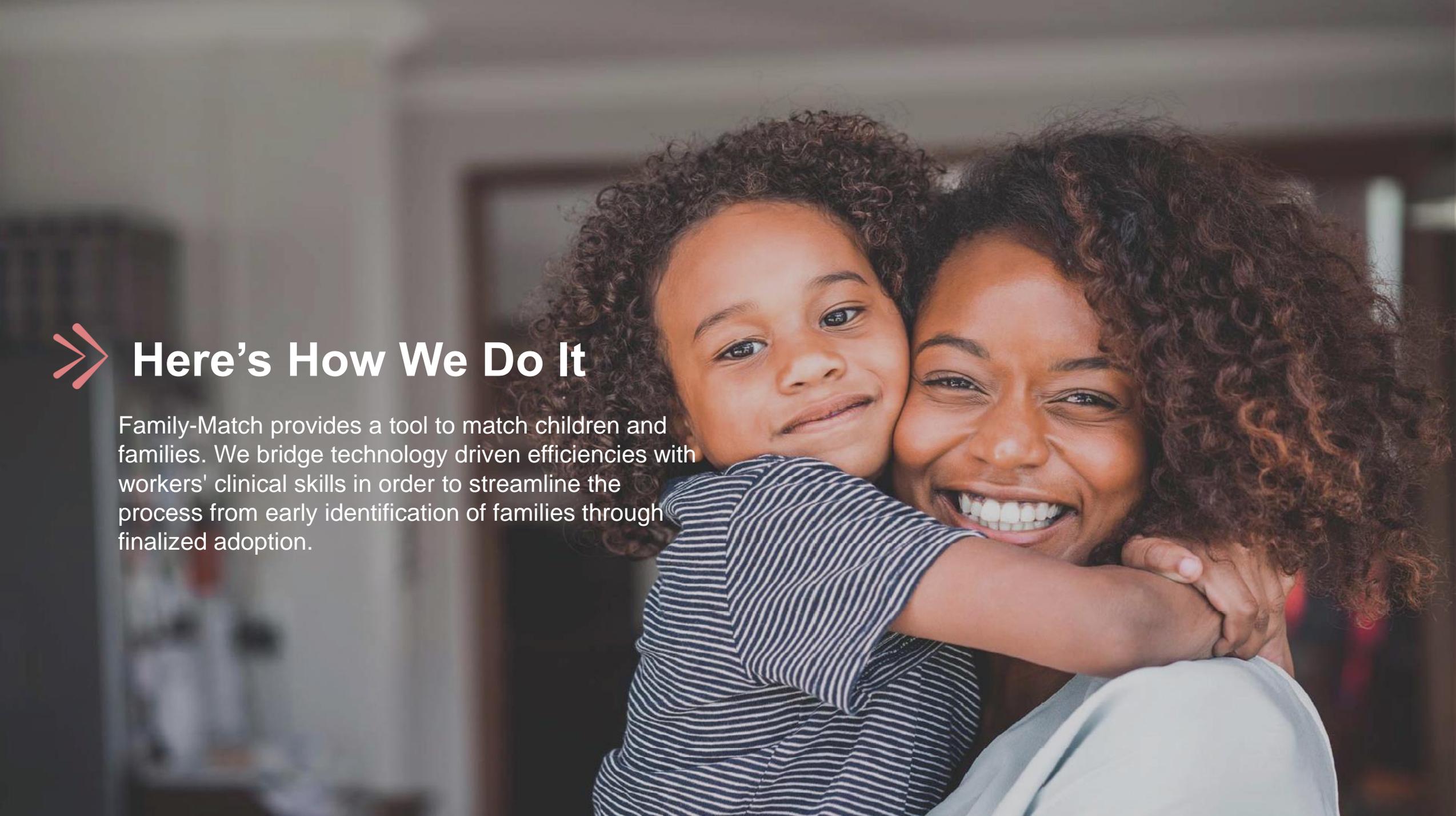
More than 40% of former foster children become homeless within two to four years of leaving the system.<sup>2</sup>



Children who age out of care without a family are 3X less likely to live in a financially secure household and a safe and supportive neighborhood.<sup>3</sup>



Youth who age out of foster care without a permanent family are 3X less likely than their peers in the general population to graduate high school or earn their GED and 6X less likely to earn a postsecondary degree.<sup>4</sup>

A close-up photograph of a woman with voluminous, curly dark hair smiling warmly and hugging a young child with similar curly hair. The child is wearing a blue and white striped shirt. The background is softly blurred, showing what appears to be an indoor setting with a doorway.

