

# Getting To Outcomes Via Evidence-Informed Practices: Cradle to Crayons 2010 - 2014



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**We believe  
society can  
collectively  
overcome  
challenges and  
make a  
difference by  
ensuring the  
health and  
well-being  
of its children.**



# Safe Babies Court Teams

Rated a promising practice by the California Evidence Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare

# WHY A PROMISING PROGRAM?

- ***Safe Babies Court Team-***
- Benchmark: children from the four initial sites were compared to a group of cases from the NSCAW I study (McCombs-Thornton, 2011)
- Results indicate that ***Safe Babies Court Team*** cases....
  - experience a different pattern of exits from the foster care system
    - reunification was the most common type of exit (38%) while
    - adoption was the most prevalent for the comparison group (41%).
  - children exit the foster care system faster regardless of the type of exit
  - significantly more likely to exit foster care for reunification, relative custodianship, and non-relative legal guardianship rather than stay in foster care



The national benchmarks for time to permanency (McCombs-Thornton, 2011)

Reunify	Adopt	Guardianship
340 ( 163.1)	496 (227.1)	415 (109.2)
309	464	416
(112)	(46)	(83)

**to support the ongoing  
intervention with meaningful data,  
and from that provide timely and  
relevant feedback that drives  
discussion and decision making**

**a formative evaluation**

# three questions

- I. How has the county implemented the safe babies court team program?
- II. How has the county operationalized the 10 core components?
- III. What child and family characteristics and outcomes are associated with the Safe Baby Court Teams program in Maricopa County?

# Evolution of C2C in Maricopa County

1. Specialized Judicial Officers (birth to 3 caseload)
2. Stop rotation
3. Separate campus
4. Clinical services (trauma therapist, child/parent therapist, Family Time coaches)
6. DTC – trauma informed court with reunification ceremonies for families
7. Bridge Program
8. Parent to Parent Program



# Child and Family Characteristics 2010 - 2014

- 8,398 1<sup>st</sup> entry children < 3 yrs. of age
- 55% increase in removals from 2010 to 2014
- Over 50% of each cohort are infants
- African American & American Indian are overrepresented compared to their representation of children birth to 5 in the County
- Majority of parents were single (81%)
- Primary language of caretaker predominantly English (86%)

# Removal Characteristics

Location of removal....

Also stable over 5 years

- Phoenix - 41%
- Mesa -13.3%
- Glendale - 9.2%



- Most serious allegation associated with the removal was most commonly neglect (86.5%)
- Alleged perpetrator identified as mother and father (51%)

# MARICOPA COUNTY

## removal characteristics

### *Removal Characteristics as a Percentage of Each Yearly Cohort*

Removal Characteristics	Maricopa County					
	2010 (n = 1,336)	2011 (n = 1,480)	2012 (n = 1,732)	2013 (n = 1,774)	2014 (n = 2,076)	All Years (N = 8,398 <sup>a</sup> )
Report Priority						
1	51.9	48.0	51.3	49.9	48.3	49.5
2	25.1	21.5	24.1	24.0	24.4	23.7
3	11.9	17.4	14.8	18.2	17.5	16.1
4	10.8	12.4	9.0	8.0	9.7	9.8



# MARICOPA COUNTY

first placement characteristics

- Most common placement type: foster care/unl. relative
- 90% infants and toddlers placed in a family setting

## Trends....

- Increased placement of young children *in state*
- small increase in group care (unknown if related to a shortage vs. teenage moms with babies?)

