Estimated Need for Foster Home Placements
&
Results from the Foster Home Support Survey

September 17, 2020

These 2 presentations represent a partnership between SCDSS and USC

Please note: This PowerPoint file contains the slides for "Results from the Foster Home Support Survey"

Results from DSS's Foster Parent Support Survey

How long have you been a foster parent?

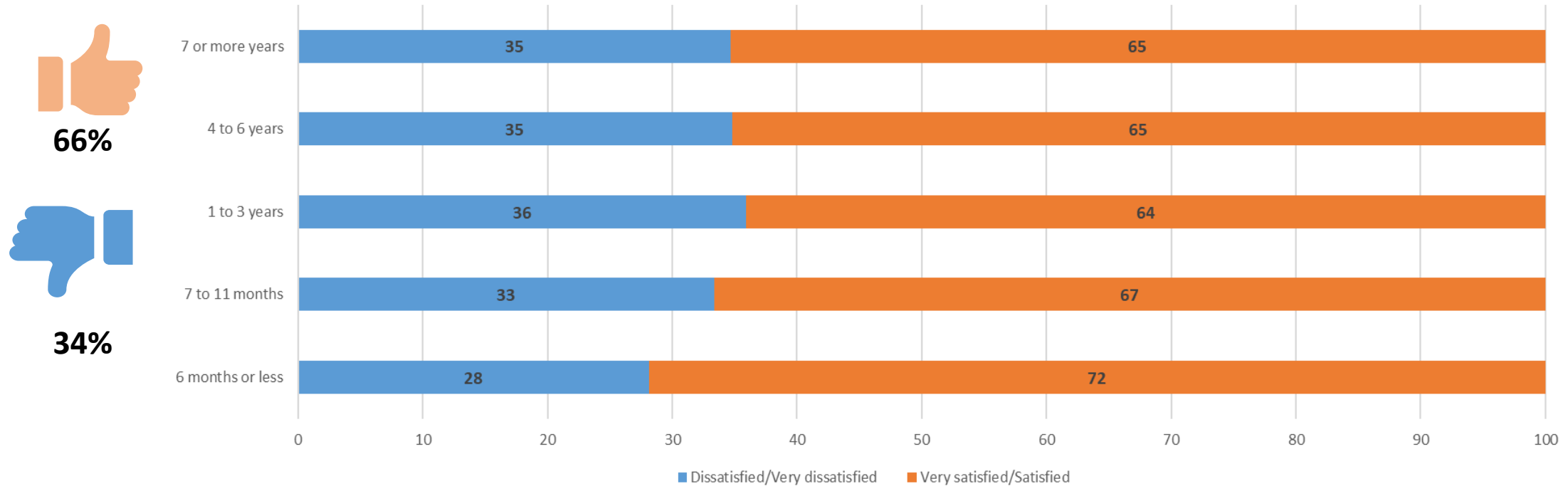| Length of Time	#(%)
6 months or less	50(10%)
7 to 11 months	46(9%)
1 to 3 years	205(41%)
4 to 6 years	105(21%)
7 or more years	89(18%)
Missing = 42	

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Overall how satisfied are you with SCDSS staff's ability to respond to your questions/concerns in a timely manner?
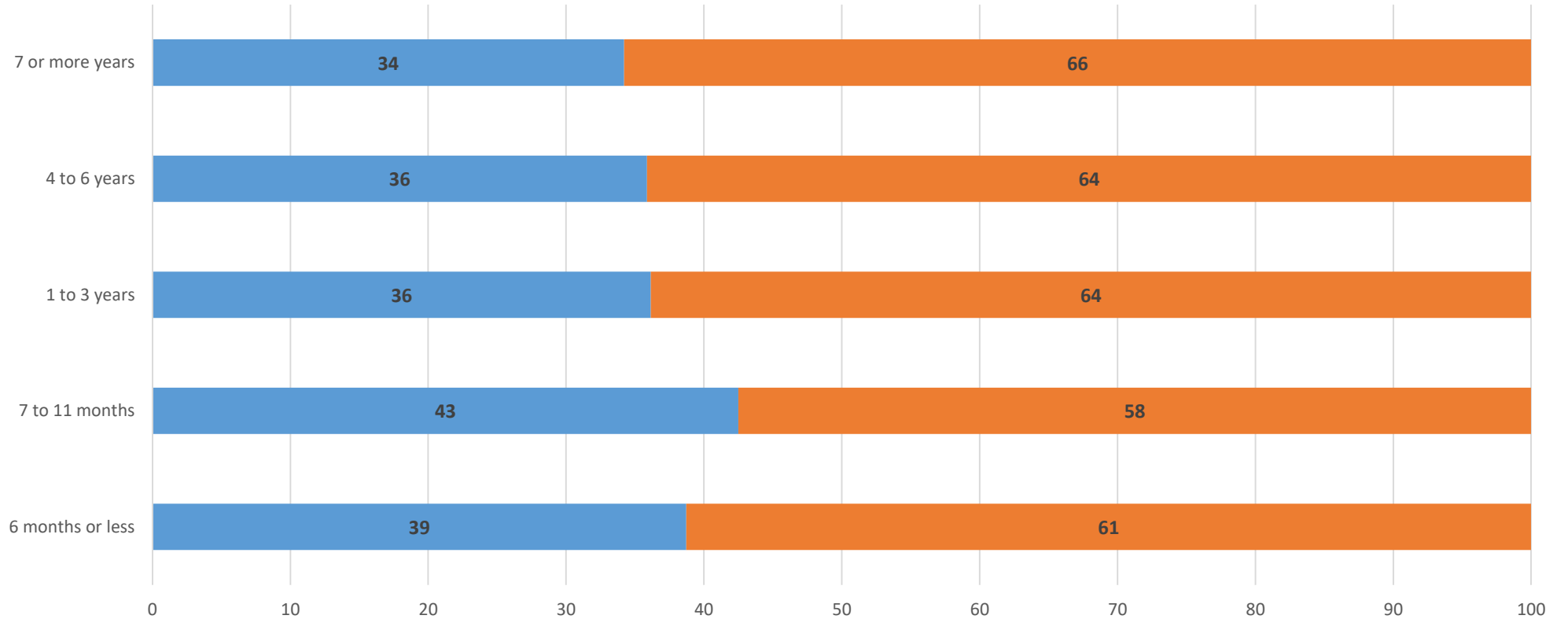

66%
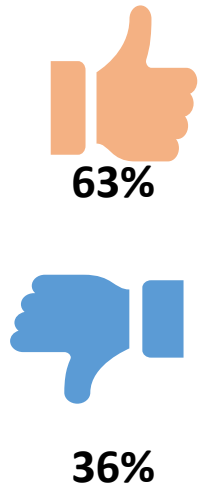
34%

Time period	Dissatisfied/Very dissatisfied	Very satisfied/Satisfied
7 or more years	35	65
4 to 6 years	35	65
1 to 3 years	36	64
7 to 11 months	33	67
6 months or less	28	72

Overall, how satisfied are you with the support you receive from SCDSS for your roles and responsibilities as a foster parent?

63%

36%

Years as foster parent	Dissatisfied/Very dissatisfied	Very satisfied/Satisfied
7 or more years	34	66
4 to 6 years	36	64
1 to 3 years	36	64
7 to 11 months	43	58
6 months or less	39	61

■ Dissatisfied/Very dissatisfied ■ Very satisfied/Satisfied

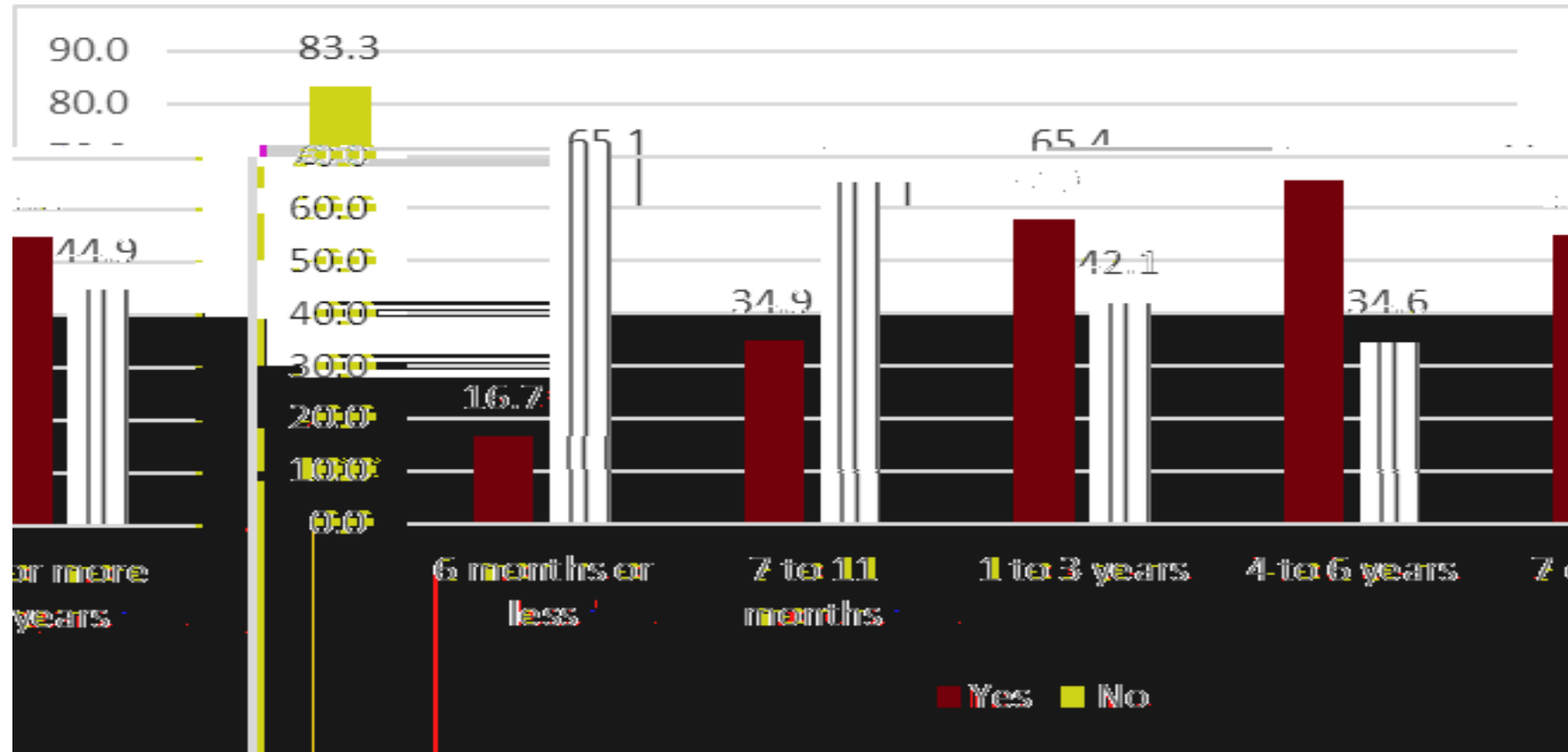# Have you considered closing your home to fostering?