## ➤ Here's How We Do It

Family-Match provides a tool to match children and families. We bridge technology driven efficiencies with workers' clinical skills in order to streamline the process from early identification of families through finalized adoption.



## We have three Core Principles:

- 1. Inverse the Outreach:** Traditional matching tools are driven by families expressing interest in a child they believe works best with their family. By inverting the outreach to be driven by workers- we focus on finding the best family for a child's needs.
- 2. Visibility is Key:** We build out a centralized repository of families to allow workers to access a broader pool of candidates quickly.
- 3. Leverage the Data:** We gather critical data from the families and children and use it to make the best possible matches that go beyond a family's preferences on age, gender, ethnicity, and number of children in a sibling set. We then follow our placements to learn what predicts success and leverage those lessons to make the system better.



The Family-Match Assessment measures key attributes of children and resource families to predict disruption in foster care placement.

### Key attributes include:

#### For Families

- ✓ Personality
- ✓ Attachment
- ✓ Marital Adjustment
- ✓ Parenting Experience
- ✓ Expectations
- ✓ Foster Experience

#### For Children

- ✓ Personality
- ✓ Affect
- ✓ Foster Experience
- ✓ History of Maltreatment
- ✓ Behaviors
- ✓ Resiliency

Assessments completed by prospective parents and families are scored and processed by our matching algorithm to determine which pairings of children and families are the least likely to disrupt. Caseworkers are then able to view families in the repository ranked by their degree of compatibility with the child(ren).



Adoption Insights

## Of the 300+ adoptions facilitated by our Family-Match Program in Florida:



**100%**

Are considered special needs



**39%**

Were 10+ years old



**42%**

Have a disability



**50%**

Spent time in residential treatment programs/congregate care homes.



**63%**

Are part of sibling groups



**47%**

Occurred outside the child placing agency's area

**Base rate= 0: these are the children who most workers thought would never be adopted.**

# >> Key Outcomes <<

In July 2018, Adoption-Share partnered with the Selfless Love Foundation to implement the Family-Match Program for adoption matching in Florida.



**850+** Children Matched



**570+** Children Placed



**393+** Adopted

Estimated **savings of over \$50M** the state of Florida can realize over the next 8 years.<sup>5</sup>



**2000+ Families** have created profiles



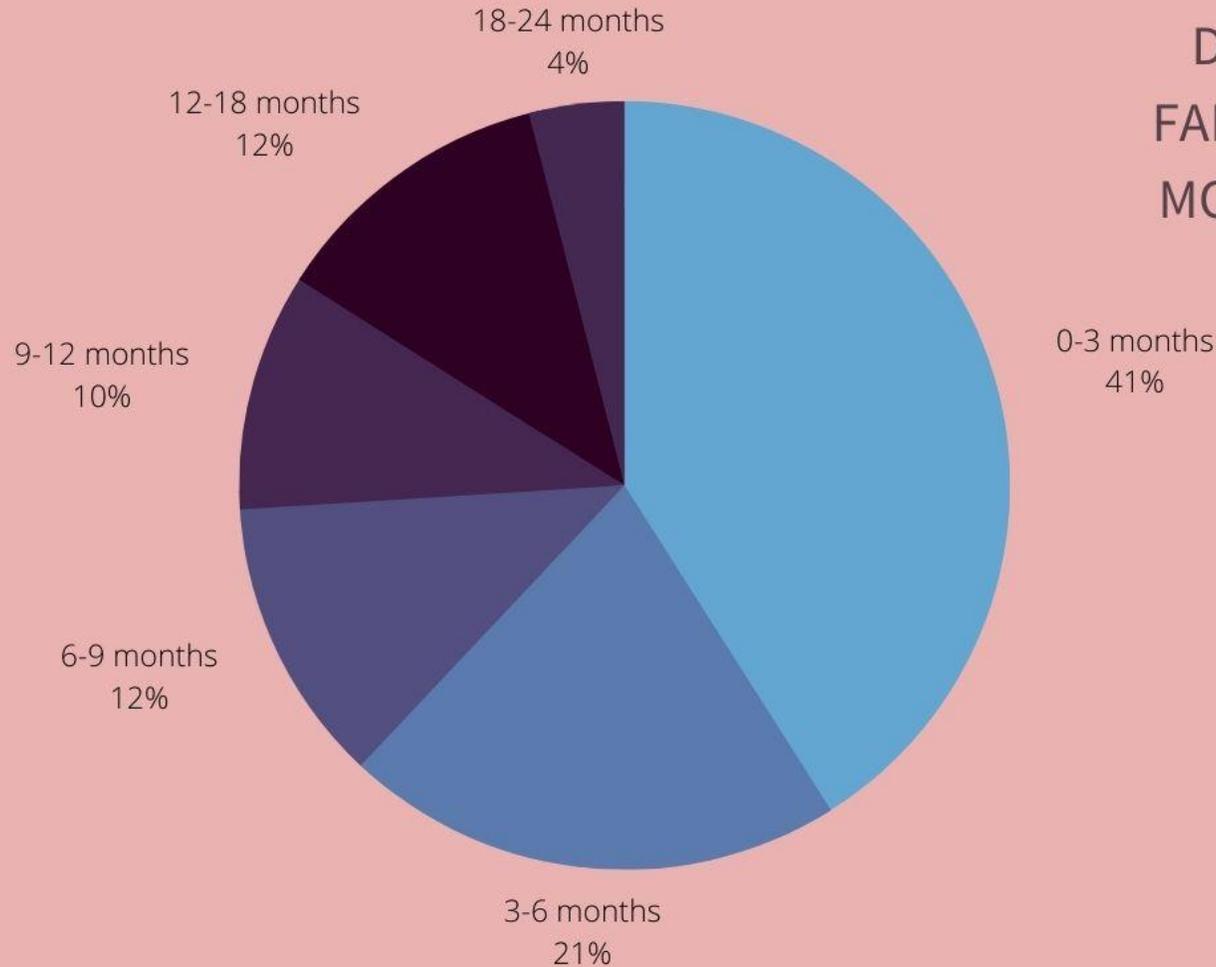
**100% Participation** by all 19 community-based care circuits and their subcontractors statewide



