

# Help Me Grow: Systems Approach to Supporting Early Childhood Development

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# Developmental Delays in Early Childhood

- 25% of children through the age of five are at risk for developmental delay or disability (Zablotsky et al., 2019)
- Early identification and intervention can have a significant impact and can reduce the need for costly interventions over time (Office of Early Childhood Development, 2022)
- Lack of comprehensive, integrated, and equitable access to quality care in early childhood (Nebraska Preschool Development Grant, 2019)



# What is Help Me Grow?

## One Stop Shop for:

- Information/Resources
- Coordinated care

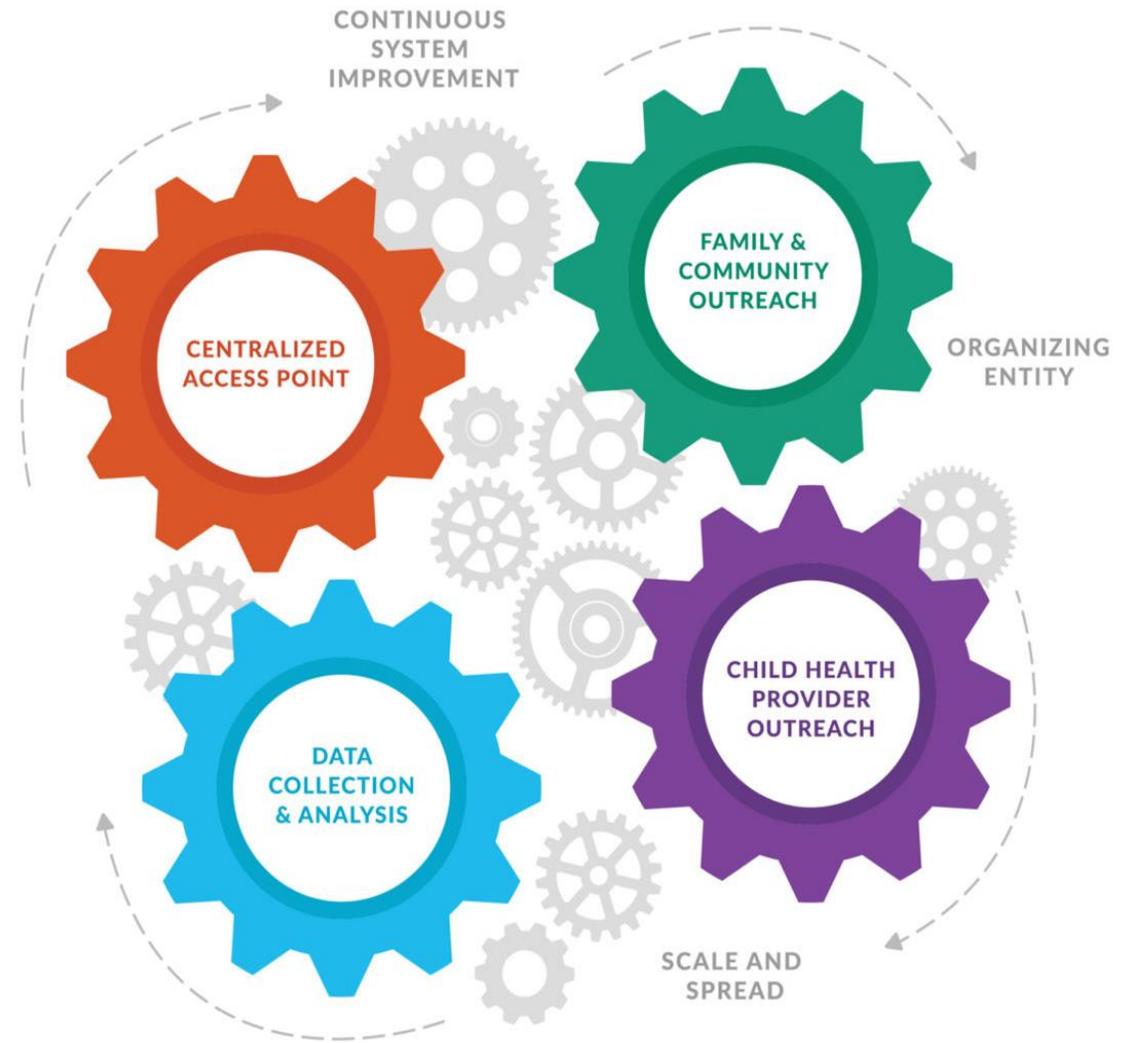
## Empowers families to:

