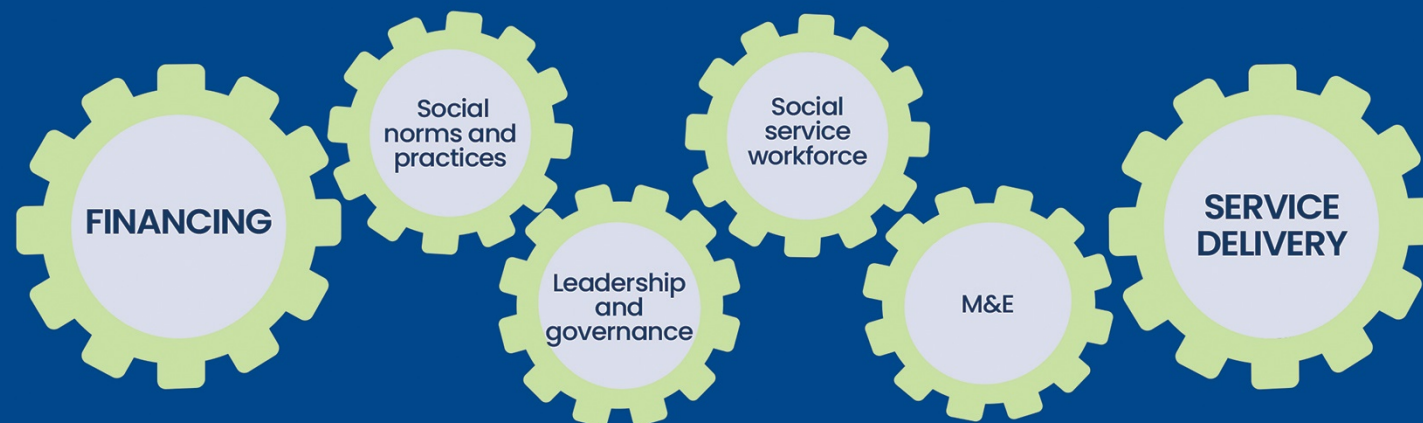


International Conference

21 MARCH • 2024

CHILD PROTECTION AND CARE REFORM IN THE CONTEXT OF MOLDOVA – EU ASSOCIATION AGENDA



2024 Theme: Ending the placement of young children in institutional care – from policy to action

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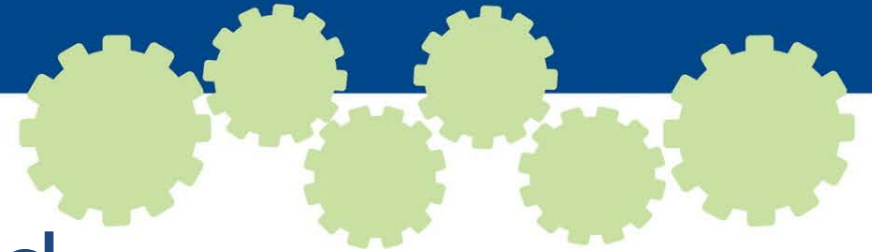


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**CHILD PROTECTION AND CARE REFORM IN THE CONTEXT OF MOLDOVA –
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Psychiatric problems and competence following severe early deprivation: Early and subsequent experiences that promote well- being

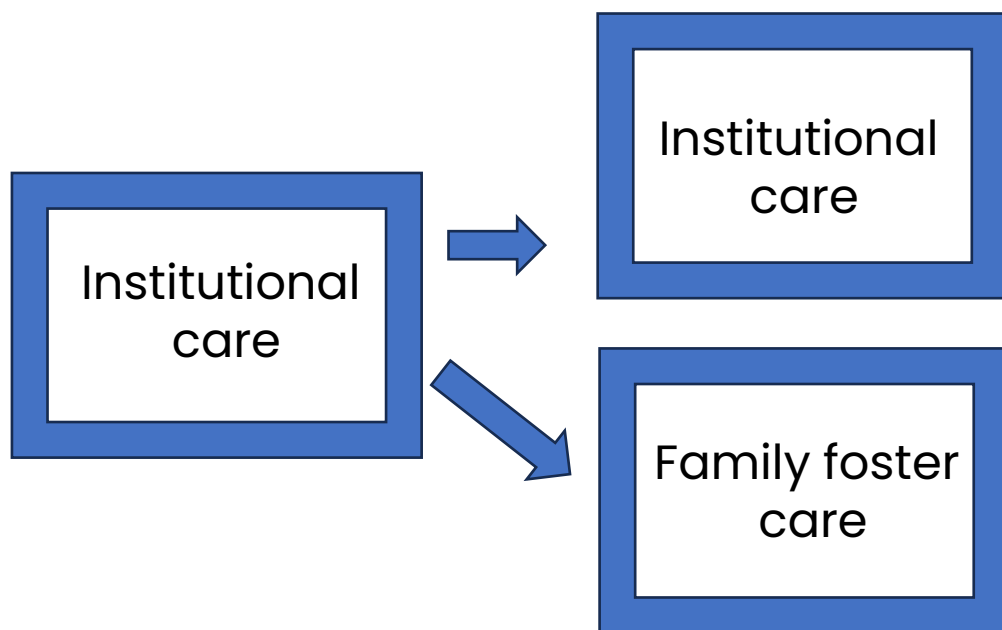
Dr. Charles **ZEANAH**, Mary Peters Sellars-Polchow Chair of
Psychiatry, Professor of Psychiatry & Pediatrics, Executive
Director Infant Institute, Tulane University School of
Medicine

Tulane
University
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

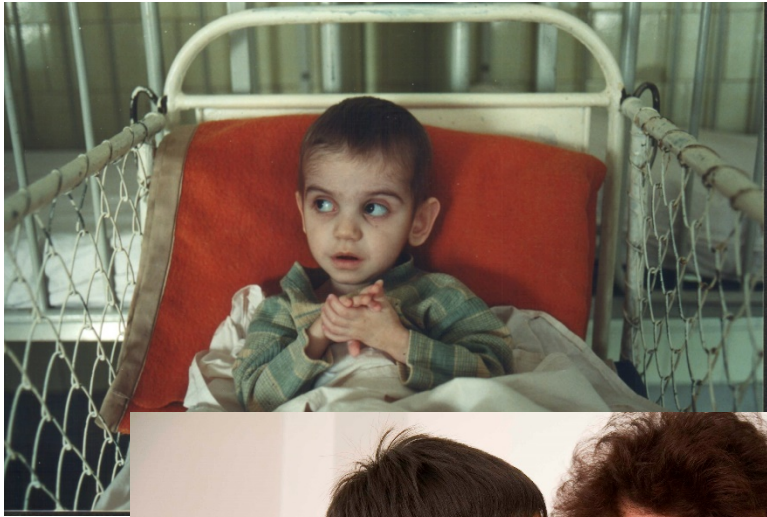
Overview

The question we address is:

Can an alteration in the caregiving environment in early childhood (range 7–33 months, average 22 months), lead to long-term differences in mental health and competence?



