



Guam's Early Childhood System of Care

Evaluation Report

August 2013

Project Kariñu Vision

*Our children and families will have
healthy minds, bodies, and spirits
for lifelong success*



Positive Outcomes for Young Children and Their Families



Project Kariñu is Guam's early childhood system of care for children birth – five years of age with social, emotional, behavioral, and developmental needs. An early childhood system of care is a new way of meeting the needs of young children and families that is based on the belief that early childhood mental health services should be community-based, child-centered and family driven, and culturally and linguistically competent. In a system of care, families and service providers work in partnership and services are coordinated among the various agencies/programs that are involved with the child and family.



An important aspect of a system of care is the development of an individualized service plan, called a Wrap Plan or Individualized Family Service Plan. The service plan builds on the strengths of the child and family and addresses the family's priorities and preferences for services. Once the service plan has been developed, Project Kariñu Wrap Coordinators (i.e., case managers who are trained in the system of care approach) and Family Partners (i.e., individuals who provide informal supports and advocacy) collaborate with the family and other service providers to ensure the child and family get the help they need.



About this Report¹

This report provides initial evaluation findings of the impact of Project Kariñu on the children and families it serves. Project Kariñu began accepting referrals in June 2011 and has provided services to over 150 children and families through June 2013. In just six months after enrolling in Project Kariñu, caregivers reported positive outcomes. Children experienced increased stability in their living situations, caregivers reported feeling less overall stress, and fewer children displayed serious emotional and behavioral challenges.

¹This report provides descriptive information for all children referred to Project Kariñu who provided consent for the sharing of evaluation information (n = 153). Outcome data is presented on children and families who enrolled in the longitudinal research study and who received services for at least six months (n = 52).

Who is Receiving Services?

The children and families being served by Project Kariñu reflect the diversity of our island community. They come from different cultures, economic conditions, and educational backgrounds.

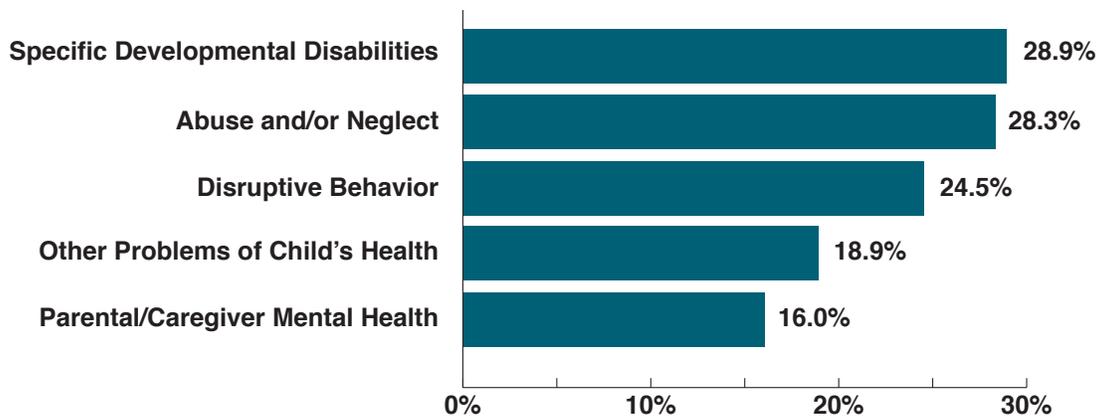
- Children as young as 2 months through 6 years of age
- Average age is 3 years
- 62% are boys; 38% are girls
- 75% are Chamorro or Chamorro mix; 10% are Filipino or Filipino mix; 8% are Chuukese; and 7% are from other cultural/ethnic groups
- 38% are involved in the child welfare system

Young Children Experience Multiple Risk Factors

- 47% have lived with someone who is depressed
- 33% have lived with someone with a substance abuse problem
- 29% have witnessed domestic violence
- 29% have lived with someone convicted of a crime
- 17% have run away
- 12% have been victims of physical assault
- 8% have been victims of sexual assault