- Celebrate their child's development
- Understand what to do if their child isn't meeting developmental milestones



# HMG System Model

- Organizing Entity
  - Children's Hospital & Medical Center
- Data Collection/Analysis
  - UNL
- Provider Outreach
  - Team led by Dr. Erica Petersen
- Family & Community Outreach
  - Lincoln Littles
- Centralized Access Point (CAP)
  - United Way 211, UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute, UNL's Answers for Families



# Evaluation Questions

- Implementation Phase
    - Pilot in Lincoln/Lancaster County (February – December 2021)
1. Who are the families that are currently being referred through the centralized access point (CAP)?
  2. What are the presenting referral issues?
  3. What are the number and types of services to which referrals were made?



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Who Did We Serve?

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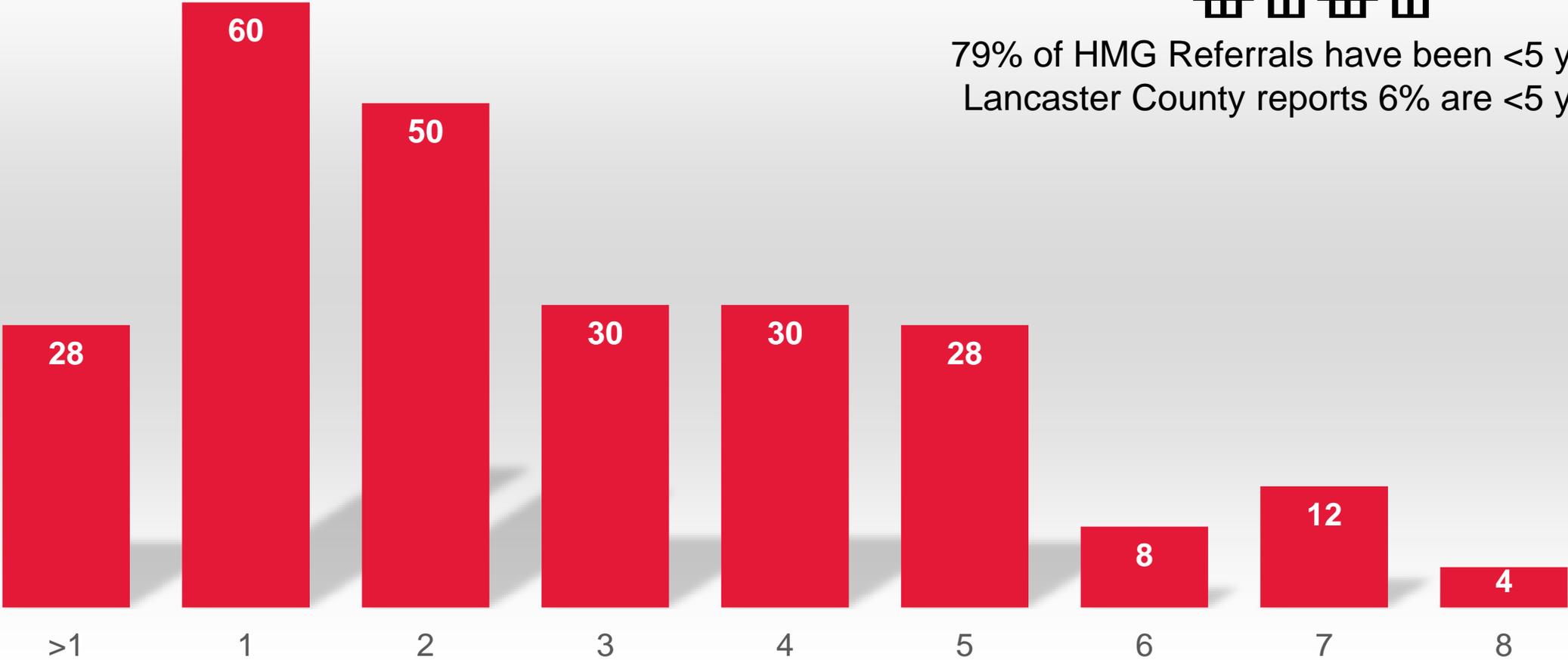


