

Frühe HILFEN

Linking social and health services for families in need: implementation of early childhood intervention networks in Austria

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 Bundesministerium
Arbeit, Soziales, Gesundheit
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Austrian Model for Early Childhood Interventions

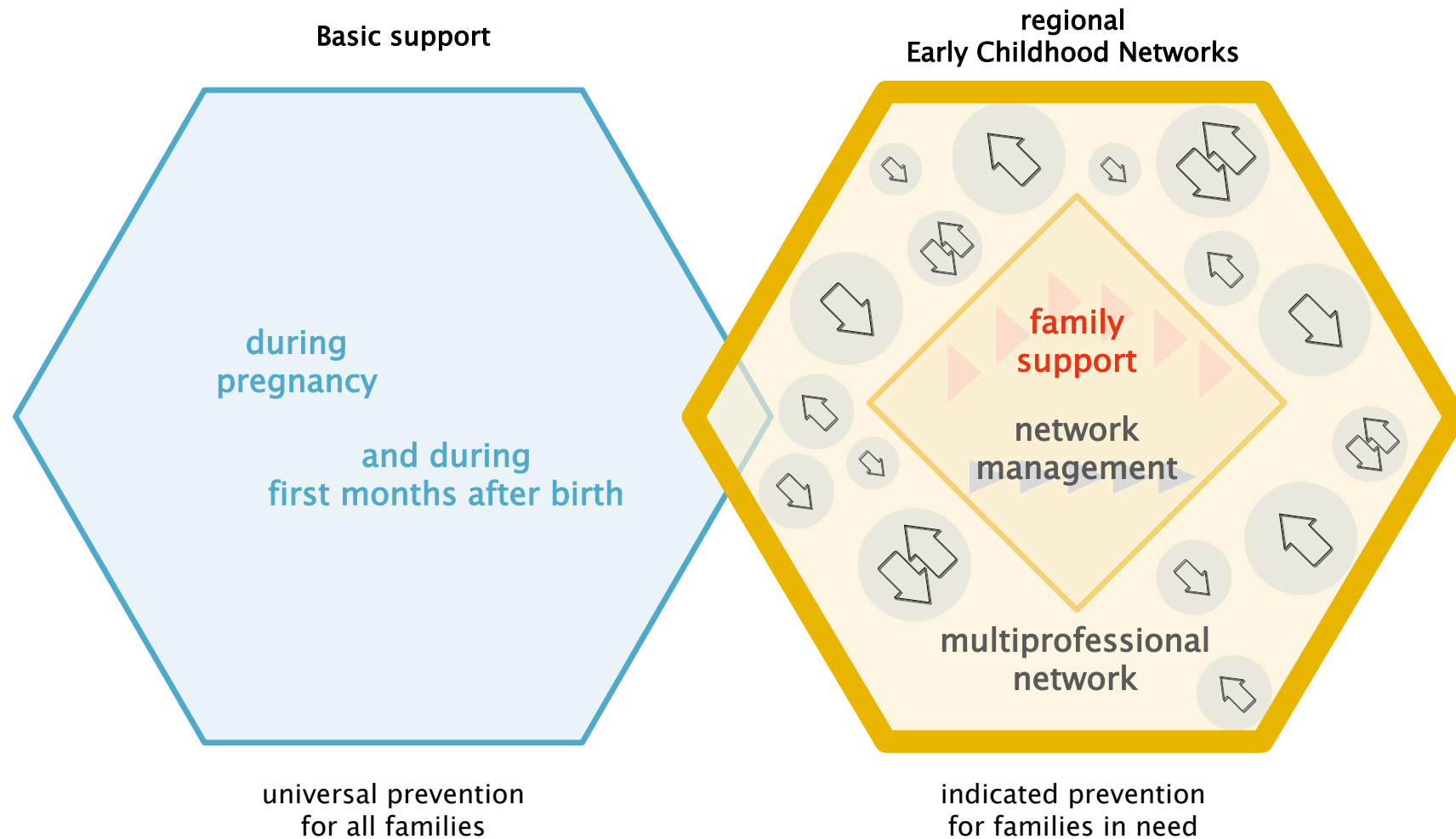


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Austrian Model for Early Childhood Interventions



Objectives of Austrian Model

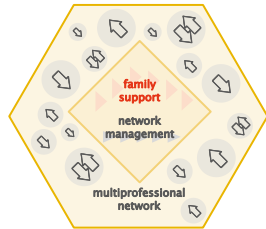
Specific Objectives:

