



# Los Angeles County Prevention Initiative Demonstration Project (PIDP): The Role of Evaluation in Fostering Innovation

**Presentation for the LA Partnership for Child Welfare Evaluation Summit (August 29, 2011)**

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# Prevention Initiative Demonstration Project

*“The thing that we are focusing on is to reconnect people to the fact that they are part of a community that is serving a family, rather than individual agencies.”*

Lead Agency

# Outline

1. Overview of PIDP
2. Evaluation study research design
3. Persons served
4. Relationship-based Protective Factors Survey findings
5. New child safety and permanency outcomes as measured by agency CWS/CMS data
6. Promising practice strategies

# PIDP Core Prevention Values and Theories of Change

- Core prevention values
  - Community capacity building
  - Integration and alignment of services
  - Inter-departmental collaboration
  
- Theories of change
  - Decreasing social isolation
  - Increasing economic stability
  - Integrating community-based spectrum of prevention service

## Goals of the PIDP Evaluation

- Evaluate collaborative strategies and efforts among residents, Community-based organizations, county departments and other government entities and businesses.
- Evaluate strategies and initiatives to determine “best practices” for potential countywide replication.
- Use evaluation results to better align contracted prevention-oriented program funding streams with the needs of children and families

# Overall Study Design

- (1) Assess network development;
- (2) Track changes within DCFS offices/ and relationships b/w DCFS offices and community partners;
- (3) Gather data from participating families;
- (4) Assess promising approaches;
- (5) Test outcomes for children;
- (6) Examine interactions and synchronicity of multiple prevention-oriented strategies.

# Year Two Evaluation Findings



- Parent-reported changes
- Effectiveness as measured by CWS-CMS data
- Detailed descriptions of activities in each SPA

# Persons Served

<b>SPA (LA Geographic Areas)</b>	<b>DCFS Clients</b>	<b>Community Residents (Non-DCFS)</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>SPA 1</b>	147	467	614
<b>SPA 2</b>	445	2,173	2,618
<b>SPA 3</b>	281	491	772
<b>SPA 4</b>	121	2,284	2,405
<b>SPA 5</b>	51	74	125
<b>SPA 6</b>	597	3,723	4,320
<b>SPA 7</b>	58	1,528	1,586
<b>SPA 8</b>	691	4,834	5,525
<b>Unduplicated Count of Persons Serviced</b>	<b>2,391</b>	<b>15,574</b>	<b>17,965</b>

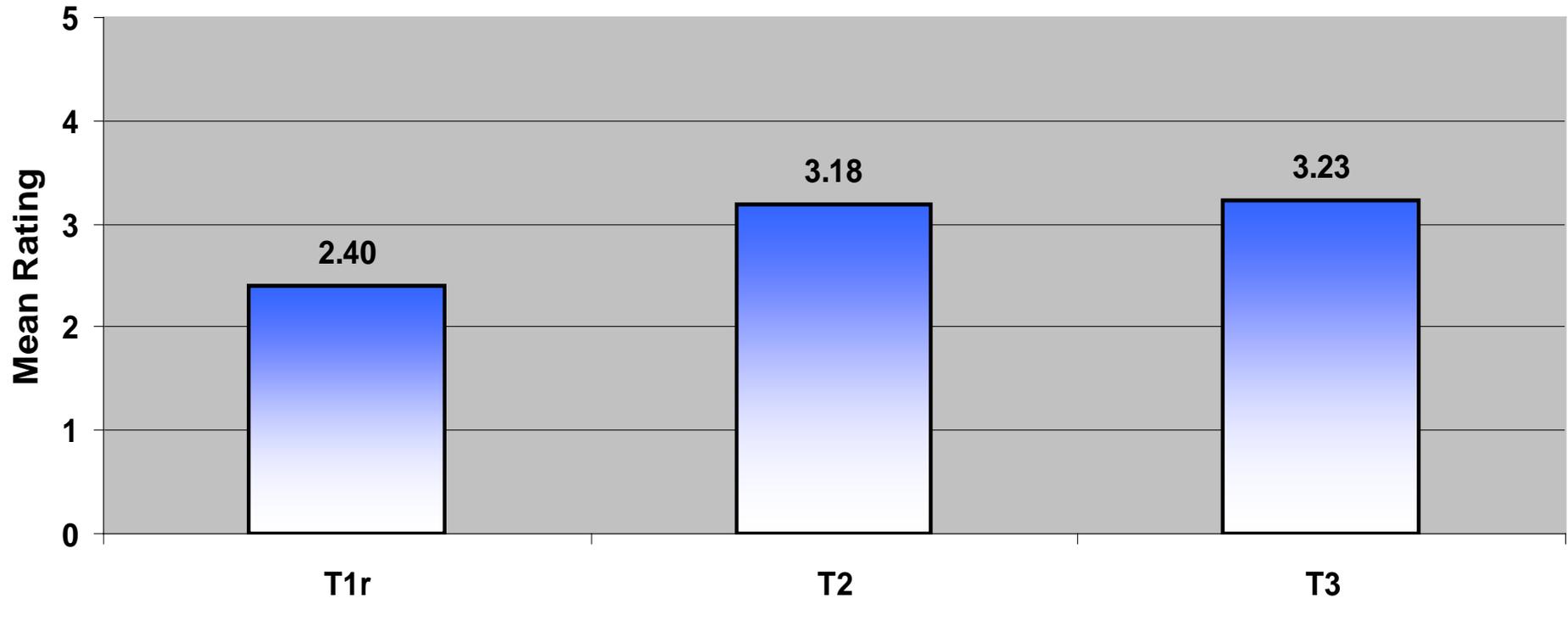
## Economic Supports

- Many networks helped vulnerable families with job training and job placements. Some SPA networks implemented a county-wide campaign to help families access Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA). This generated nearly \$4.4 million in income tax refunds for low-income parents across the County by the end of April 2009.
- ASK Centers in SPA 6 trained and placed nearly 300 residents in the workforce and provided pro bono legal services to over 1000 residents