# Time to Permanency

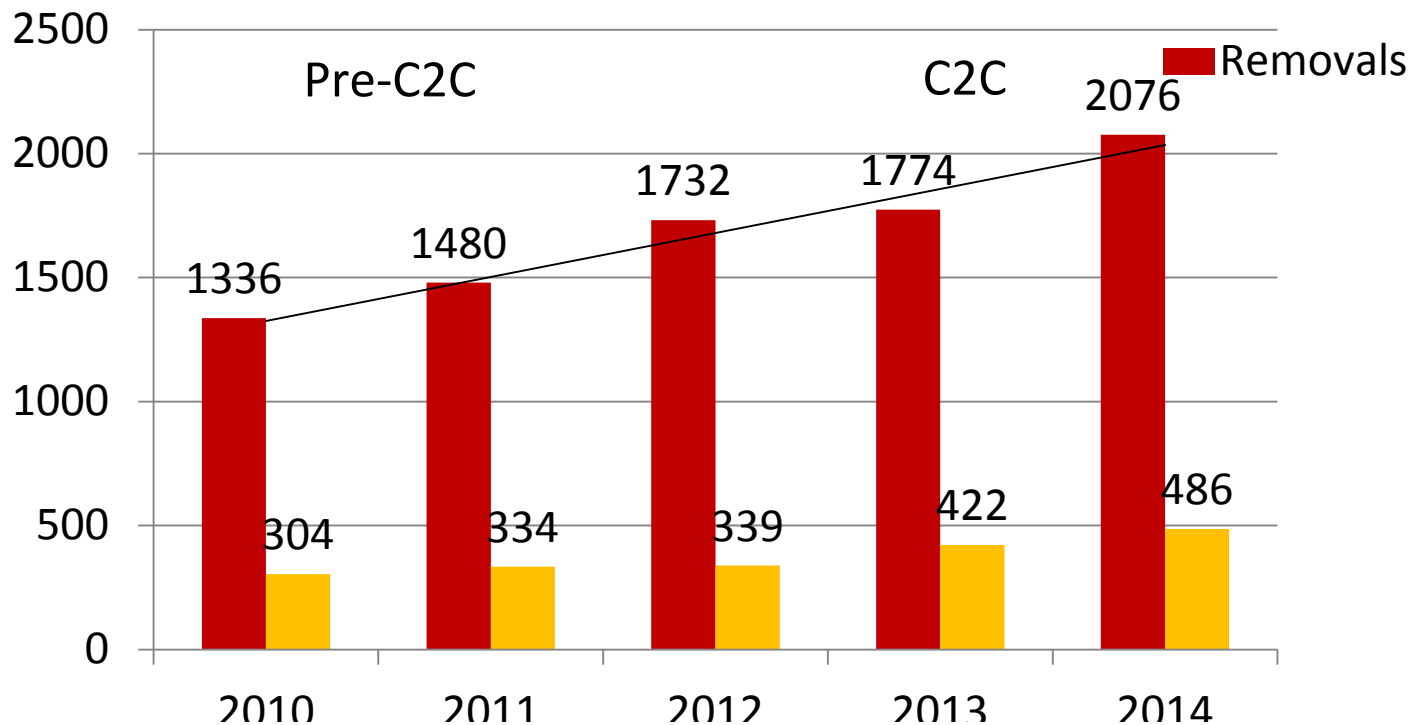
Over time....

Almost all children achieve some form of permanency (almost 100% of the 2010 & 2011 cohorts, 96% for 2012, but only 85% of 2013 and 51.3% of the 2014 cohorts)



