

The State of Vermont's Children

2022 Year in Review

★ *Celebrating 10 Years of Data to Inform* ★
Early Childhood Policy & Decision-making

Presented by Building Bright Futures and
Vermont's Early Childhood Data & Policy Center
(Vermontkidsdata.org)

Monday, January 9, 2023

THE STATE OF
VERMONT'S CHILDREN
2022 YEAR IN REVIEW





Briefing Agenda

- Mindful moment & collective vision
- Select indicators from The State of Vermont's Children
 - Demographics
 - Child Development & Education
 - Mental Health
 - Basic Needs
- Policy Recommendations Into Action
 - Housing as a critical basic need
- *Closing Remarks, Questions & Discussion*



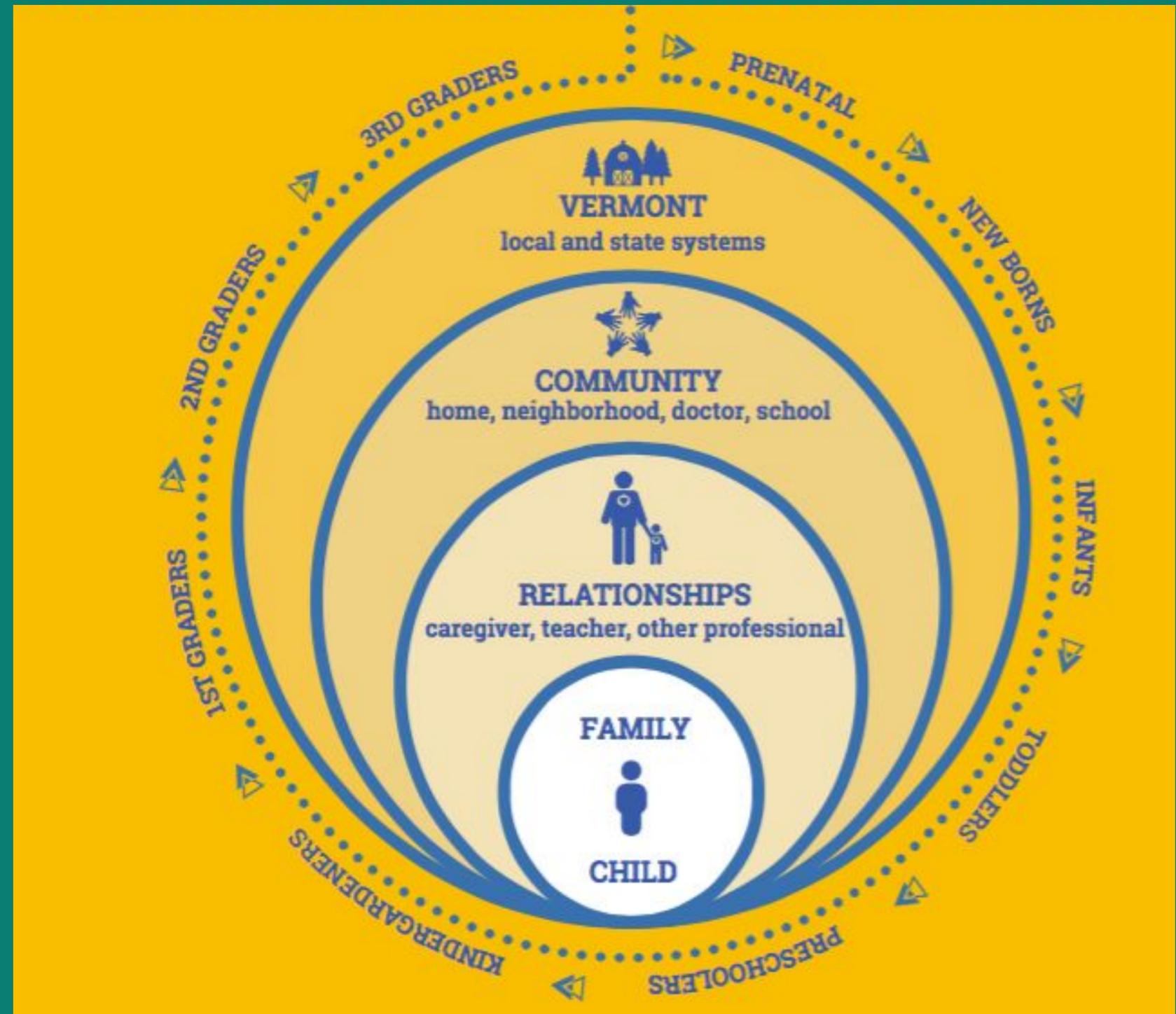
Our Collective Vision for Vermont's Children And Their Families

Goal 4: The early childhood system will be integrated, well resourced and data-informed

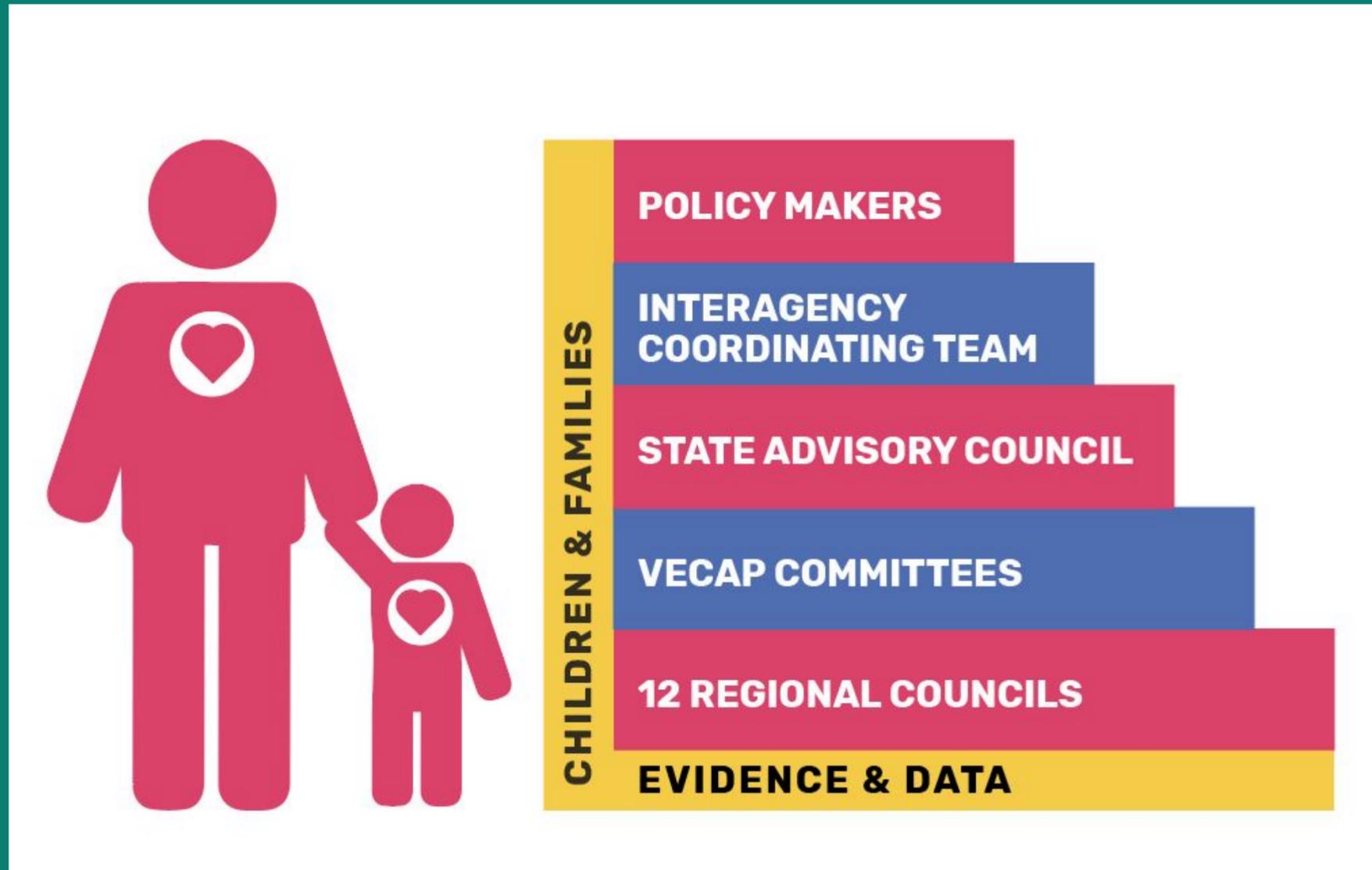
Goal 3: All Children and Families Have Access to High-Quality Opportunities That Meet Their Needs

Goal 2: Families and Communities Play A Leading Role in Children's Wellbeing

Goal 1: All Children Have A Healthy Start



Building Bright Futures Early Childhood Infrastructure and 450+ Person Network



The Building Bright Futures State Advisory Council and network infrastructure is charged by Act 104/Title 33, Chapter 46 to use evidence and data to monitor the system of services and provide the mechanism to support accountability.