## Social Supports

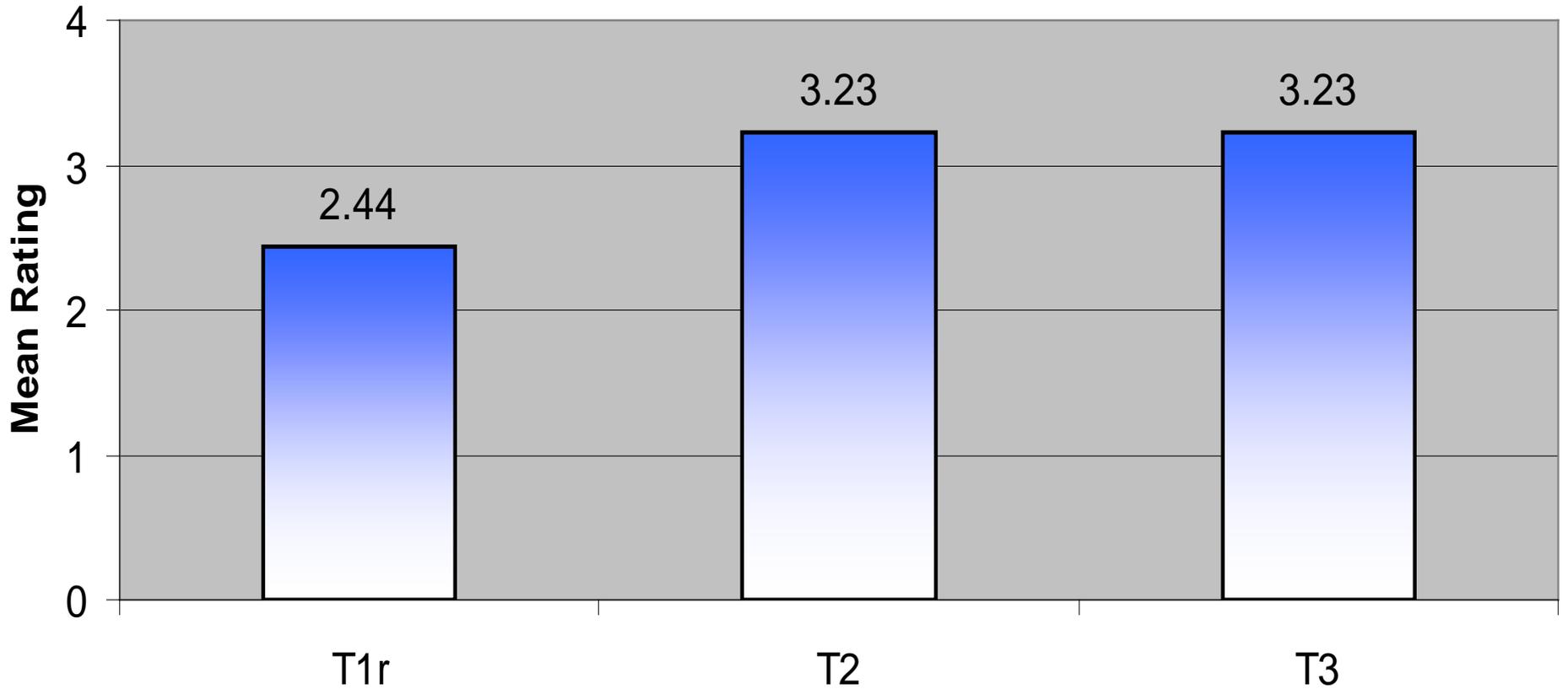
- PIDP parents in all SPAs reported that they had greater involvement in their community, more desire to engage in community activities, and felt less lonely or isolated.
- Scale scores for the Relationship-based Protective Factors Survey follow.

# F1: Social Support (N=138)



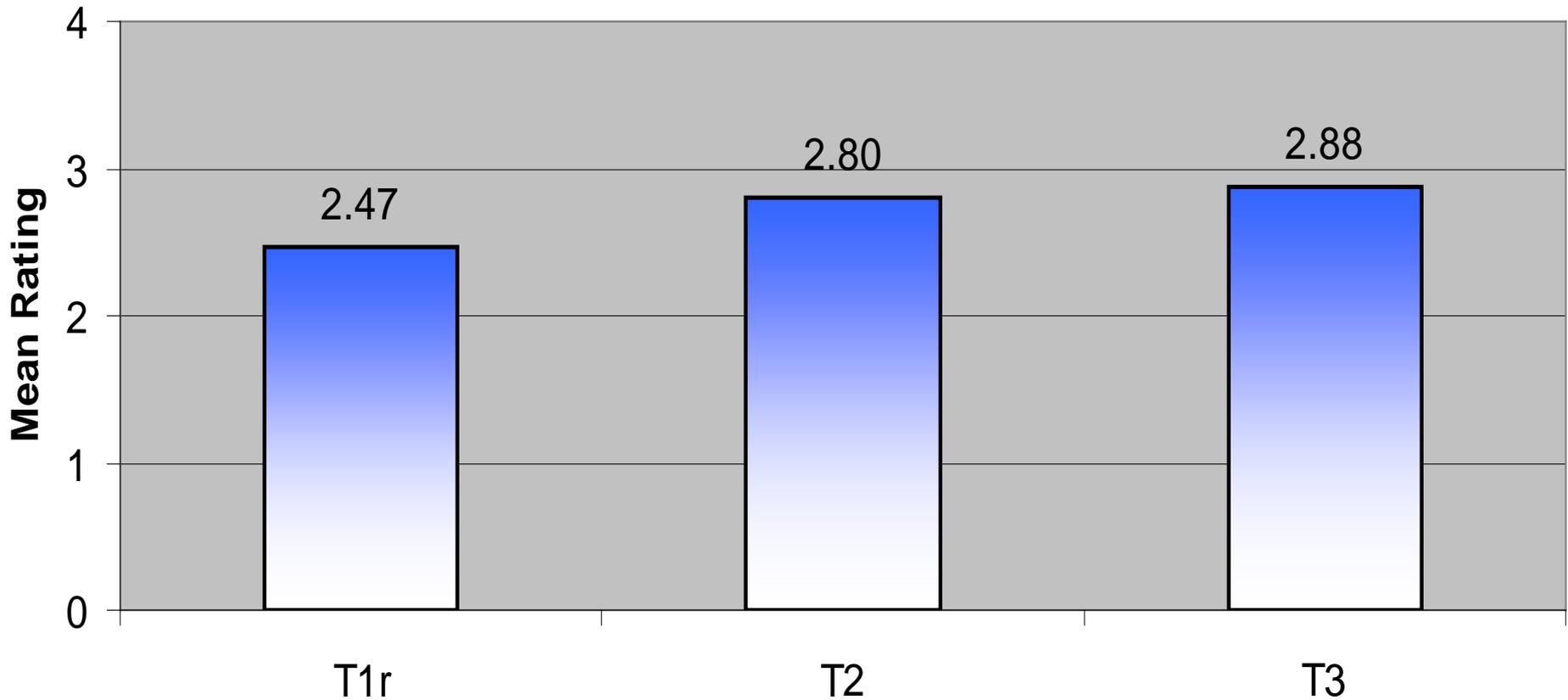
Rating Scale: 1- "Not at all" 2- "1-2 times/wk" 3- "About 1 time a week" 4- "Several Times a week" 5- "About every day"