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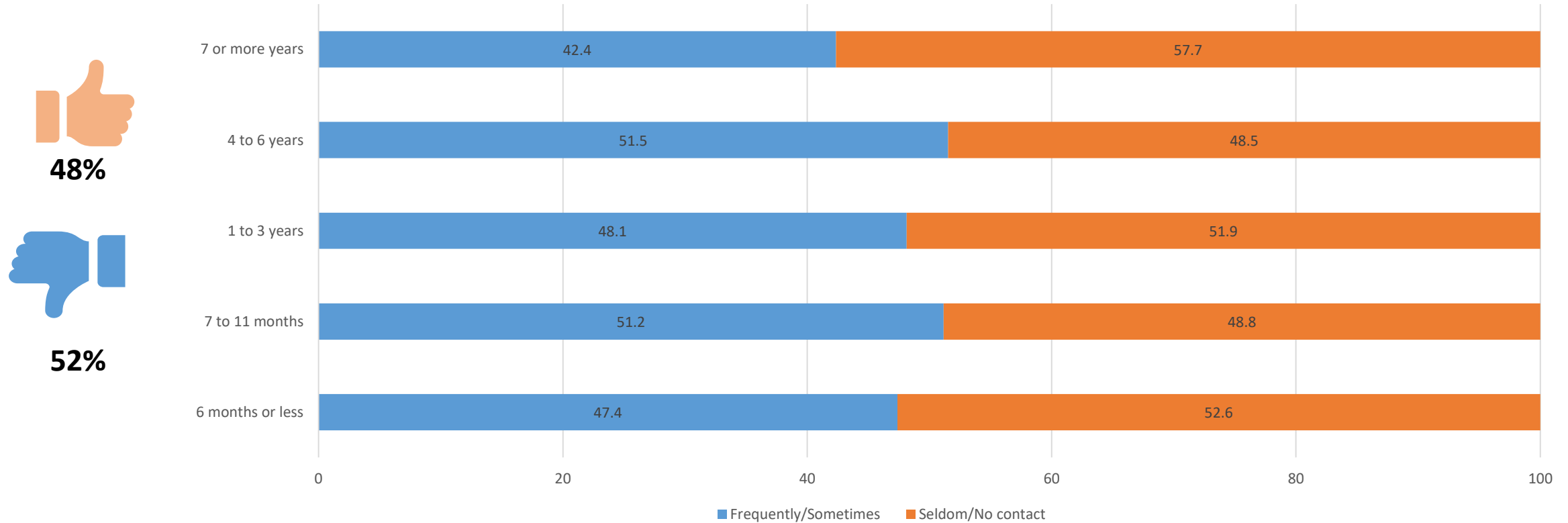| #	Category Description	#(%)
1	Department of Social Services staff communication and support issues	103(42%)
2	Foster parent concerns about the welfare of the child and/or lack of understanding of the case process	31(13%)
3	Foster parent burn out/challenges/stress	29(12%)
4	Issues related to adoption or reaching maximum capacity for child placement	23(9%)
5	Foster parent family issues	14(6%)
6	Foster parents concerns or issues related to training requirements or trainings	13(5%)
8	Foster parent issues with judges and/or court hearings	9(4%)
7	Impact of the foster parents' employment on the needs of foster children	8(3%)
9	Foster parent concerns about their age and its impact on their ability to continue as foster parents	7(3%)
10	Foster parent concerns regarding OHAN investigations and false accusations by children in their care	6(2%)
11	Foster parent concerns about services for foster children	4(2%)

How often are you in contact with the child(ren)'s biological family?

#	Category Description	#(%)
1	Suggestions for removing barriers	83(25%)
2	Needs/barriers identified	79(24%)
3	No barriers	62(19%)
4	Safety issues	55(17%)
5	Angry/uncooperative biological parents	36(11%)
6	Child needs/best interests of the child	6(2%)
8	Limit contact with biological parents	4(1%)
7	Foster parent overwhelmed	2(1%)

After the initial foster parent training, how prepared were you for your first placement?

48%

52%
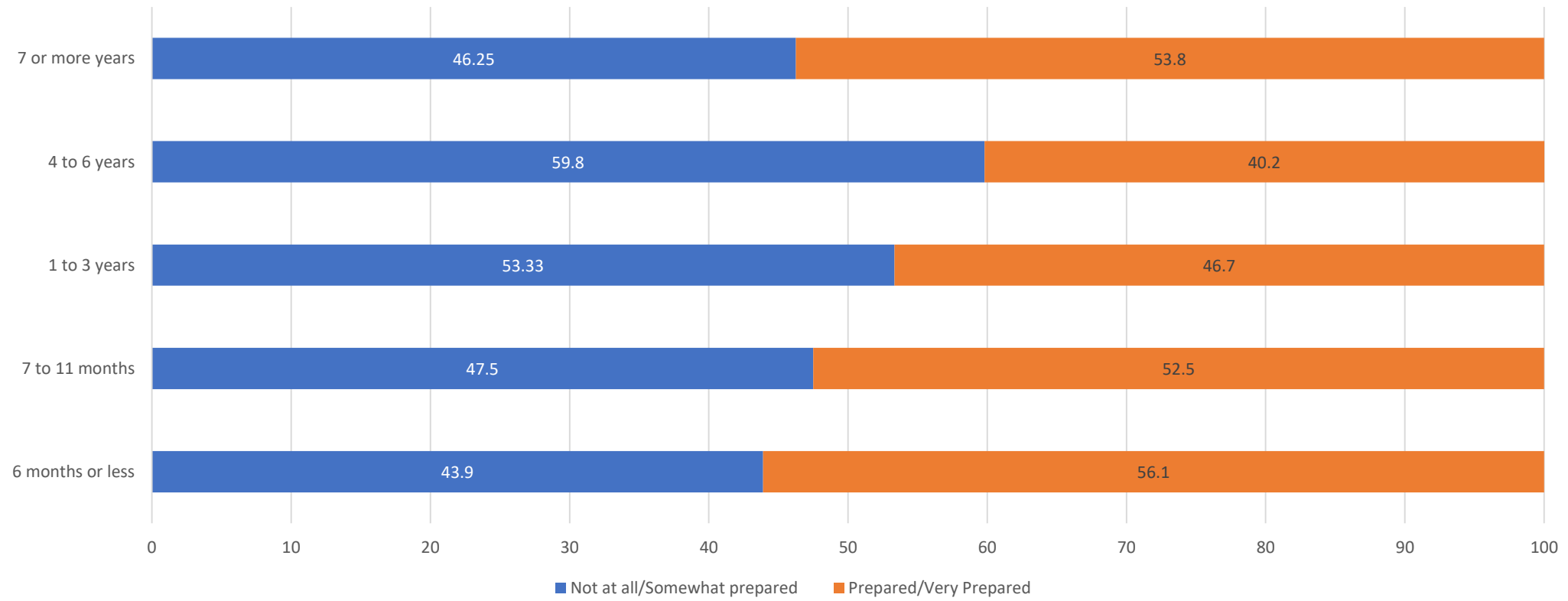
Years	Not at all/Somewhat prepared	Prepared/Very Prepared
7 or more years	46.25	53.8
4 to 6 years	59.8	40.2
1 to 3 years	53.33	46.7
7 to 11 months	47.5	52.5
6 months or less	43.9	56.1

■ Not at all/Somewhat prepared   ■ Prepared/Very Prepared

Percent level of preparation for working with biological parents after initial/follow-up foster parent training by length of fostering
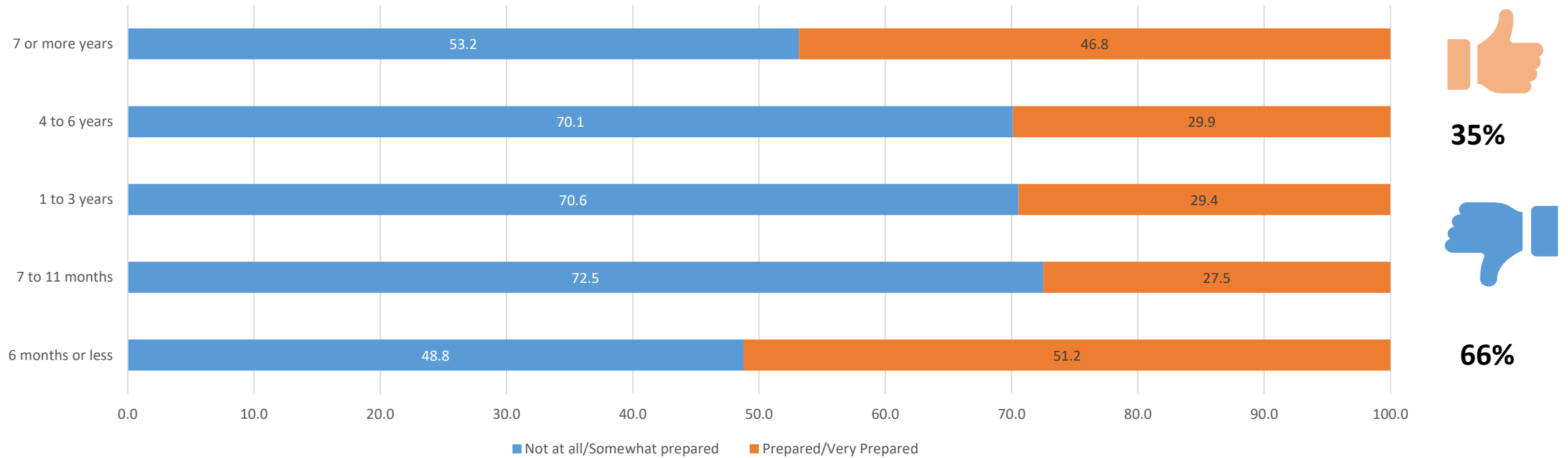
#	Category Description	#(%)
1	Training was not enough or did not cover the subject of working with biological parents	76(33%)
2	Foster parents' opinions about working with biological parents	36(16%)
3	Training provided was adequate	33(15%)
4	Training was not adequate	27(12%)
5	Content suggestions for training	17(7%)
6	Professional background, alternative trainings, foster parent-related support groups as important support in working with biological parents	10(4%)
7	Training was done too long ago	7(3%)
8	Foster parent opinions on choice to work with bio families	7(3%)
9	No training can prepare foster parents: it is a case by case situation	6(3%)
10	Other	8(4%)

