

CENTER FOR
LATIN AMERICAN
& LATINO STUDIES

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY | WASHINGTON, DC



CENTRAL AMERICAN
MIGRATION
AND U.S. COMMUNITIES



Principal Investigators:

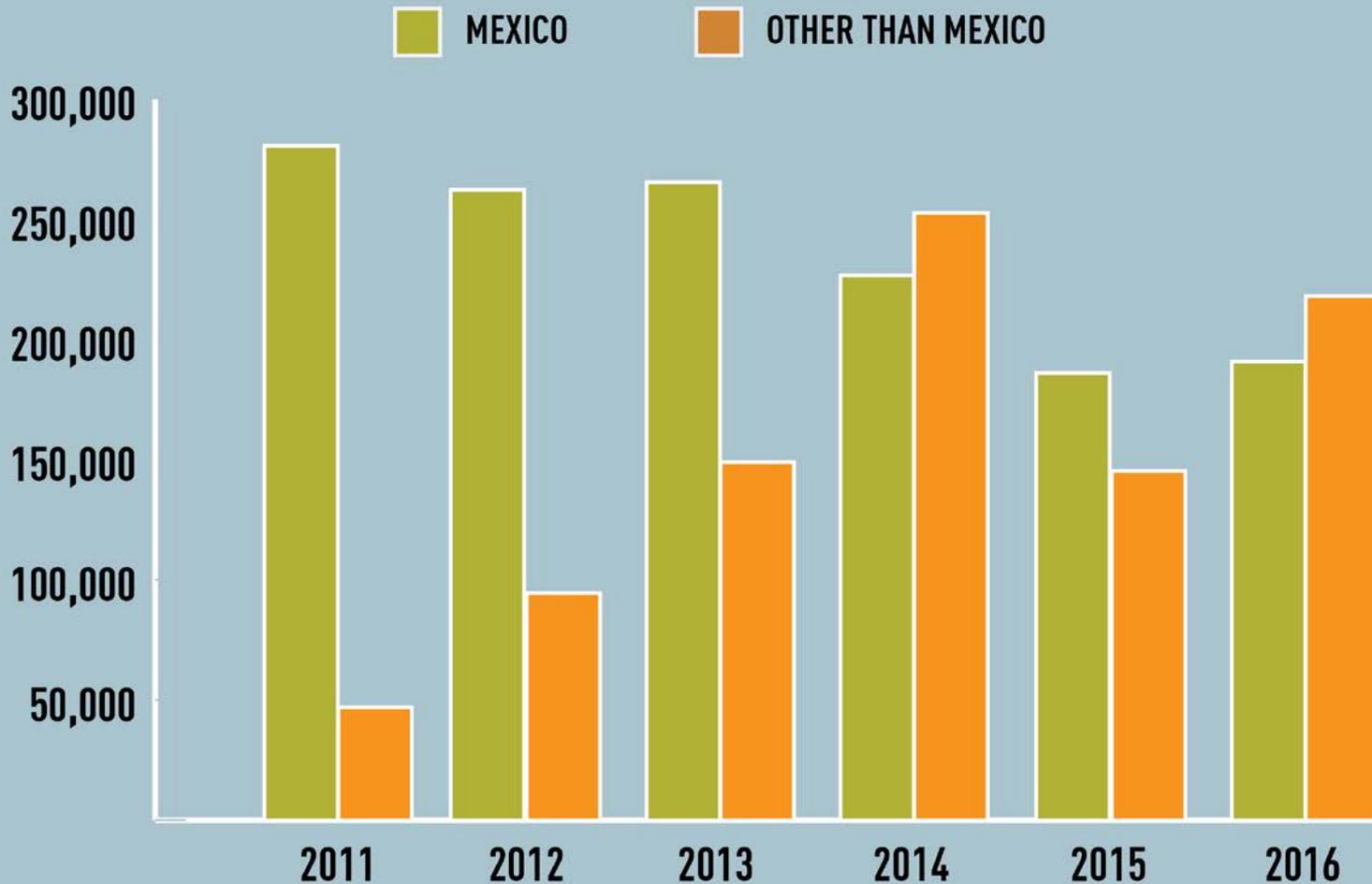
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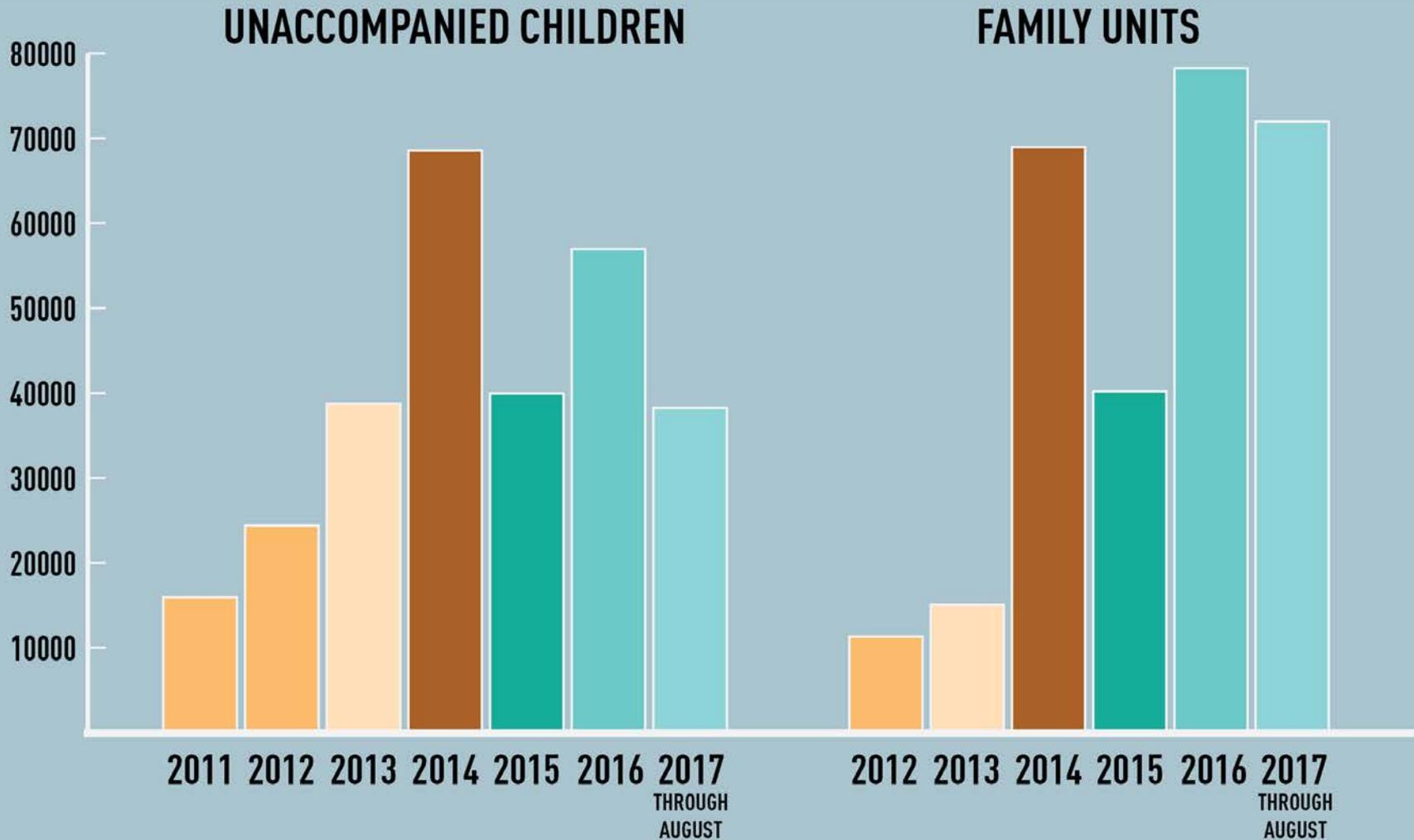
Southwest Border Apprehensions, FY2011-2016