Limitations

- Proxy measures
- Timeframes
- Age ranges
- COVID-19 pandemic
- Data sources
- Data steward capacity



DEMOGRAPHICS

Who Are Vermont's Young Children?

Vermont Population by Race and Age Group (2021)²

Race	Children Under 10	Total Population
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.4%	0.4%
Asian	2.3%	2.0%
Black or African American	2.0%	1.5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	***	***
White	90.9%	94.0%
Two or more races	4.4%	2.1%

Vermont Population by Ethnicity and Age Group (2021)²

Ethnicity	Children Under 10	Total Population
Hispanic or Latina/o/x	3.2%	2.2%

- **60,364** children under age 10 including **5,073** babies born in 2021
- **30.4%** of children under 12 live in households with incomes below 185% FPL (2020)
- **541** children under age 9 living in out-of-home protective custody (2022)
- **9,258** children under 18 living with grandparents or other relatives (2021)



Early Childhood Workforce Challenges & Vacancies



Mental Health

- 18% vacancy rate in October 2022

Head Start:

- 17% of staff left during the program year

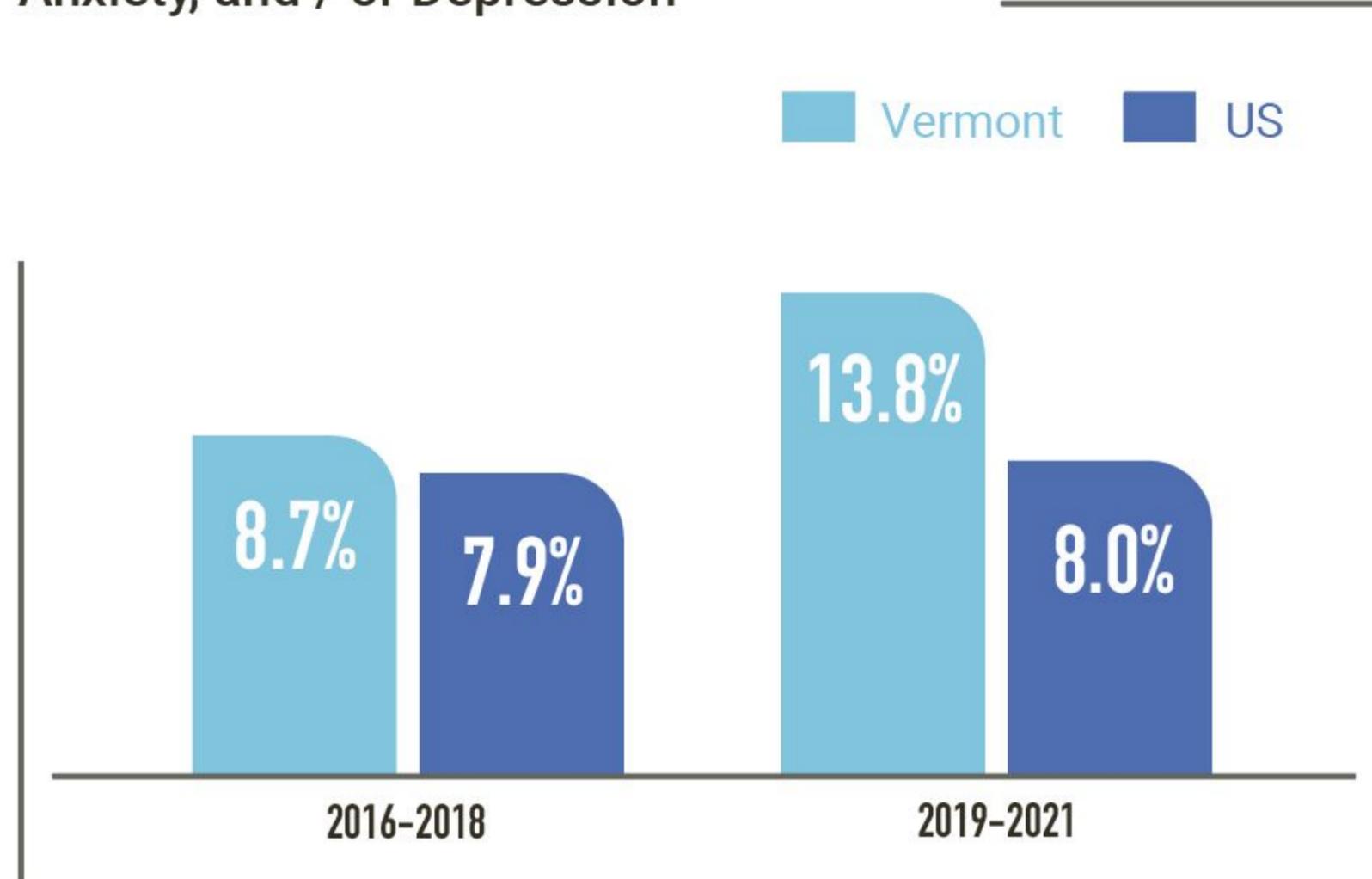
Child Care

- 16% fewer staff from 2018 to 2021



Mental Health for Children and Families

Percent of Children Ages 3 - 8 in Vermont and the US with a Behavioral Health Condition, Conduct Problems, Anxiety, and / or Depression



60% increase in children ages 3-8 with a mental, emotional, or behavioral health condition in Vermont