- » To strengthen resources and reduce strains/burdens of families with children (0–3 years, maximum 6 years)
- » To promote and ensure well-being and development of children at an early stage
- » To contribute to a healthy growing up including the right on protection, promotion and participation
- » To promote health and social equity

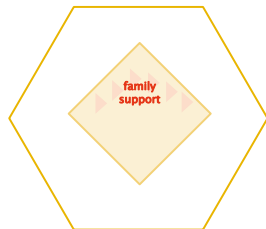
Guiding principles:

- Non-stigmatising, appreciative
- Focus on empowerment
- voluntary and free of costs

Characteristics of Early Childhood Networks



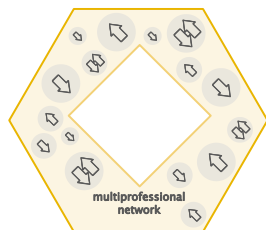
reach families actively and systematically = Raising awareness among those who can identify and refer families in need



provide continuous and comprehensive support = family support (mostly as home visits) throughout a longer time span; builds up mutual trust; provides model for bonding; refers to specific services within the regional network one by one



general as well as case-related cooperation and networking = network-management for establishment and continuous maintenance of the regional network,



which serves as multiprofessional support system, offering well coordinated manifold services for parents and children

Core element: family support

Target group: Families in need

Families with a **variety of strains/burdens**:

- » Social burdens, like financial distress, social isolation, inadequate housing, domestic violence
- » Mental burdens, like mental illness/addiction, unwanted pregnancy
- » Specific characteristics of the parents, like minor-aged, single parent, disability or somatic chronic illness
- » Increased need for care of the child, like premature birth, multiple birth, mental retardation, congenital illness or disability
- » Strong anxiety concerning future of main attachment figure
- » Difficulties with acceptance of resp. care for the child, troubles with mother-/parent-child-interaction

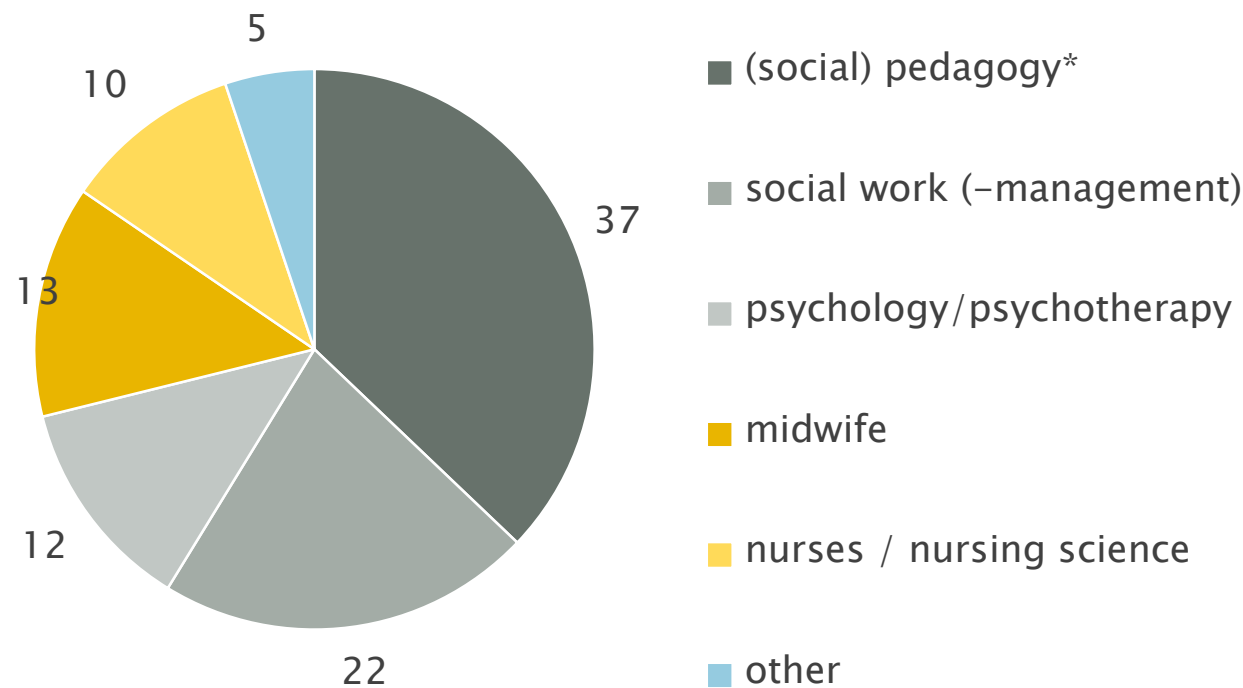
But in most cases **several burdens** are present at the same time in combination with a **lack of compensating resources**; 7 % of all births and additional 10 % for shortterm support