Main effects of the intervention on psychiatric disorders at trial completion

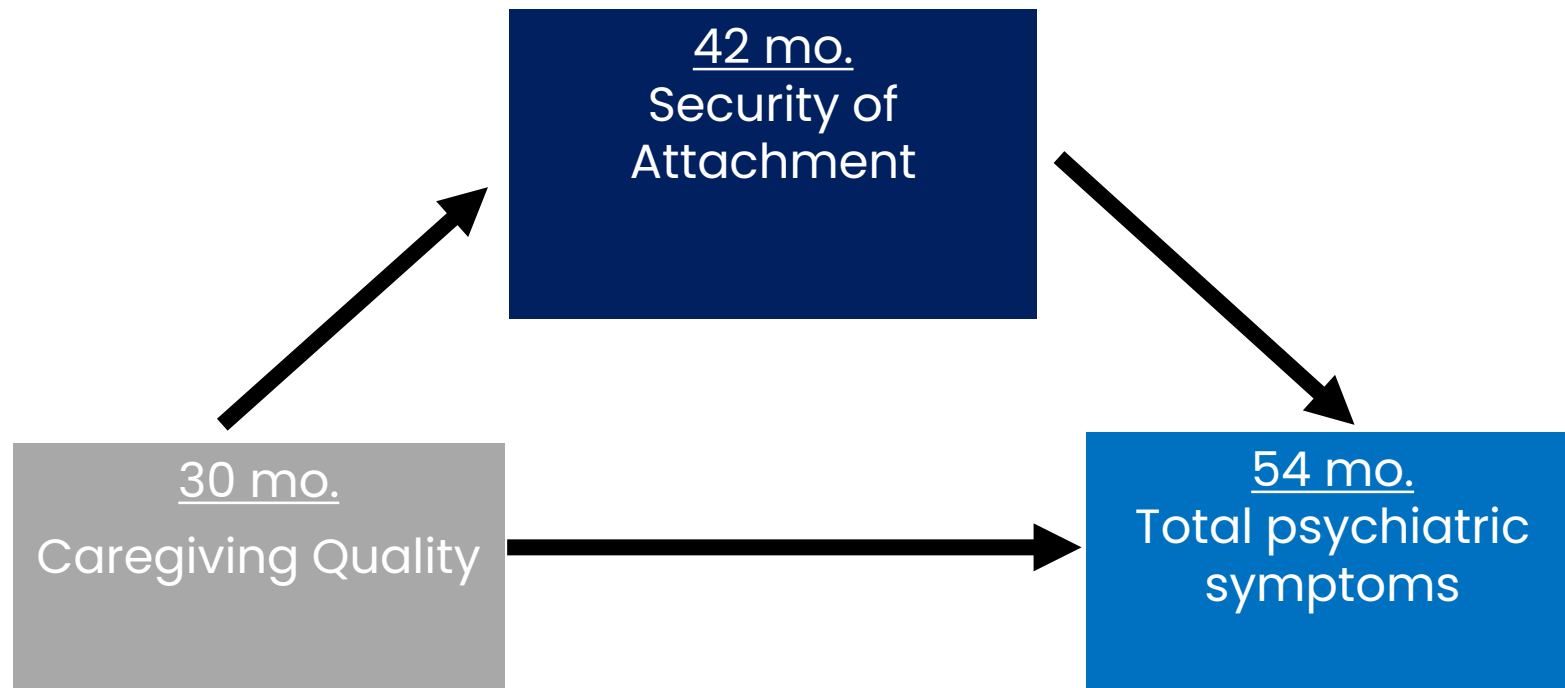


Psychiatric problems

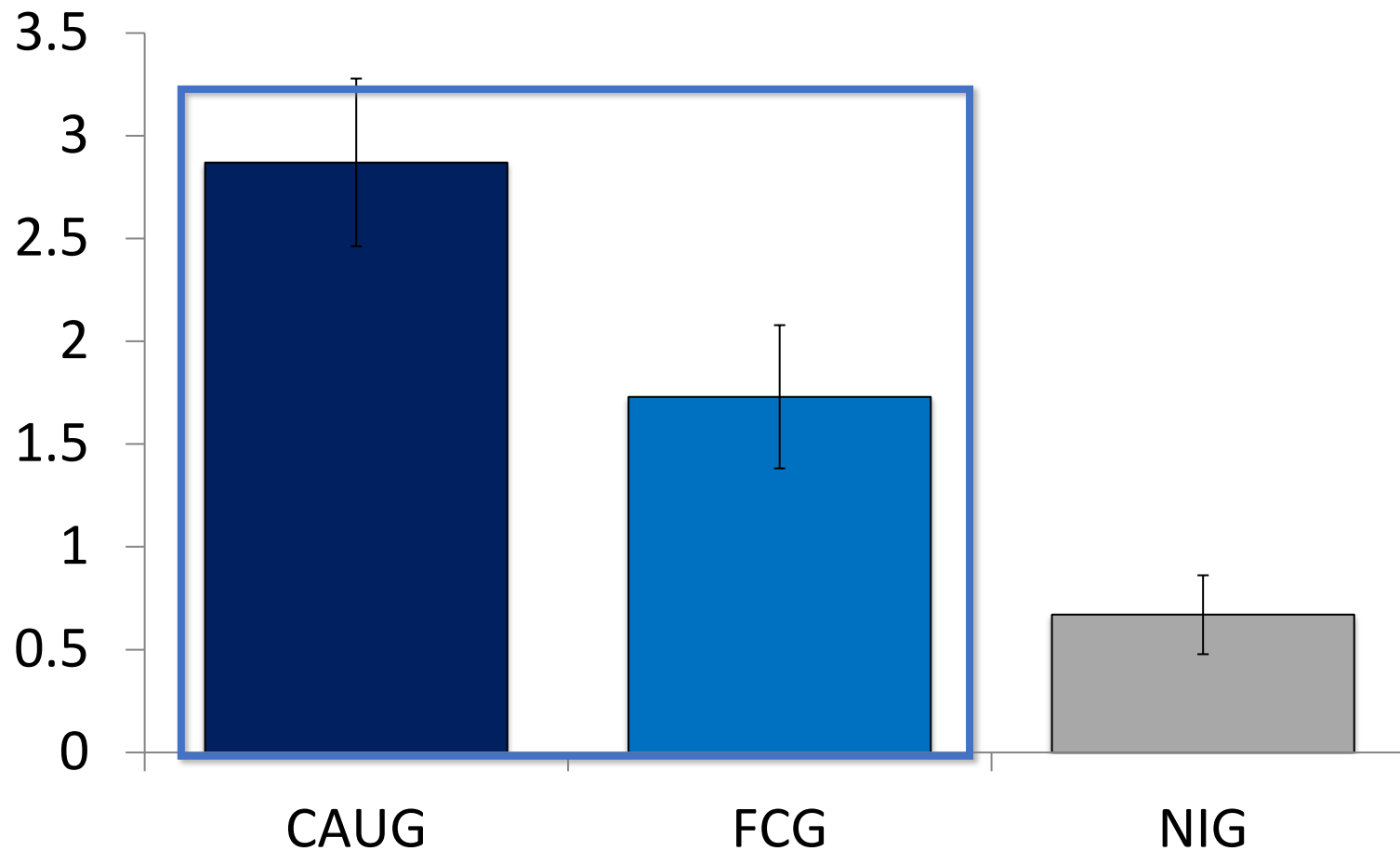
- Significantly less impairing mental health problems in 4.5-year-old children randomized to foster care versus more extensive institutional care.
 - Fewer psychiatric symptoms
 - Fewer psychiatric disorders
 - Less impairment from disorders