No significant change over time for the US



Mental Health for Children and Families

Outpatient Services

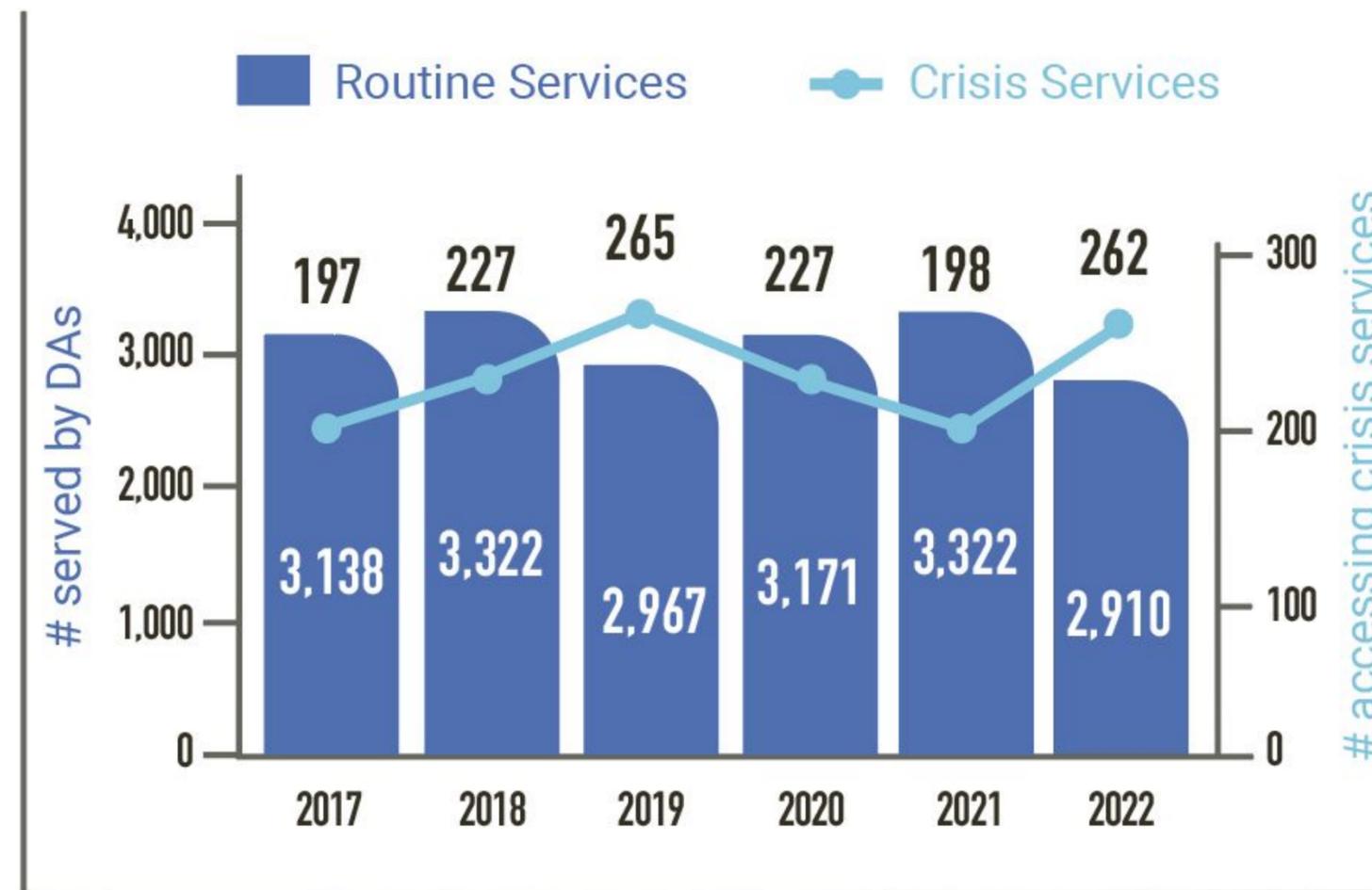
Community-Based
Services & Supports

Crisis Case Management
& Placements

Inpatient Care

Residential Treatment

Children Under 9 Utilizing Mental Health Services
Through Designated Mental Health Agencies



Mental Health for Children and Families



Boarding in Emergency Departments

- 16% of children boarded for 2 or more days

Licensed Residential Treatment Programs:

- Since 2021, the total number of children under age 21 in licensed residential treatment programs has decreased by 120 children

Out-of-home Treatment Beds:

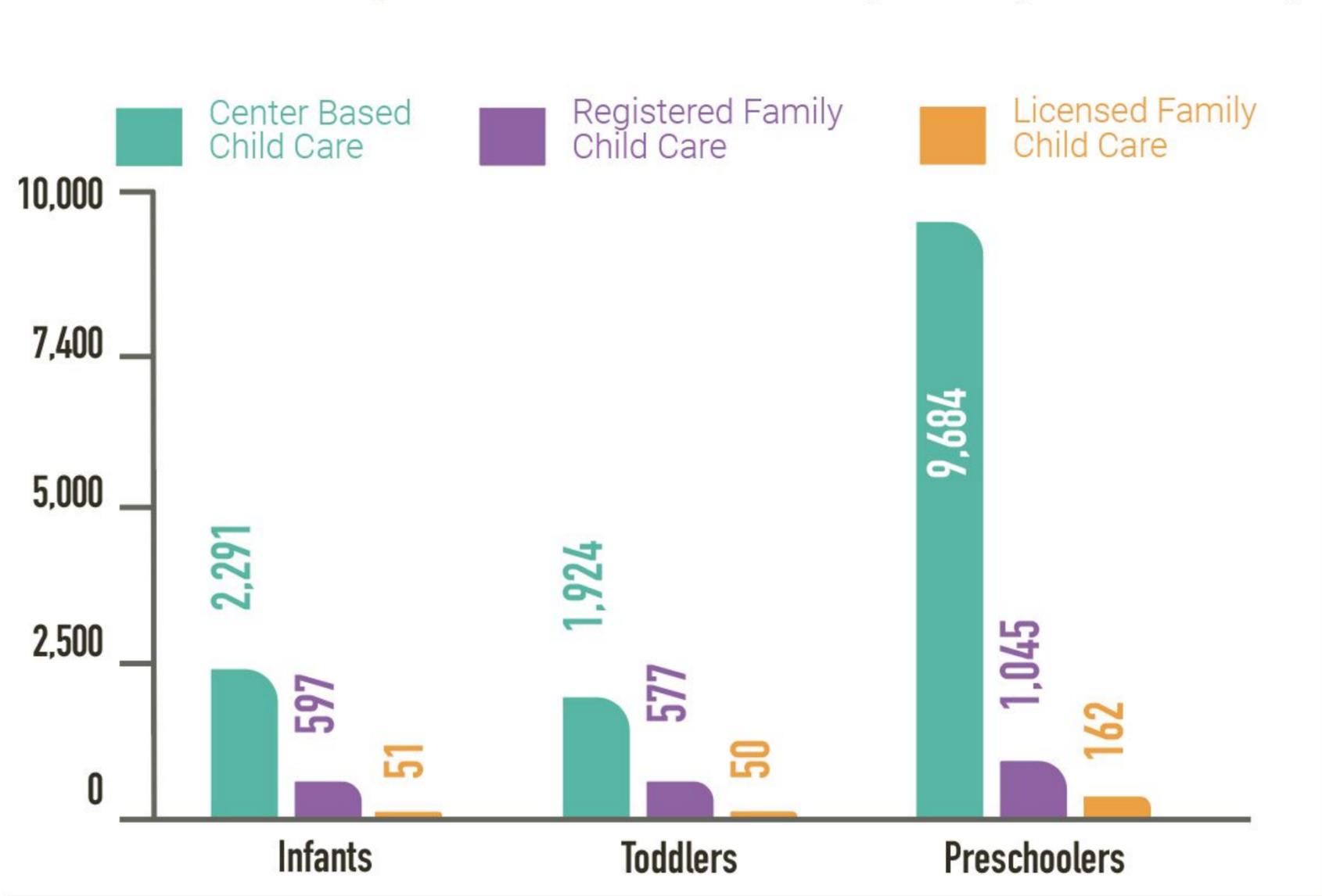
- Vermont currently has the lowest number of out-of-home treatment beds in over two decades.