The follow-up trainings are provided on topics that support my roles and responsibilities as a foster parent.
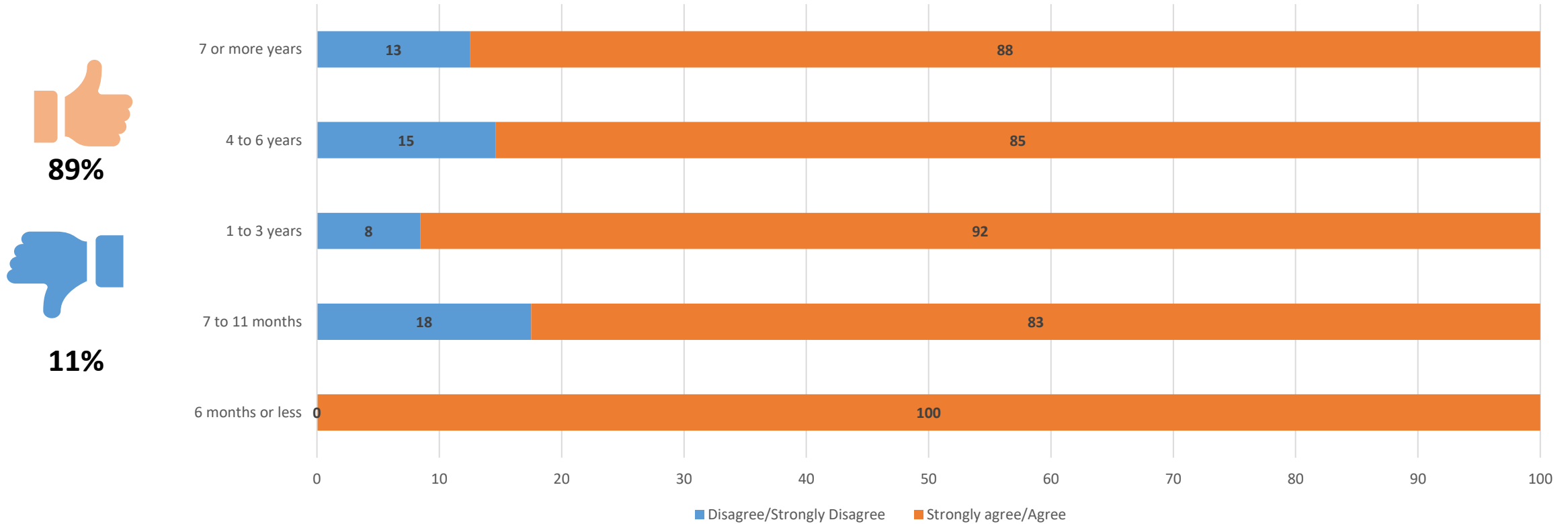
89%

11%

	Disagree/Strongly Disagree	Strongly agree/Agree
7 or more years	13	88
4 to 6 years	15	85
1 to 3 years	8	92
7 to 11 months	18	83
6 months or less	0	100

The follow-up trainings are offered at convenient times and locations.
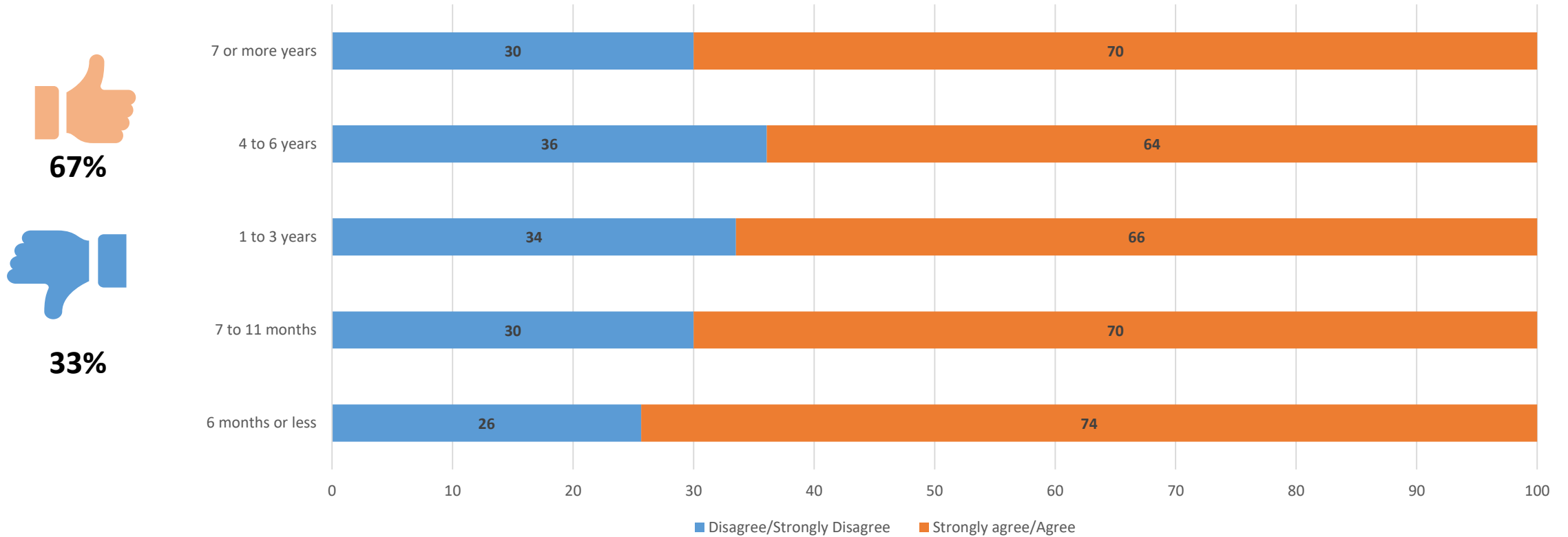
67% 👍

33% 👎

Category	Disagree/Strongly Disagree	Strongly agree/Agree
7 or more years	30	70
4 to 6 years	36	64
1 to 3 years	34	66
7 to 11 months	30	70
6 months or less	26	74

Legend: Disagree/Strongly Disagree ■ Strongly agree/Agree ■

How confident are you in your capabilities to meet the needs of the children in your care?

90%

10%
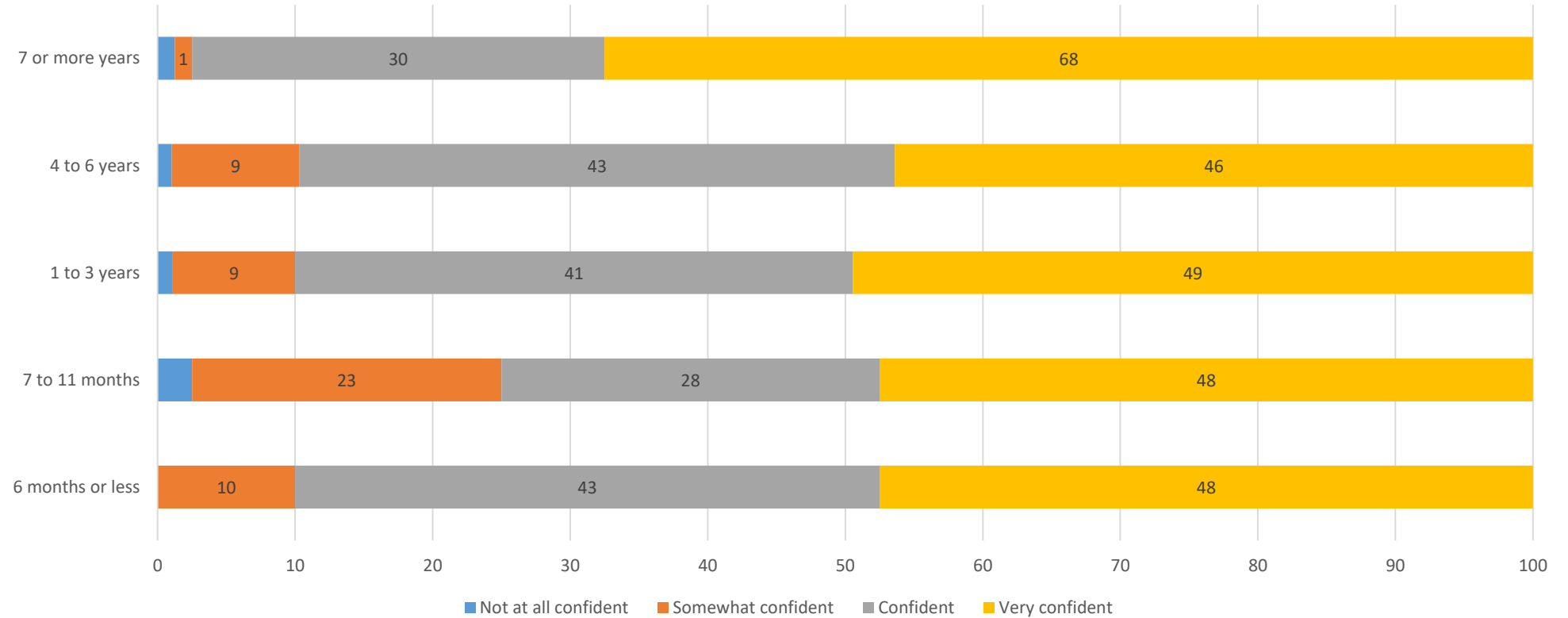
Time in care	Not at all confident	Somewhat confident	Confident	Very confident
7 or more years		1	30	68
4 to 6 years		9	43	46
1 to 3 years		9	41	49
7 to 11 months		23	28	48
6 months or less	10		43	48