Caregiving reduces psychiatric problems through effects on attachment to caregivers



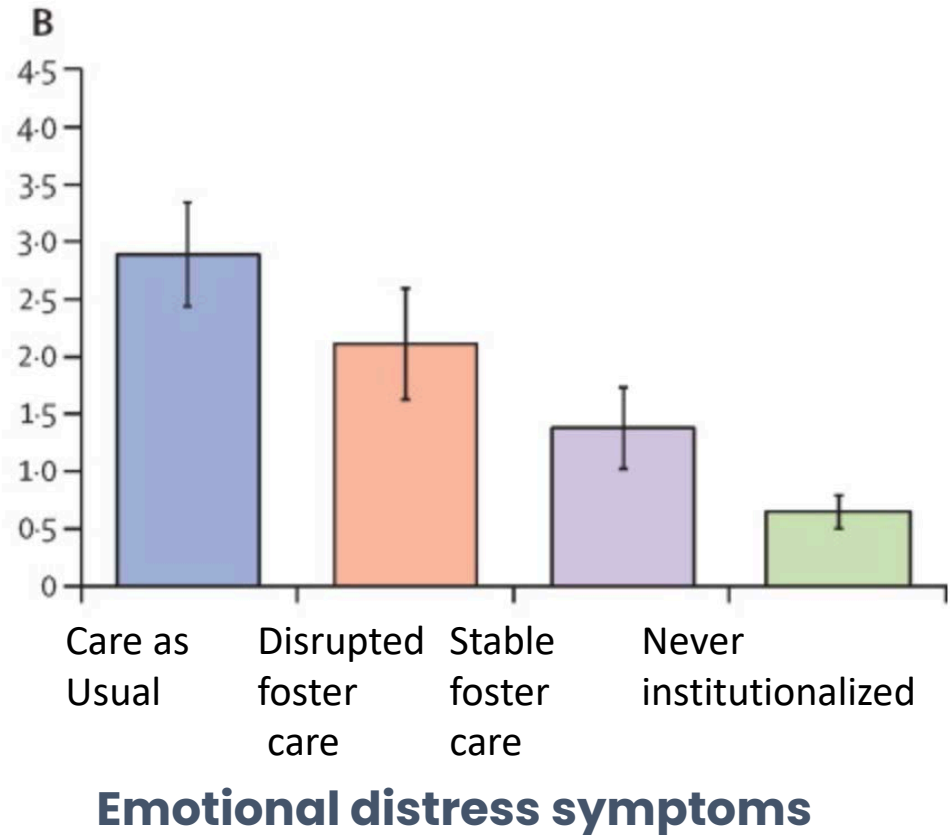
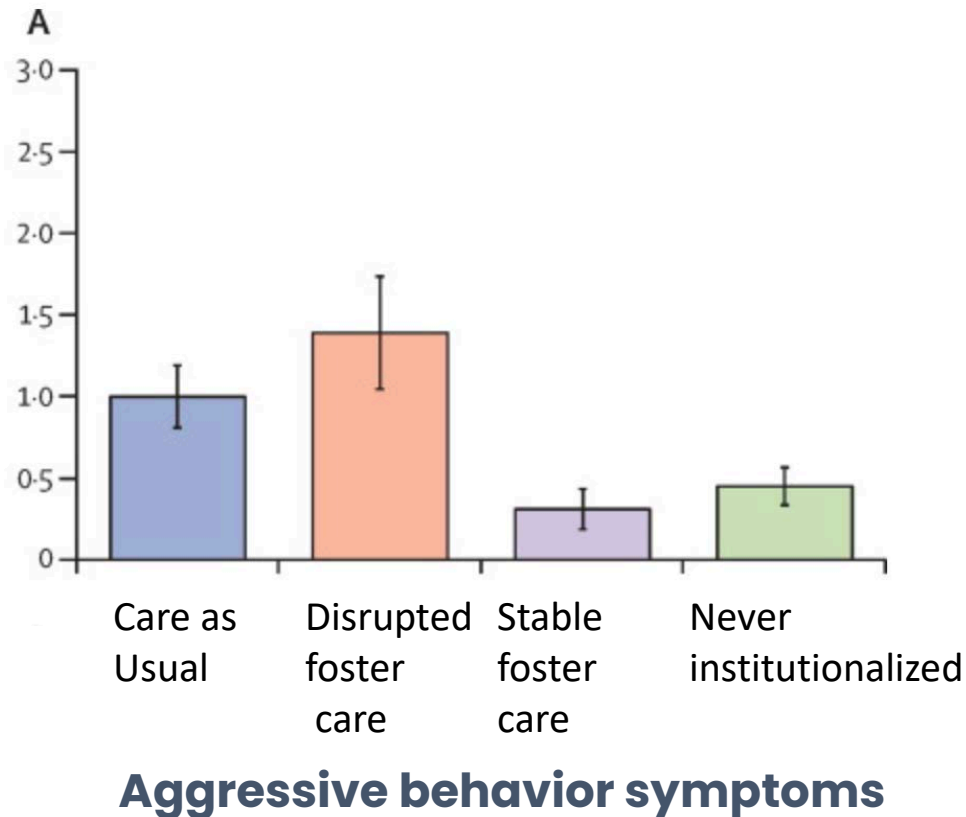
Foster care associated with fewer aggressive and behavioral symptoms in boys at age 12



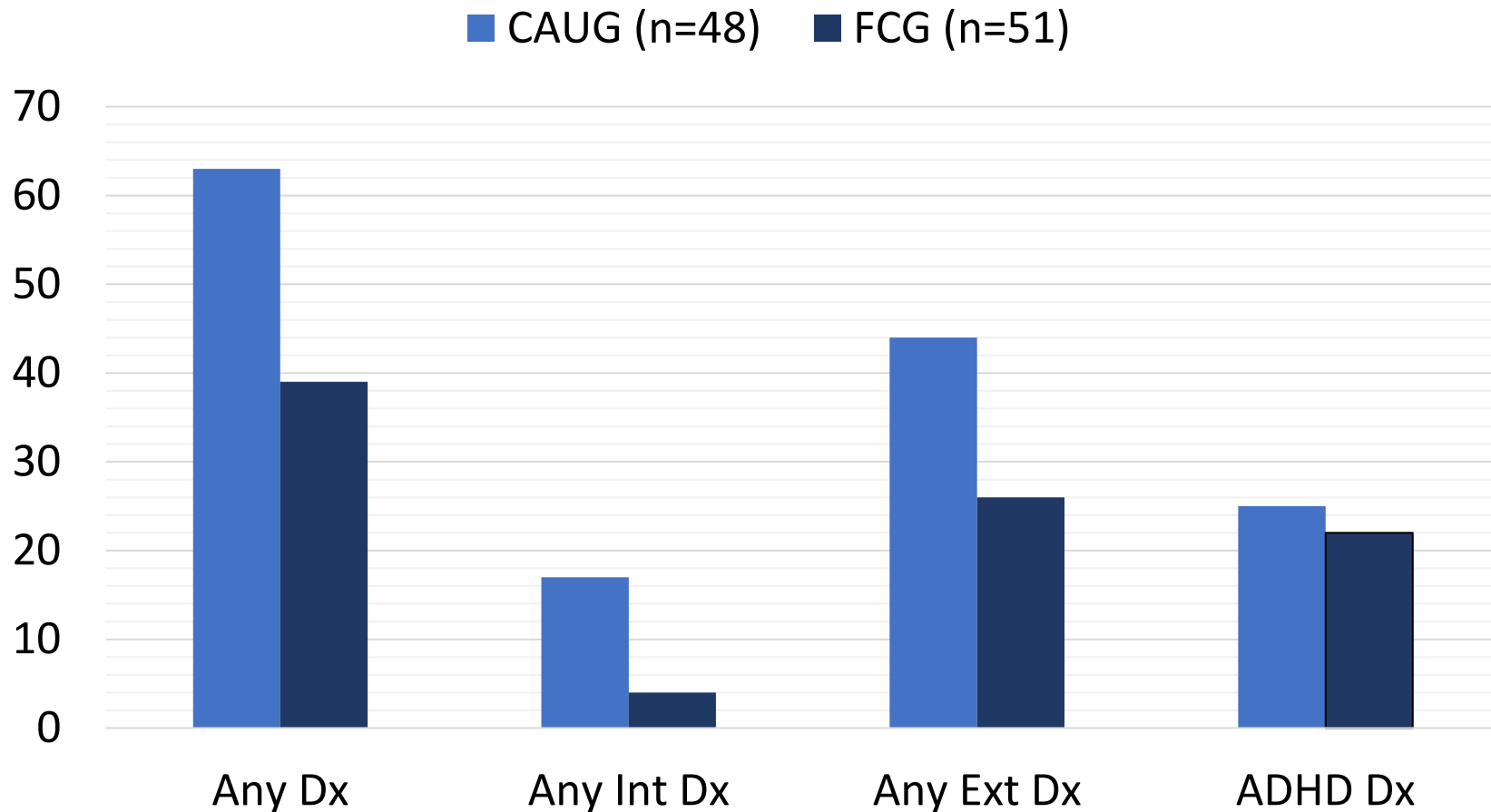
Humphreys et al., 2015, *Lancet Psychiatry*



