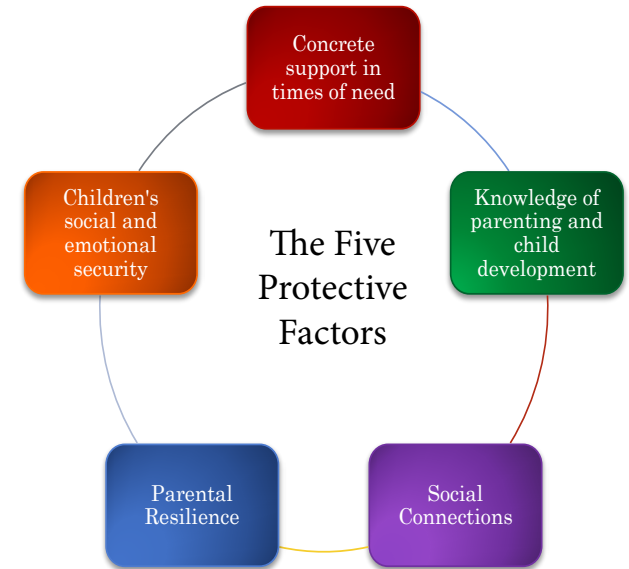


Strengthening Families Initiative

The Strengthening Families Initiative (SF Initiative) is a Commission funded effort with investments designed to ensure that all families are well-equipped to help their children reach their optimal development and full potential. Expected long term outcomes include that:

- Families access necessary support systems and community services
- Children are raised in safe and supportive homes and communities
- Families have the opportunity to come together and build networks of support

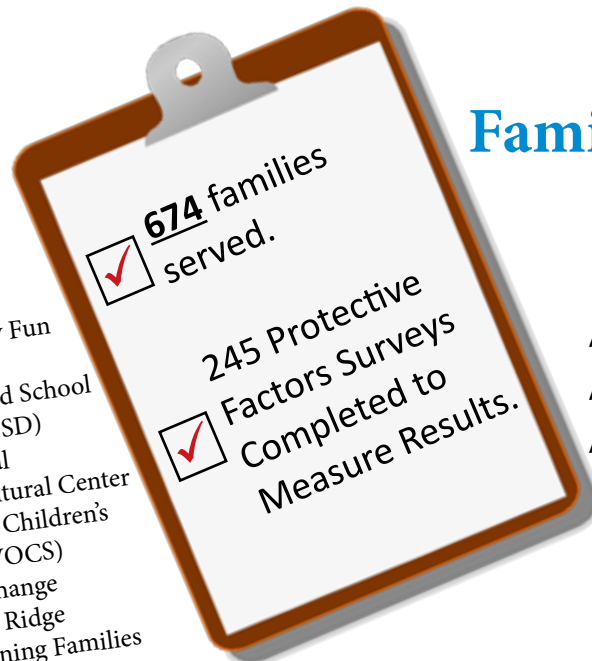
To achieve these outcomes, the Commission adopted a research-based framework, Strengthening Families™ that promotes five “Protective Factors”. These five Protective Factors align with the Commission’s Strategic Plan objectives, and are the foundation of the Strengthening Families approach.



Network Partners

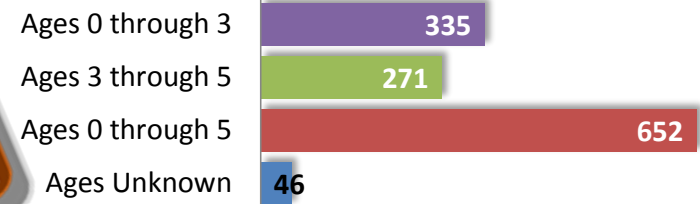
In fiscal year 2012-2013, the Commission funded 11 programs throughout 2012-13. The Network Partners were:

- ◆ Butte Baby Steps (BBS)
- ◆ Parents as Teachers (PAT) at Chico Unified
- ◆ Parents as Teachers (PAT) at Thermalito
- ◆ Parent Education Experiential Resource Program (PEER)
- ◆ Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting Program (TAPP)
- ◆ BCOE Family Fun Program
- ◆ Chico Unified School District (CUSD)
- ◆ Help Central
- ◆ Hmong Cultural Center
- ◆ Valley Oak Children's Services (VOCS)
- ◆ Youth 4 Change - Paradise Ridge
- ◆ Strengthening Families Project