# HMG-NE: Number of Families Served

Total number of families served  
N = 250

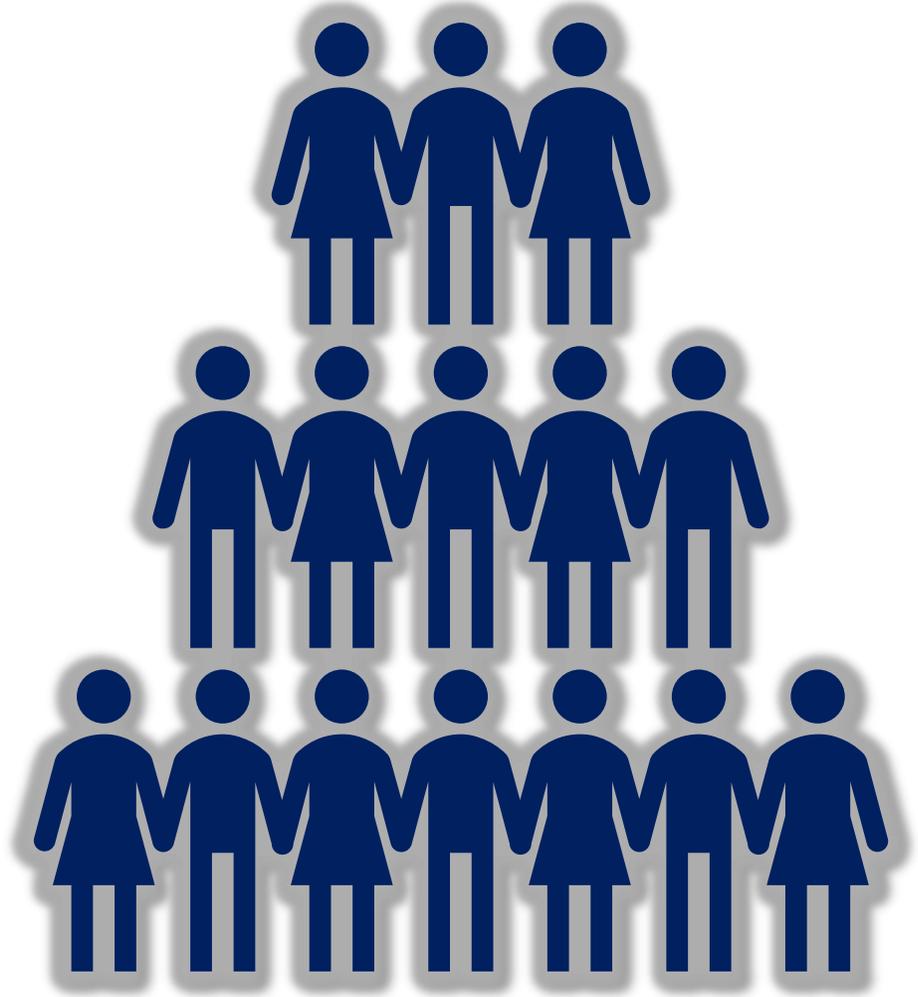


79% of HMG Referrals have been <5 yrs  
Lancaster County reports 6% are <5 yrs



Child Age (in Years)