Child Development & Education

Early Care and Education

Enrollment in Regulated Child Care Programs (2021 - 2022)

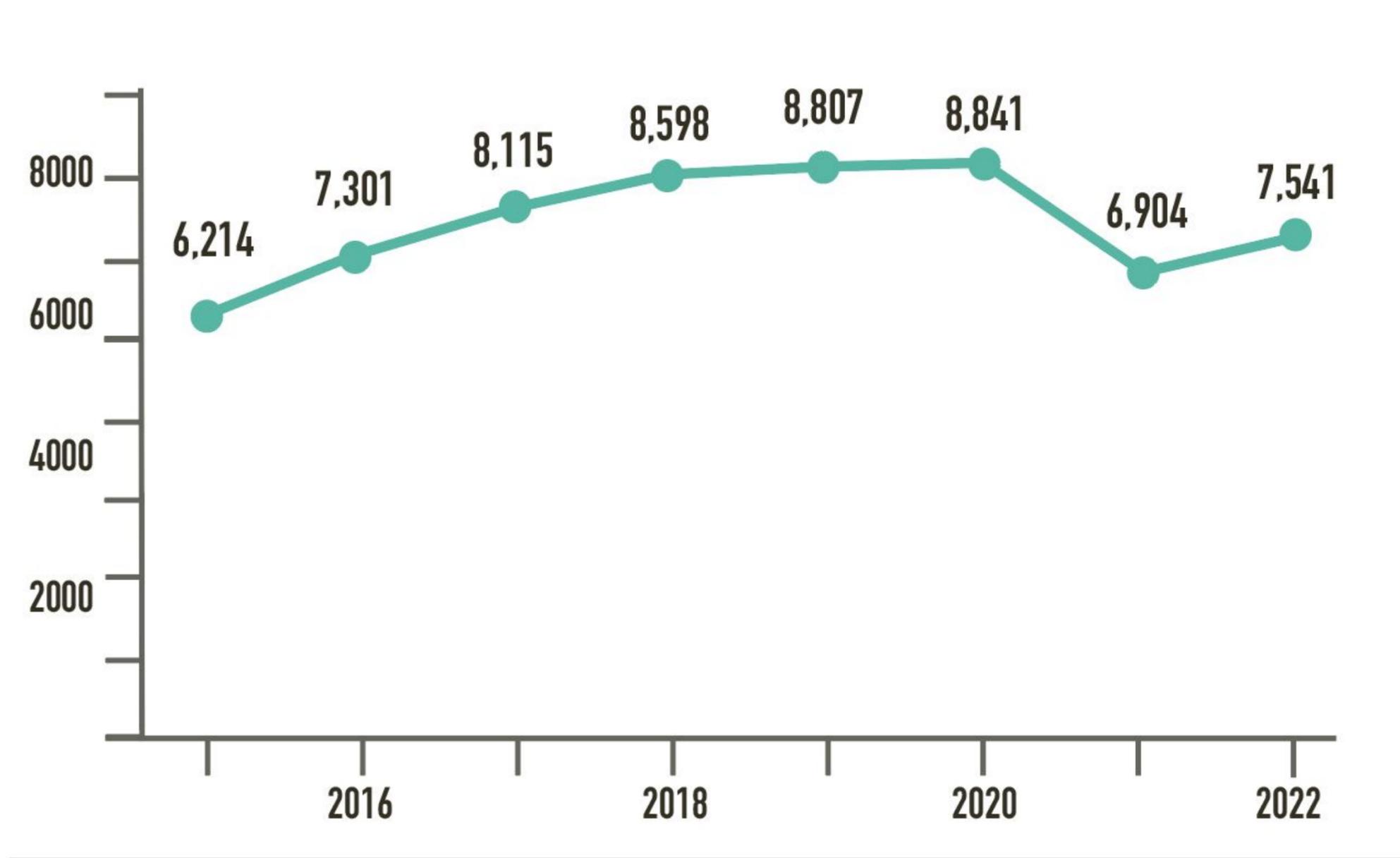


- Child Care Enrollment: **16,381 children** enrolled in regulated early childhood education programs.
- Quality & Access: 76% of infants, 54% of toddlers and 52% of preschoolers do not have access to high-quality programs
- Afterschool: **19,092 children** served in afterschool programs



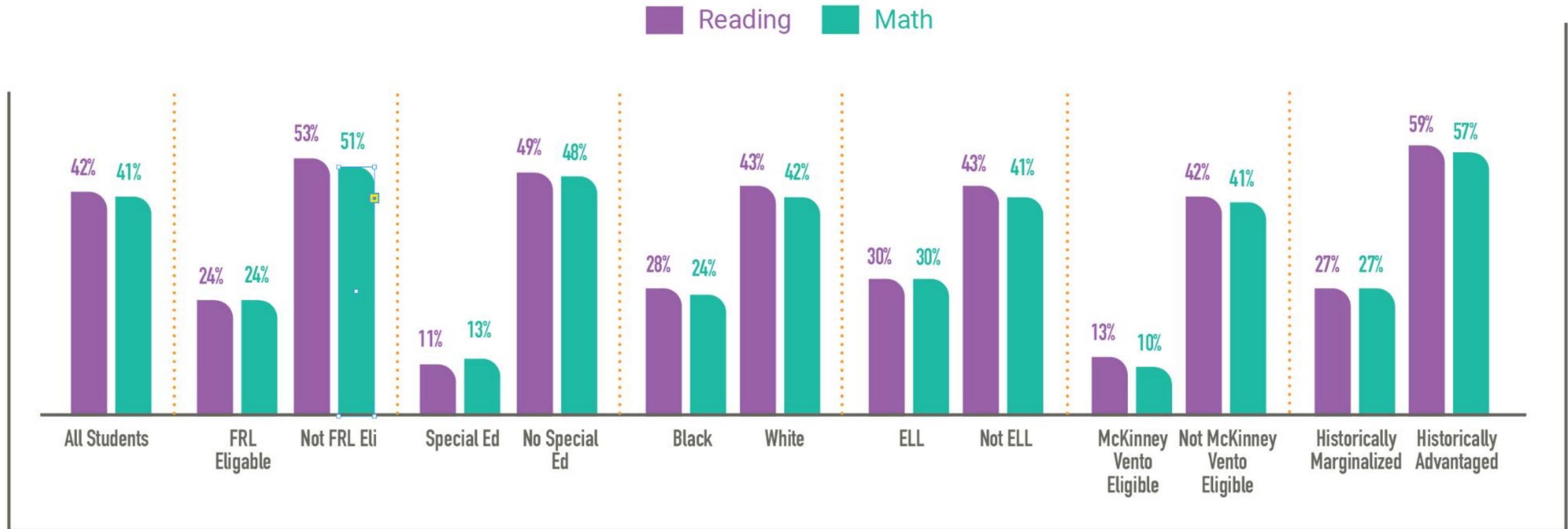
Universal Prekindergarten Education

Universal Prekindergarten Education Enrollment by School Year



Third Grade Reading and Math Assessments

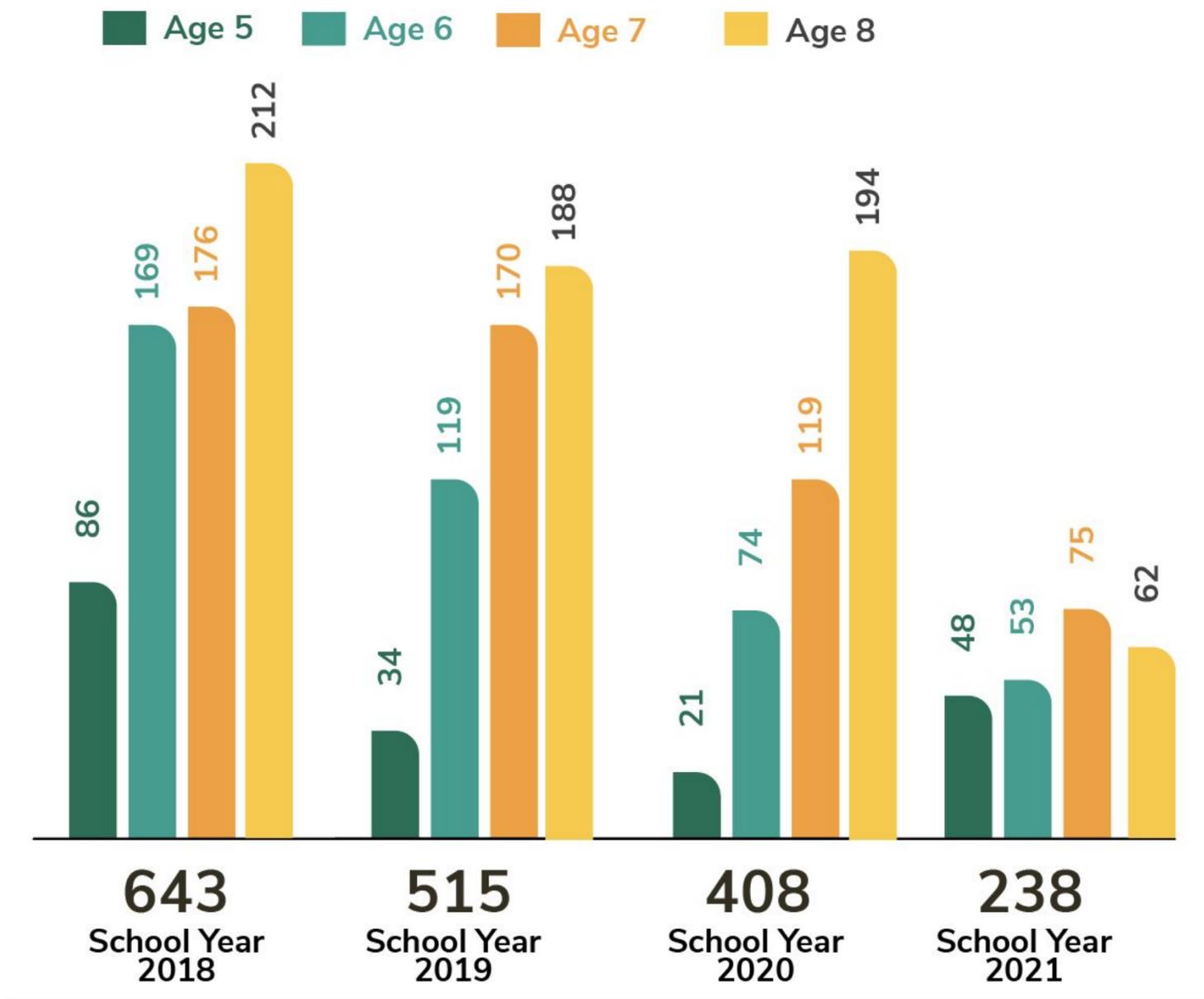
Percent of Third Graders Proficient or Above in Reading & Math Assessments by Characteristics Spring 2021