## F2: Personal Empowerment (N=141)



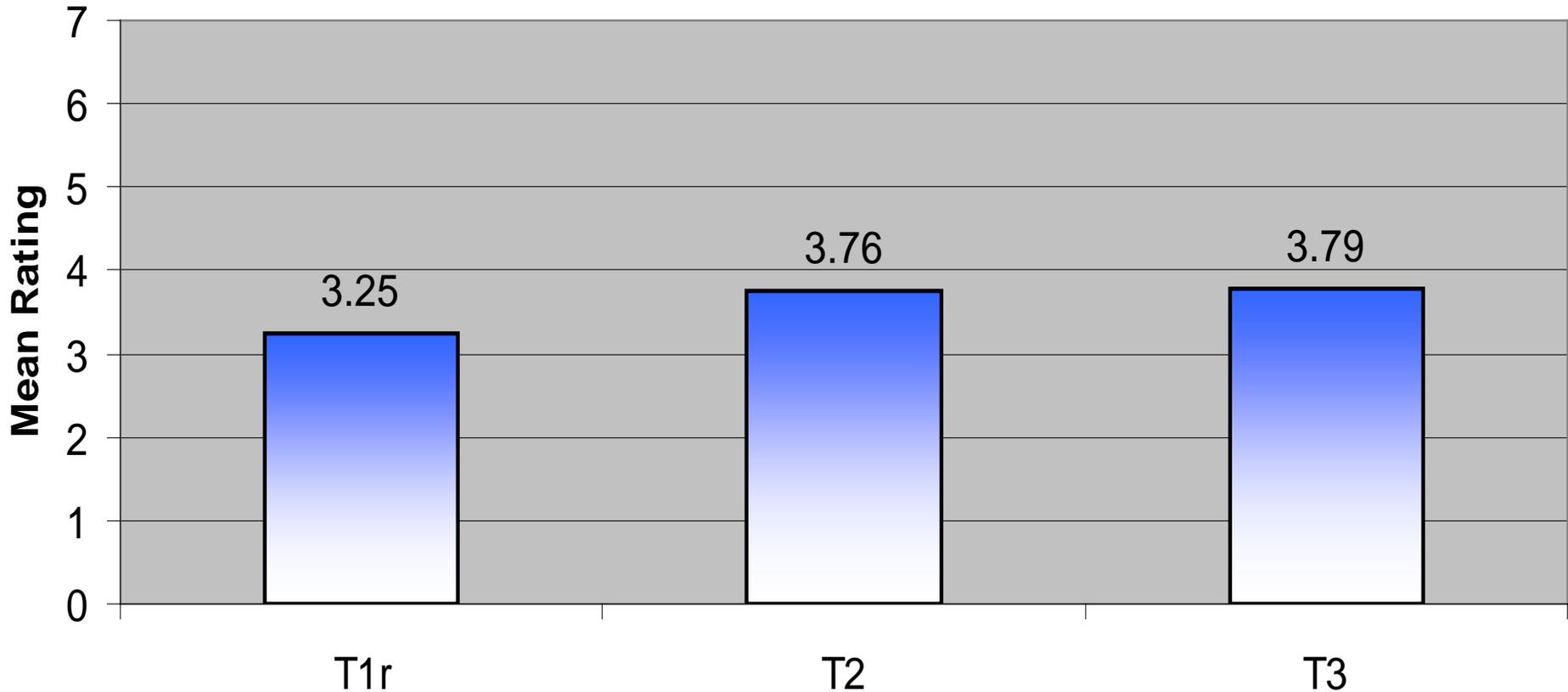
Rating Scale: 1- "Not at all" 2- "Sometimes true" 3- "Often true"  
4- "Always true"

# F3: Economic Stability/Economic Optimism (N=134)



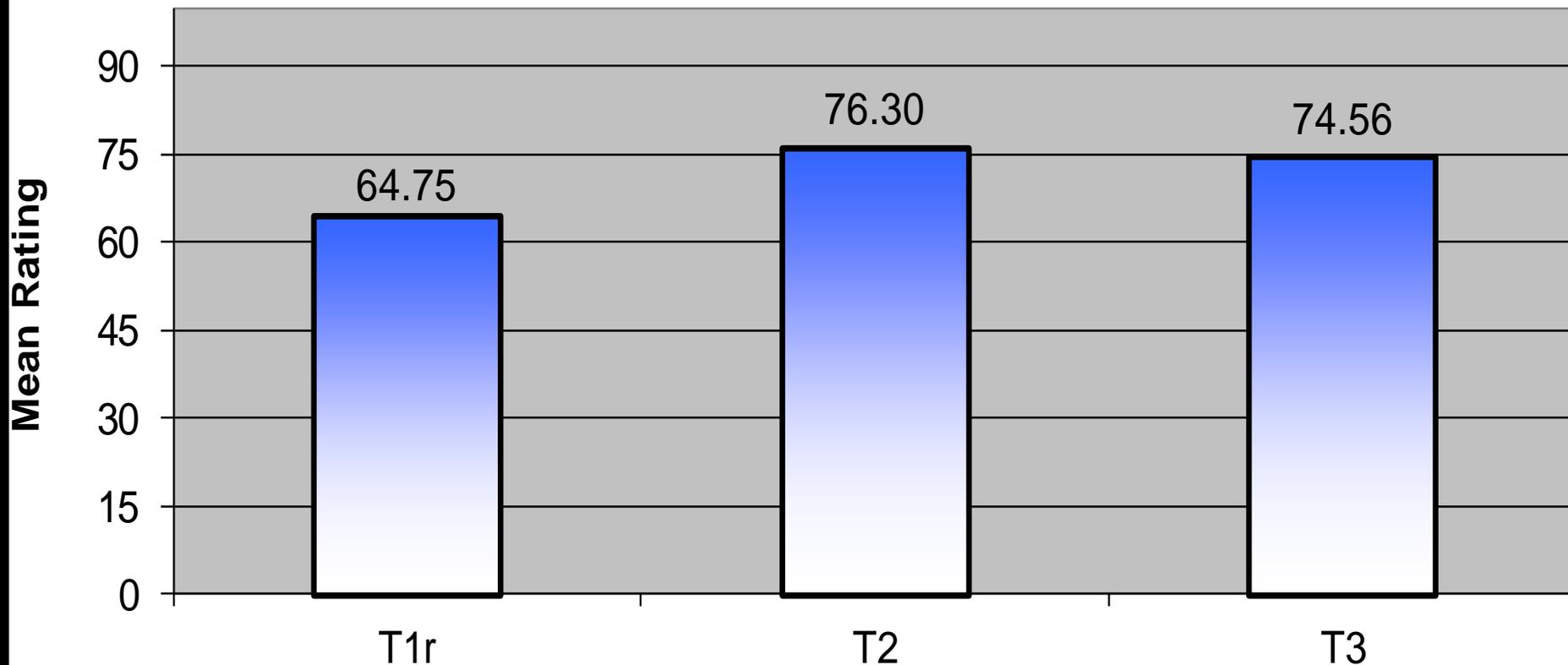
Rating Scale: 1- "Not at all" 2- "Sometimes true" 3- "Often true"  
4- "Always true"