Multiprofessional network



Professional background of family supporters

Family supporters in the year 2018, in %, n = 119

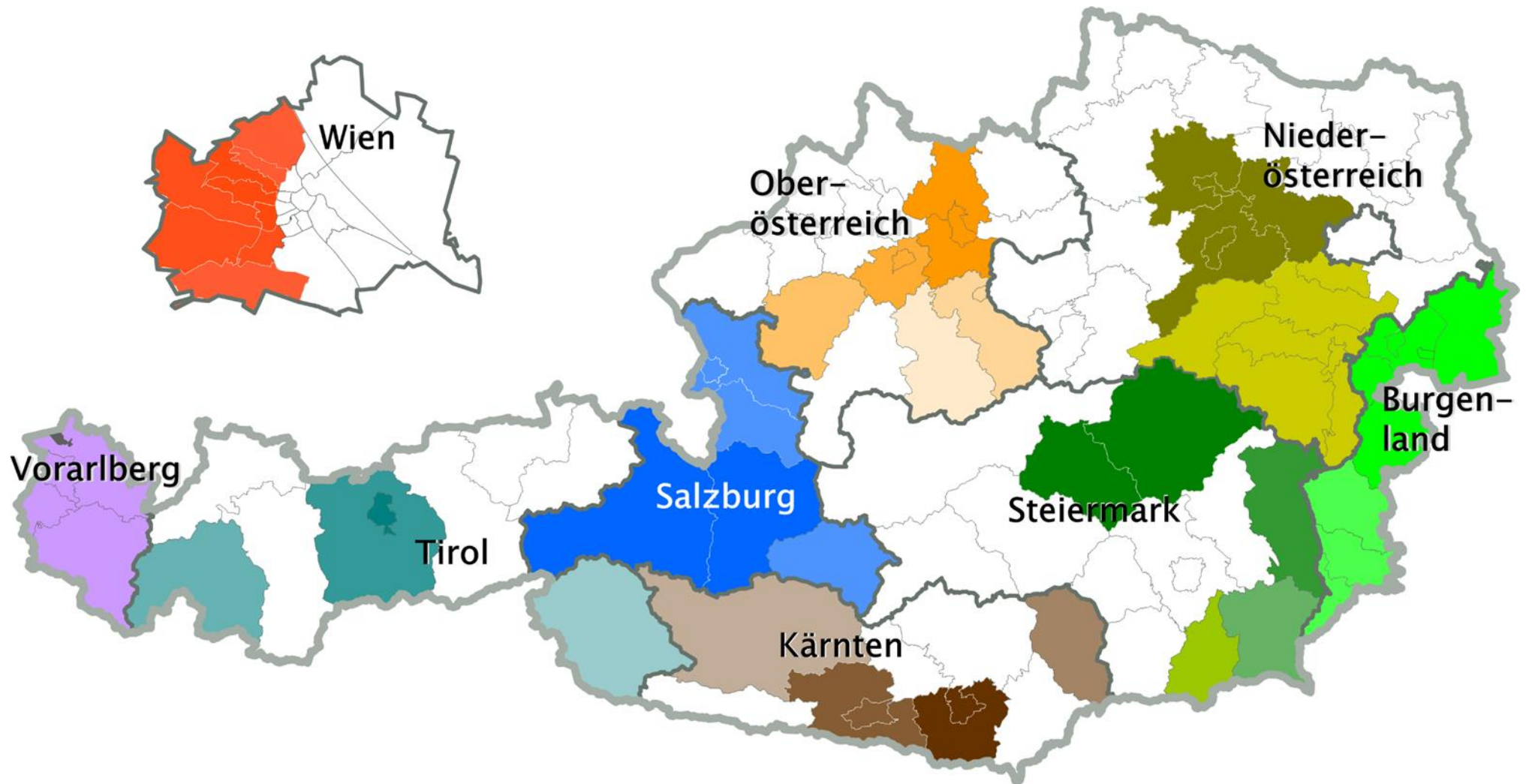


* incl. (day) nursery pedagogy, educational science

multiple answers possible

Source: NZFH.at, 2018

Regional Early Intervention Networks

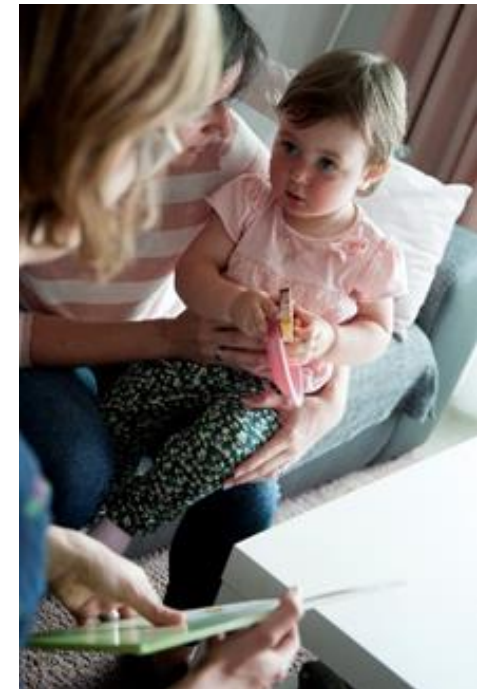