Data Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection



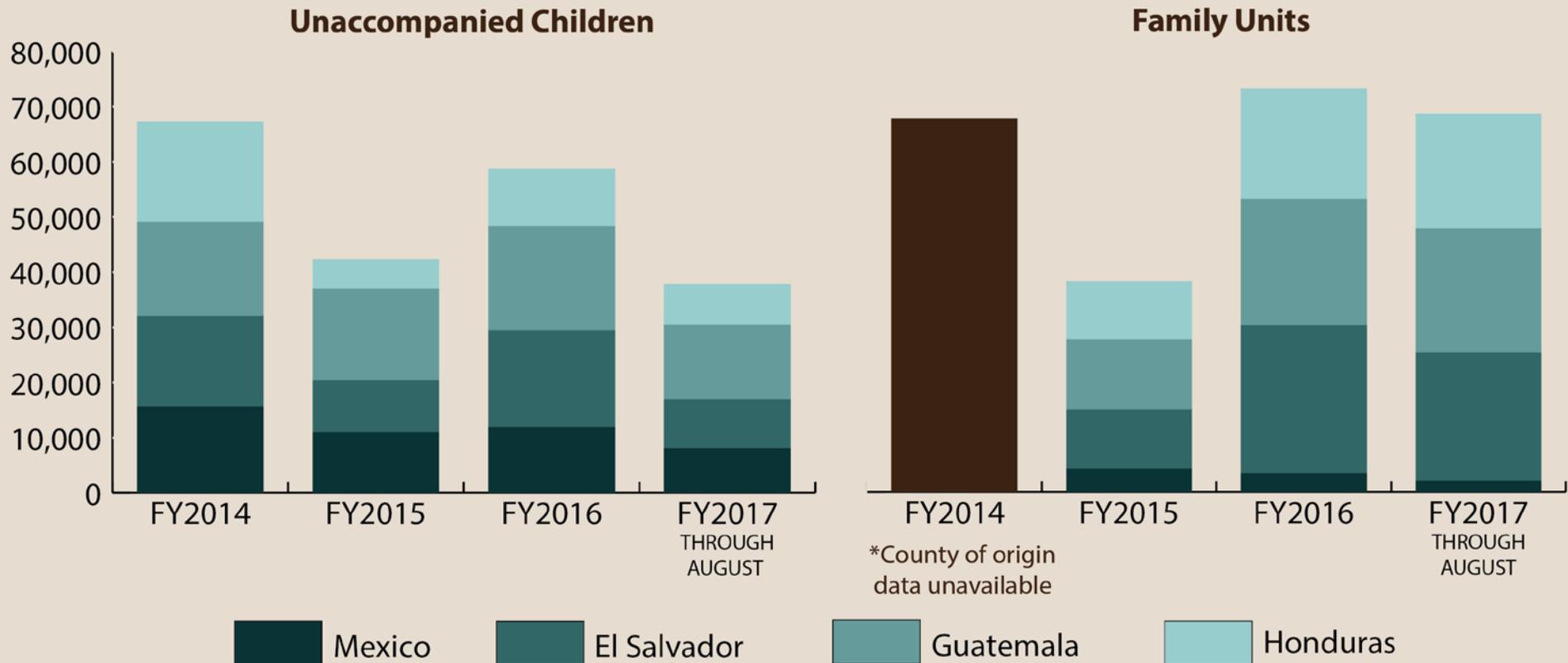
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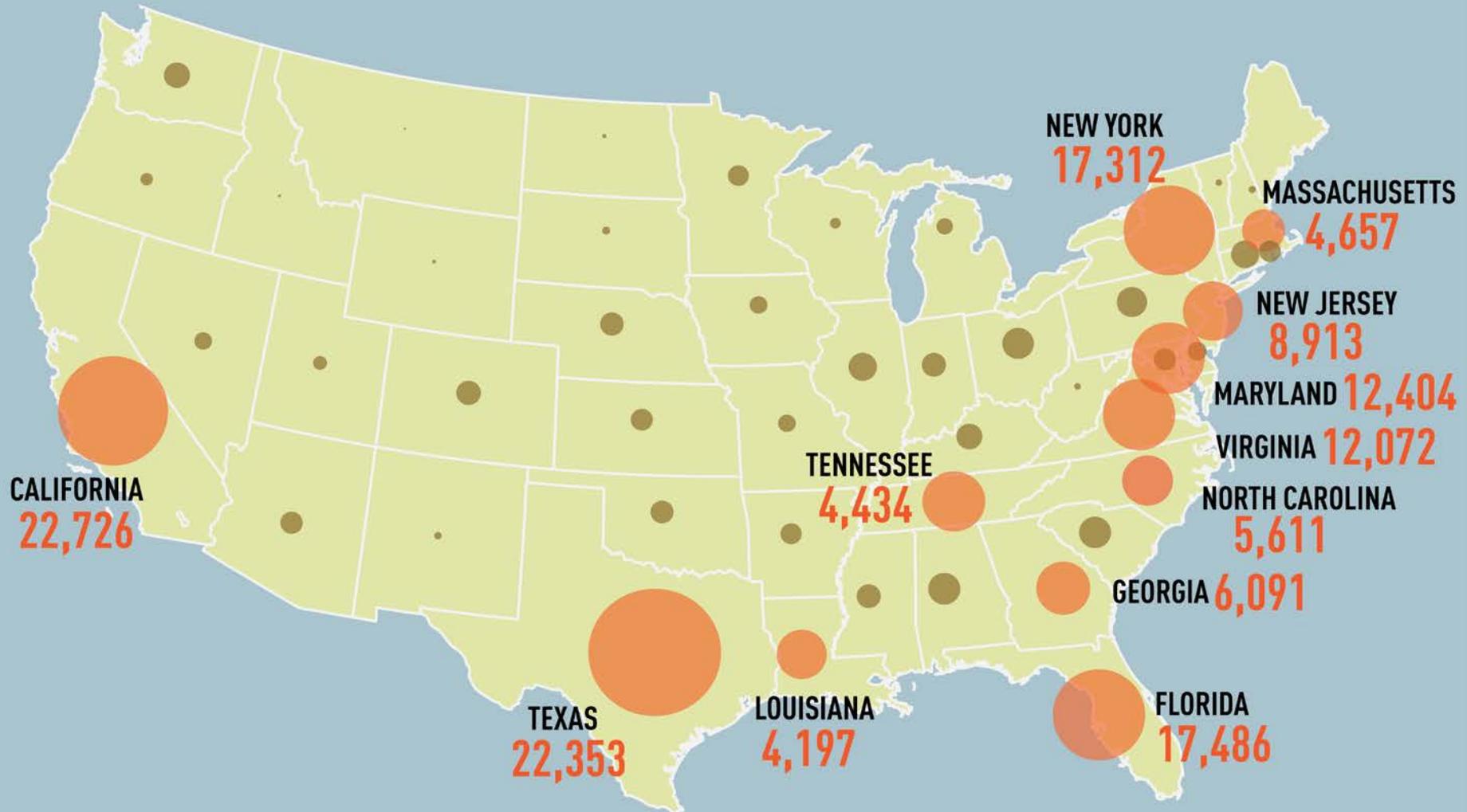