## F4: Quality of Life (N=145)



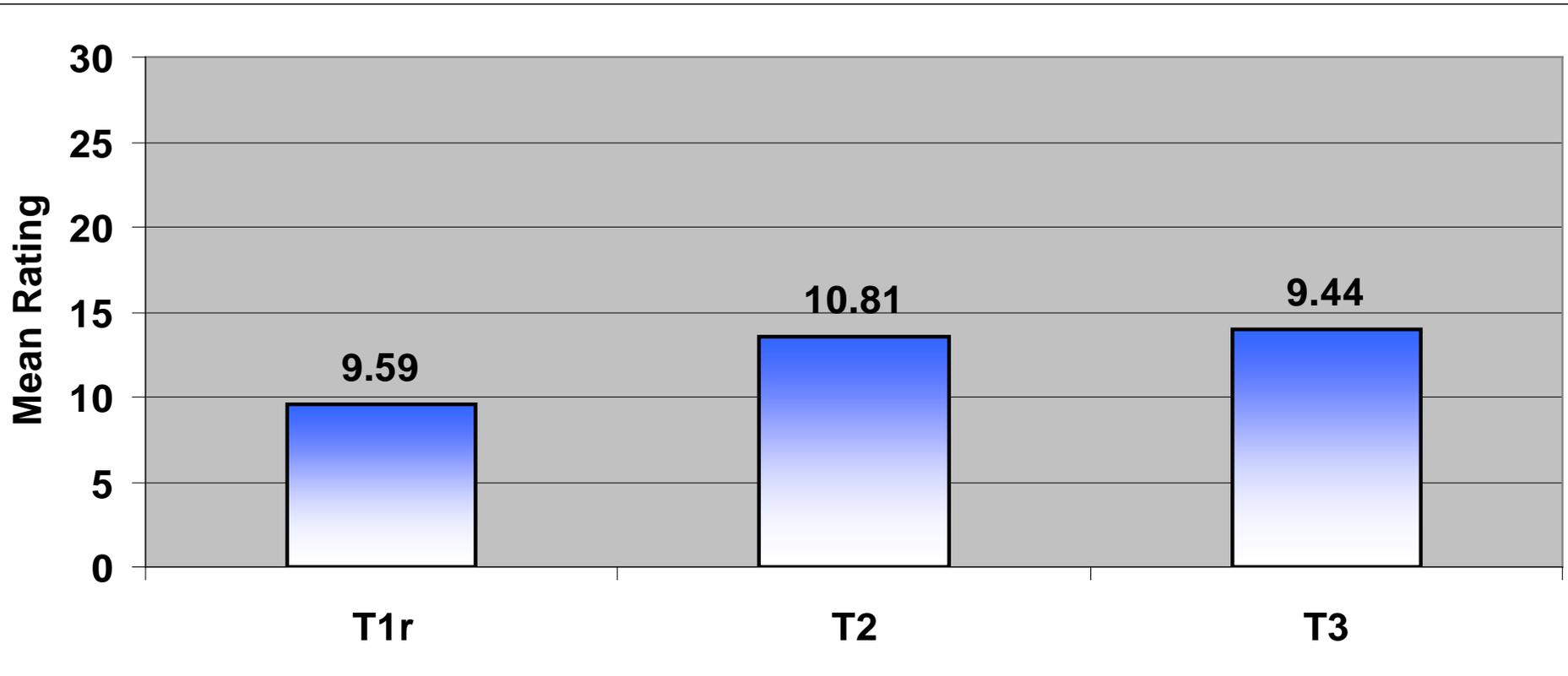
Rating Scale: 1- "Strongly agree" 2- "Mostly agree" 3- "Slightly agree"  
4- "Neutral" 5- "Slightly disagree" 6- "Mostly disagree"  
7- "Strongly disagree"

# Quality of Life- Single Item (N=131)



Rating Scale: 0 – “No quality of life” to 100- “Perfect quality of life”

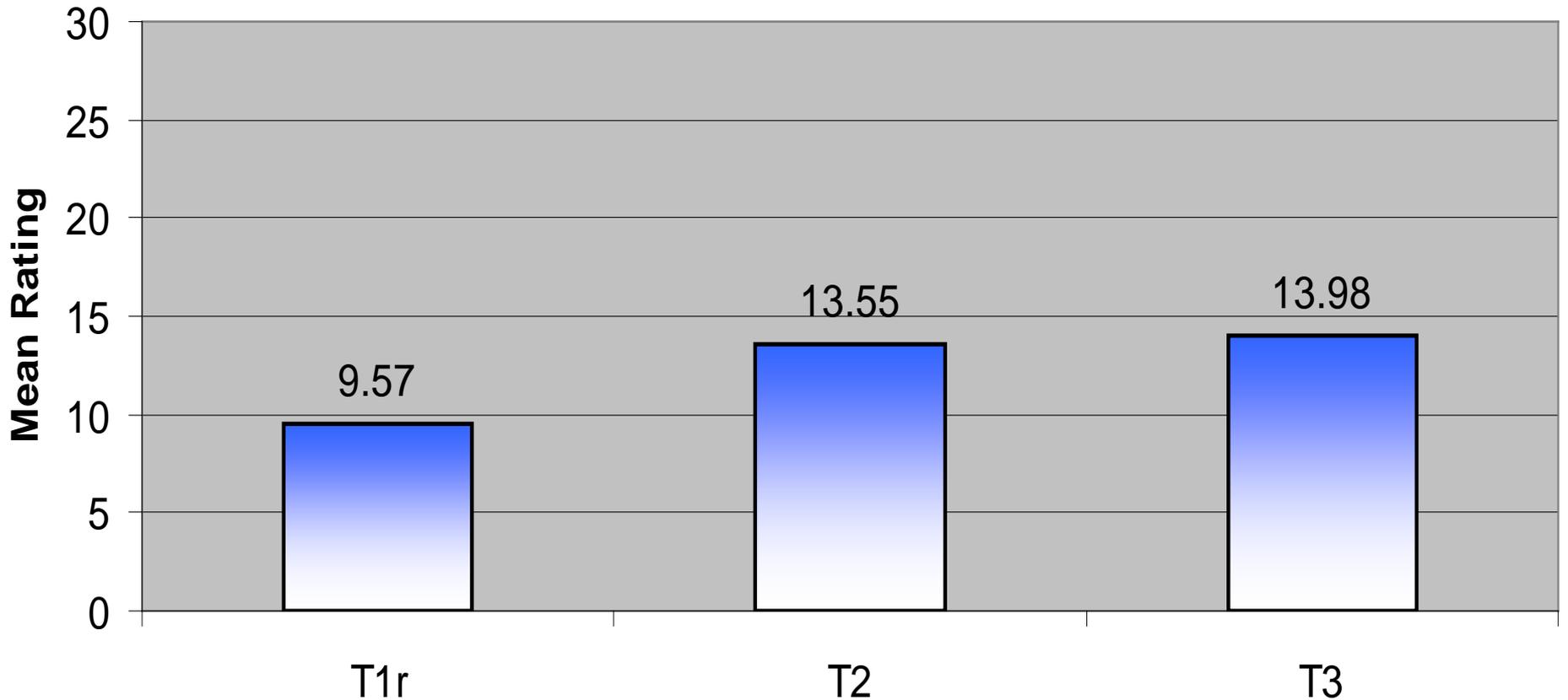
## F5: Immediate and Extended Family Support (N=59)