# HMG-NE: Family Identified Ethnicity

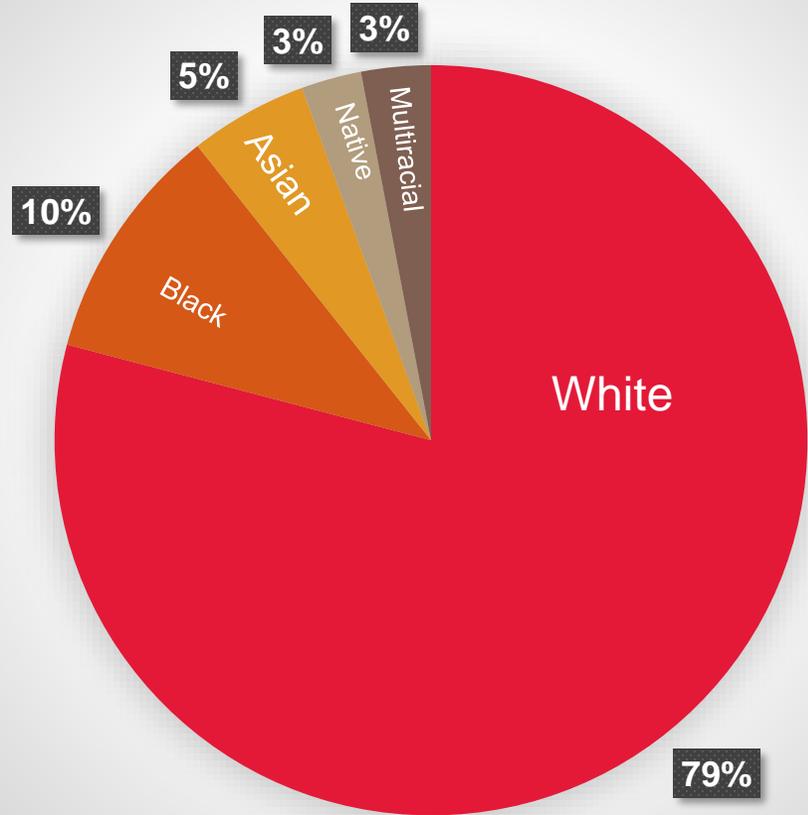


**7% of Lancaster County Residents  
are Hispanic**

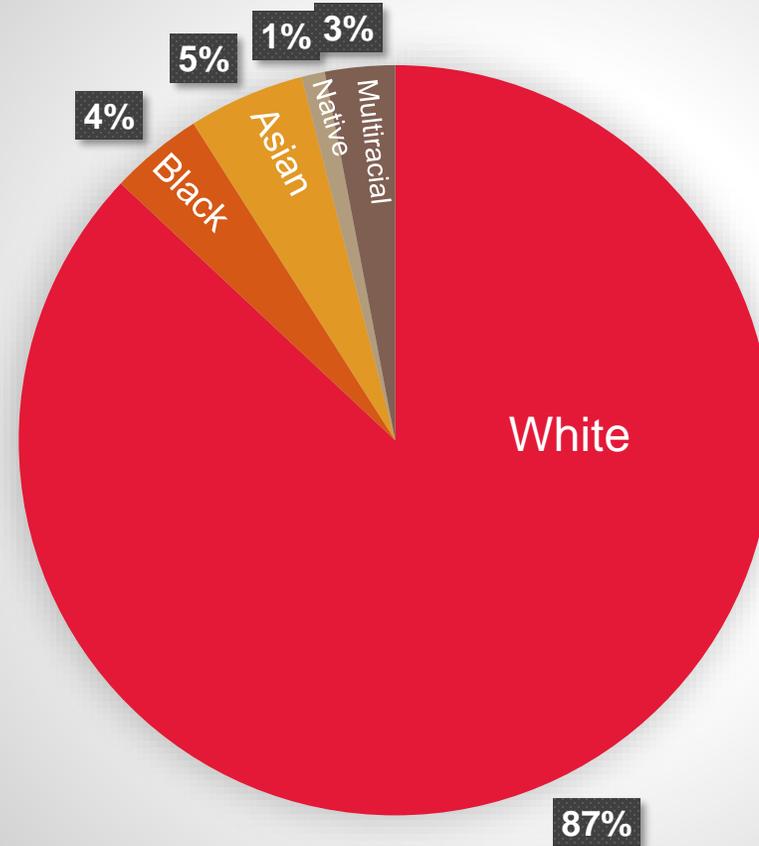
**15% of Referrals to HMG-NE were  
Hispanic**