Date: March 2018

Exemplary Data for 2018



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Families reached in 2018



1.974
contacts



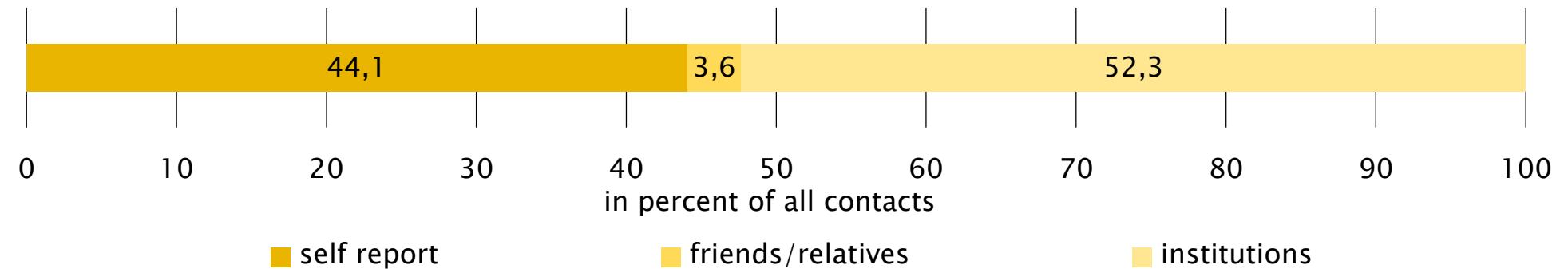
2.222
family supports



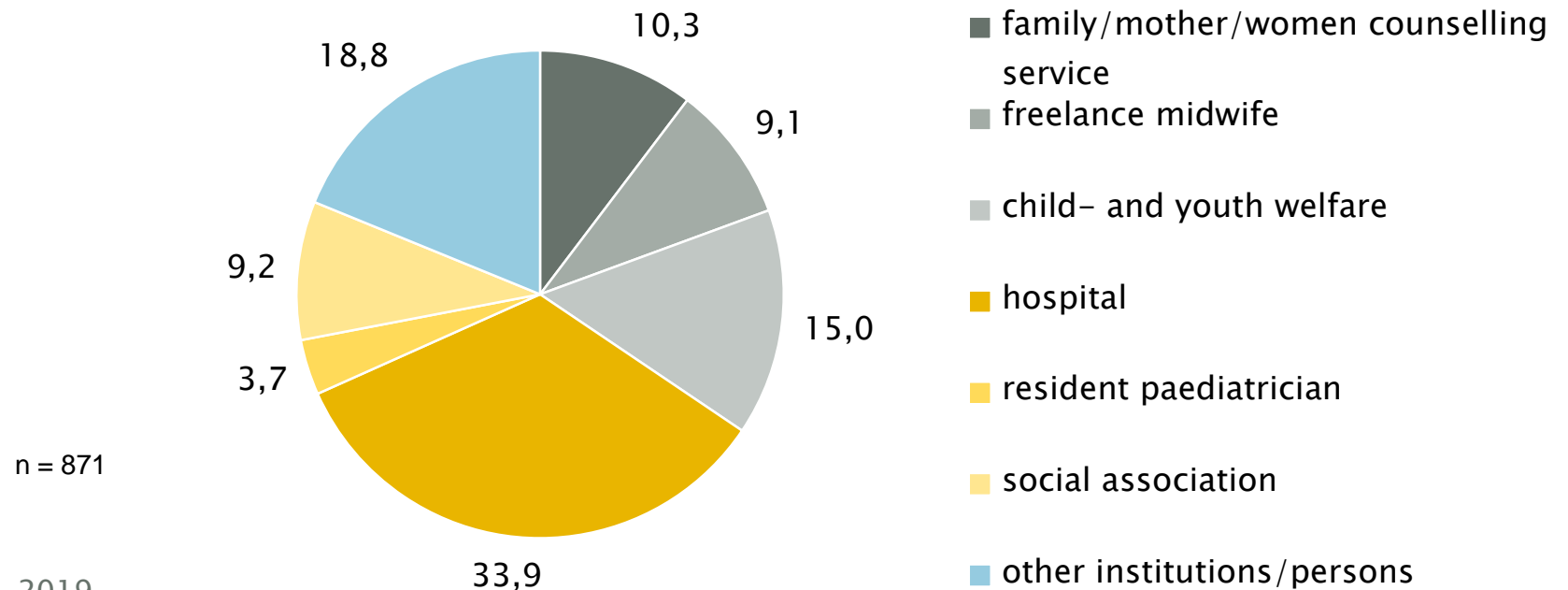
1.110
terminated family supports

Source: FRÜDOK, 25. 4. 2019

Referrals by...