■ Not at all confident   ■ Somewhat confident   ■ Confident   ■ Very confident

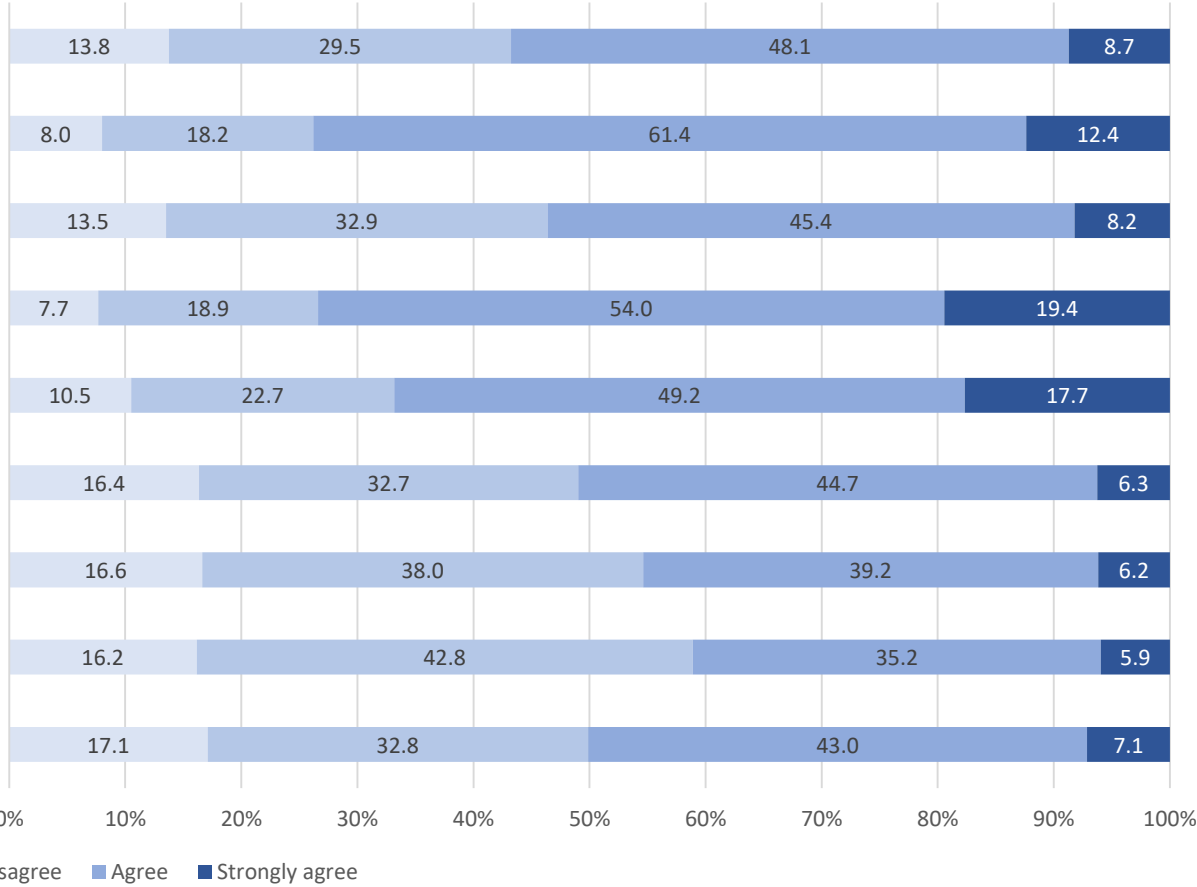| #	Category Description	#(%)
1	Interactions with DSS and how to navigate foster care system	42(14%)
2	Practical topics on foster parenting, including Trust Based Relational Intervention training	37(13%)
3	Children with trauma: practical skills and real life topics	33(11%)
4	Interactions with biological families	25(9%)
5	Training logistics (online training, schedules, locations, available childcare, etc.)	22(7%)
6	Legal aspects of foster care (law and courts)	18(6%)
7	Health, special needs, mental health	17(6%)
8	How to access resources and services (WIC, Medicaid, health services, etc.)	15(5%)
9	Foster family rights and support (including foster parents and children)	15(5%)
10	Training has been adequate	13(4%)
12	Behavior issues	10(3%)
13	Teenager-related topics	10(3%)
11	Other	37(13%)

I am informed about / I received

Statement	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
my foster child's permanency goals in a timely manner.	13.8	29.5	48.1	8.7
my foster child's visitation plan in a timely manner.	8.0	18.2	61.4	12.4
of case decisions and other issues that could affect the child(ren) placed in my care in a timely manner.	13.5	32.9	45.4	8.2
upcoming Foster Care Review Board hearings for the child(ren) placed in my care in a timely manner.	7.7	18.9	54.0	19.4
upcoming court hearings for the child(ren) placed in my care in a timely manner.	10.5	22.7	49.2	17.7
educational information about the child(ren) placed in my care that help me meet their educational needs.	16.4	32.7	44.7	6.3
developmental information about the child(ren) placed in my care that help me meet their developmental needs.	16.6	38.0	39.2	6.2
behavioral information about the child(ren) placed in my care that help me meet their behavioral needs.	16.2	42.8	35.2	5.9
medical information about the child(ren) placed in my care that help me meet their medical needs.	17.1	32.8	43.0	7.1

■ Strongly disagree ■ Disagree ■ Agree ■ Strongly agree

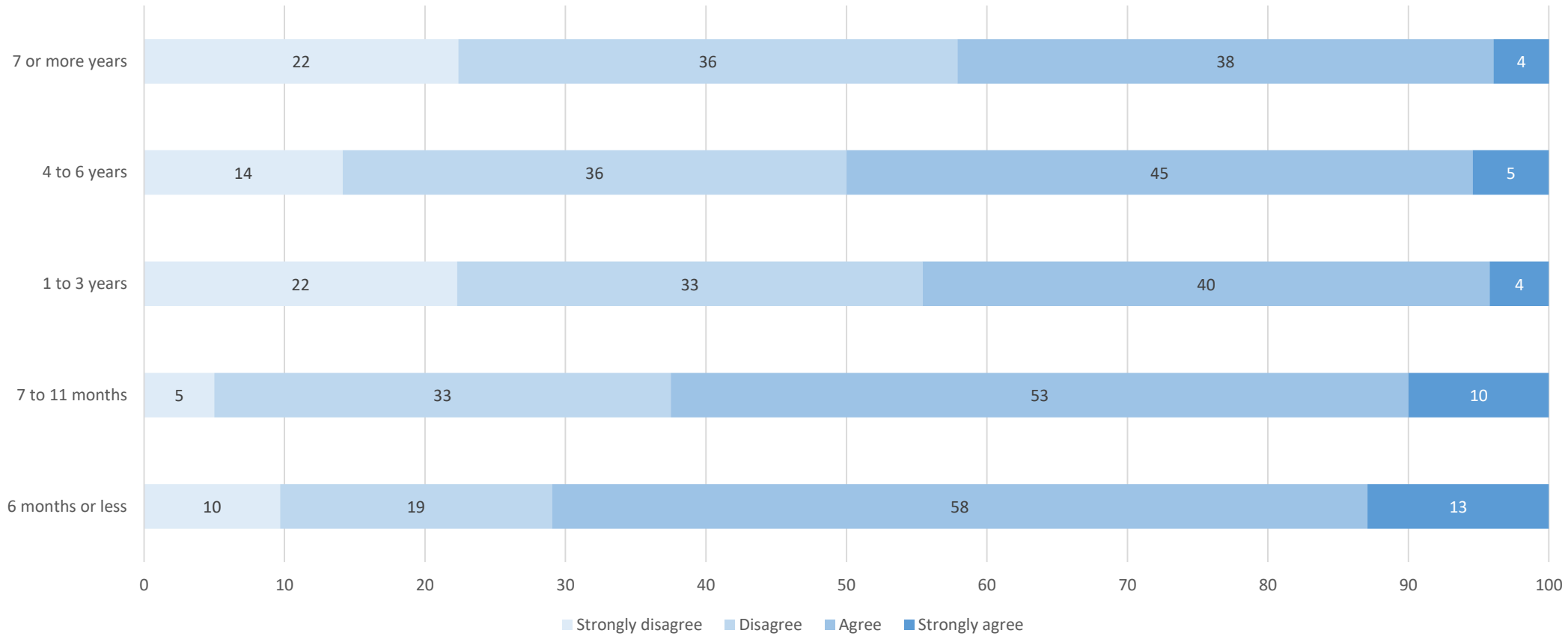| #	Category Description	#(%)
1	Lack of communication with case managers and DSS	52(18%)
2	Court hearing information	41(14%)
3	Medical, behavioral, developmental, educational information	29(10%)
4	Experiences vary by county and case managers	27(9%)
5	Initial background information on the child is lacking	18(6%)
6	Foster Care Review Board information	15(5%)
7	Visitation plan information	13(4%)
8	Turnover, overwork, lack of training	13(4%)
9	Case managers high quality of work	12(4%)
10	Permanency goals information	11(4%)
11	DSS & case manager low work quality	11(4%)
12	Other	48(17%)