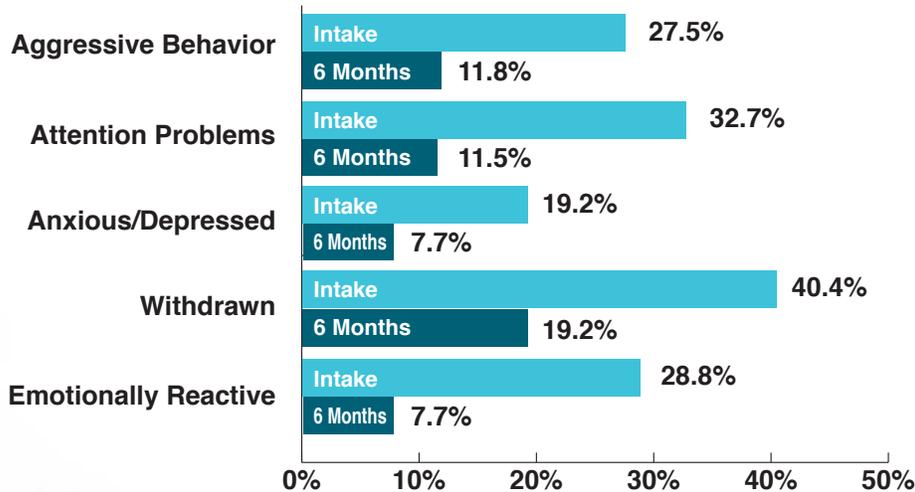
Children's 5 Most Common Challenges



Five most frequently reported challenges at Intake. Data collected using the Enrollment and Demographic Information Form (EDIF).

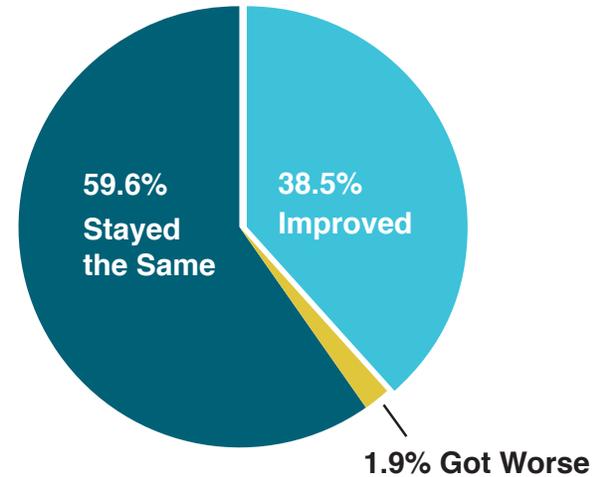
Young Children Improve After 6 Months

Emotional/Behavioral Challenges



Data collected using the Child Behavior Checklist 1 ½ - 5 years (CBCL 1 ½ - 5 years). Caregiver report.

“Acting Out” Behaviors



Data collected using the Child Behavioral Checklist 1 ½ -5 (CBCL 1 ½ -5). 38.5% of children improved on Externalizing Problems. Caregiver report.

Caregivers Feel Less Strain and Express Satisfaction

- 26.2% of caregivers reported experiencing less stress after 6 months
- During focus groups, caregivers shared how Project Kariñu has helped:
 - Children’s communication has improved
 - Caregivers are better at managing challenging behaviors
 - Caregivers learned new parenting skills

Caregivers’ Perspectives on Services	% Reporting Positively
Access to Services	83.3%
Participation in Treatment	89.4%
Cultural Sensitivity	97.9%
Satisfaction with Service	83.0%
Outcome	73.3%
Functioning	73.3%
Social Connectedness	85.1%

Data collected using the Youth Services Survey for Families (YSS-F). Caregiver report.



What We Know About Early Childhood Mental Health



What is Early Childhood Mental Health?

- The social-emotional and behavioral well-being of infants, toddlers, young children, and their families
- The developing capacity to experience, regulate, and express emotion
- The ability to form close, secure relationships
- The capacity to explore the environment and learn²



Do Young Children Really Have Mental Health Challenges?

- It is estimated that between 9% and 14% of children, birth to 5 years of age, experience mental health challenges.
- Early warning signs include:
 - Poor weight gain or slow growth
 - Problems sleeping or being soothed
 - Excessive fears or fussiness
 - Delayed development
 - Aggressive, hyperactive, or impulsive behaviors
- Untreated, these challenges can have a negative effect on children's ability to learn, form relationships, and succeed later in life.



What Does Project Kariñu Do to Help?

- Project Kariñu:
 - Promotes healthy social-emotional and behavioral development
 - Prevents mental health challenges
 - Provides early identification and intervention for social, emotional, behavioral, and developmental challenges
- Services and supports include:
 - Outreach and education
 - Screening and assessment
 - Individualized service planning and care coordination
 - Family training, advocacy, and informal supports
 - Mental health services



²From ZERO to THREE organization.

For More Information About Services Contact:

Project Kariñu

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