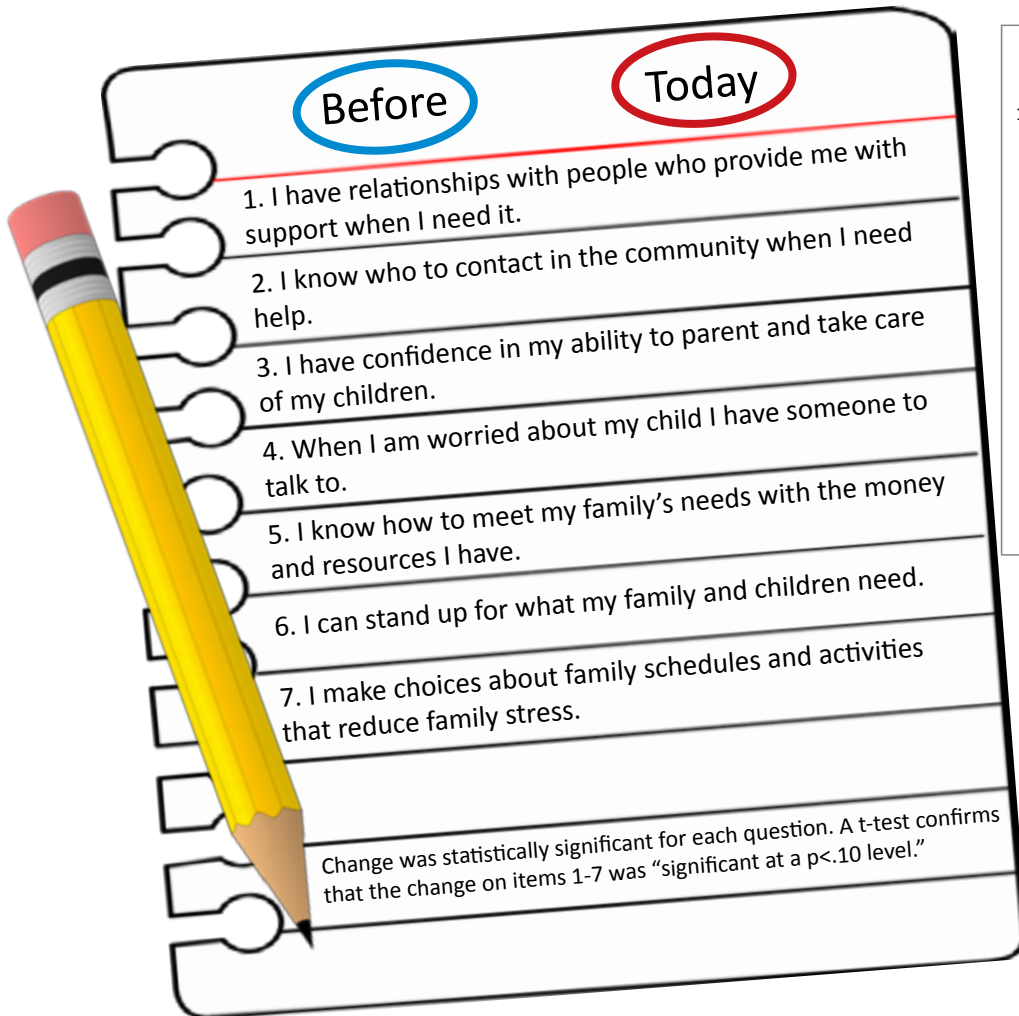
Families and Children Served

Children Served in SF Children Network



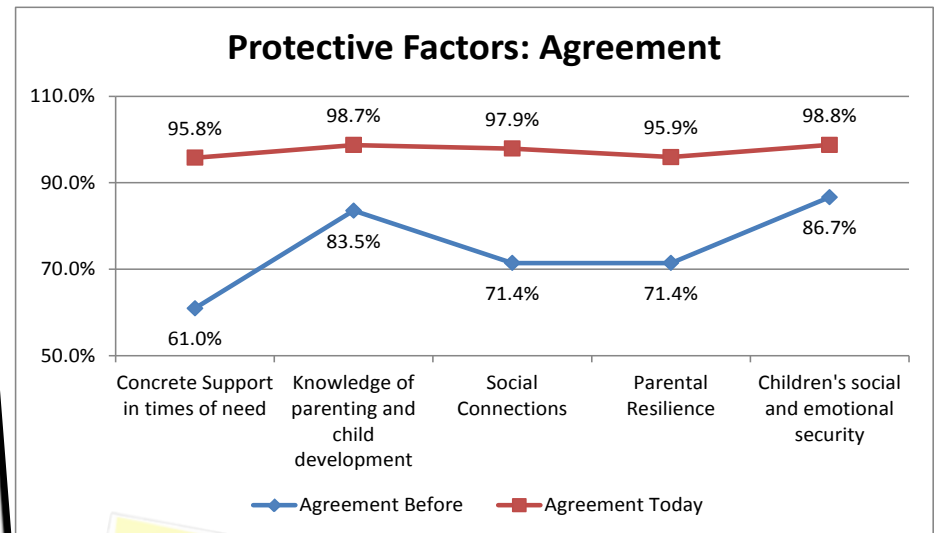
Protective Factors

The Protective Factors survey measured participant outcomes through retrospective survey questions and open-ended questions. The following results identify participant perceptions of change. The retrospective survey questions allow parents to rate themselves before and after receiving family support services along a range of Protective Factors descriptors that are indicators of the five Protective Factors.



	Before	Today
1. I have relationships with people who provide me with support when I need it.		
2. I know who to contact in the community when I need help.		
