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**Using Systematic Review Evidence to Implement an Intervention to Better Support and Strengthen Kinship Caregivers**

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**Objectives/aims**

The objectives of the presentation are as follows:

1. Highlight how findings from the systematic review of kinship care informed state policy regarding placing more children removed from the home with kin, and county practice around assisting kinship caregivers in accessing needed services.
2. Describe implementation and outcomes of a kinship supports intervention that includes the administration of a Kinship Supports Needs Assessment and the coordination of corresponding services and resources.
3. Engage audience participants in a discussion of innovative approaches to better supporting kinship caregivers to enhance child welfare and caregiver outcomes.

**Methods**

The methods used for the study of the kinship supports interventions were as follows:

1. An Implementation Index was developed and administered at the county-level to determine the level to which the kinship supports intervention was implemented with fidelity.
2. A case-level analysis was conducted to determine the penetration of the kinship supports intervention as defined by the administration of the Kinship Supports Needs Assessment.
3. Focus groups/interviews were conducted to explore kinship supports eligibility and referral processes, caregiver training, organizational investment, data systems and monitoring, staffing structures, and service array availability.

**Main findings**

The findings from the kinship supports intervention are as follows:

1. There was variability in implementation across years with kinship support policies and procedures emerging over time, and across county size with larger counties scoring higher on the Implementation Index.
2. Kinship Supports Needs Assessment was administered to 56% of caregivers with lower penetration rates in smaller counties.
3. Certification status greatly impacted the referral and eligibility of kinship supports and services to families.
4. Intervention funding increased the array of services available to kinship families, although there were not enough resources to adequately provide for all kinship caregivers.