



**The Ohio State University
Center for Family Research**

Report on FAST\$05 Outcomes Data

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Executive Summary

- The Center for Family Research was contracted by the Ohio Departments of Mental Health, Job and Family Services, Youth Services, and Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services in order to conduct an evaluation of the FAST\$05 Program.
- There are three main focal points in the present report:
 - The measurement of family empowerment and its impact on family satisfaction with services
 - The identification of threats to family stability and the association between these threats and risk of out-of-home placement
 - The assessment of youth well-being indicators at time of enrollment and termination.
- Out of 2,160 youth enrolled in FAST\$05, a total of **517 youth were terminated** in MACSIS at the time (November 23, 2005) that data were collated for this report.
- Regarding the measurement of family empowerment, a total of 210 adult family caregivers completed Family Caregiver Wants and Needs Scale (FCWNS) forms at time of enrollment and termination. Evidence indicated that participation in the FAST\$05 program **significantly increased family empowerment** ($t = 3.83, p < .001$).
- In addition, data from 102 families indicated that **family empowerment gains were significantly associated with increased family satisfaction with services** ($r = .33, p < .01$) as measured by the Ohio Scales at the time of termination from FAST\$05.
- Data from the families of 405 youth indicated that there was a **significant reduction (73%) in out-of-home placement risk** (McNemar's $\chi^2 = 8.69, p < .01$) from time of enrollment to time of termination.
- While these families were facing a pile-up of stressors at the time of enrollment, data from 236 families generated evidence that **participants reported significant reductions in family stressors** ($t = 9.82, p < .001$) following their participation in the FAST\$05 Project.
- Also, there were **significant differences in the amount of stressors** faced by families with youth who were at risk of out-of-home placement and those with youth who were not ($t = 2.15, p < .05$), further highlighting the important association between family stressors and threats to family stability.
- Regarding Ohio Scales scores:
 - Youth reported a **significant decrease in problem severity levels** ($t = 3.02, p < .01$) from time of enrollment to time of termination
 - Parents reported a **significant increase in hopefulness** ($t = 4.43, p < .001$), a **significant increase in functioning levels** ($t = 3.24, p < .001$), a **significant increase in satisfaction with services** ($t = 2.77, p < .01$), and a **significant decrease in problem severity levels** ($t = 3.62, p < .001$) from time of enrollment to time of termination.
 - Workers reported a **significant increase in functioning levels** ($t = 4.08, p < .001$) and a **significant decrease in problem severity levels** ($t = 5.01, p < .001$) from time of enrollment to time of termination.
- Taken together, these results indicate that participation in the FAST\$05 program coincided with **solid gains in family and youth well-being indicators**.