Maintained on average an open and **active pool of 800 children**

# Inverse the Outreach

IMPROVED EFFICIENCY



DATA SHOWS THAT ALMOST 40% OF CASES ON FAMILY-MATCH ARE ON THE SYSTEM BETWEEN 0-3 MONTHS BEFORE BEING MATCHED. THE AVERAGE TIME WAITING IS 22 DAYS.



22 DAYS

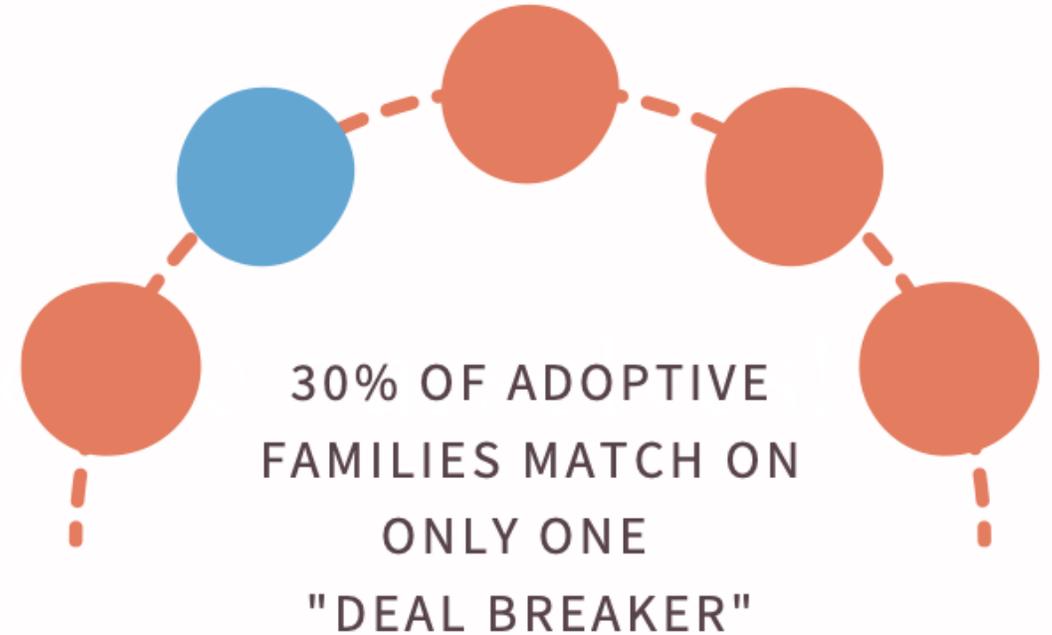
# Visibility is Key

IMPROVED EFFICIENCY

THE TRUTH ABOUT DEAL BREAKERS

CONVERSATION STARTERS OPTIMIZED IN  