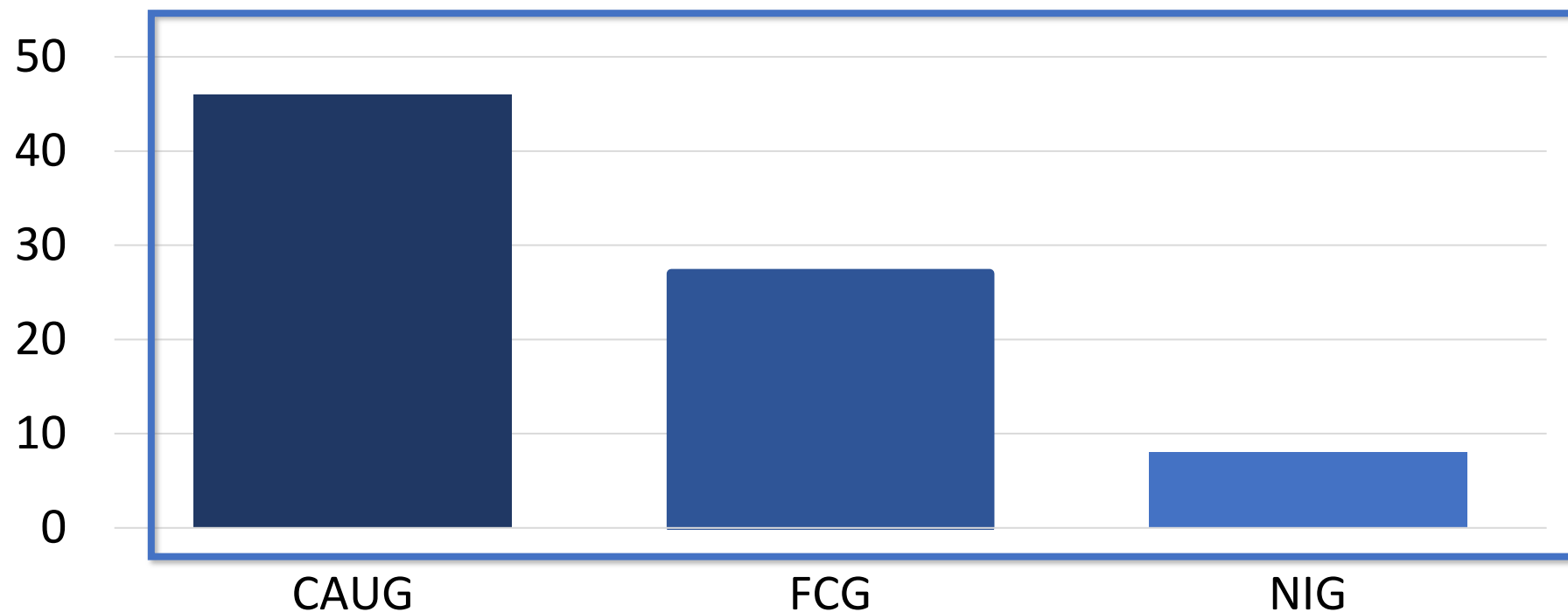
Stable foster care group has fewer symptoms



Foster care reduces psychiatric problems at 16 years



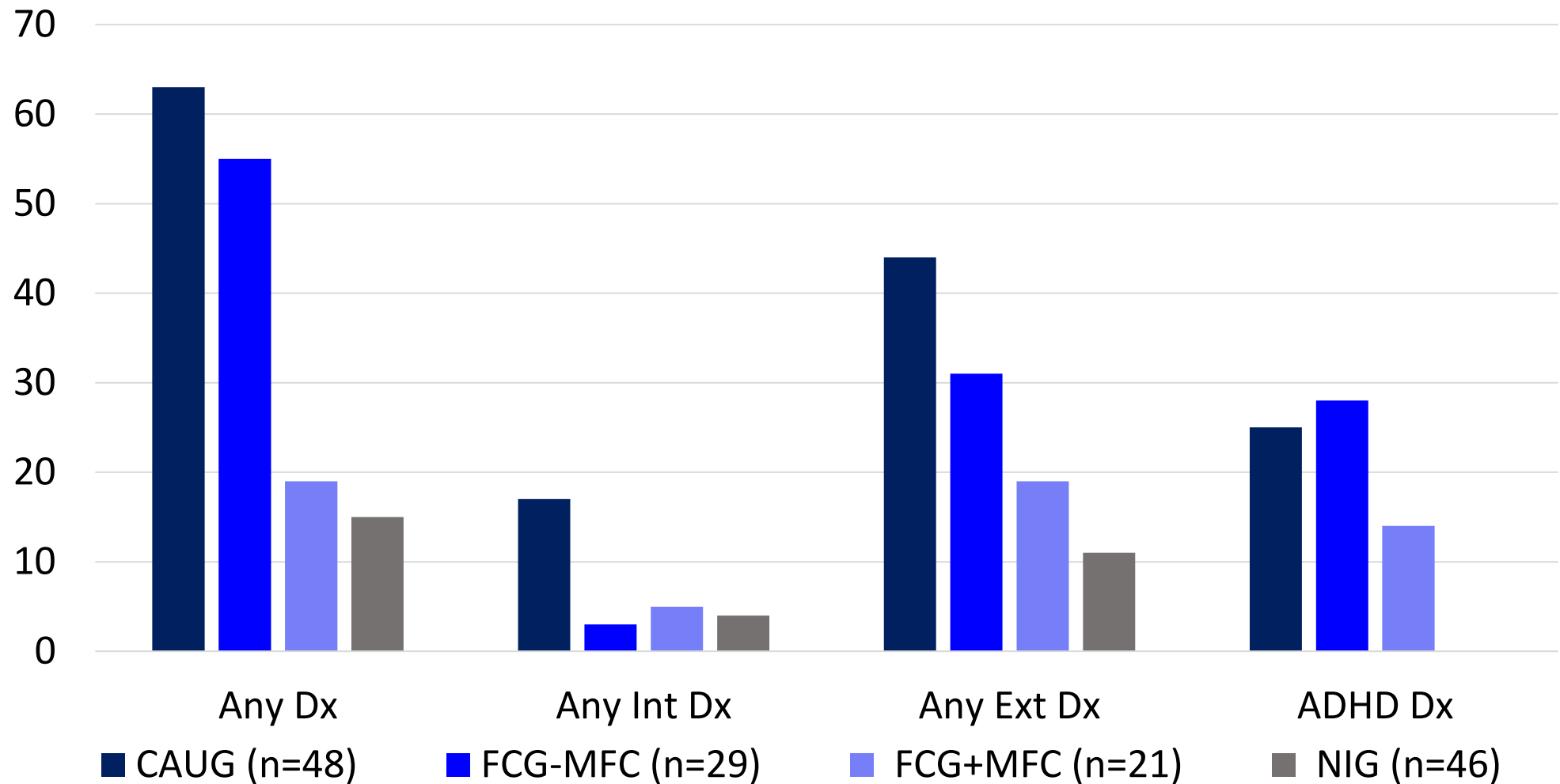
Foster care reduces serious psychiatric problems