# HMG-NE: Family Identified Race

## HMG-NE



## Lancaster County





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Presenting Issues

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## Referral Source

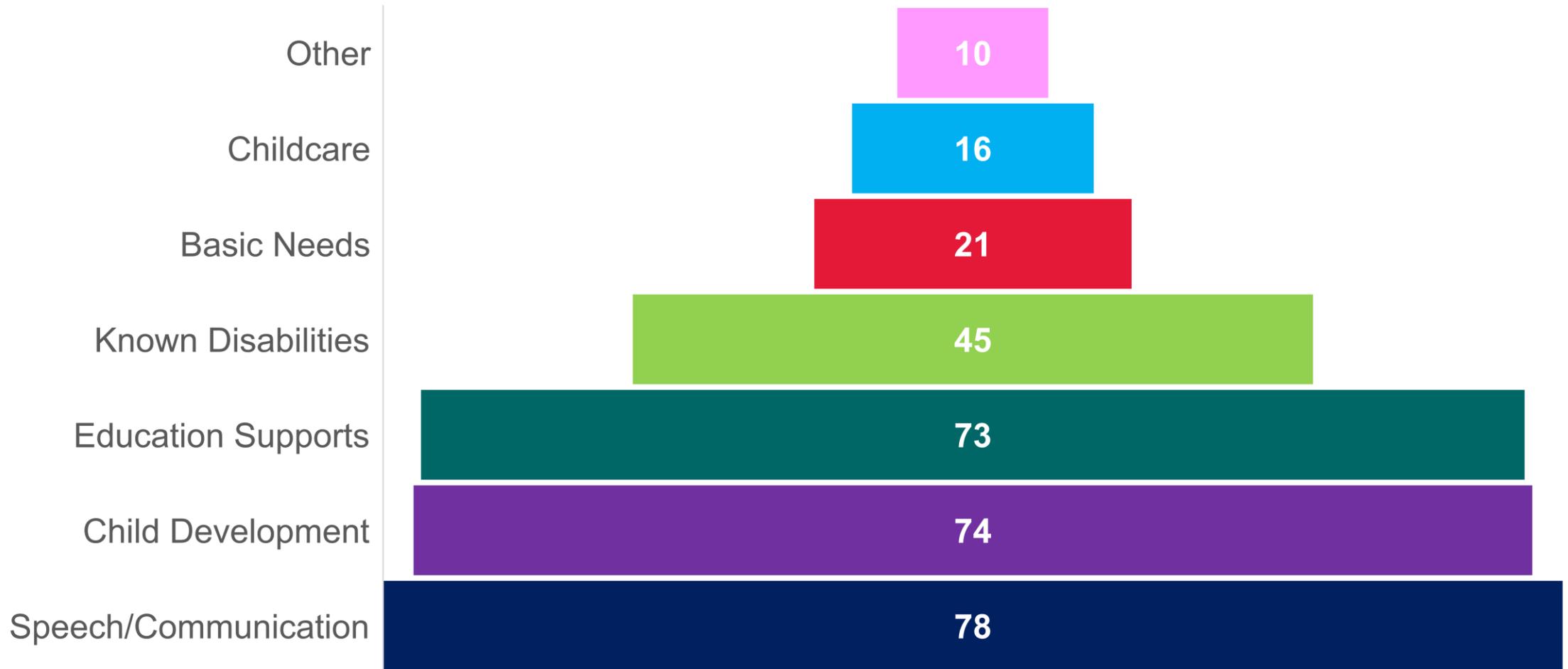


91% Medical

8% Parent

1% Other  
Professional

# Nature of Presenting Issues





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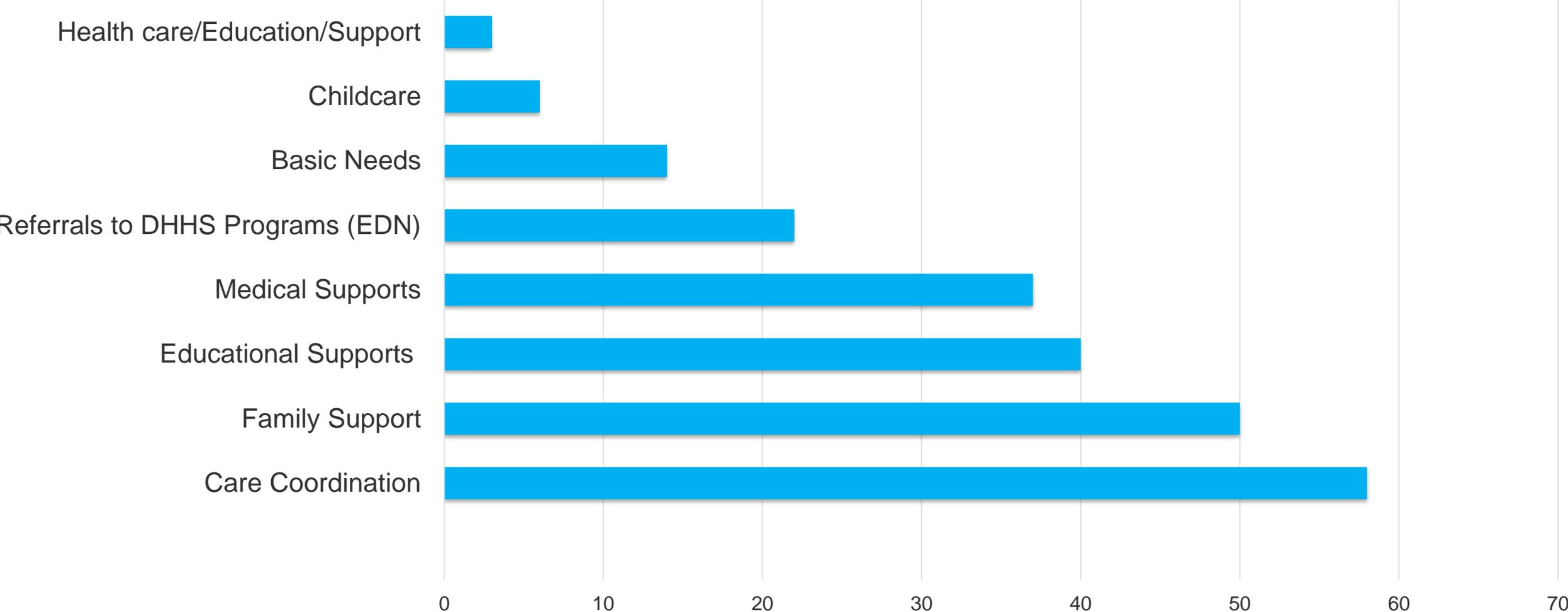
## Types of Services

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SERVICES



# Referral Services



N=230





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## Conclusions

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# Discussion

- Initial pilot highlights the utility and promise of HMG – systems approach to promote delivery of family-centered care, increase quality and availability, and families' access to children's health care services and resources
- Highlights that careful collaboration and coordination among a variety of local organizations, agencies, and health care providers is needed for successful implementation to address early needs of children and families



# Acknowledgements and Thank you!

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- Local families and participating organizations
- For more information:
  - <https://helpmegrownebraska.org/>