Rating Scale: 6 Items are measured. Each Item has a range of 1 to 5. (1- "Not at all helpful" 2- "Sometimes helpful" 3- "Generally helpful" 4- "Very helpful" 5- "Extremely helpful")

The 6 items are then totaled and the range presented is 6-30.

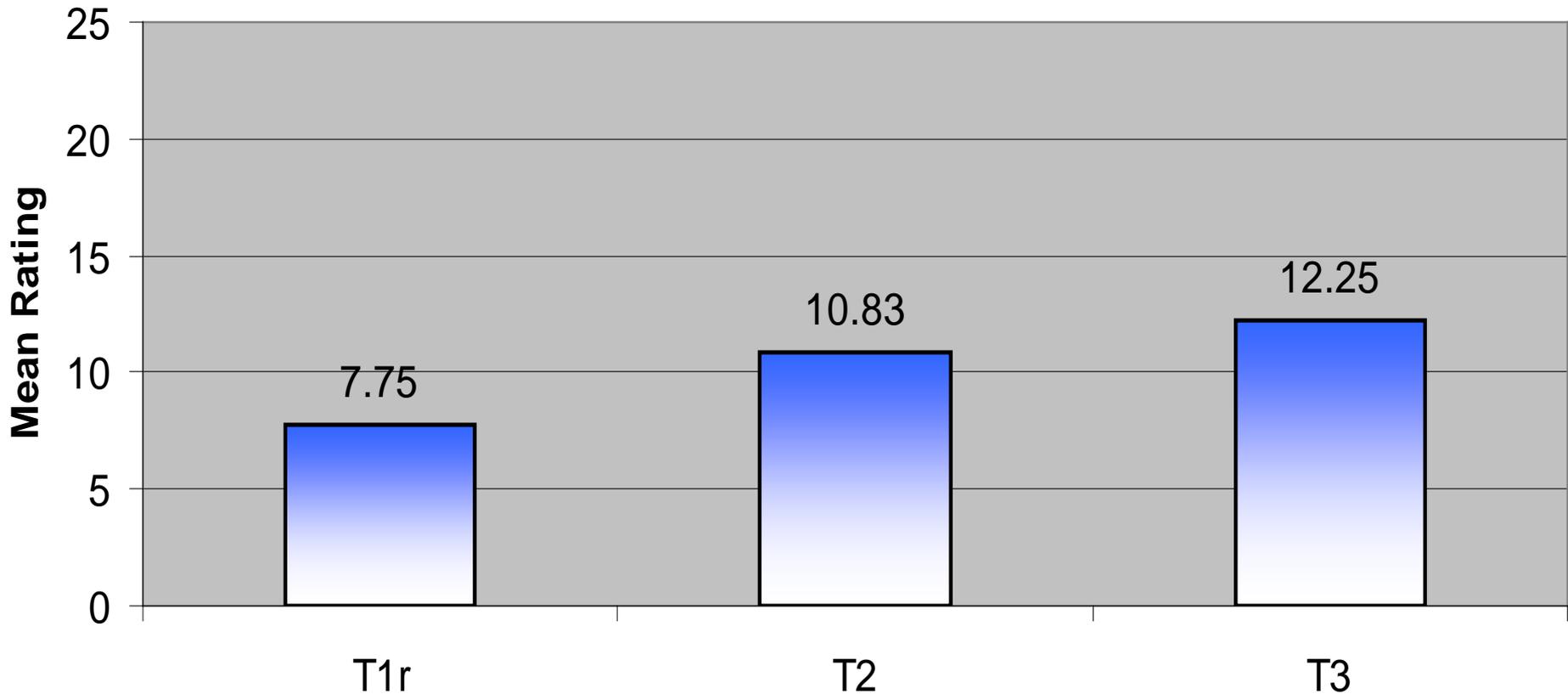
## F6: Professional Support (N=58)



Rating Scale: 6 Items are measured. Each Item has a range of 1 to 5. (1- "Not at all helpful" 2- "Sometimes helpful" 3- "Generally helpful" 4- "Very helpful" 5- "Extremely helpful")

The 6 items are then totaled and the range presented is 6-30.

