Ohio START Family Survey
Family Protective Factors & Child Behavioral Health

Stanek, C., Chang, Y., Radney, A., Himmeger, M., McClellan, J., Lee, J. Y., Dellor, E., & Yoon, S. (2025). Family protective factors and child behavioral health in families affected by parental substance use disorder and child maltreatment. Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10560-024-01005-7

01 FAMILY PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Family Functioning

Social Support

Concrete Support

Nurturing & Attachment

Knowledge of Parenting & Child Development

02 WE ARE CURIOUS...

- What **family protective factors** are most present for our Ohio START families?
- Is there a relationship between the **these protective factors** and **child behaviors**?

03 CHILD BEHAVIORS

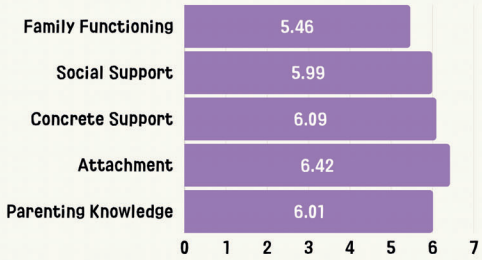
Externalizing Problems

Conduct Problems
Hyperactivity

Unhappy
Depressed
Tearful
Withdrawn

Internalizing Problems

04 FINDINGS



✓ Families reported **high rates of family protective factors** across all domains, despite the challenges families experience.

✓

Family Functioning

Knowledge of Parenting & Child Development

Two family protective factors, **family functioning** and **knowledge of parenting & child development**, were associated with lower levels of externalizing and internalizing problems (=improved child behaviors!)

✓ Other protective factors were not associated with improved child behaviors.

05 IMPLICATIONS

Family-level factors (e.g., stronger family connections and a deeper understanding of child development) are linked with better social emotional outcomes for children exposed to child maltreatment and parental substance use.

Social support and concrete support likely mediate these associations.