Child Development & Education

Exclusionary Discipline

Number of incidents by year for children ages 5 through 8



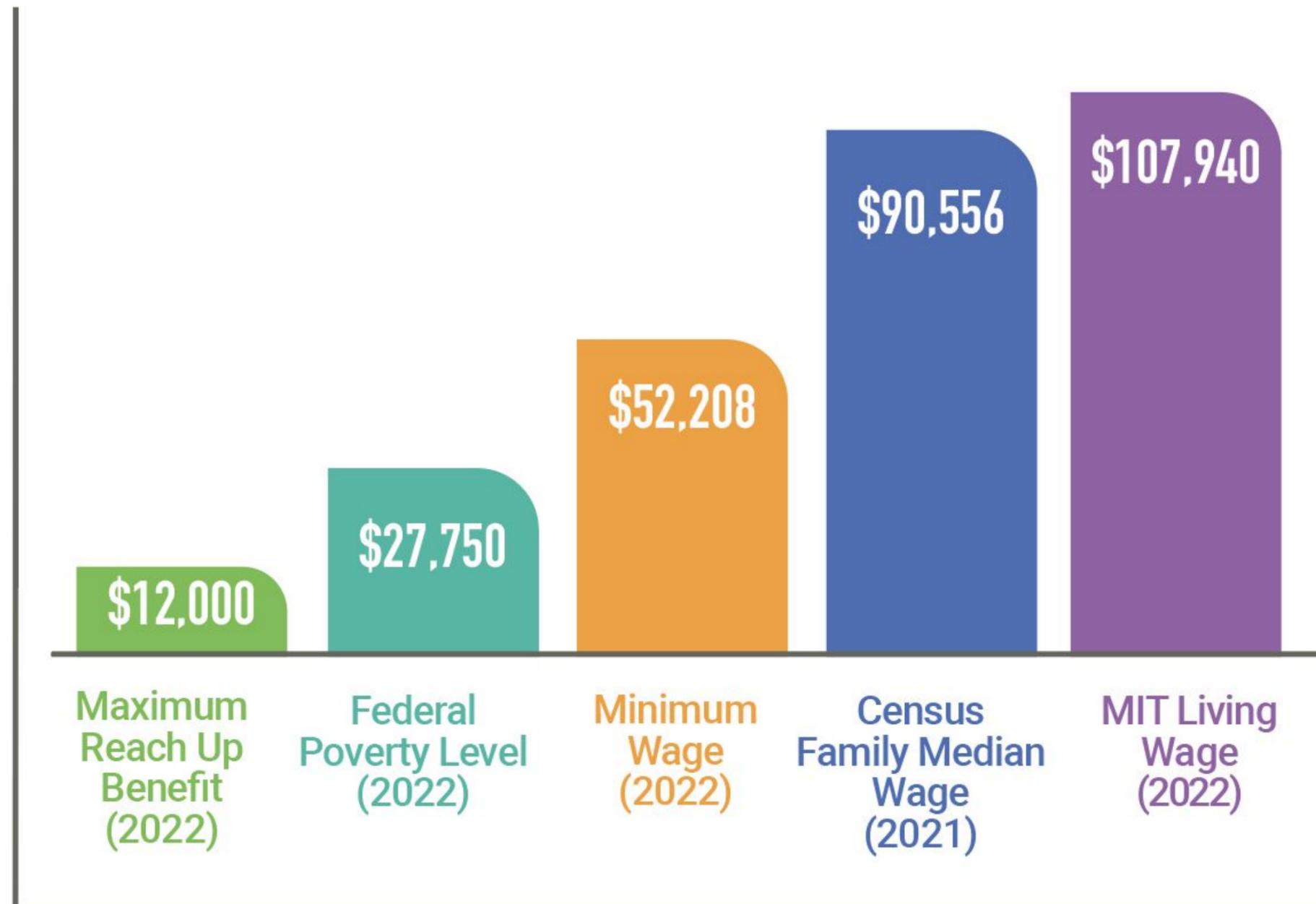
- Quantitative data on children under age 5 is unreportable
- For 5-year-olds the number of suspensions doubled between 2020-2021
- Vulnerable students (6-8 years) excluded at higher rates:
 - Students eligible for free and reduced lunch
 - Children receiving special education services