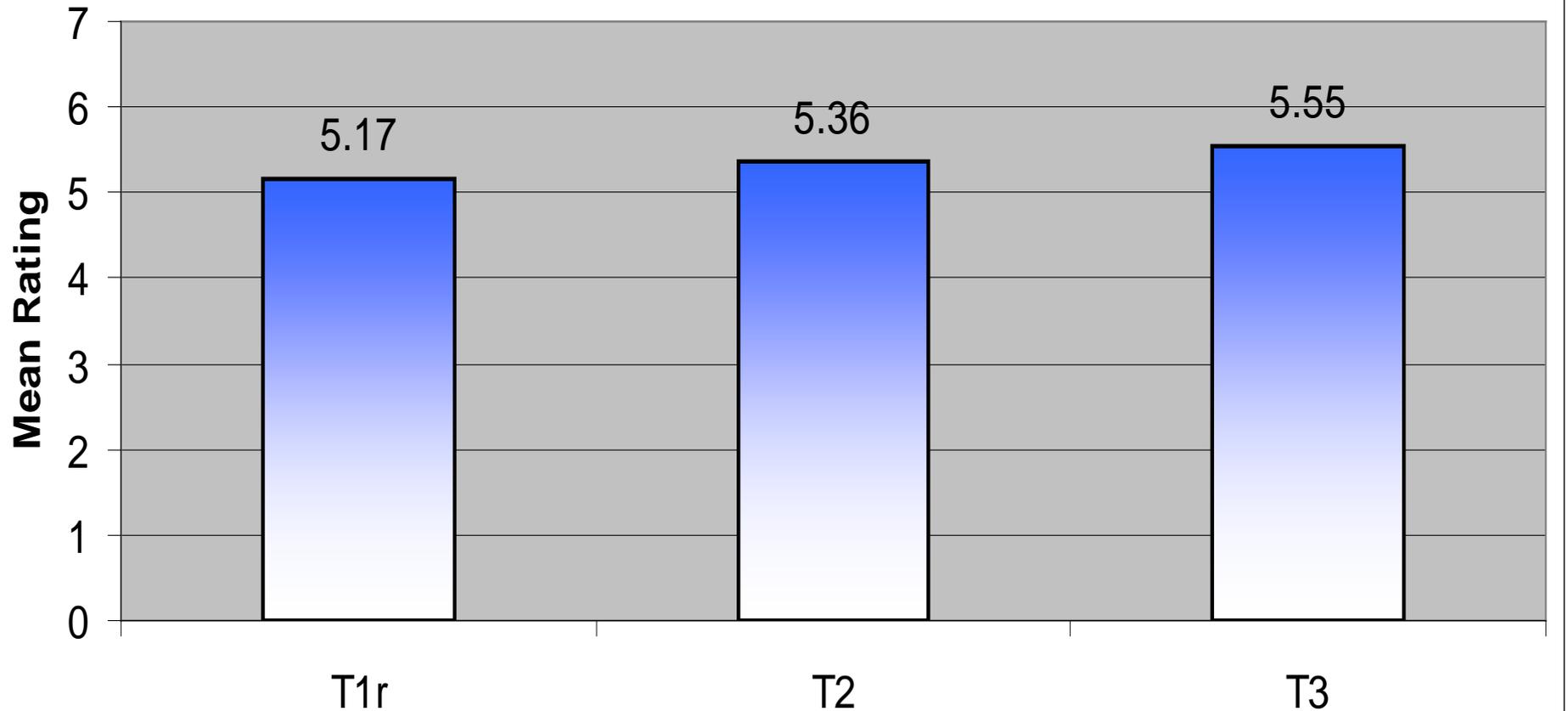
## F7: Personal Non-Family Support (N=53)



Rating Scale: 5 Items are measured. Each Item has a range of 1 to 5. (1-"Not at all helpful" 2- "Sometimes helpful" 3- "Generally helpful" 4- "Very helpful" 5- "Extremely helpful")

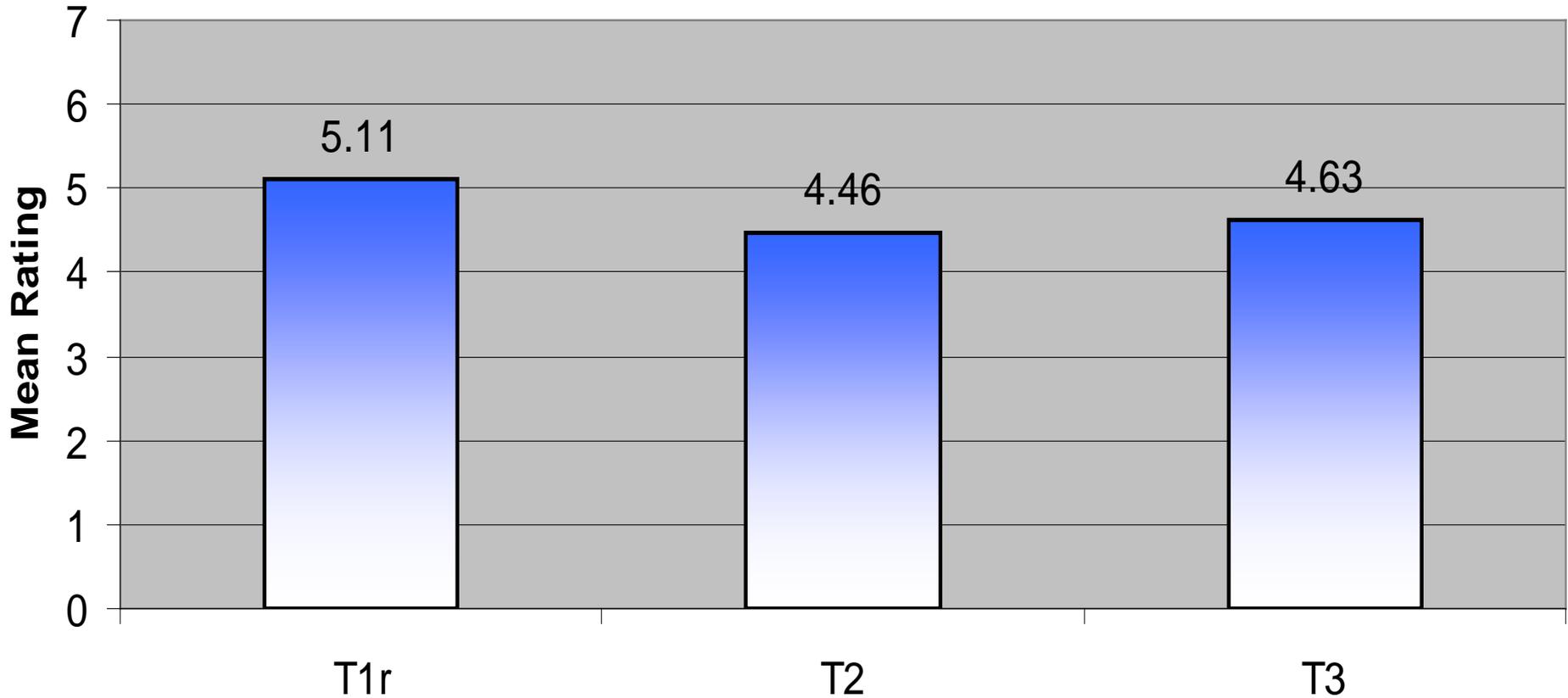
The 5 items are then totaled and the range presented is 5-25.