Percentage of foster parents by length of experience fostering who believe that SCDSS considers their input when making decisions about the permanency plan for the child(ren) in their care

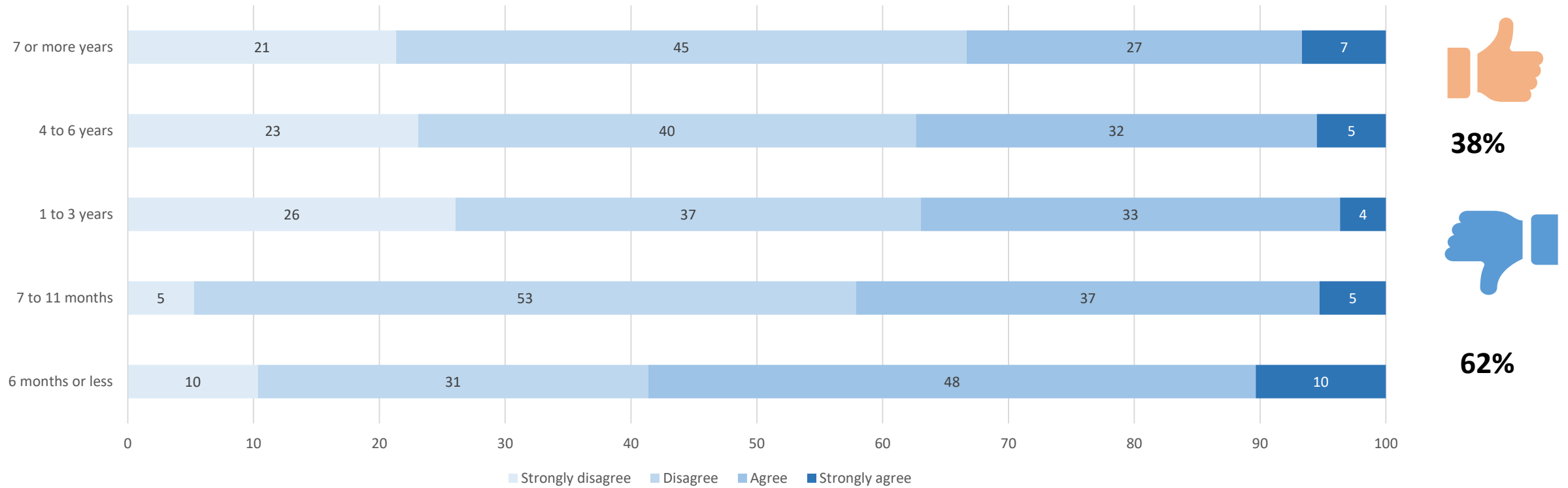|	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
7 or more years	22	36	38	4
4 to 6 years	14	36	45	5
1 to 3 years	22	33	40	4
7 to 11 months	5	33	53	10
6 months or less	10	19	58	13

49%

51%

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Percentage of foster parents by length of experience fostering who believes SCDSS involves them in family group conferences/family team meetings for child(ren) in their care
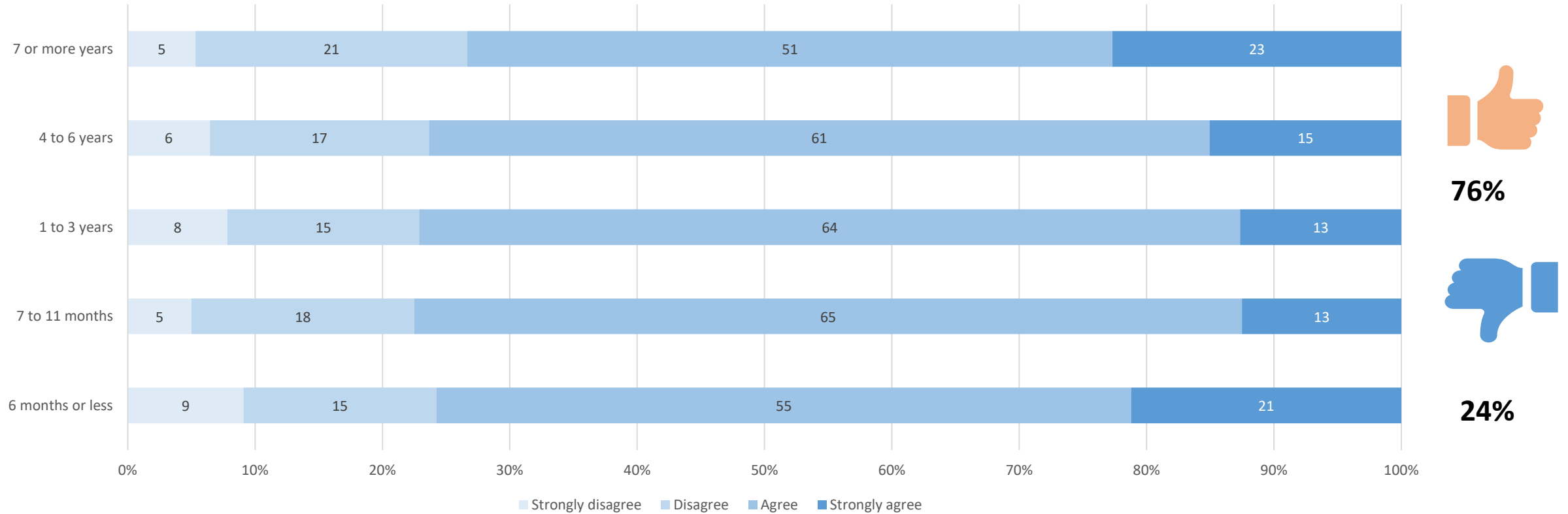
Percentage of foster parents by length of experience fostering who believes that SCDSS considers their wishes and capabilities before a child(ren) is placed with them

#	Category Description	#(%)
1	Case manager related	51(24%)
2	DSS related concerns	26(12%)
3	Foster parent related	23(11%)
4	Training related issues	9(4%)
5	Suggestions	8(4%)
6	Child related concerns	6(3%)
7	Communication	6(3%)
8	Other	5(2%)
9	Childcare	4(2%)
10	Courts & legal department	3(1%)
11	Foster system related	2(1%)

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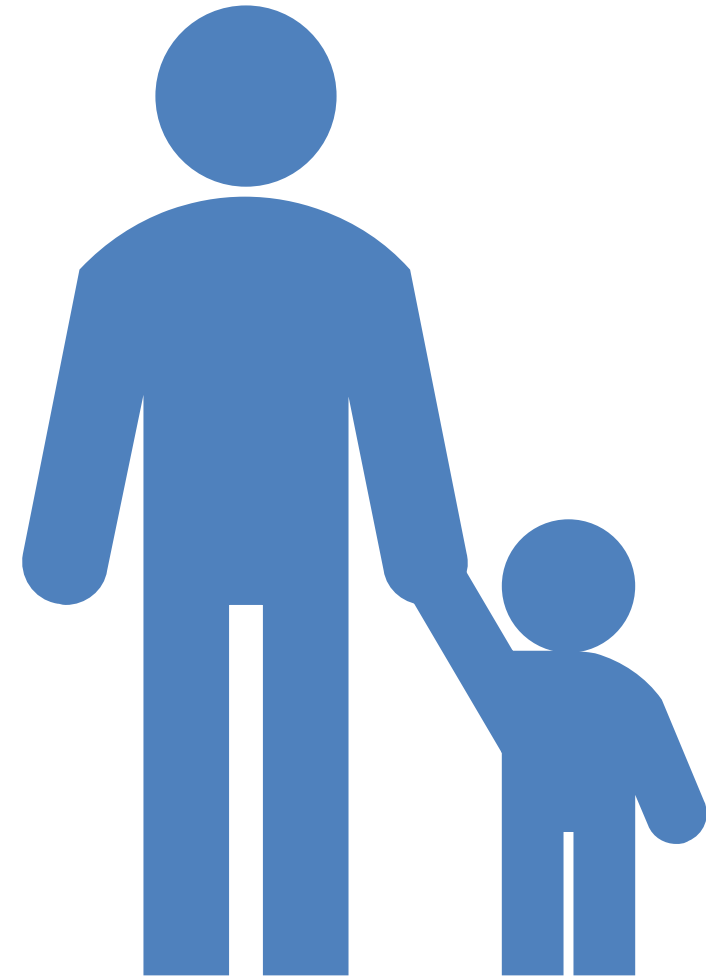SOUTH CAROLINA
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Estimated Need for Placements of Children & Youth in Foster Care

The Why

:

DSS believes that children do best with their family starting with kinship if children can not stay safely with their parents

However, if kin are not available, children should be placed in family like settings close to their homes

What We Needed To Do

DSS had an estimated foster home "needs" report

However, that "needs" report needed updating to better reflect DSS beliefs and practice

That older "needs" report did not provide characteristics of the children & youth in our system

Assumptions

Placements are not the same as homes. Placements represent children or youth who need a family like setting.

A foster home can have multiple placements (or children / youth)

In fact, DSS needs foster homes who can take care of multiple children especially sibling groups.

So what did we do?