Basic Needs

Cost of Living

Vermont Wage Benchmarks for a Family of Four



SPOTLIGHT: Housing and Homelessness



32% of households are cost-burdened by their rent or mortgage

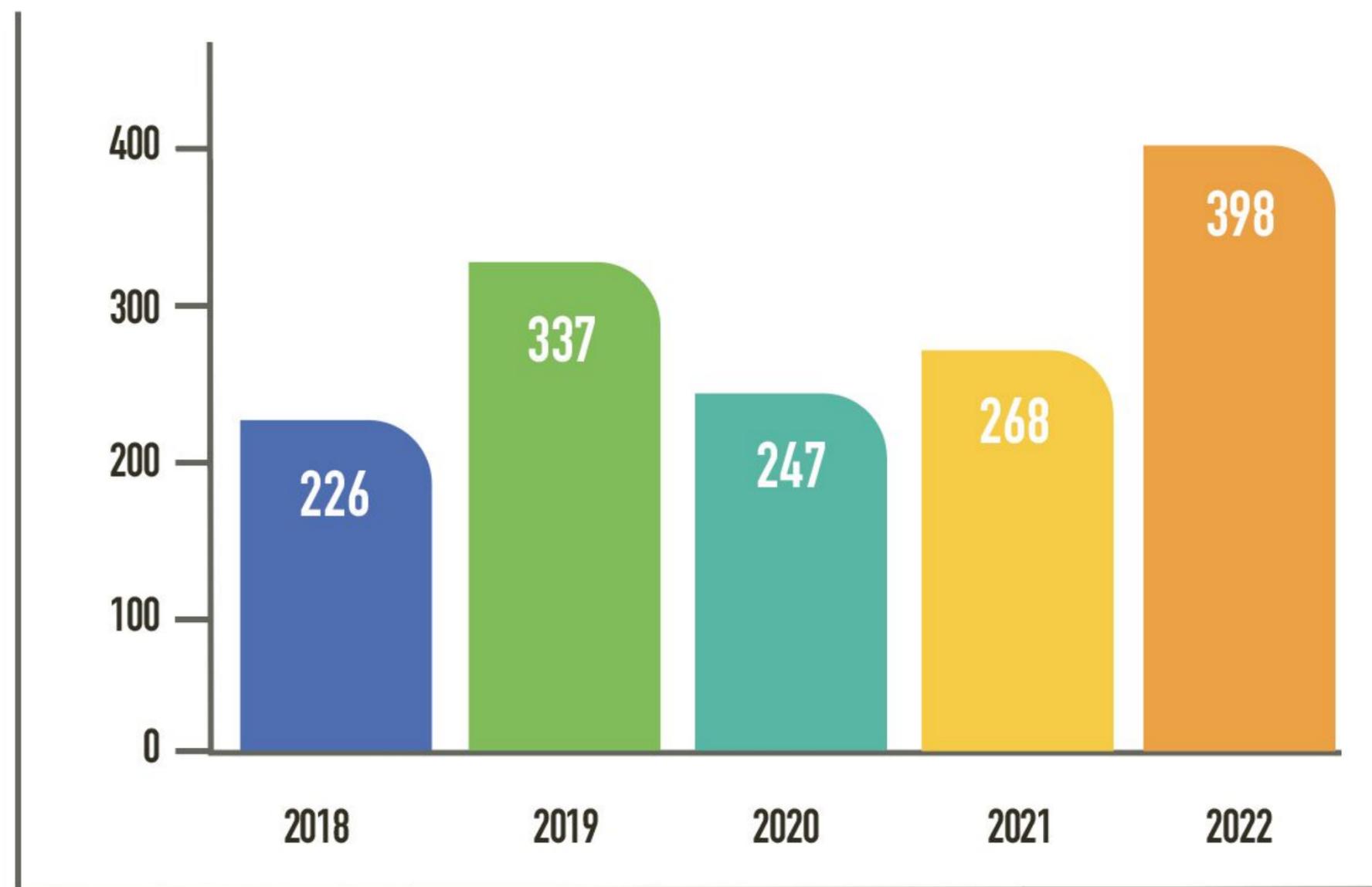
Rental vacancy rate was 2.4% in 2021

Homeowner vacancy rate of 0.6% in 2021



SPOTLIGHT: Housing and Homelessness

Students Under 9 Eligible for McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance



Striking increases in:

- Vermont homeless children under 9 enrolled in school
- The number of unsheltered people in households with children under 18 (+130%)



2023 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE VERMONT EARLY CHILDHOOD STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL NETWORK



- Value of care coordination
- Housing as a critical basic need
- Elevating and compensating lived experience and family voice
- Early childhood education workforce
- Quality early childhood care and education
- Mental health workforce, services, and trauma and resilience training
- Collective legislative action and monitoring and accountability in early childhood governance
- Inequities in data collection and reporting



Why are these recommendations important?



- Elevate urgent statewide issues and priorities
- Provide common language
- Communicate data to inform policy changes and motivate decision-makers
- Validate the work of the SAC Network
- Create accountability for policy change toward the vision articulated in the VECAP



US interagency policy statement on early childhood homelessness.

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ece/ecehomelessnesspolicystatement.pdf>



A person in the U.S. is most likely to experience homelessness in the **first year of life.**¹

A person is next most likely to experience homelessness at ages 1–5.¹

Almost half of children in shelter are under age 6.²

More than 150,000 very young children stay in shelters each year, and even more are sharing housing with others due to economic hardship.²



Homelessness during pregnancy and in the early years is **harmful to children's development.**³

Pregnant women experiencing homelessness are less likely to receive adequate prenatal care⁴ and their children are at increased risk for low birth weight.⁵

Working to Solve **Family Homelessness** at DCF

Prevention - Financial Assistance and Supports to help families avoid homelessness

Rapid Re-housing – Rental Assistance to help families bridge to affordable housing

Permanent Supportive Housing – Long-term, intensive, home-based service coordination to help families with complex needs find and keep housing

Reach Up Housing Supports



Reach Up Emergency Rental Assistance helps households pay their rent

Up to 18 months of assistance, through June 2023
Security deposits, rental arrears, rental assistance

Since April 2021, 2,342 households received \$17.8m in RUERA assistance

Family Supportive Housing



Intensive **case management** and **service coordination** for families with complex needs who have experienced homelessness

9 community-based service providers who partner with affordable housing agencies, 368 families served last year, 60% were children under 6 years

A Practice Framework for Delivering Services to Families in Supportive Housing

In SFY21, expanded from 7 districts to 10, and nearly doubled to support a caseload of 285 families statewide

Rapid Re-housing Vouchers



CARES Housing Voucher Program (SFY20-22): 262 families statewide exited homelessness into **permanent housing** with temporary rental assistance from CVOEO and local housing supports. Vast majority transitioned to a permanent housing choice voucher.

HOME Family Housing Voucher – Launching this week by CVOEO, 100 families experiencing homelessness will receive a temporary voucher to help them **exit homelessness**. Governor has proposed an additional \$3m (SFY23 BAA) to expand this project.

The State of Vermont's Children Report

Housing and the Impact
of Child Homelessness



Child Homelessness in Vermont 2016 to 2023

The **2016** point-in-time recorded a 28% reduction in the number of homeless individuals statewide—the largest one year decrease in a PIT count in the nation in 2016. **156** households had children, or 20% of total households counted.

The **2022** point-in-time count shows the number of people in households with children under 18 increased by 130% from pre-pandemic levels, from **629** in 2019 to **857** in 2022.“

Today, approximately **400** families and over 500 children are experiencing homelessness in Vermont.

Child Homelessness In Vermont

Risks Due to Child Homelessness



Children:

- Have higher levels of emotional and behavioral problems;
- Have increased risk of serious health problems;
- Are more likely to experience separations from their families;
- Experience more school mobility, repeat a grade, be expelled or drop out of school, and have lower academic performance; and
- Are are more likely to experience homelessness as adults.

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness

Low Vacancy Rates - A Major Challenge

- Census data show a 2.4%-4.2% rental vacancy rate for Vermont in **2022**.

(Margin of error - 1.7%-2.3%) (<https://www.census.gov/housing/hvs/data/rates.html>)

- County data from **2019** show a statewide vacancy rate of 3.4% and a Chittenden County rate of 1.9% in **2019**.

(<https://www.housingdata.org/profile/housing-stock/vacancies>)

- **Current** vacancy number for Chittenden County is 0.4%.

(Brad Minor at Allen Brooks & Minor)

Only multi-family *commercial* rentals, so it represents only 1/3 of the total rentals. Does not include nonprofit housing, owner-occupied units, short-term-rentals. However it is likely representative of the overall vacancy rate.

This means out of every 100 units, fewer than one is available at any given time.

Healthy Vacancy Rate: 5-7%

Strategies and Interventions that Work

Affordable Housing - *Housing for which the occupant(s) is/are paying no more than 30 percent of his or her income for gross housing costs, including utilities.*

Rapid Rehousing – *Intervention that rapidly connects families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing through a tailored package of assistance that may include the use of time limited financial assistance and targeted supportive services.*

Prevention - *Strategy that prevents homelessness for people seeking shelter by helping them stabilize and preserve existing housing, or identify immediate alternate housing arrangements and, if necessary, connecting them with services and financial assistance to help them return to permanent housing.*

Solving Child Homelessness Now

- Invest in rental supports for up to 18 months to rapidly rehouse and stabilize families.
- Build on current and successful models of support like *Family Supportive Housing* to provide direct service and help coordinate services including prevention for families experiencing homelessness.
- Revisit Vermont's Roadmap to End Homelessness, reconvene Vermont's Council on Homelessness and the Child Poverty Council.





