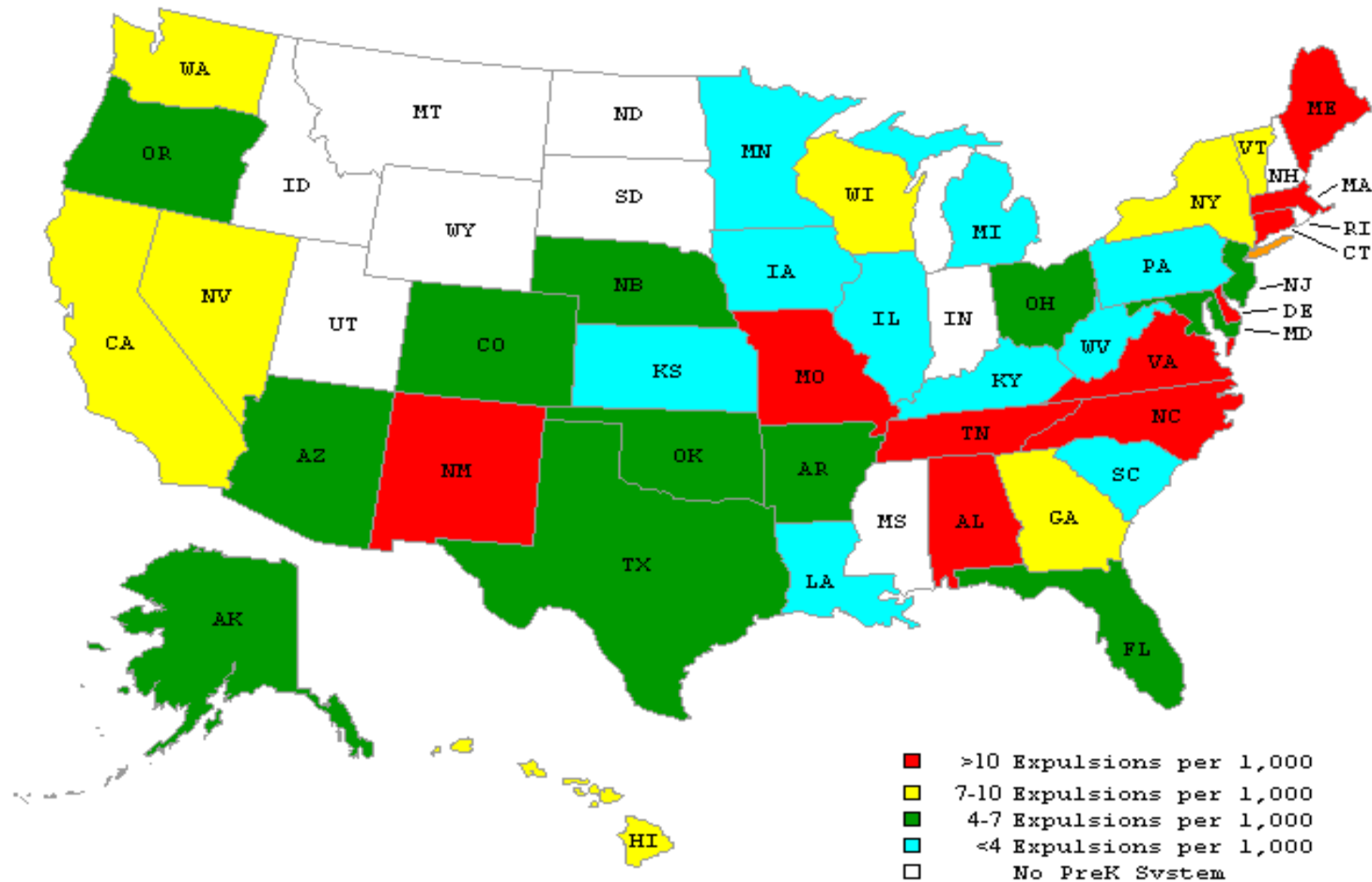


Innovations in Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

Deborah F. Perry
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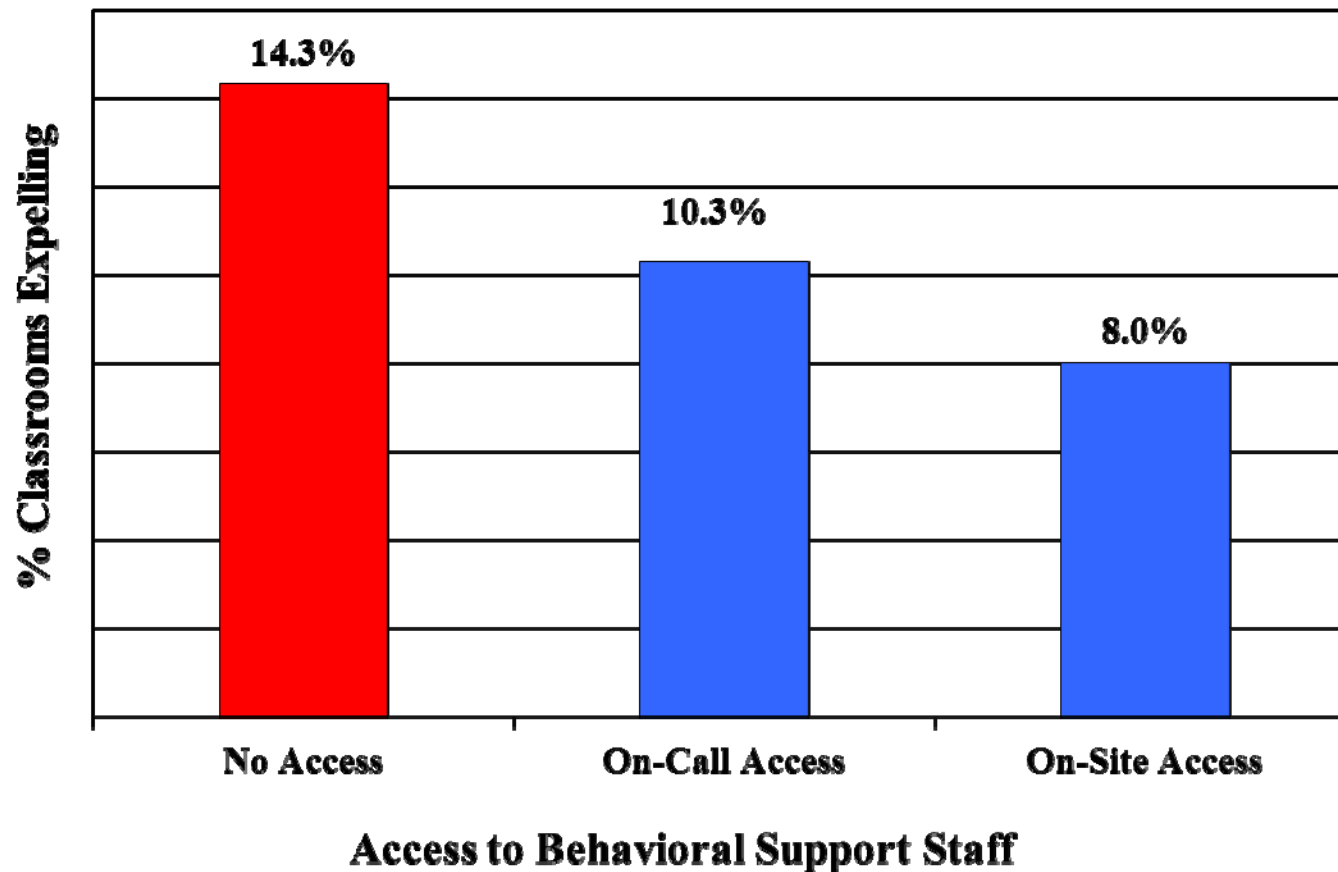
National Early Childhood Research Conference
July 13, 2006

State Pre-K Expulsion Rates (2005)



Gilliam, 2005

Access to Support Associated with Decreased Expulsion Rates



Gilliam, WS (2005). Prekindergarteners left behind: Expulsion Rates in state prekindergarten programs. *FCD Policy Brief, Series No. 3*.

What is ECMHC?

- Teams mental health professionals with people who work with young children and their families to improve their social, emotional and behavioral health and development.
- Builds the capacity of providers and families to understand the powerful influence of their relationships and interactions on young children's development.
- Consultants conduct observations, facilitate screening and develop individualized strategies to identification of children with and at risk for mental health challenges as early as possible.

Child- and Family- Centered Consultation

- Child observations
- Program practices
- Staff support for individual and group behavior management
- Modeling/ coaching
- Link to community
- Training on behavior management
- Modeling and supporting individual child
- Education on children's mental health
- Advocacy for family