## F8: Successful Parenting (N=74)



Rating Scale: 1- "Strongly agree" 2- "Mostly agree" 3- "Slightly agree"  
4- "Neutral" 5- "Slightly disagree" 6- "Mostly disagree"  
7- "Strongly disagree"

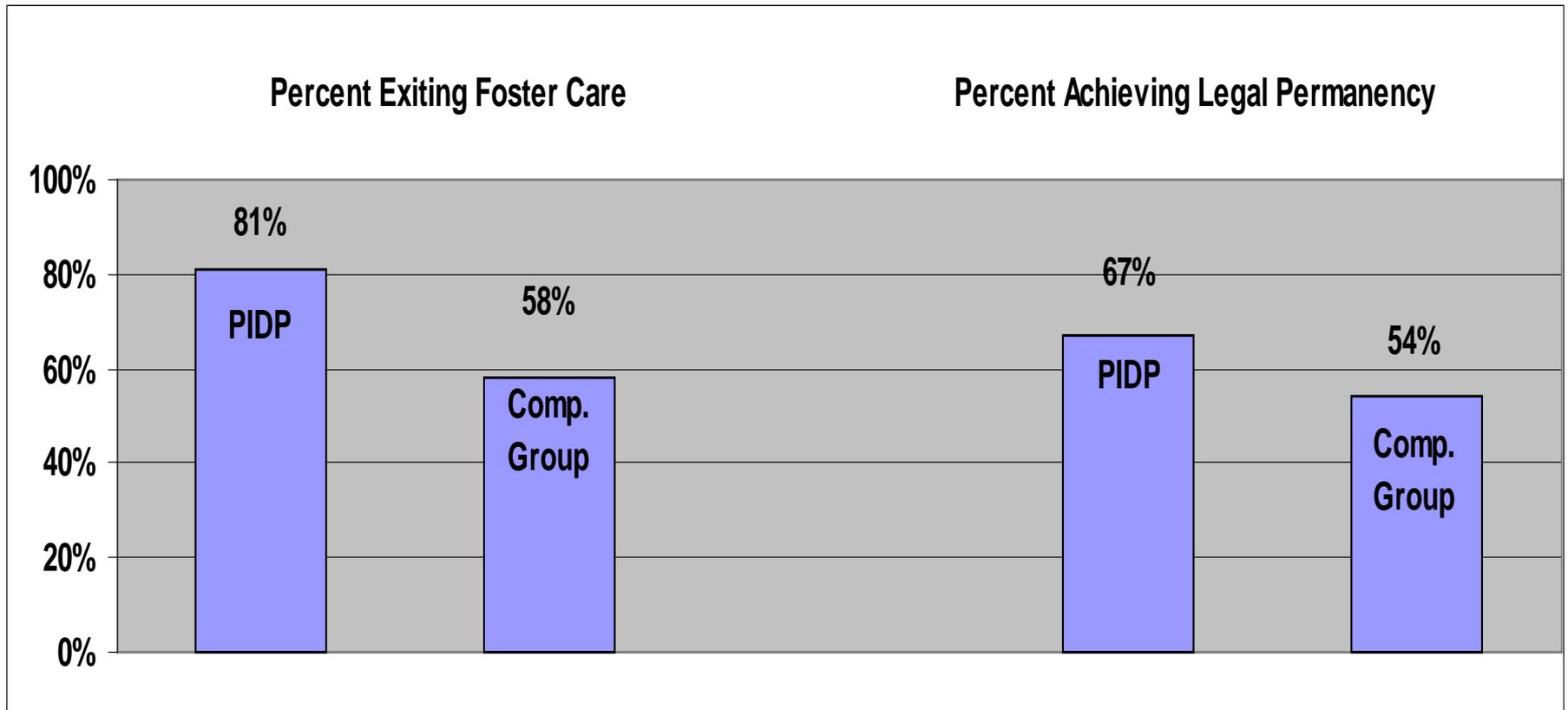
## F9: Parenting Challenges (N=67)



Rating Scale: 1- "Strongly agree" 2- "Mostly agree" 3- "Slightly agree"  
4- "Neutral" 5- "Slightly disagree" 6- "Mostly disagree"  
7- "Strongly disagree"