Chi-square (2) = 13.73, p <.001



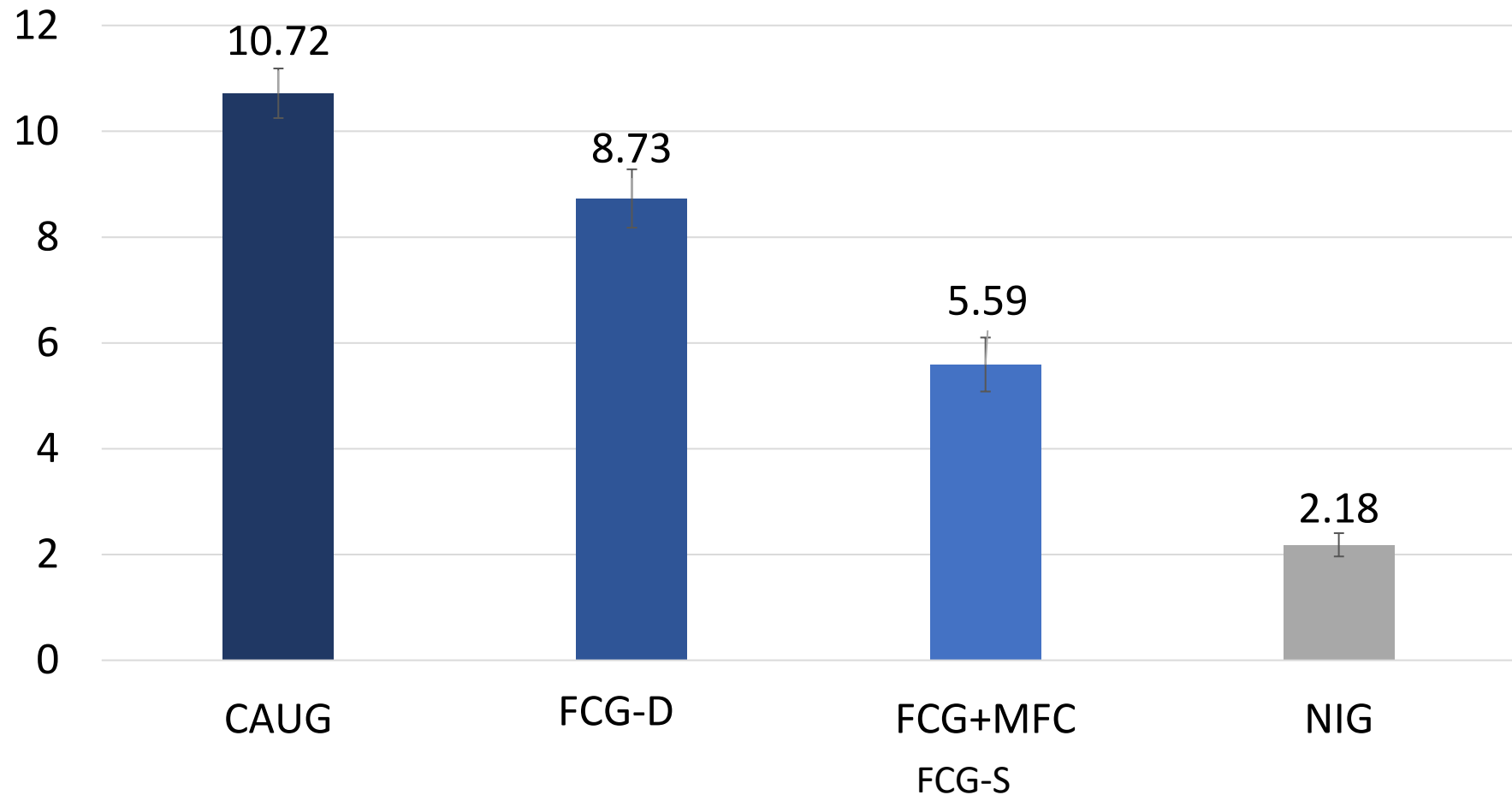
Age 16 Stability of placements and psychiatric diagnoses