MATCHING MODEL

SCALE OF 1 TO 4 REPLACED YES/NO



# Leverage the Data

IMPROVED RELATIONAL FIT

KIDS: ANXIETY AND DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIORS ARE STRONG PREDICTORS OF  
DISRUPTION

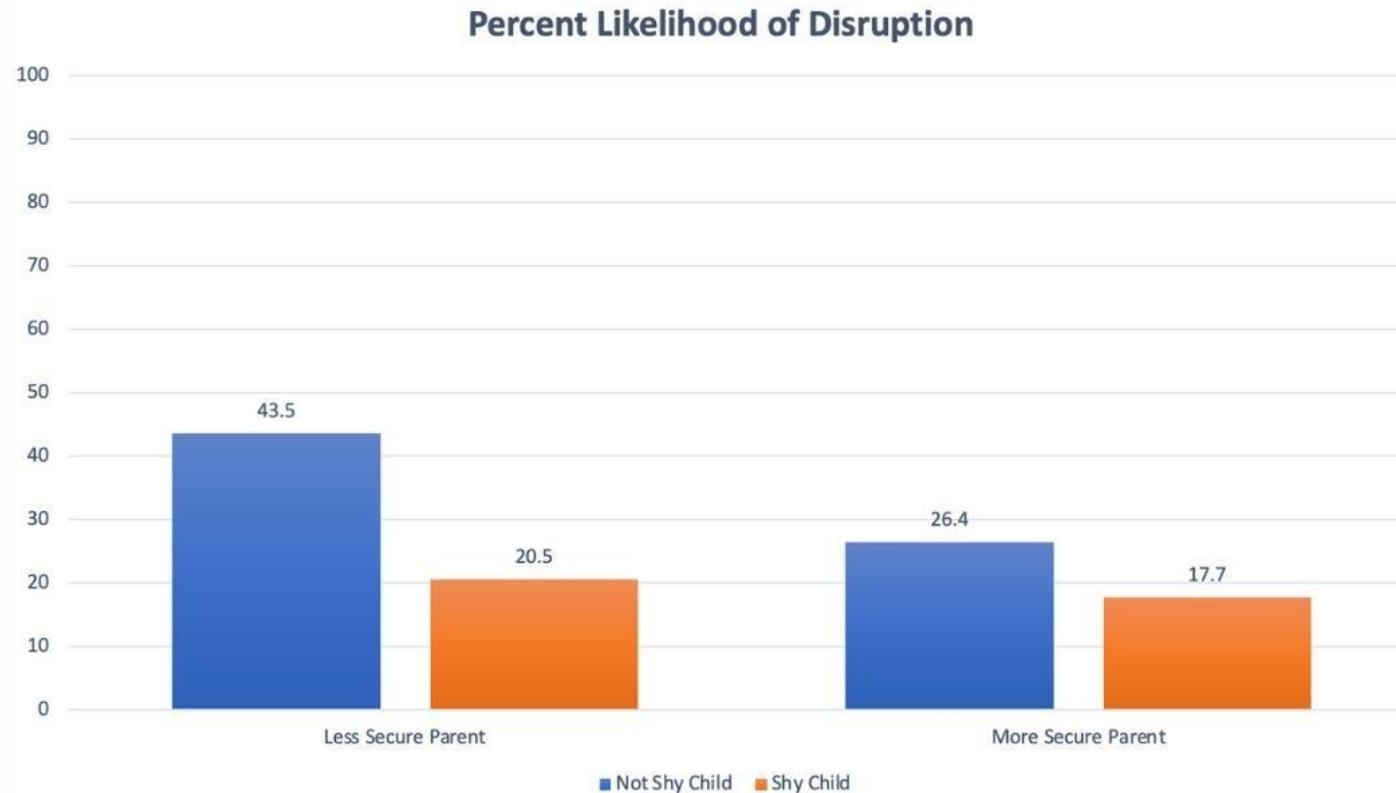
PARENTS: UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

THE POWER OF THE MATCHING SYSTEM IS NOT BETTER OR WORSE PARENTS  
OR EASY OR MORE DIFFICULT KIDS.