# CWS/CMS Findings SD 1

Figure 5.1 – Pomona (SPA 3) Exits and Achievement of Legal Permanence

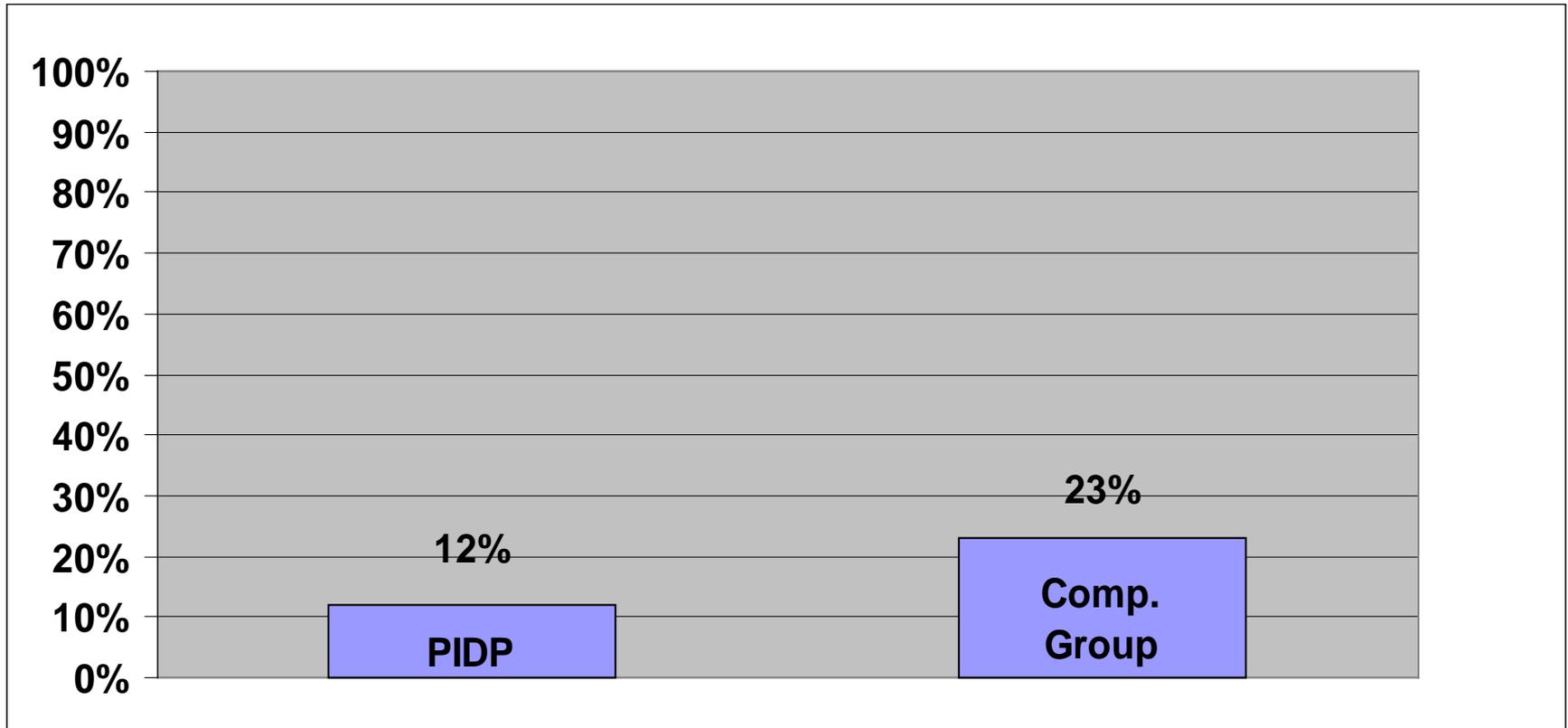


N for PIDP: 110

N for Comparison Group: 200

# CSW/CMS Findings SD 2

Figure 5.3 – Compton (SPA6) Re-Referrals to Child Protection Services

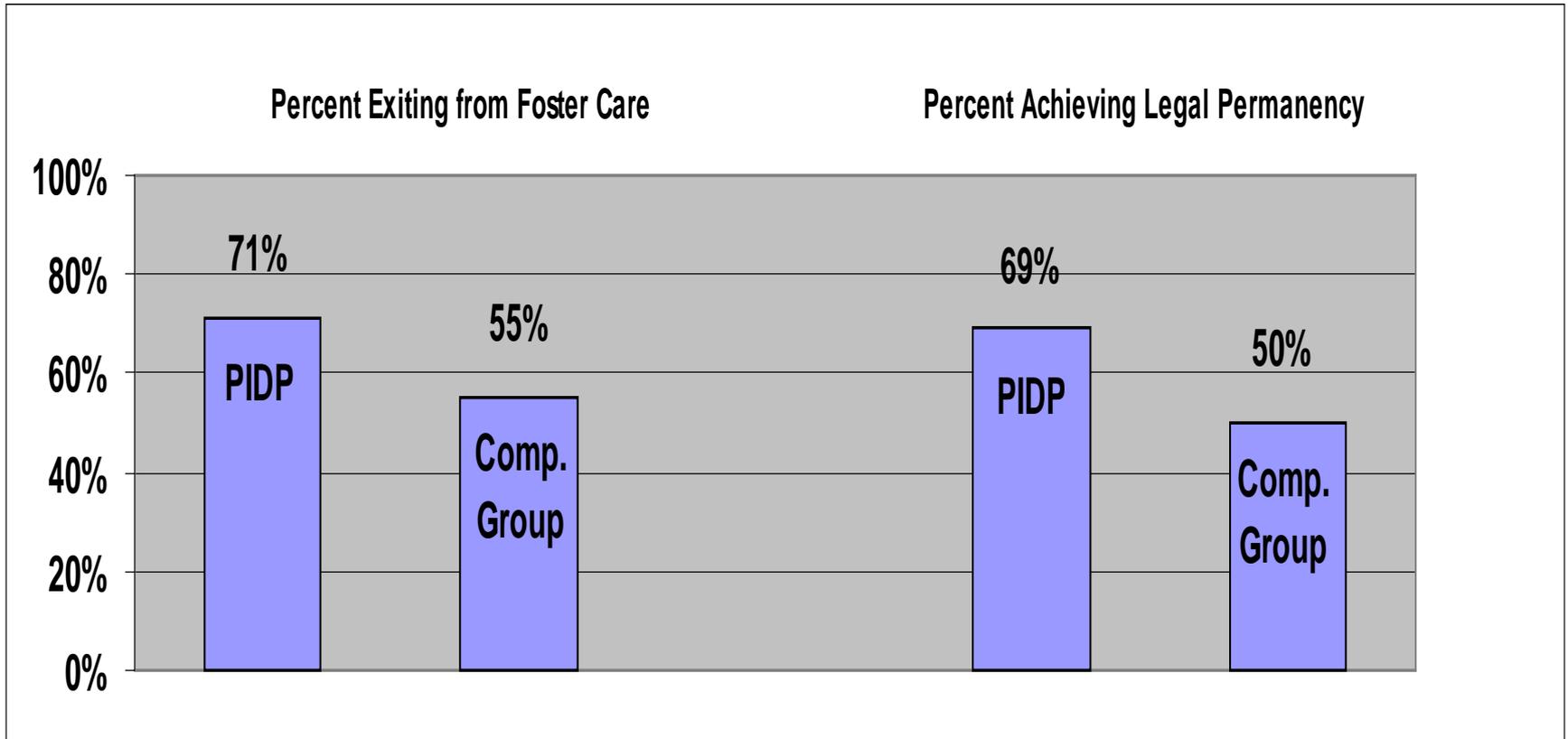


N for PIDP: 130

N for Comparison Group: 150

# CWS/CMS Findings SD 4

Figure 5.2 – South County and Torrance (SPA 8) Exits from Foster Care with Faith-Based Visitation Services



N for PIDP: 79

N for Comparison Group: 100

# Promising child maltreatment prevention strategies for future replication across Los Angeles County

- Social connections strategies such as Neighborhood Action Councils and family resource centers, such as the ASK Centers.
- Parent economic empowerment strategies such as career counseling, job training, job placement, pro bono legal services and the EITC and VITA programs.
- Faith-Based Parent Visitation Centers for parents with children in foster care.

## **Continued: Promising child maltreatment prevention strategies for future replication across Los Angeles County**

- The combination of Cultural Brokers and Parent Advocates into a case management team approach (strategies that include community residents and parents who have been served by the child welfare system)

## Special Notable Approaches by Community

- **Economic Development** (VITA in SPA 4, EITC in all SPAs)
- **Neighborhood Action Councils** (NACs in SPAs 2, 4, 7, 8)
- **Family Resource Centers** (ASK Centers in SPA 6)
- **Family Visitation Centers** (SPA 8)
- **Shared Leadership in Action Programs and Parents Anonymous® Adult and Children's Groups** (SPA 3)
- **Cultural Brokers & Parent Advocates** (SPA 3)

## Recommendations Included

1. Assure that contracting processes are aligned with desired goals, outcomes, and processes.
2. Maximize drawdown from all possible matching funding sources and that it continue to explore synergies with the Chief Executive Office, other departments and private grant making.
3. The new estimated \$58 million LA child abuse prevention and family support contract redesign process that will take affect in 2012 should incorporate the key PIDP strategies.

# Innovation and Implications

- PIDP demonstrates the value of innovative braided community-based child abuse prevention strategies designed to meet local needs.
- Challenges in designing quasi-experimental and/or new experimental design and measures for innovative approaches.
- How to evaluate when communities (not departments or researchers) “own” the design?

# References

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# PIDP Contact Information

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