Humphreys et al., 2021, *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*

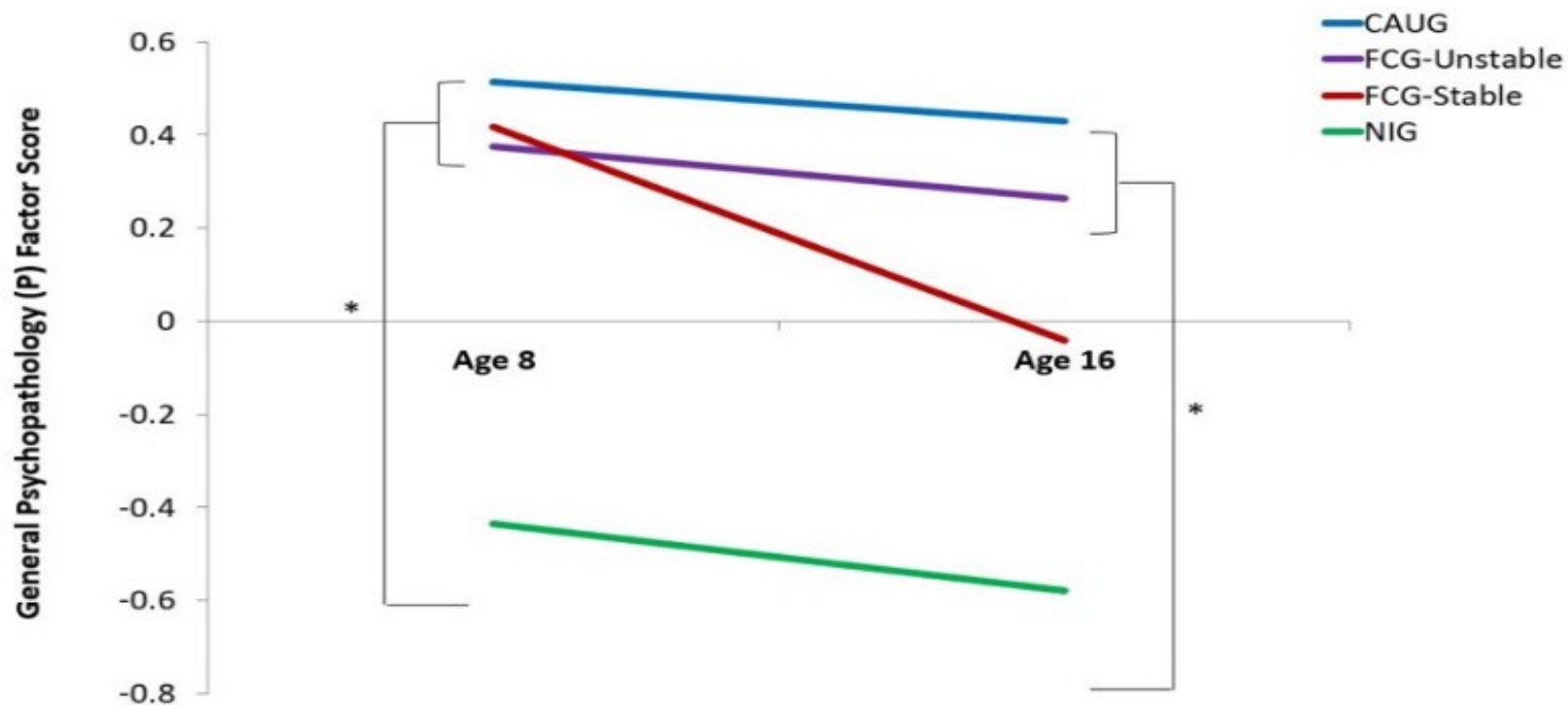


Age 16 stability of placements and total psychiatric symptoms

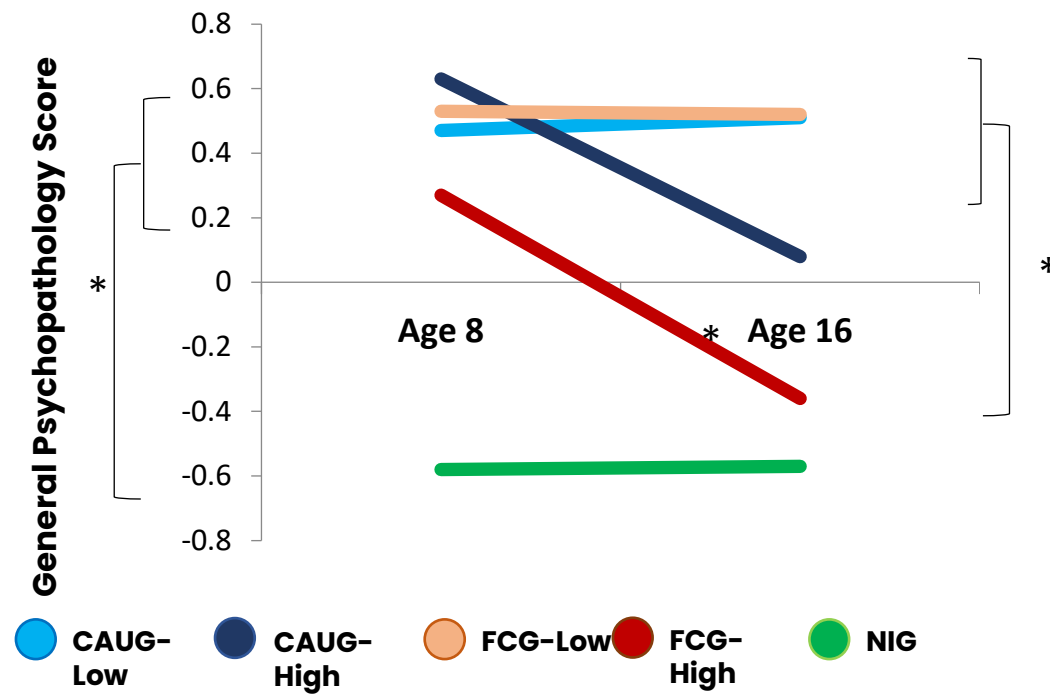


Stability of placements from 4 to 16 years leads to lower levels of psychiatric problems in adolescents

Figure 2. Group differences in General Psychopathology (Age 8 and 16)