Southwest Border Apprehensions by Country of Origin, FY2014-2017





UACs Released to Sponsors by State, FY2013-2017



Data Source: Office of Refugee Resettlement



- ❑ What is the **impact** of Central American immigration on local governments and communities, including with respect to **healthcare**, and **education**? What may be the short- and long-term costs and benefits to U.S. communities of Central American immigration?
- ❑ How strong is the **infrastructure for providing services** to the population in the U.S.? Which agencies are providing services, and what are the gaps in services?
- ❑ Are immigrants or refugees being released into U.S. communities adapting and becoming **integrated** into their local communities, or are they struggling? What are the **health, mental health, and educational outcomes** of immigrants or refugees being released into communities in the U.S.?
- ❑ How is DHS handling the increase in arrivals, especially women and children? In particular, how is Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) new **Family Case Management Program (FCMP)** performing? What are the outcomes of families with histories of trauma enrolled in the program?



Key Informant Interviews

Service Area	Organization Type				
	Government agency			Nonprofit (CBO) provider organization	Nonprofit advocacy group
	Local	State	Federal		
Education	✓	✓		✓	✓
Health and human services	✓	✓		✓	✓
Legal services	✓	✓		✓	✓
Parallel Study Component					
DHS response and FCMP			✓	✓	✓

	Washington, DC Metropolitan Area	Houston Metropolitan Area	North Carolina
Education	12	12	12
Health/Human	12	12	12
Legal	12	12	12
FCMP	12		
	48	36	36

N = 120



- ❑ FCMP interviews nearly finished - **ahead of schedule**

- ❑ 3 venue interviews are **roughly on schedule**, drawing on existing AU informant networks and new contacts. However:
 - some potential interviewees unwilling to speak for a project supported by DHS in light of policy changes since our project was first proposed nearly a year and a half ago
 - Noteworthy in that they do agree to speak with us for other Center-sponsored research projects
 - DHS might do well to consider implications for understanding how government policies impact cooperation from/communication with immigrant communities



Three Community Case Studies

- Washington, DC metropolitan area
- Houston metropolitan area
- North Carolina

Three Service Area Briefs

- Education
- Health and human services
- Legal services

Family Case Management Program Report

(not initially planned but potentially useful to ICE and other stakeholders)

Stakeholder Briefings in Washington, DC and Houston



This work is critical since the issues remain as urgent as ever for DHS, and the well being of U.S. communities, in the short and long term alike:

- ❑ Our research from other projects confirms that **most of this population has grounds for relief from removal**, and when access to legal counsel is available, will be granted authorization to remain in the U.S.
- ❑ Sociology 101 tells us that immigrant families that will remain here for decades will languish, get by, or thrive as a function of **how well they are integrated** into their communities
- ❑ Our research from other projects confirms that the more vulnerable Central American immigrant populations are – lack of community integration would appear to be a good proxy for vulnerability – the more they will be **exposed to criminal networks** whose activities reverberate beyond immigrant populations to impact the broader community.
- ❑ To ignore this is to expose U.S. communities to **security risks** that are neither necessary nor inevitable.



The RFP specified questions that DHS wanted answered, and this testifies to the utility of our findings to the agency and other government stakeholders:

- ❑ DHS/DHHS-ORR/DOJ-EOIR
 - **Compliance with immigration obligations** (check-ins, hearings, removal, etc.)
 - Impact of legal service provision **on immigration case outcomes**
 - Impact of service provision on **immigrant and community security**
- ❑ DHS/DHHS-ORR
 - **Compliance with mandatory schooling**
 - Impact of increased migration on **service delivery systems**
 - Impact of health and social service provision on **well-being of all local community residents**
 - Impact of service provision on long-term **stability of immigrant communities**
 - Best practices for building **community response capacity.**
- ❑ DHS-ICE
 - **Utility of the Family Case Management Program**
 - **Outcomes** for enrolled families with **histories of trauma**