Examined the data

Used the child's current placement (type of placement as well as geography) to estimate the need

Reflected characteristics such as age and sibling group sizes into the needs report

Estimated, where possible, needs for regular and therapeutic foster homes

More Assumptions

If a child or youth is with kin or in an adoptive home, that child or youth is where he /she should be

If the child is in a family-like setting (a foster home) but <u>outside their county of origin</u>, the child is <u>not</u> where they should be

If the youth is currently in congregate care, that youth may not be in the best setting for them. For the purposes of these estimates, that youth may "need" another placement for a family like setting

Children may change placements. Our "need" may change and therefore these estimates will change
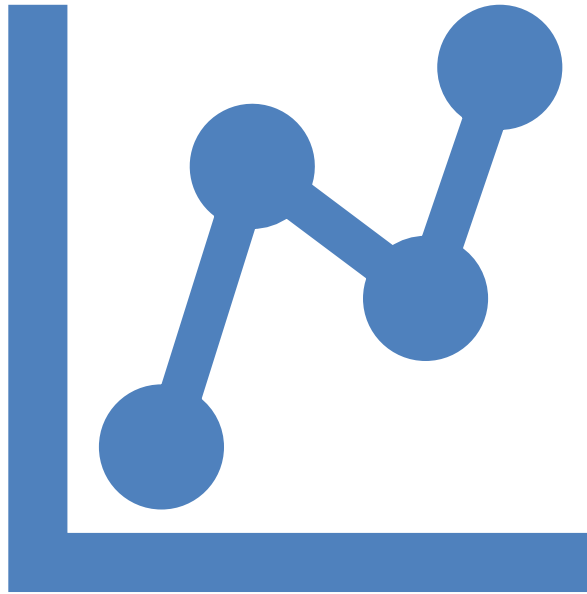
So what did the data say?
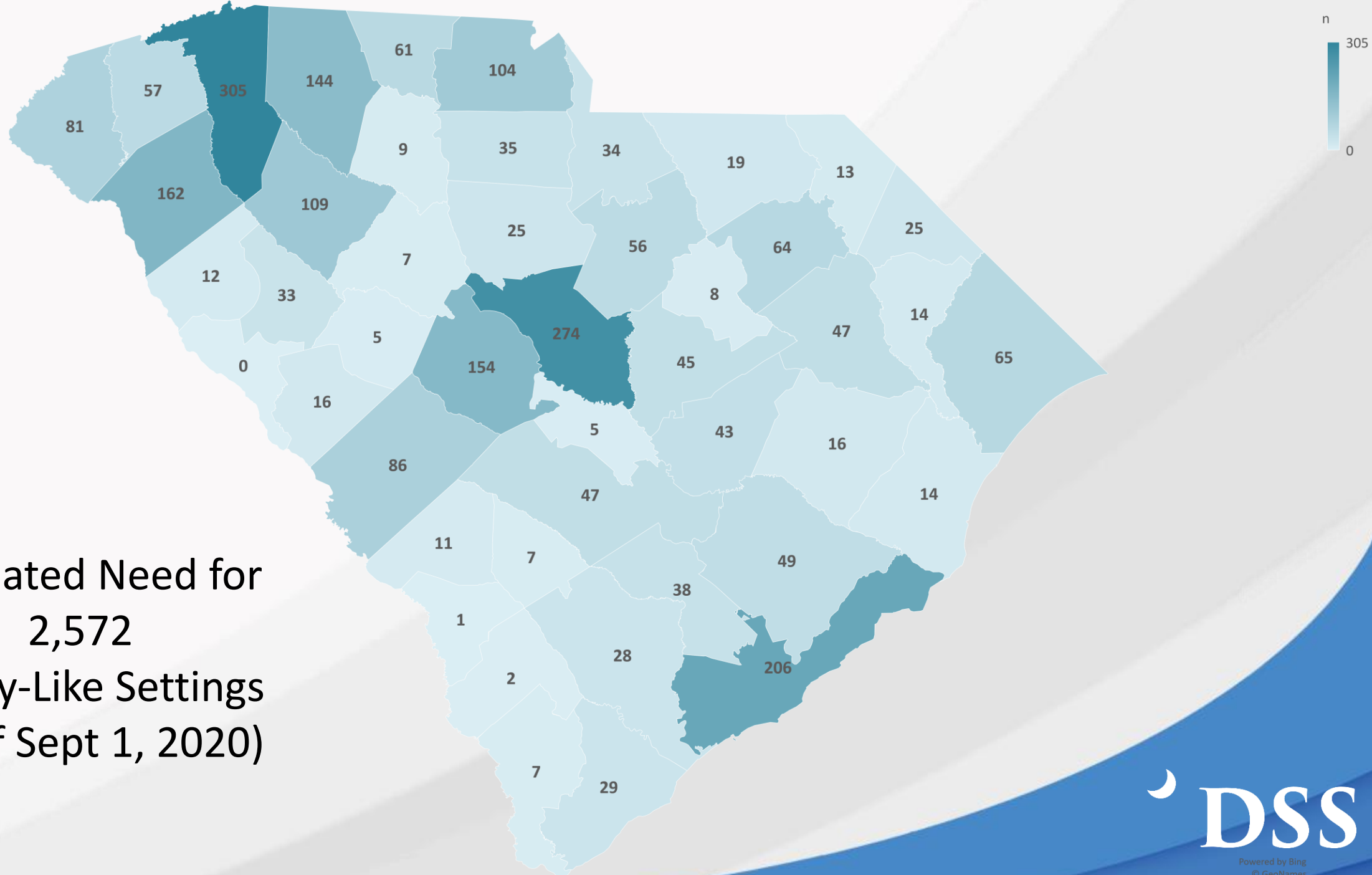
Estimated Need for 2,572 Family-Like Settings (As of Sept 1, 2020)

Family-Like Settings Need – Ranked

County	Est. Need
Greenville	305
Richland	274
Charleston	206
Anderson	162
Lexington	154
Spartanburg	144
Laurens	109
York	104
Aiken	86
Oconee	81
Horry	65
Darlington	64
Cherokee	61
Pickens	57
Kershaw	56

Berkeley	49
Orangeburg	47
Florence	47
Sumter	45
Clarendon	43
Dorchester	38
Chester	35
Lancaster	34
Greenwood	33
Beaufort	29
Colleton	28
Fairfield	25
Dillon	25
Chesterfield	19
Edgefield	16
Williamsburg	16
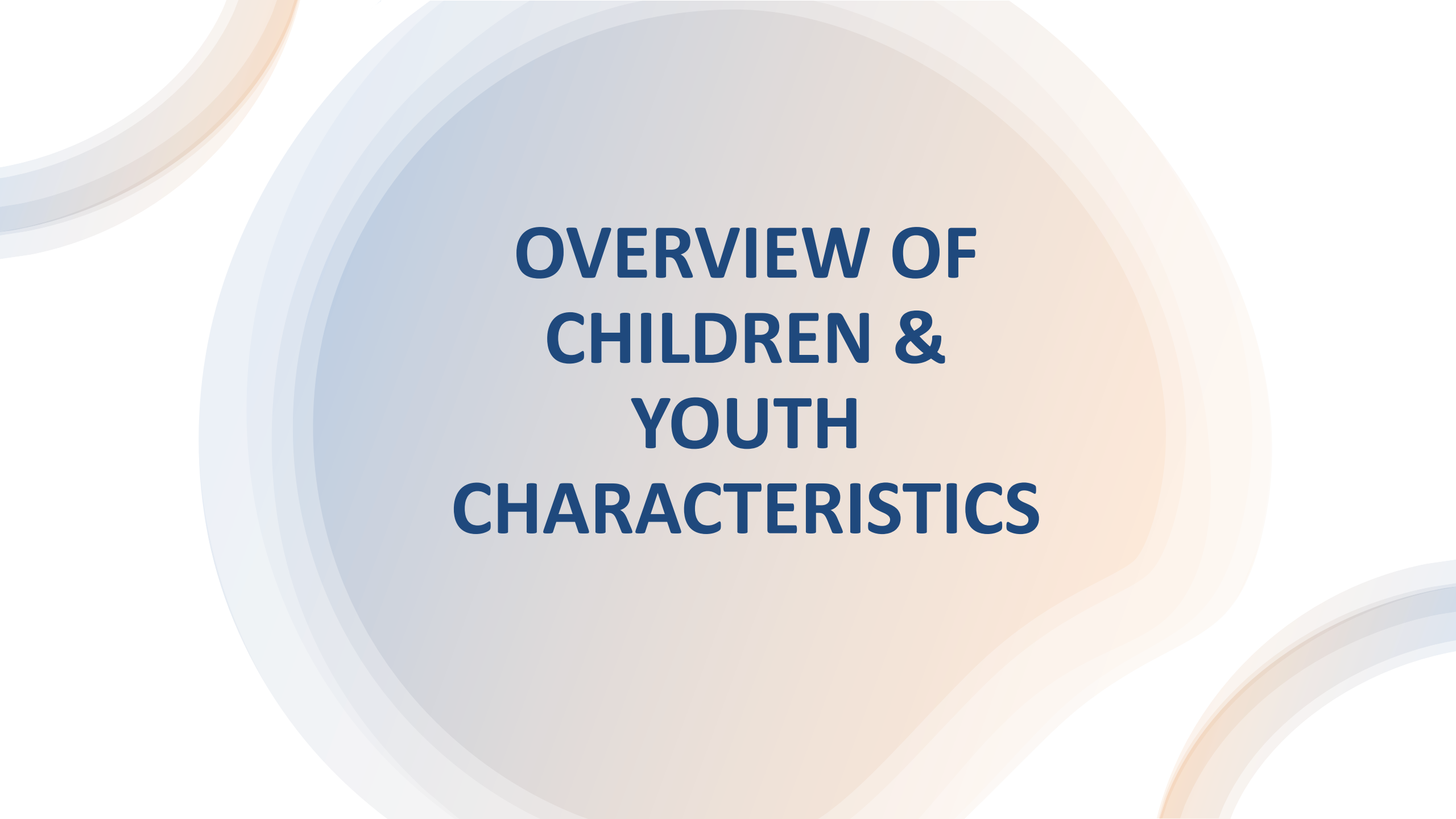
Georgetown	14
Marion	14
Marlboro	13
Abbeville	12
Barnwell	11
Union	9
Lee	8
Newberry	7
Bamberg	7
Jasper	7
Saluda	5
Calhoun	5
Hampton	2
Allendale	1
McCormick	0

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Family-Like Settings Need – Alphabetical