3. I have confidence in my ability to parent and take care of my children.		
4. When I am worried about my child I have someone to talk to.		
5. I know how to meet my family's needs with the money and resources I have.		
6. I can stand up for what my family and children need.		
7. I make choices about family schedules and activities that reduce family stress.		

Change was statistically significant for each question. A t-test confirms that the change on items 1-7 was "significant at a p<.10 level."



In all cases, agreement increased for each Protective Factor and at least 95% of respondents were in agreement after program services.



Children Screened by ASQs and DRDPs

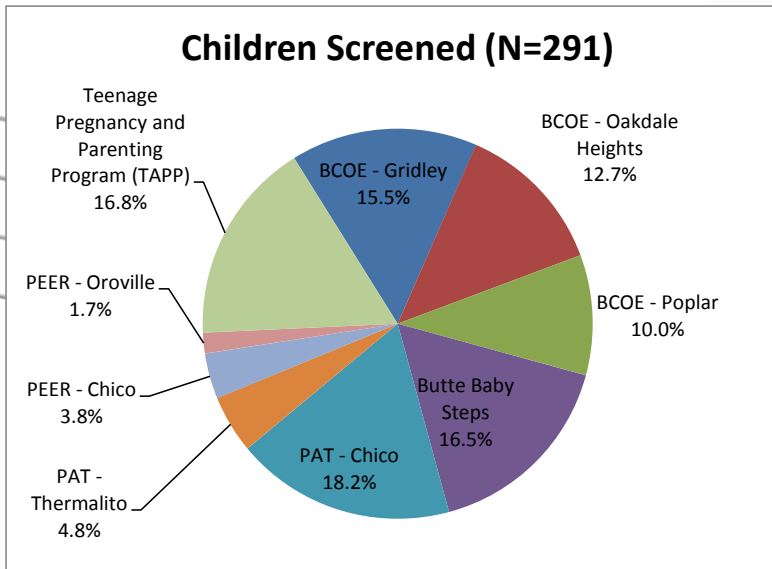
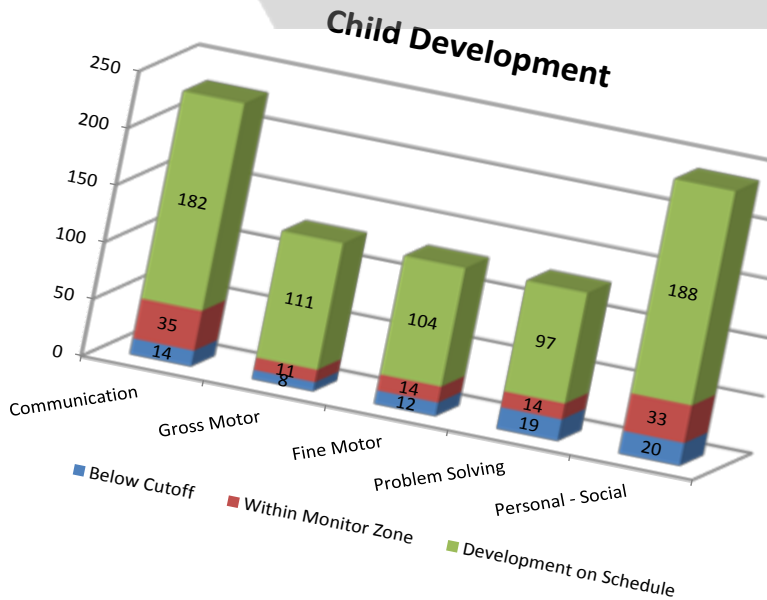
372 Completed Screenings