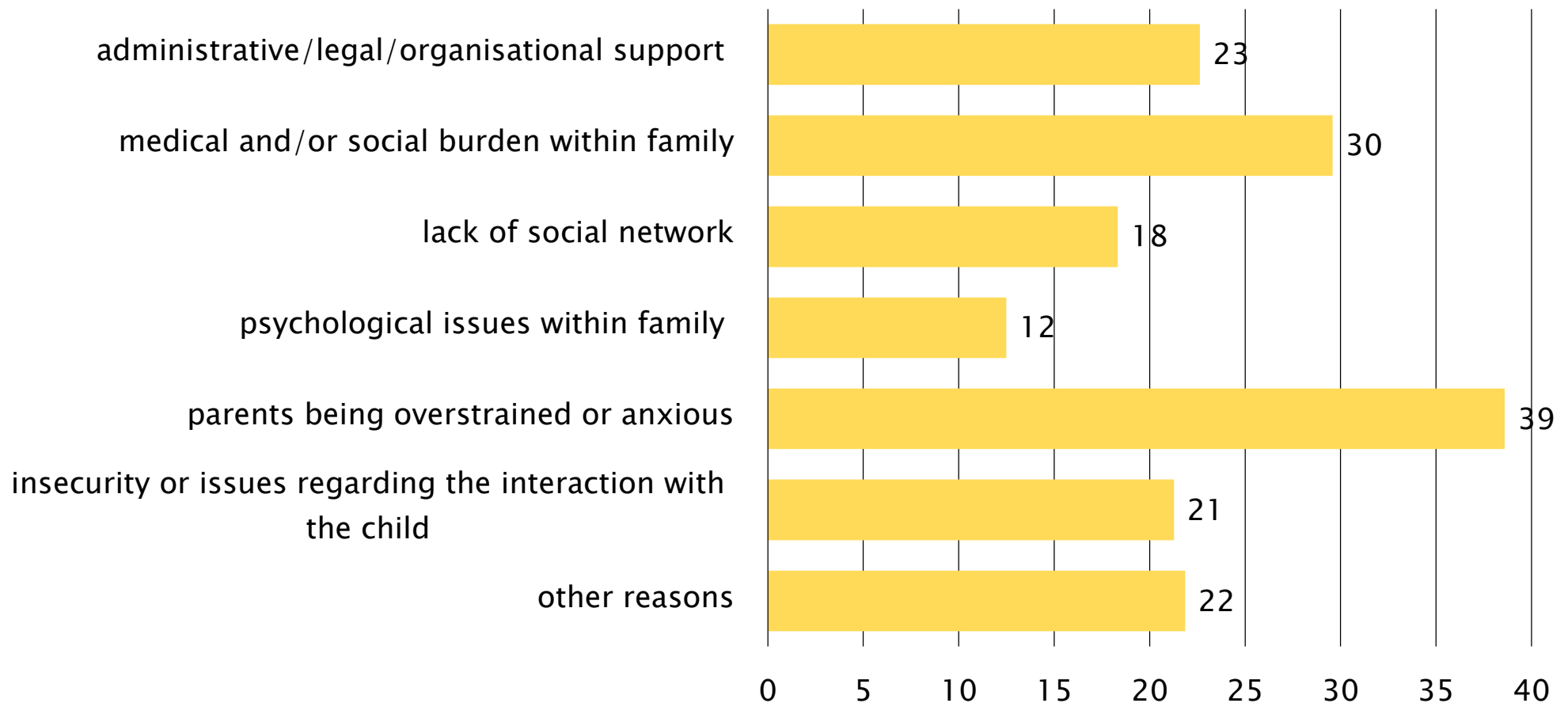
n = 1.693



n = 871

Source: FRÜDOK, 25. 4. 2019