County	Est. Need
Abbeville	12
Aiken	86
Allendale	1
Anderson	162
Bamberg	7
Barnwell	11
Beaufort	29
Berkeley	49
Calhoun	5
Charleston	206
Cherokee	61
Chester	35
Chesterfield	19
Clarendon	43
Colleton	28
Darlington	64
Dillon	25
Dorchester	38
Edgefield	16
Fairfield	25
Florence	47
Georgetown	14
Greenville	305
Greenwood	33
Hampton	2
Horry	65
Jasper	7
Kershaw	56
Lancaster	34
Laurens	109
Lee	8
Lexington	154
Marion	14
Marlboro	13
McCormick	0
Newberry	7
Oconee	81
Orangeburg	47
Pickens	57
Richland	274
Saluda	5
Spartanburg	144
Sumter	45
Union	9
Williamsburg	16
York	104

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OVERVIEW OF CHILDREN & YOUTH CHARACTERISTICS

Family-Like Settings Characteristics– by Age

Pie chart data:
- Ages 0-2 yrs: 376; 15%
- Ages 3-6 yrs: 486; 19%
- Ages 7-12 yrs: 717; 28%
- Ages 13-17 yrs: 993; 39%

Legend:
- 0-2
- 3-6
- 7-12
- 13-17

Total: 2,572 Placements
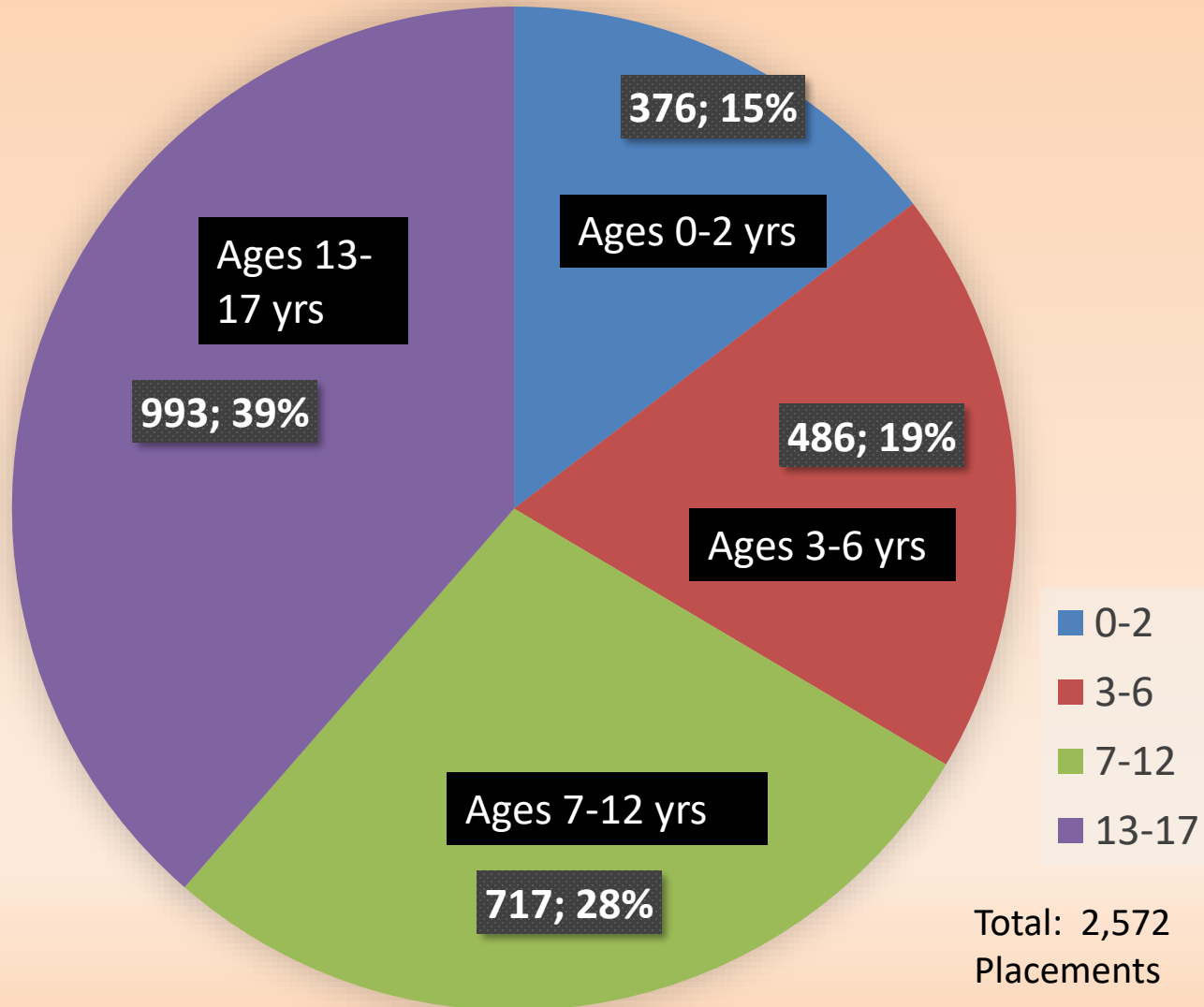
- **#1 Need by age is for Youth who are ages 13-17**

- **#2 Followed by children ages 7-12**

(Combined that is 66% of the children)

- **34% of the need for family like placements is for children under 7 years**

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Let's discuss age preference information
## Data is for Applicants - regular foster homes

Preferences

Prefer Age Range	Prefer Age Range (count)	Percent
0-6	538	45%
0-10	292	25%
6-13	46	4%
0-18	216	18%
6-18	24	2%
13-18	69	6%
Grand Total	1185	100%

Estimated Need

Age Group for Need	Number	Percent
0-2 yrs	376	15%
3- 6 yrs	486	19%
7 - 12 yrs	717	28%
13-17 yrs	993	39%
Total	2572	100%

(Data is from Heartfelt Calling, Sept 2019 – Aug 2020)

Family-Like Settings Characteristics – by Race

272; 10%

867; 34%

1433; 56%

White

African American or Black
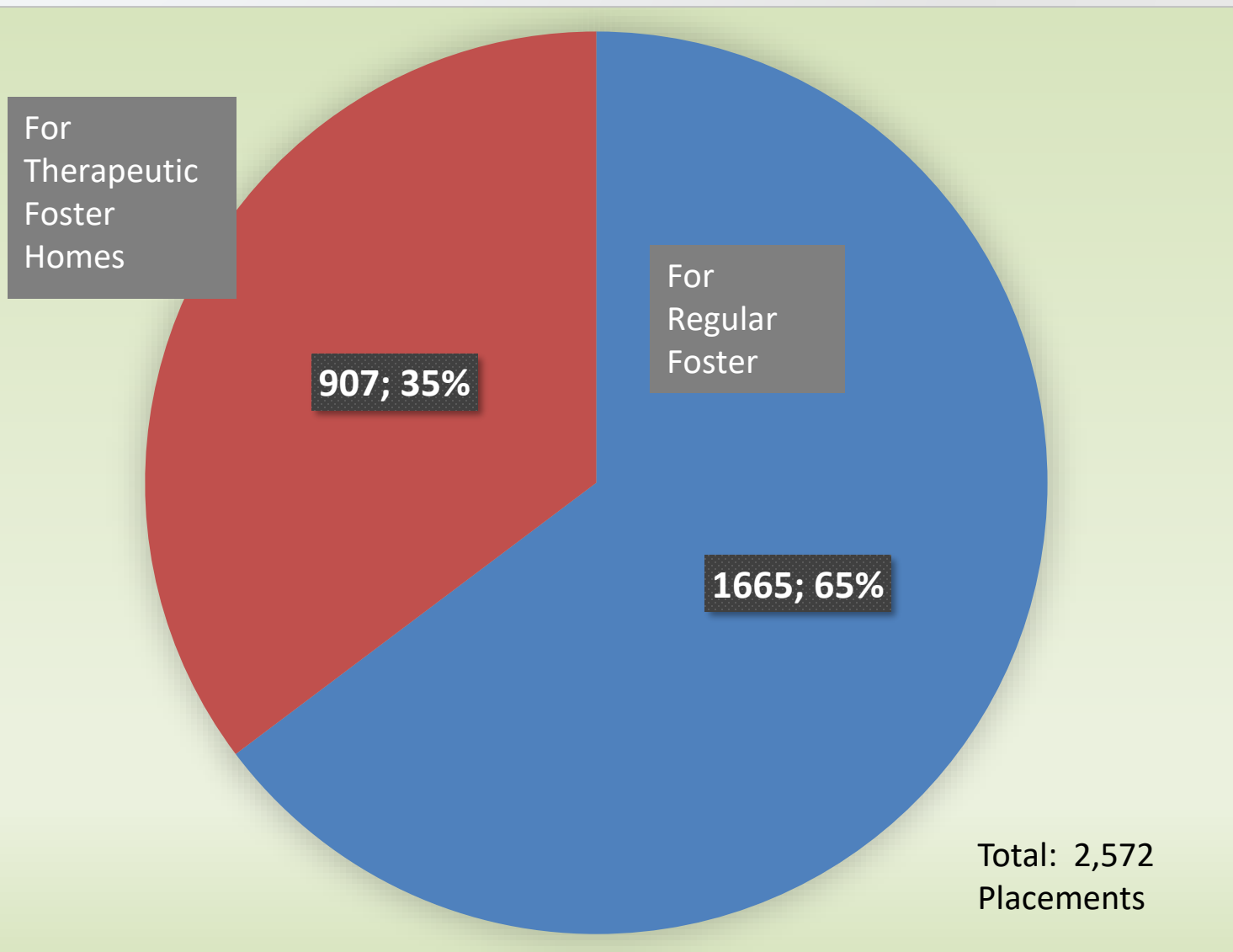
All Other races
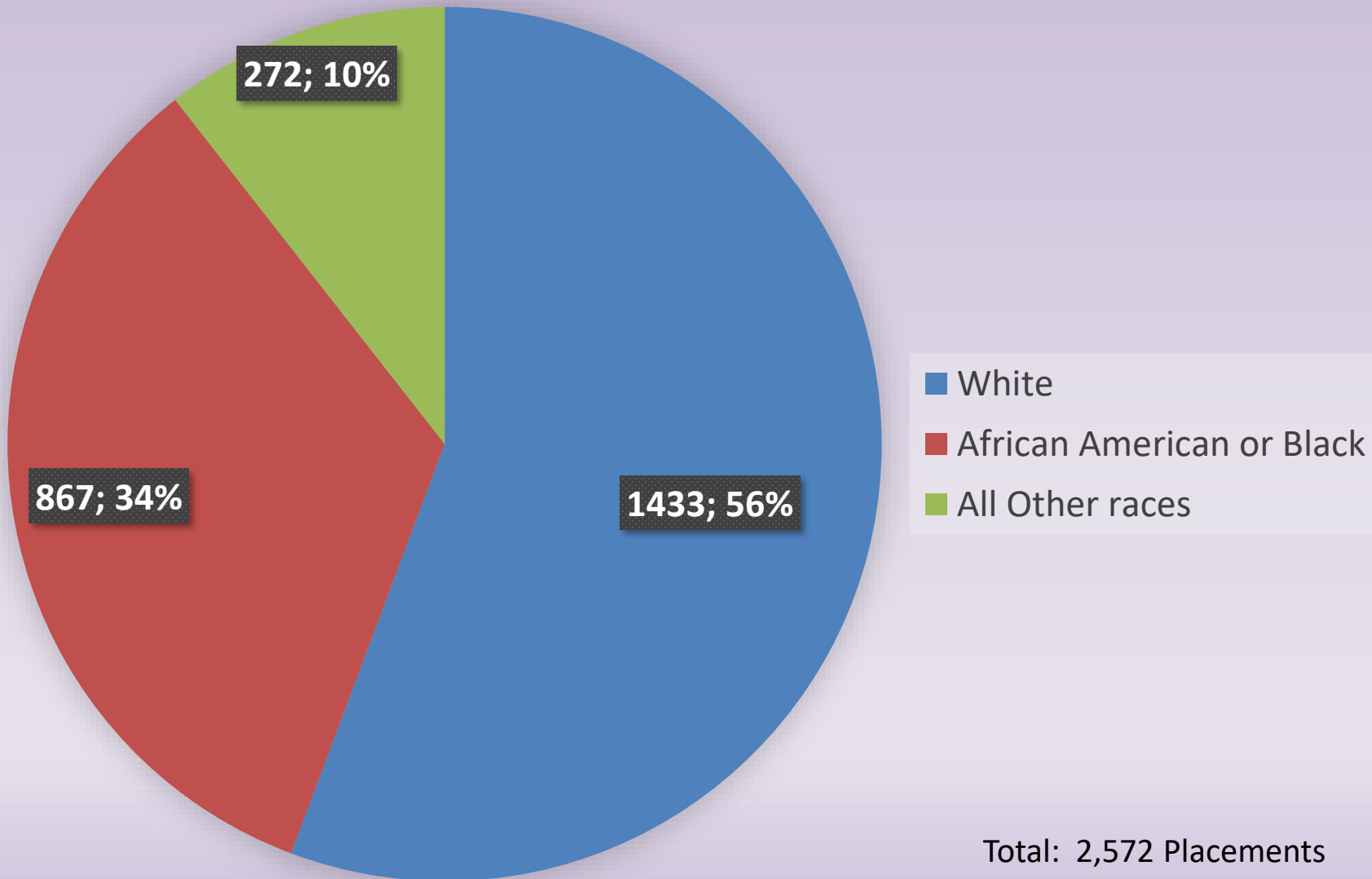
Note: There are also 152 children of Hispanic origin in need of a family-like setting in their county of origin.