291 Children Screened

81 Children with Multiple Screenings

The Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) is designed to help parents check their child's development and use the results of the ASQ to help talk with pediatricians, teachers or other professionals if they have concerns about their child's development.

The Desired Results Development Profile (DRDP) is an assessment tool to track and guide a child's progress of learning and development through an early care and education program. Results are used by teachers to further a child's development and can be shared with parents, teachers, or other professionals. In 2012-13, BCOE used the DRDP to track the children's progress.

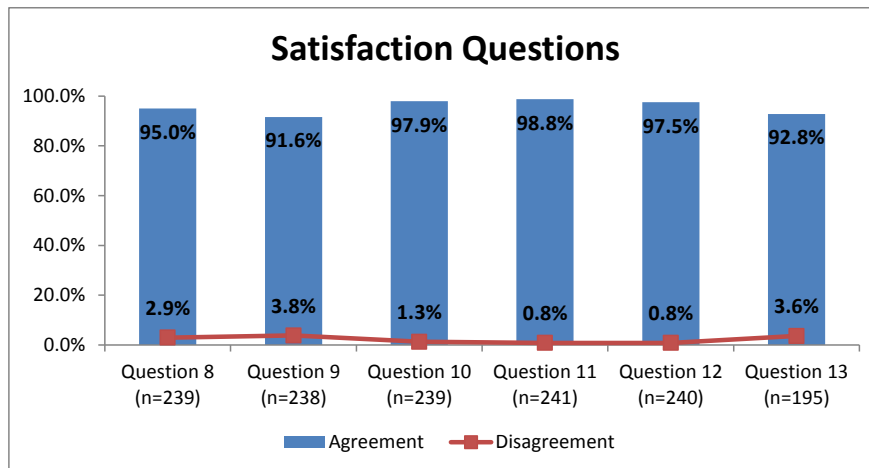


Screenings Completed

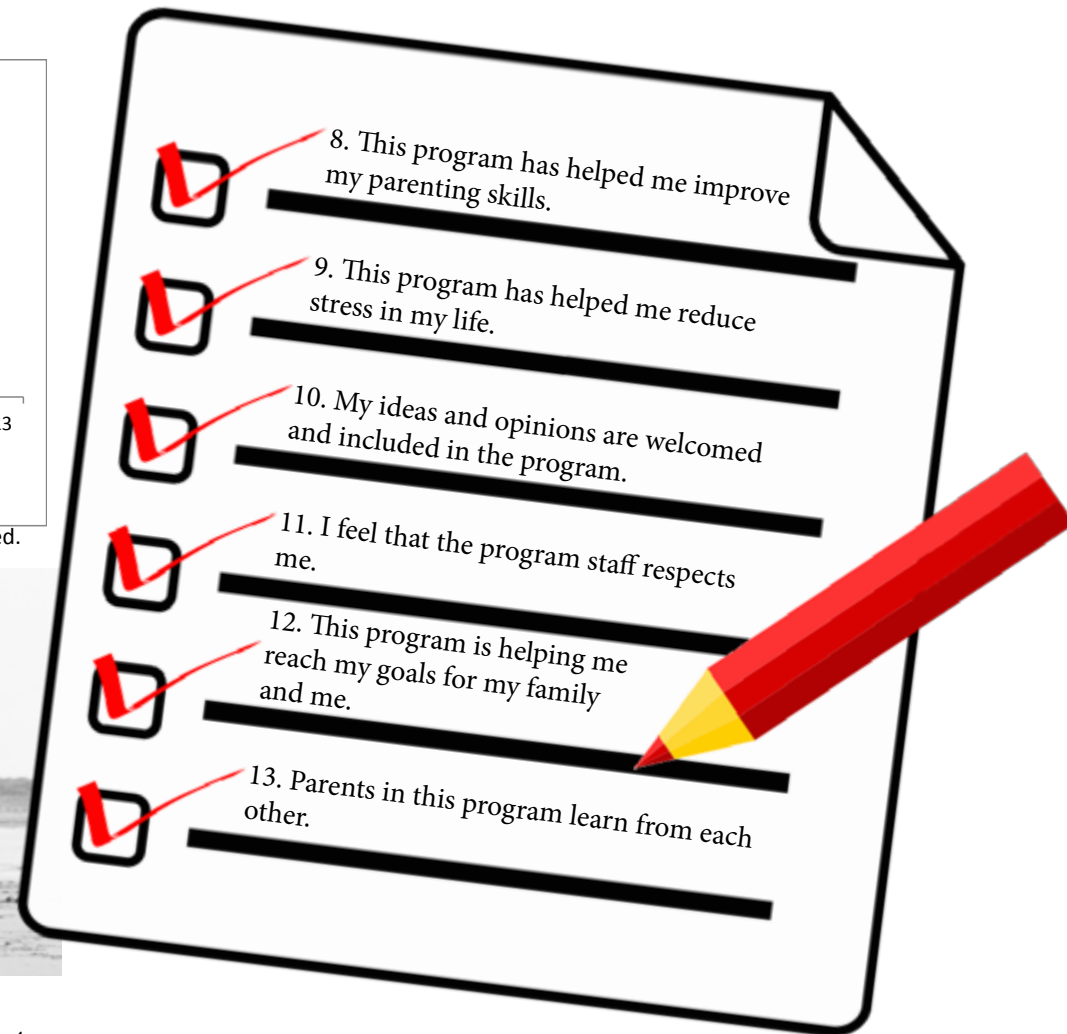


Client Satisfaction

Each program in the SF Initiative Network included customized questions about client satisfaction at the end of their Protective Factors survey. Successful Strengthening Families programs work closely with parents and families to provide services that meet the unique needs of each family by integrating participant feedback into program planning. When parents feel respected by program staff they are more likely to share opinions and ideas regarding program improvement.



Percentages do not add up to 100% because neutral answers were not included.