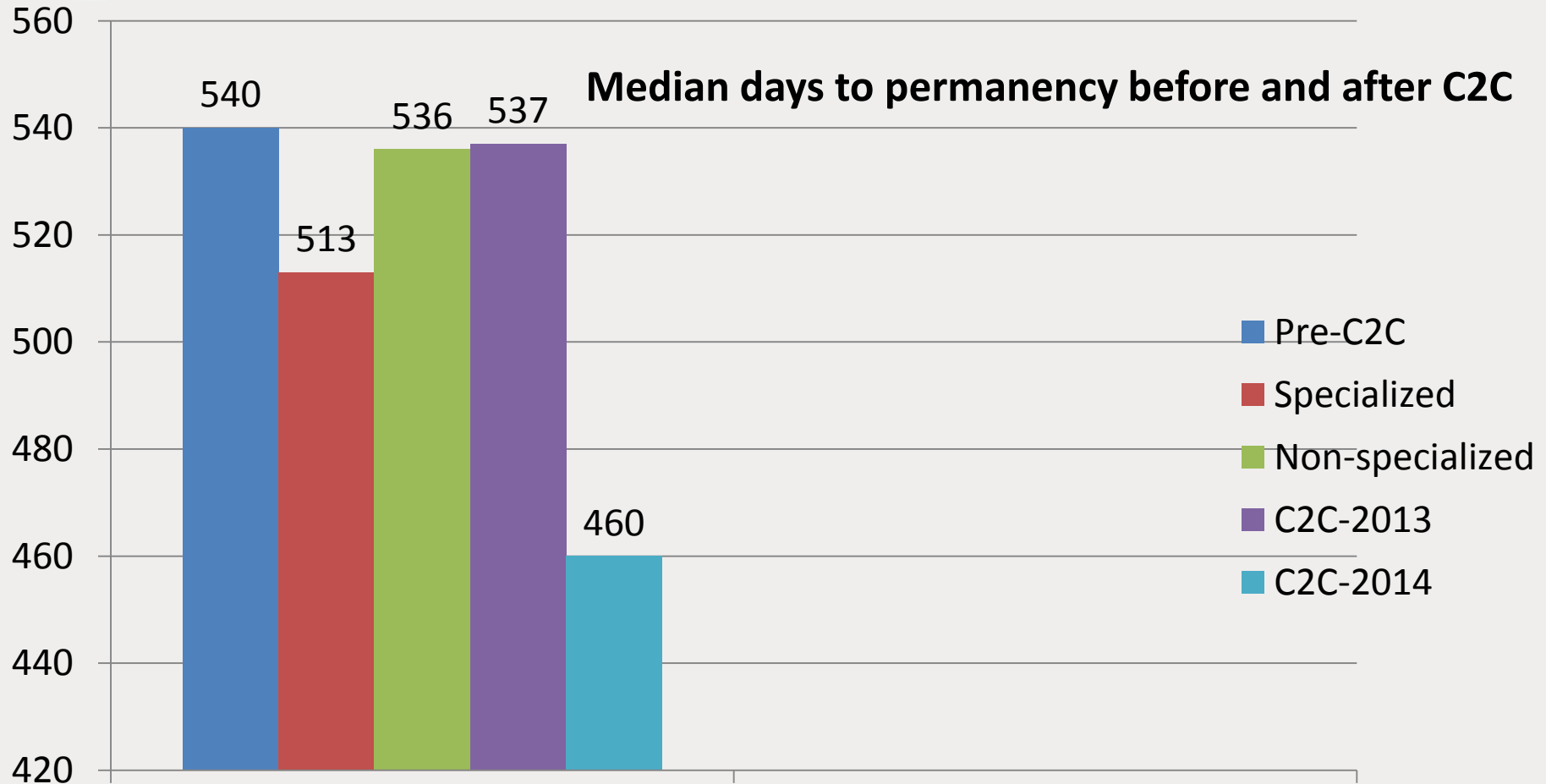
# MARICOPA COUNTY

permanency- within 12 months  
compared to removals



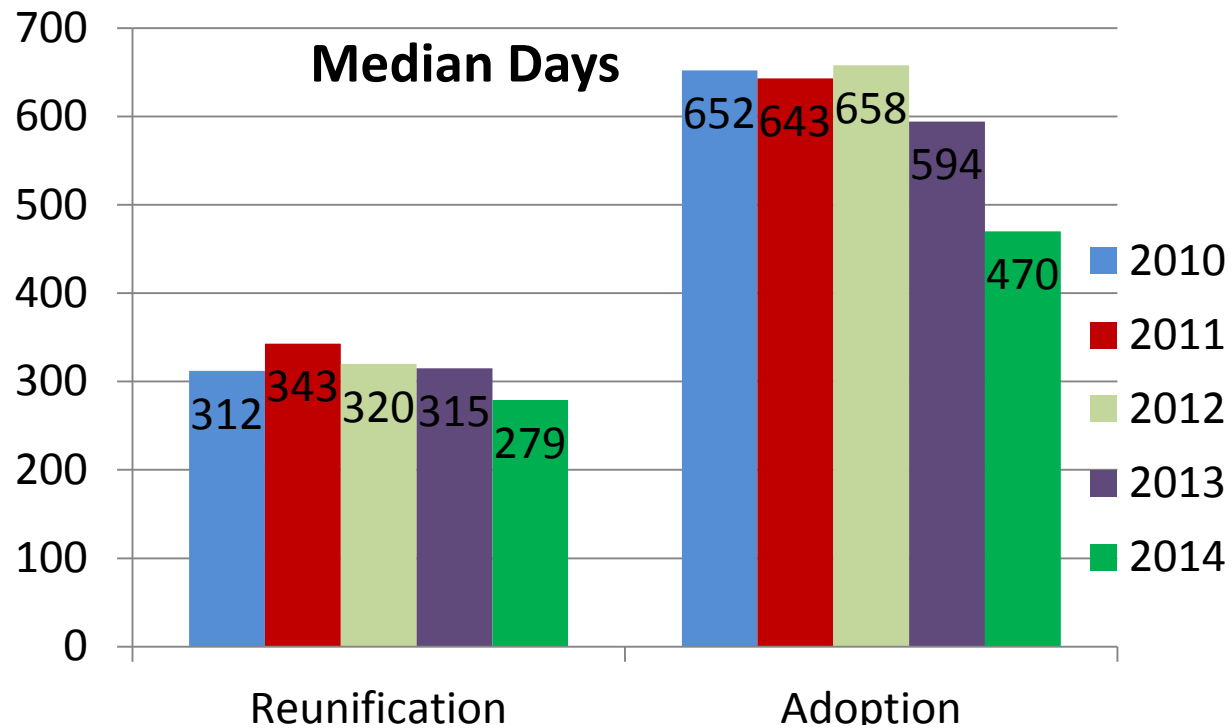
# MARICOPA COUNTY

Median days to permanency



# MARICOPA COUNTY

time to permanency







## **Safety and Stability - 2010 to 2012 cohorts**

Re-report within 12 months of permanency

18 mo. pre C2C vs. 18 mo. post C2C

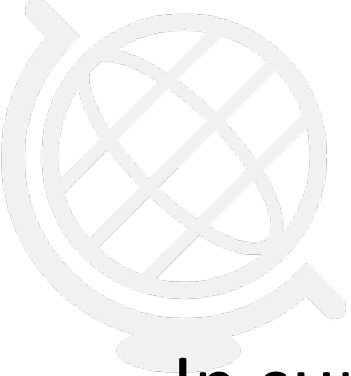
>8 days: 4% in both groups;

<8 days: 14% vs. 8%

Re-entry within 12 months of permanency

> 8 days – 6.6% pre vs. 6.8% post

< 8 days – 32% pre vs. 27% post



In summary:

- Increased infant/toddler knowledge, implementation of best practices, and systems changes
- Reduction in median time to permanency in the context of a large increase
- Safety and stability are as good as prior to C2C even though children exiting faster, better if include short stayers

# **SBCT is an evolving program**

- With each change we can hypothesize what the outcome will be and test it**
- At this time, formative potential of evaluation is not realized**