Retention and Just Cause Eviction

Just Cause Eviction includes a right to counsel - *this is a short term, low or no cost intervention* that will allow for due process and assist with family homeless prevention.

No Cause Eviction - *Families continue to get evicted without cause*

Additional Challenges and Opportunities Facing Families

- Mobile Homes as Affordable Housing - Create more cooperative ownership opportunities. By strengthening existing advocacy, organizing, and infrastructure to ensure prevention
- Reimagine the charitable food system based on mobility and outreach, food choice and food that is tailored to health conditions (partnerships with medical providers).
- Access to broadband and technology – new grant opportunities and subsidies for people with low-income.
- Access to affordable childcare and create more business opportunities with state support through the micro-business programs at the Community Action Agencies.

Goal 1: All children have a healthy start

INVEST IN SAFE, PERMANENT HOUSING AS A BASIC NEED



- Invest in housing programs and resources that expand availability and promote affordability and equity in Vermont's rental and real estate markets by means such as:
 - Expanding the Family Supportive Housing Program
 - Protecting manufactured home communities by investing in infrastructure repair and maintenance
- Support families who are unhoused or experiencing housing transitions by investing in trauma-responsive shelters, transitional housing, transportation resources, and related staffing. Ensure children are able to attend school in their home districts if preferred.



Recommendations & the VECAP In Action



Policy Playbook



LEGISLATORS, THE ADMINISTRATION, & OTHER LEADERS

- Formulating priorities and strategy
- Informing investments and legislation development

STAKEHOLDERS, ADVOCATES, AND FAMILY LEADERS

- Informing legislative testimony
- Sharing with partners and decision-makers as part of advocacy efforts

PUBLIC & PRIVATE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS

- Aligning strategic planning efforts
- Monitoring progress and outcomes of programs

LEARN MORE IN OUR NEW POLICY PLAYBOOK

- The development process and how to use the recommendations
- Data and context on the recommendations and why they matter



Vermont's Early Childhood Data and Policy Center | Vermontkidsdata.org

What is vermontkidsdata.org?

Vermontkidsdata.org is a hub of the most high-quality, up-to-date information on the status of children and families across sectors. It is a critical tool for answering policy questions by centralizing data from the complex early childhood system.



Data Question

Do you have a question about early childhood data in Vermont? For example, the status of universal prekindergarten education (UPK)?

Data Dashboard

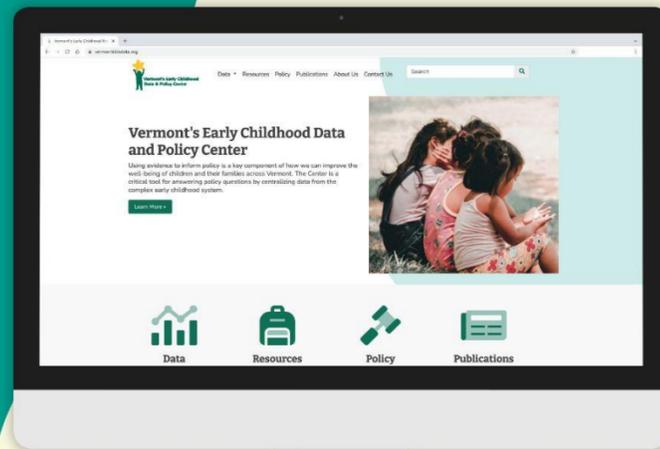
Vermontkidsdata.org includes searchable individual data points across sectors (mental health, basic needs, child development, and education). For UPK, the data dashboard contains the most recent data on UPK enrollment.

Publications

The publications page is a robust collection of Vermont-specific and national publications by topic. The page is organized to provide a broad overview of each component of the early childhood system and dive into what is known about a particular topic. UPK publications include official documents, studies, and reports that can be used to inform policy development.

Policy

The policy sections outline how the BBF Network and State Advisory Council identify priorities, make recommendations, and track progress on those recommendations. Other policy work includes documentation of legislative testimony, data briefs, and analysis of and advisement on federal legislation. UPK is a clear priority identified in the 2021 Policy Recommendations under "Develop a Well-Resourced Early Care and Education System."

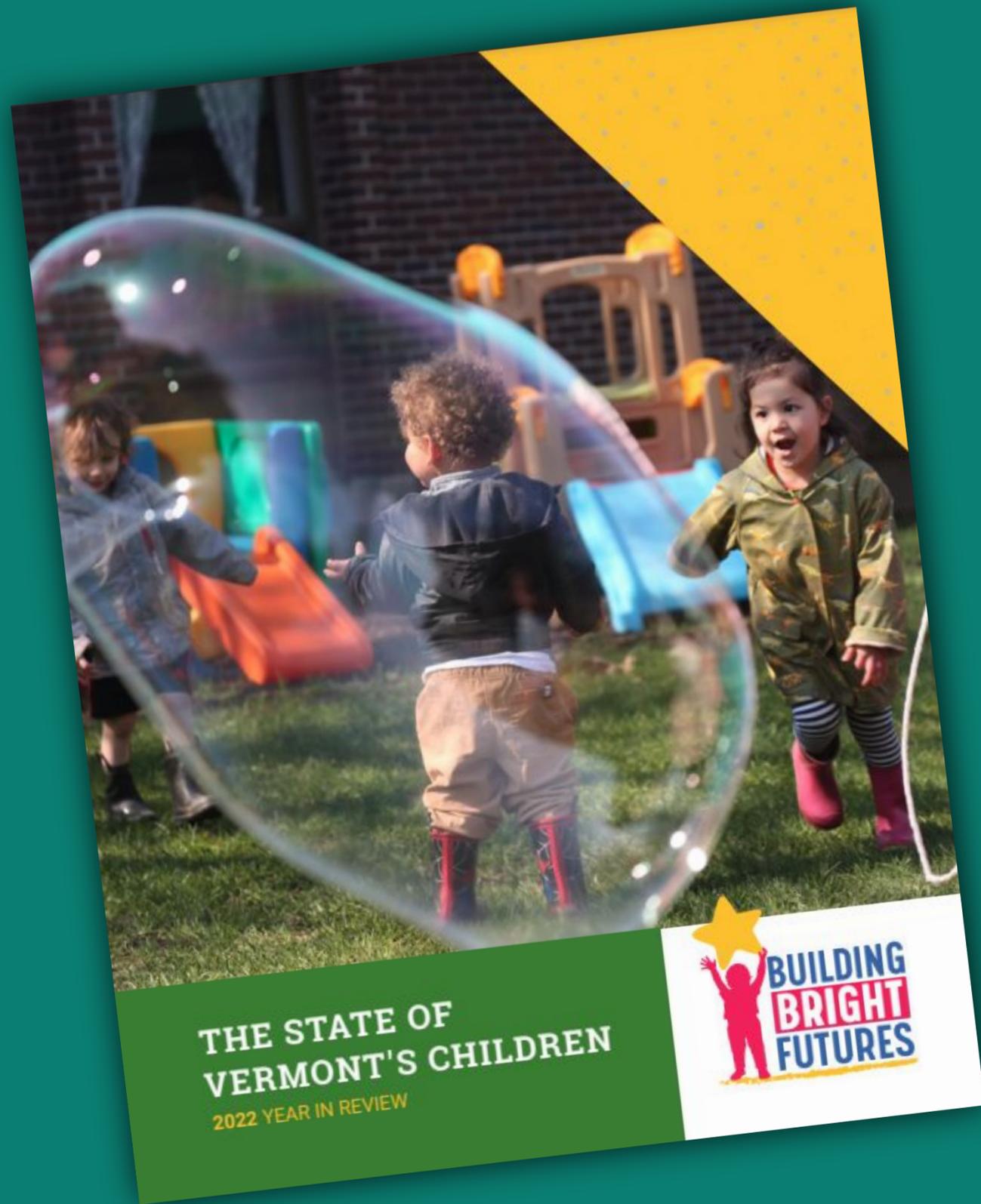


What's next?