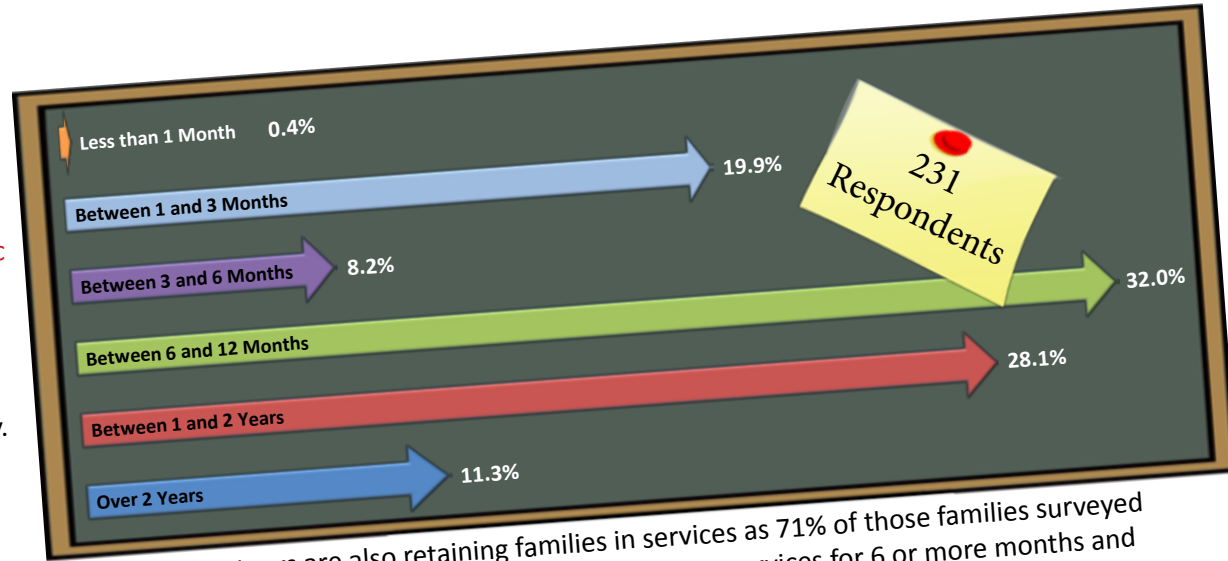


Families

- ➔ The SF Initiative Network reached a number of subpopulations in the county in FY 2012-13 including **teen parents**, **new parents**, **parents involved with Child Protective Services (CPS)**, **parents in isolated geographic areas** and **Hmong** and Latino families.
- ➔ Network partners continue to serve families that represent a **younger**, **poorer**, **more diverse**, **higher risk** population than the general population of Butte County.

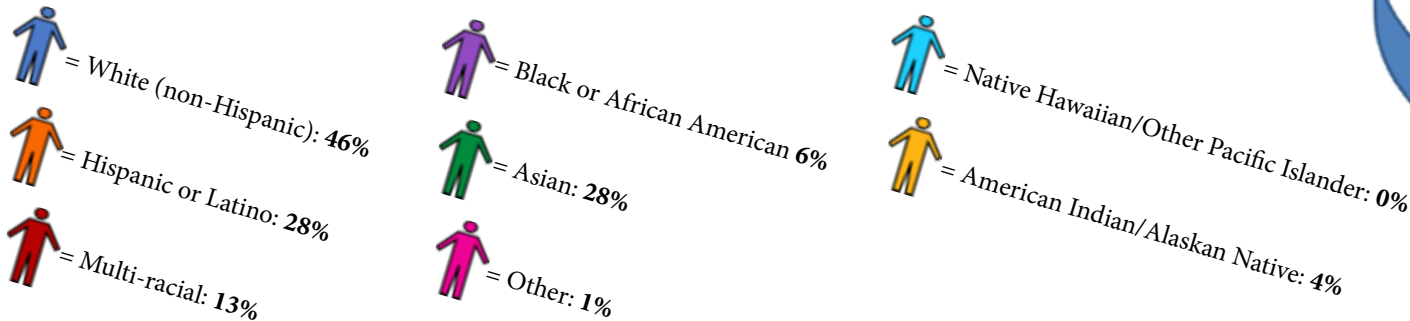


20.8% of 130 respondents have had CPS Involvement



Network partners are also retaining families in services as 71% of those families surveyed during 2012-13 indicated they have been receiving services for 6 or more months and 39% had received services for 12 or more months.

237 Respondents



Findings

- ➔ The SF Initiative is beginning to change systems to increase the Protective Factors in Butte County.
- ➔ The SF Initiative Network partners are increasing Protective Factors within the families that they serve.
- ➔ Families continue to access help from the SF Initiative Network partners and other community organizations, and report improved self-help skills.
- ➔ The SF Initiative has positively impacted the three levers for change within the Network and the Commission and impacts on the three levers are taking root countywide.
- ➔ Formative evaluation has helped Network partners implement the Protective Factors in some ways but could do more to capture and transfer knowledge beyond the Network.

“ They made me feel a part of this community. ”

“ The program is very reliable and I am very satisfied with what they have accomplished with my son. ”

“ I feel very comfortable with the program and the teachers. ”

“ This helped me understand more about my daughter and taught me activities I can do with her. ”



“ It has made me grow as a parent and person. ”

“ It is a wonderful program. ”

“ I have learned so much from all the teachers over the years that all four of my children have attended school here. ”

“ It taught me to communicate better with my son. ”

Questions about this report should be sent to Kelly Marschall, Social Entrepreneurs Inc. (SEI), 775.324.4567 or kmarschall@socialent.com. For progress and updates about the First 5 Butte County Strengthening Families Initiative, please visit the Commission’s website: <https://www.first5butte.org>