**THE POWER OF THE MATCHING SYSTEM IS MAKING SURE THE MIX IS RIGHT.**

# Leverage the Data

IMPROVED RELATIONAL FIT

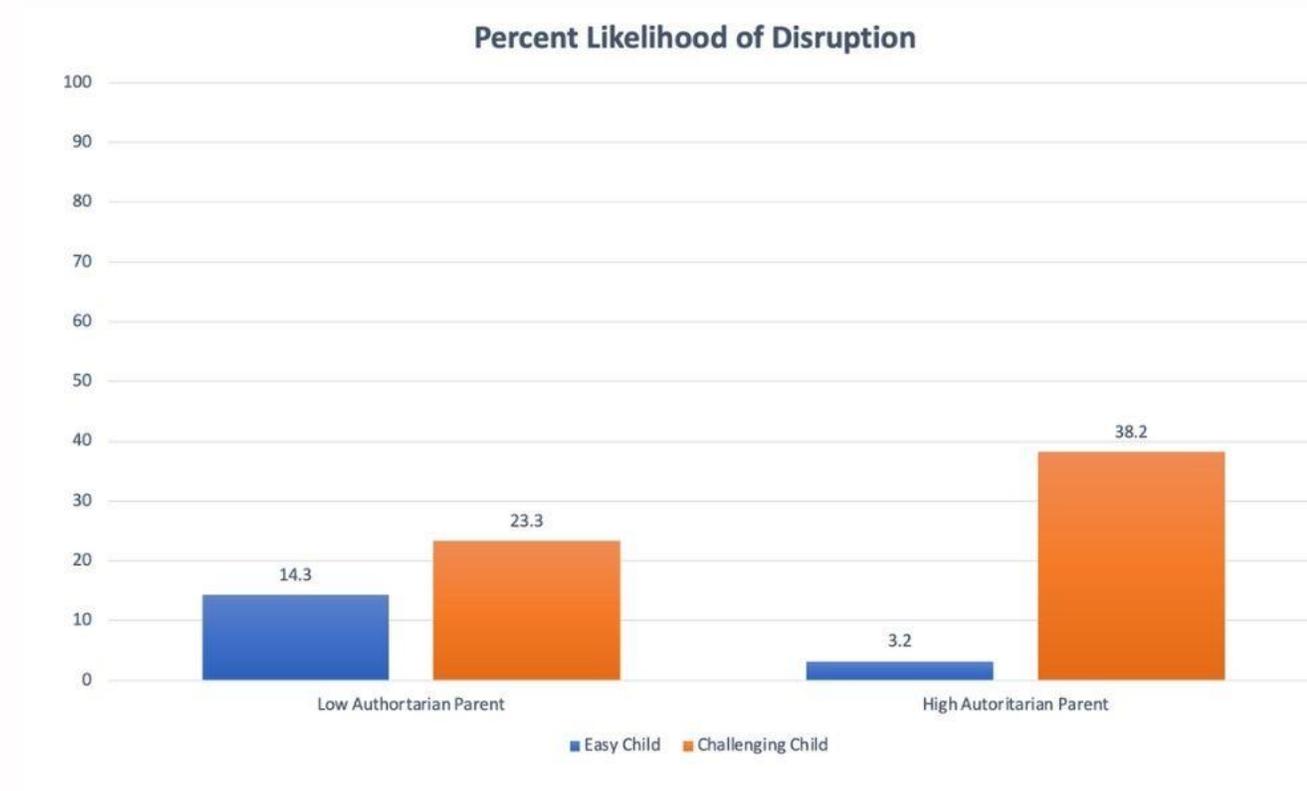


IMPROVED RELATIONAL FIT:  
SHY KIDS WITH LESS SECURE  
PARENTS?

DATA SUGGESTS- MAYBE- TENDS  
TO INCREASE RISK BUT THESE  
RISKS COULD BE MITIGATED BY  
PROPER EDUCATION AND  
SUPPORT.