Programmatic Consultation for Staff and Programs

- Classroom observation
- Strategies for prosocial environment
- Training on behavior management
- Support for reflective practices
- Promote staff wellness
- Address communication issues
- Promote team building
- Training on cultural competence

What ECMHC “Isn’t”

- Formal diagnostic evaluations
- Therapeutic play groups
- Individual therapy
- Family therapy
- Staff therapy
- Family support groups

Theory of Change

Mental Health Consultant Partners with ECE Providers & Families

Forms Alliances

Builds Trust



ECMHC Builds Capacity in Providers & Family Members

Increased Knowledge & Skills

Increased Reflective Functioning



Changes in ECE Providers' & Family Members' Practices

Child-level outcomes

Linkage to Other Services

Evidence of Changes in Child- and Family- Level Outcomes



Provider-Level Outcomes

Gain Skills

- Teaching about Feelings
- Behavior Management

Improve Quality

- Teacher-Child Interactions
- Staff interactions

Improve Outcomes

- Reduced staff stress & turnover
- CLASS Scores

Program-Focused Outcomes

Director

- Supportive policies
- Reflective supervision

Staff

- Reduced stress and burnout
- Reduced turnover

Child

- Improved attachment/resilience
- Improved school readiness

Today's Session

- Arkansas: Project PLAY
- Maryland: ECMHC Project
- Discussant: Dr. Walter Gilliam
- Q/A and discussion