Quality of Caregiving and Psychiatric Problems at 8 and 16 Years

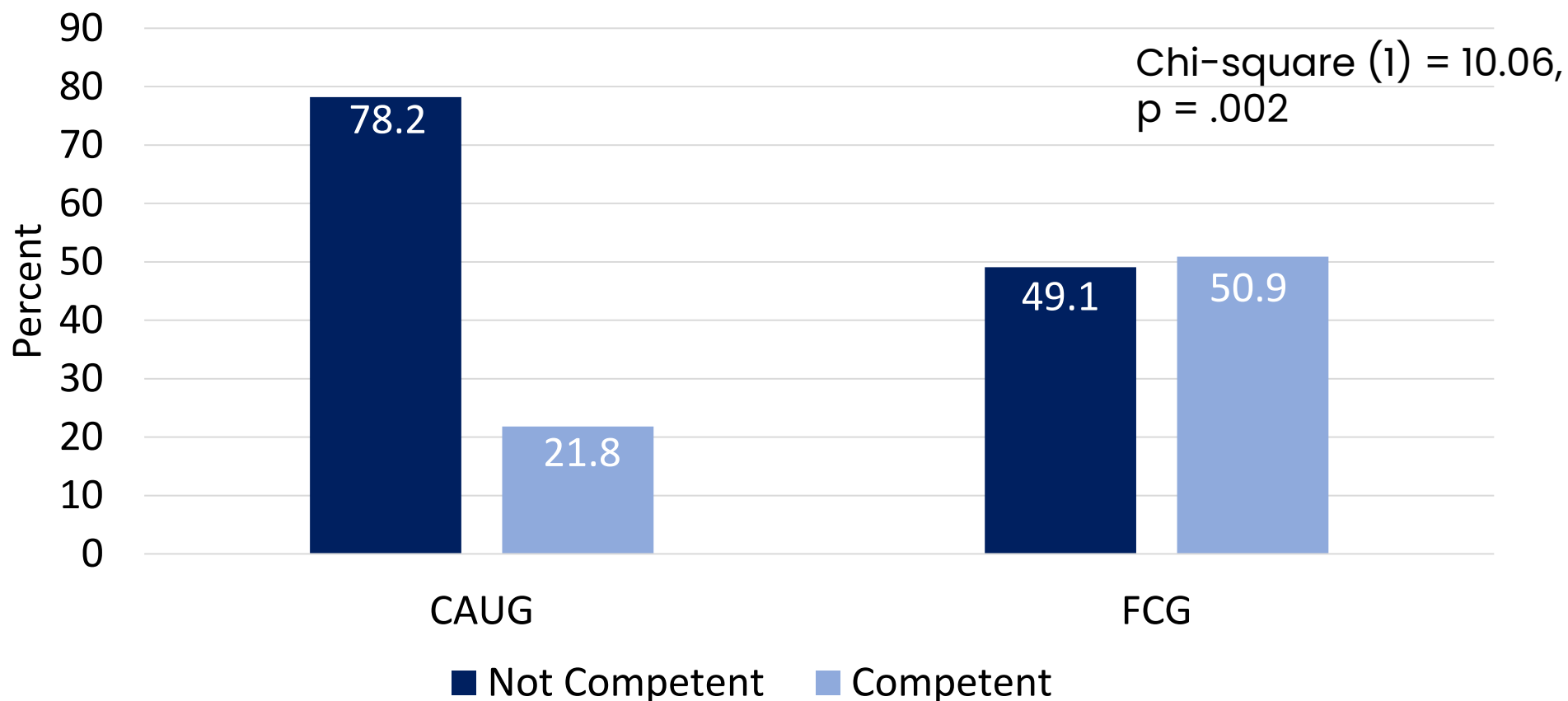


Domains of competence

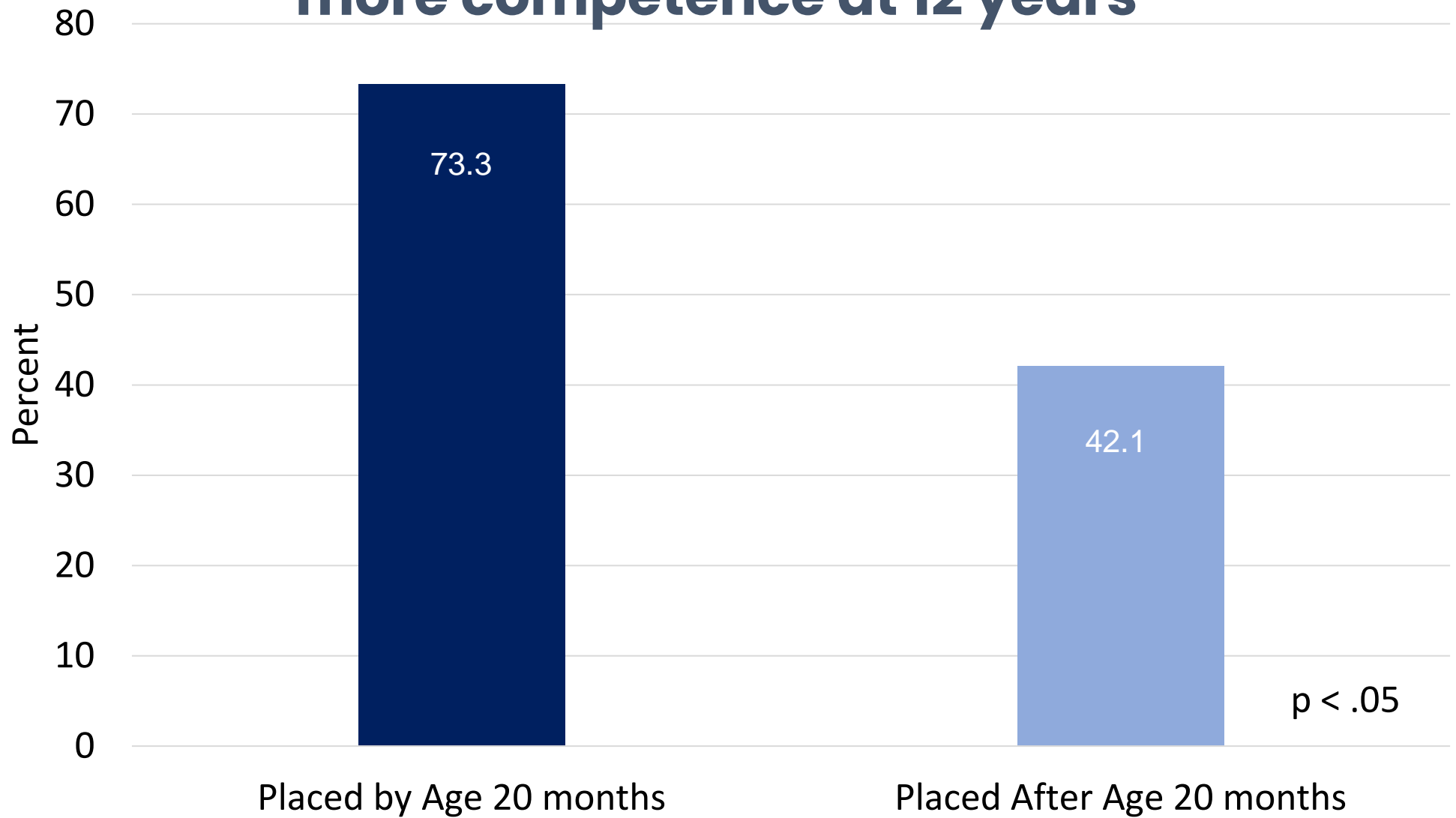
- Family relations
- Peer relations
- Academic competence
- Physical health
- Impairment from psychopathology
- Tobacco and alcohol use
- Risk-taking



Percent competent in CAUG and FCG at 12 years



Earlier placement into foster care leads to more competence at 12 years



Humphreys et al., 2018, *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*



Competence at 8, 12 and 16

Age 8

- Family relations
- Peer relations
- Mental health
- Physical health
- Academic performance
- Risk taking
- **Overall 5/6**