# Leverage the Data

## IMPROVED RELATIONAL FIT

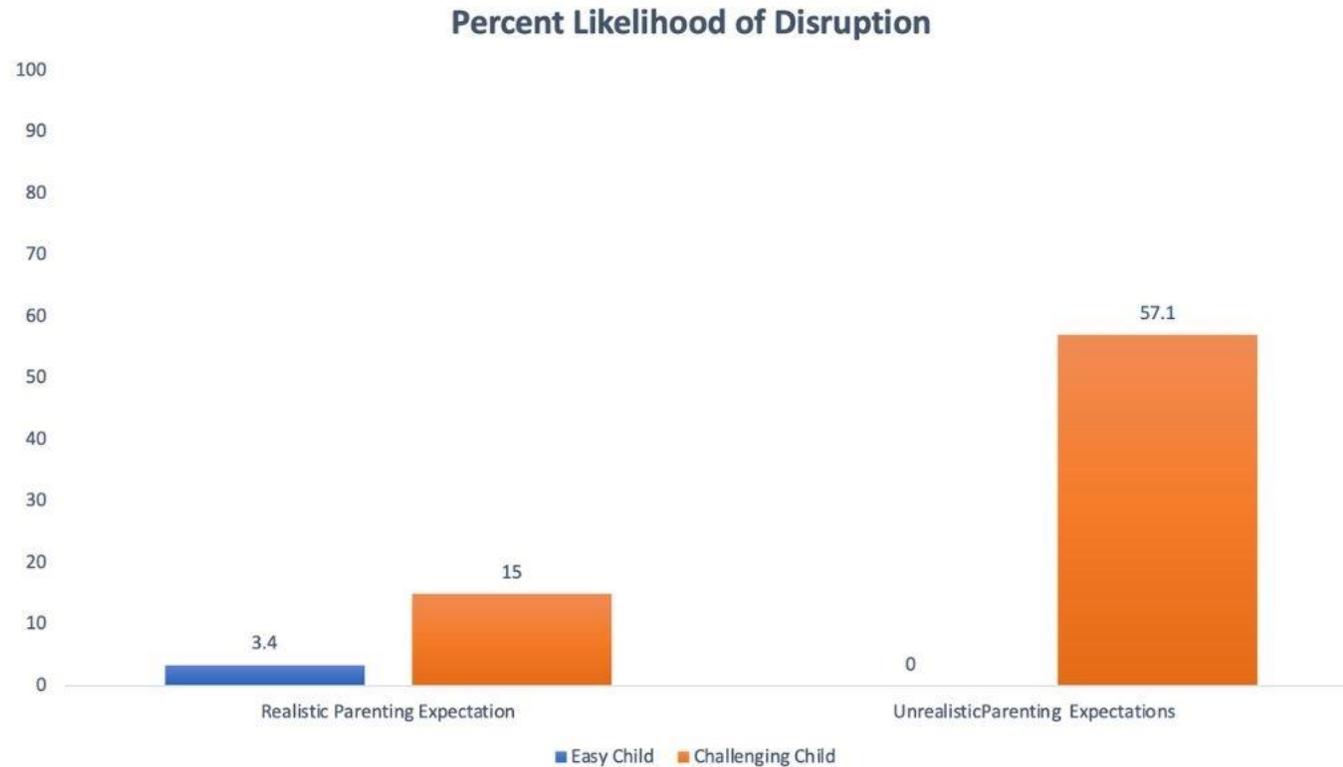


IMPROVED RELATIONAL FIT:  
CHILDREN WITH CHALLENGING  
BEHAVIORS AND AUTHORITARIAN  
FAMILIES?

DATA SUGGESTS- NO

# Leverage the Data

## IMPROVED RELATIONAL FIT



IMPROVED RELATIONAL FIT:  
CHILDREN WITH CHALLENGING  
BEHAVIORS AND FAMILIES WITH  
HIGH EXPECTATIONS?

DATA SUGGESTS- NO

## ➤ Next Steps: Removing Barriers

1. Flip the script on how your state matches children without families- [introduce](#) us to your child welfare leaders in adoptions.
  - Application is SOC 2 Type 2 Audited
  - Can work in all state child welfare contexts
  - Nonprofit status allows us to be flexible
  - Provides workers with a solution to make their job more efficient + effective.
  - Protects child privacy.
2. Make every child count- Define this population of children, County this population of children, and set goals for this population of children.
3. Open Up Pathways for Families- Streamline the licensing track for families who want to adopt waiting children.

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➤ **Appendix**



## » Notes & Citations

1. Kamarck et al, (2012). Eliminating Barrier to the Adoption of Children in Foster Care.
2. Children's Bureau (2019). National Youth in Transition Database Brief #7.
3. Zill, Nicholas (2011). Better Prospects, lower costs: the case for increasing foster care adoption. Adoption Advocate No. 35.
4. Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago (2011). Midwest evaluation of the adult functioning of former foster youth: outcomes at age 26.
5. Calculated based on average number of years adoptee would remain in care (8 years) multiplied by the cost of one year of traditional foster care (\$15,480 per year<sup>3</sup>) and the number of adoptions through Family-Match.
6. As of December 2021, our Family-Match Program is currently operational in three states – Florida, Georgia and Virginia. We are contracting to expand our footprint in Virginia in Q1 CY2022. Additionally, we have an existing pipeline of six states with which we are in active discussions regarding our Family-Match Program.