Vermontkidsdata.org provides the foundation for Vermonters to understand what data and evidence exist (and what is missing) to build an early childhood system that is integrated, well-resourced, and data-informed (VECAP Goal 4). Two mechanisms that will be used to support this work are Early Childhood Grand Rounds and the Data and Evaluation Committee.

- **DATA:** A data dashboard, National and Vermont-specific datasets, data spotlights, and fact sheets
- **POLICY:** Early Childhood Policy updates, SAC Network recommendations, memos on Build Back Better, and BBF Legislative Testimony
- **PUBLICATIONS:** Reports and publications from BBF, agency, community and national partners, recorded research presentations, webinars, and coming soon, Early Childhood Grand Rounds





The State of Vermont's Children

2022 Year in Review

www.buildingbrightfutures.org
www.vermontkidsdata.org

Download or request a free hard copy



Food insecurity



13,610 Vermont children under 18 lived in households that were **food insecure** in 2020.



- Approximately 12% of Vermont children under age 18 lived in food insecure households in 2020
- Of the 12% of children living in food-insecure households, 33% are likely ineligible for federal nutrition programs



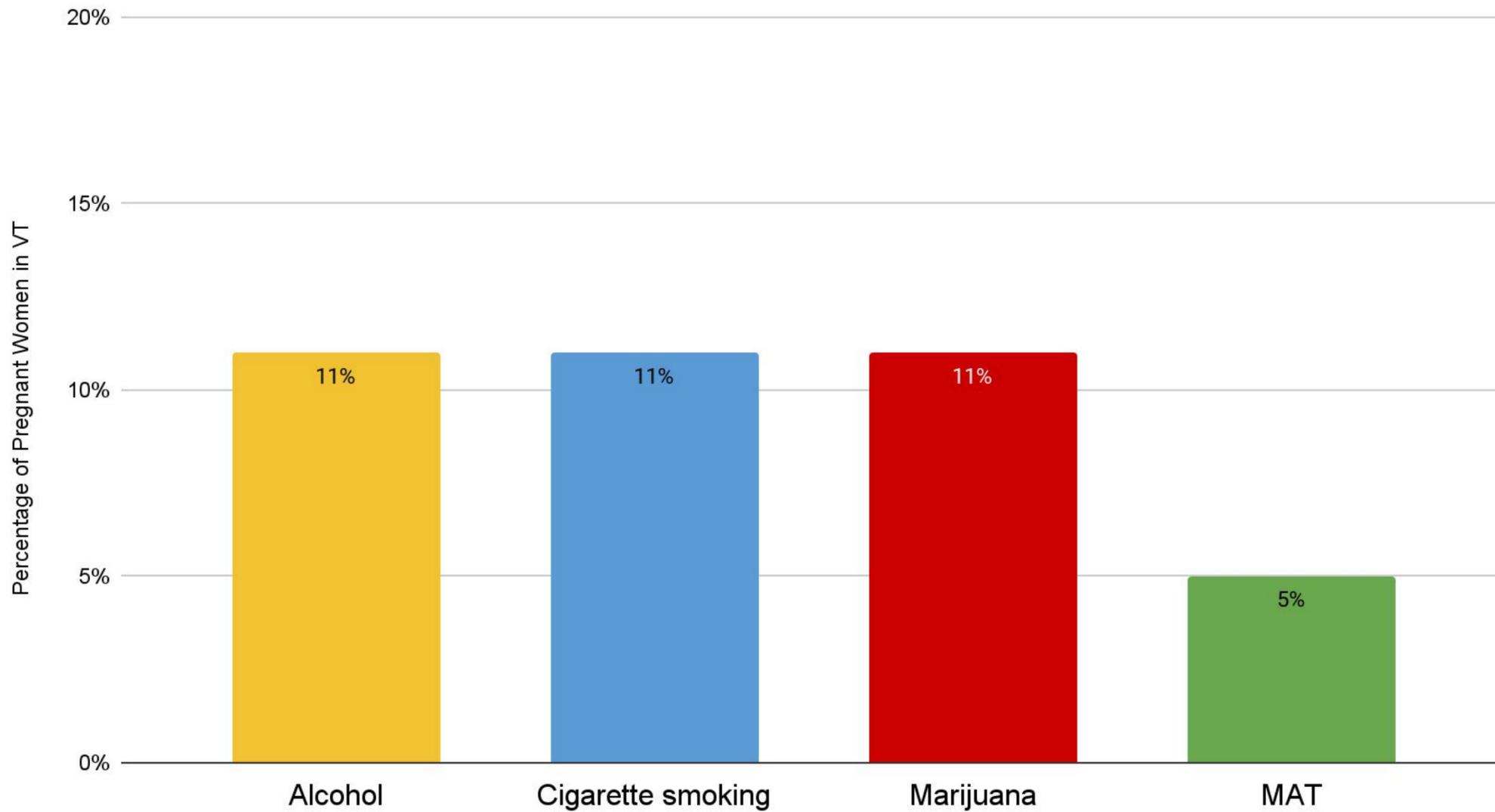
ACES

- In Vermont, 18.6% of children under age 12 have had two or more adverse childhood experiences (see Figure XX).
- divorce of a parent or guardian (19.8%),
 - living in a home where it is hard to cover basic needs (12.3%),
 - **living with someone with substance use disorder (11.3%)**
 - **living with someone who has a serious mental health challenge (11%).**



Substance Use During Pregnancy

Substance Use During Pregnancy 2020



Child Development & Education Wraparound Services



CIS

Parent Child Center Network (PCCs)

Head Start

Reach Up



Child Development & Education Wraparound Services



- CIS: CIS served a total of **3,896 unique clients** with at least one service in 2022
- Parent Child Center Network (PCCs): **50,000 participants** were served across all 15 PCC programs in 2022
- Head Start: HS and Early HS **served 1,360 individuals** (787 children 3-5; 536 infants and toddlers; and 37 prenatal birthing parents) in 2022
- Reach Up: **3,532 cases** in October 2022
- Afterschool: **19,092 children** served in afterschool programs



Children's Integrated Services



- During FFY 2022, **CIS served a total of 3,896 unique clients** with at least one service
- CIS families surveyed reported a largely **positive and helpful experience**
- **Care Coordination & CIS Workforce** (interactions, relationships, and knowledgeable staff) were the most critical components of the program for survey respondents



Mental Health for Children and Families

18%

Vacancy rate for DAs and Specialized Service Agencies positions in October 2022



SAC Network Recommendations Related to Mental Health Workforce

- Investing in efforts to recruit a diverse mental health workforce
- Continuing to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for mental health services
- Investing in trauma and resilience training for family-serving providers (in the fields of mental health, education, etc.)



Child Development & Education

Exclusionary Discipline



- Quantitative data on children under age 5 is unreportable due to extremely small numbers
- Vulnerable students (6-8 years) excluded at higher rates:
 - Students eligible for free and reduced lunch
 - Children receiving special education services

*Exclusionary Discipline in Early Childhood
Workgroup Report forthcoming January 15, 2023*



2022 Family Needs Assessment Report

www.buildingbrightfutures.org
www.vermontkidsdata.org

Coming in March 2023



The State of Vermont's Children

2022 Year in Review

★ *Celebrating 10 Years of Data to Inform* ★
Early Childhood Policy & Decision-making

Presented by Building Bright Futures and
Vermont's Early Childhood Data & Policy Center
(Vermontkidsdata.org)

Monday, January 9, 2023



THE STATE OF
VERMONT'S CHILDREN
2022 YEAR IN REVIEW



The State of Vermont's Children

2022 Year in Review

★ *Celebrating 10 Years of Data to Inform* ★
Early Childhood Policy & Decision-making

Presented by Building Bright Futures and
Vermont's Early Childhood Data & Policy Center
(Vermontkidsdata.org)

Monday, January 9, 2023



THE STATE OF
VERMONT'S CHILDREN
2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