Ages 12 and 16

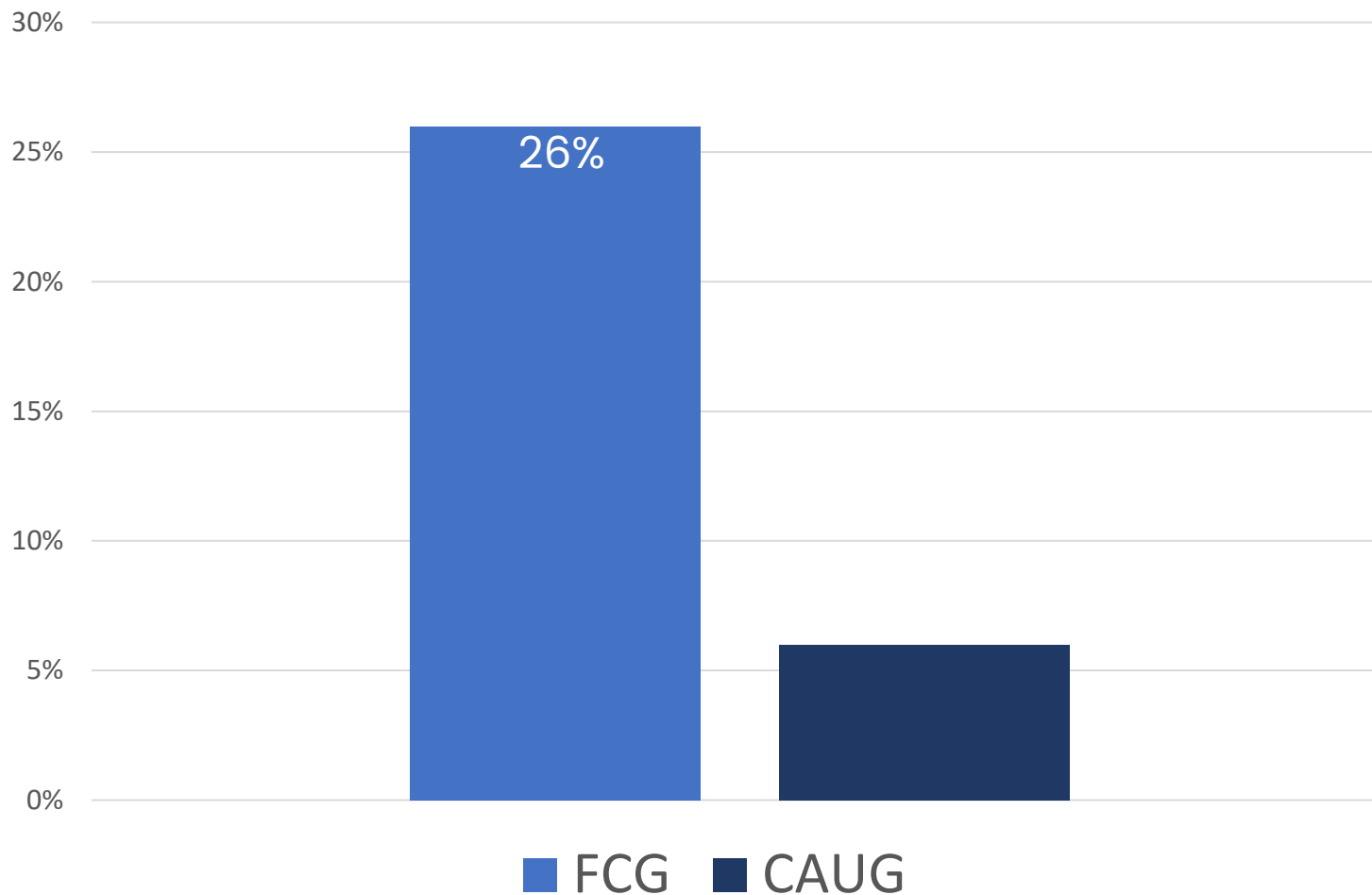
- Family relations
- Peer relations
- Mental health
- Physical health
- Academic performance
- Risk taking
- Substance use
- **Overall 6/7**



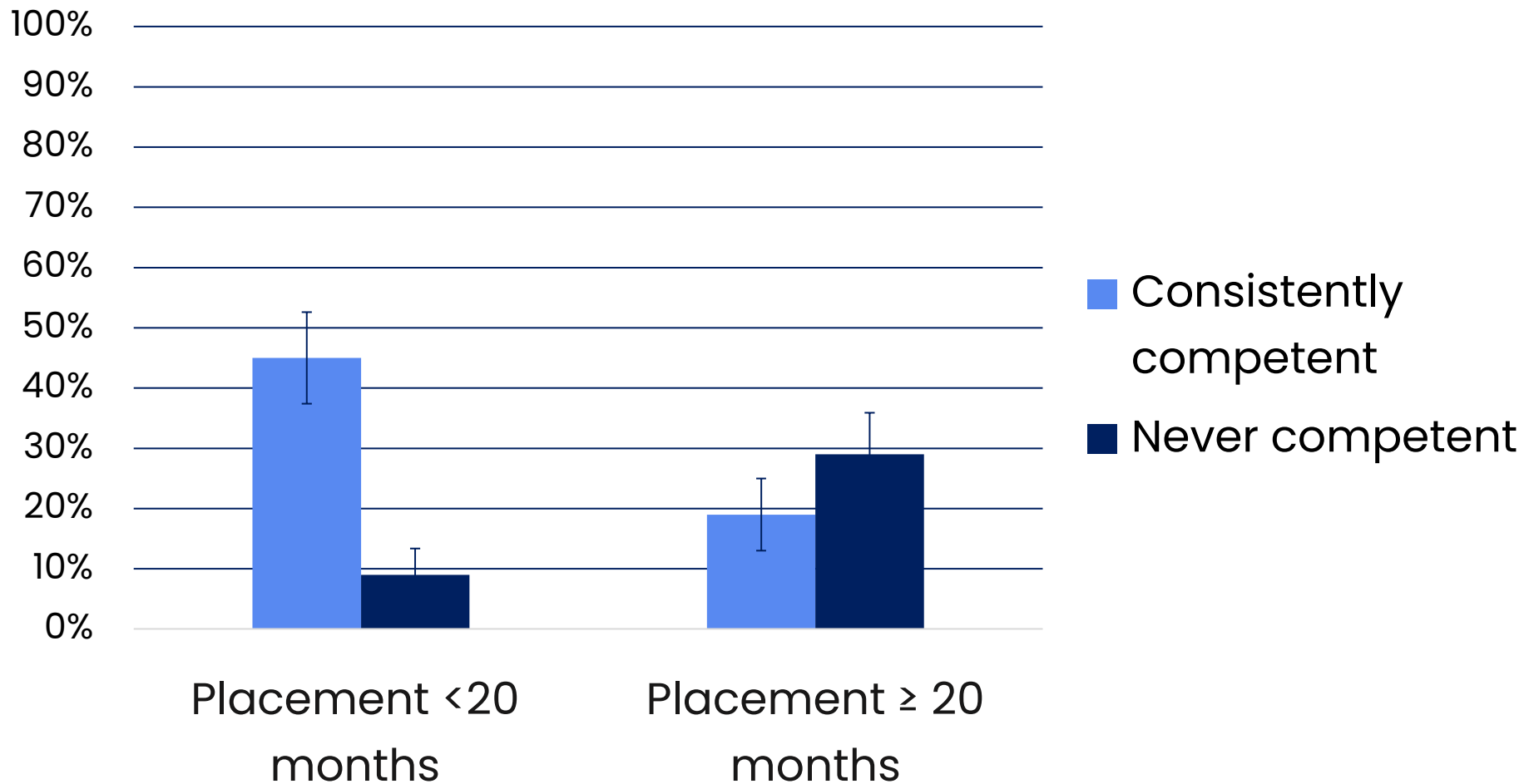
Longitudinal perspective on competence 8-16 years



Placement in foster care leads to consistent competence



Earlier placement into foster care increases likelihood of consistent competence



Guyon Harris et al., in press, *Development and Psychopathology*



Psychopathology and Competence Following Early Deprivation: Factors Affecting Risk and Recovery

- Deprivation inherent in institutional rearing increases risks for serious psychiatric problems and decreased competence.
- Recovery is enhanced by:
 - Placement into well-supported foster families
 - Family placement as early as possible
 - Higher quality of care
 - Stability of placements over time



Thanks!



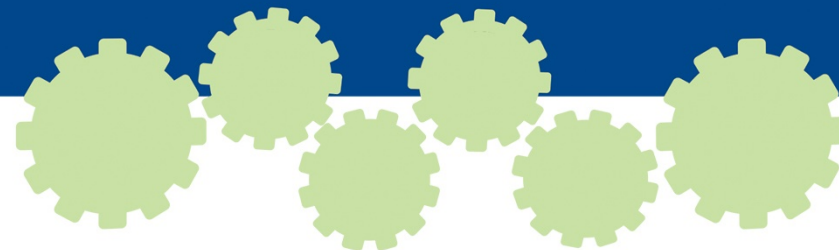
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