These children are not included in the chart because they may be of any race

Total: 2,572 Placements

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Family-Like Settings Need – by Type of Home

For Therapeutic Foster Homes

For Regular Foster

907; 35%

1665; 65%

Total: 2,572 Placements

How did we estimate this?

1. **If in a therapeutic placement currently, assumed that the youth still needed therapeutic care**

2. **Not all youth in group homes need therapeutic care. Examined their authorized level of care and current placements.**

3. **These are estimates and will change**

Estimated Need for
1,665 "Regular"
Family Like Settings
(as of Sept 1, 2020)

Estimated Need for
907 "Therapeutic"
Family Like Settings
(as of Sept 1, 2020)
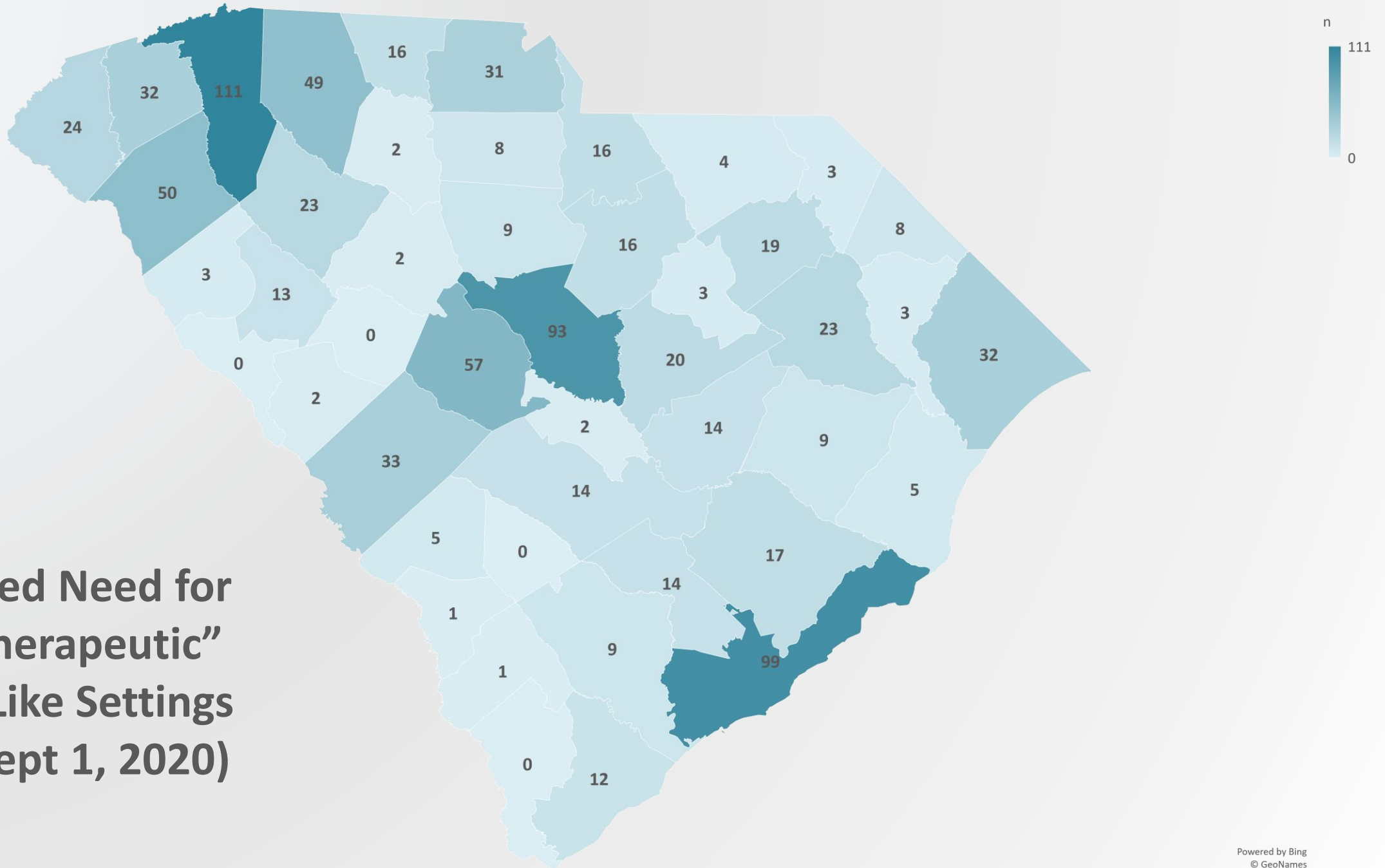
Let's talk about Sibling Groups

- Sibling Groups made this analysis very complicated

- When we examined sibling groups, we had situations where

  1. At least one child is out of the county of origin but not all

  2. All siblings in a group are out of the county of origin

  3. All siblings in a group are in the same county of origin but maybe not with the same provider. Or maybe the siblings are in a congregate care setting

Up to now, we have been talking about placements

- 2,572 Placements include children who have no siblings & children who are in sibling groups
- So let's switch to homes
  1. Estimate for 1,672 needed homes
  2. That estimate of 1,672 includes homes for children with no siblings and children with siblings
  3. Of the 1,672 homes, 556 homes are needed for sibling groups of 2 or more

Estimated homes by sibling size

in sibling group of 2	340	61%
in sibling group of 3	141	25%
in sibling group of 4+	75	13%
Total	556	100%

Let's discuss preference information
Data is for Applicants - regular foster homes

Preferences

Prefer # of Children	# of Applicants	Percent
1	464	39%
1-2	467	39%
1-3	108	9%
2	96	8%
3	22	2%
3+	28	2%
Total	1185	100%

Estimated Need by Sibling Size

By Sibling Size	# of Homes	Percent
1 child	1,116	67%
sibling group of 2	340	20%
sibling group of 3	141	8%
sibling group of 4+	75	4%
Total	1,672	100%

(Data is from Heartfelt Calling, Sept 2019 – Aug 2020)

County Examples of Need Breakdown

County of Origin	All Children in Foster Care	Estimated Need in County for Family-Like Placements	Family-Like Settings needed by Age				Family-Like Settings needed by Home Type	
			0-2	3-6	7-12	13-17	Regular Foster Homes	Therapeutic Foster Homes
Abbeville	14	12	2	2	2	6	9	3
Dorchester	46	38	4	6	10	18	24	14
Saluda	7	5	1	1	1	2	5	
Spartanburg	243	144	13	21	43	67	95	49
Williamsburg	22	16	1	3	6	6	7	9

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