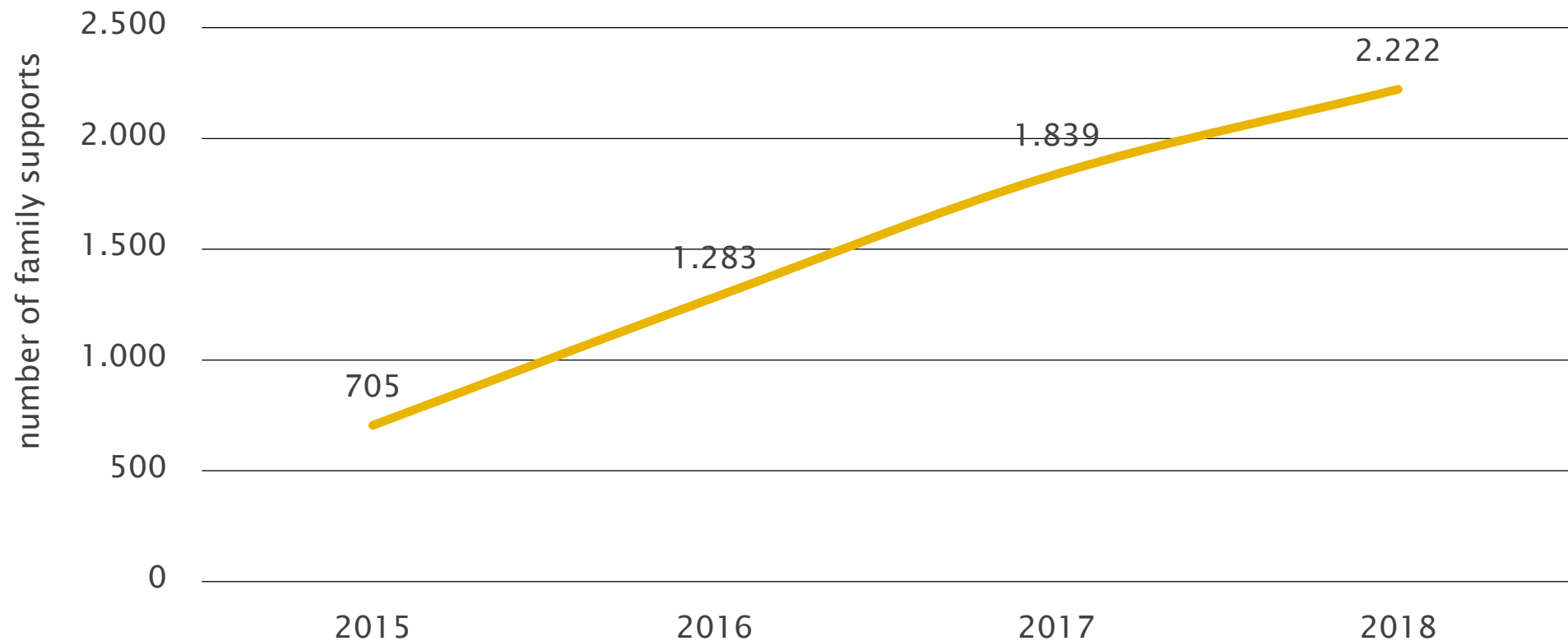
Referrals due to ... 2018



in % of all contacts, n=1.697

Source: FRÜDOK, 25. 4. 2019

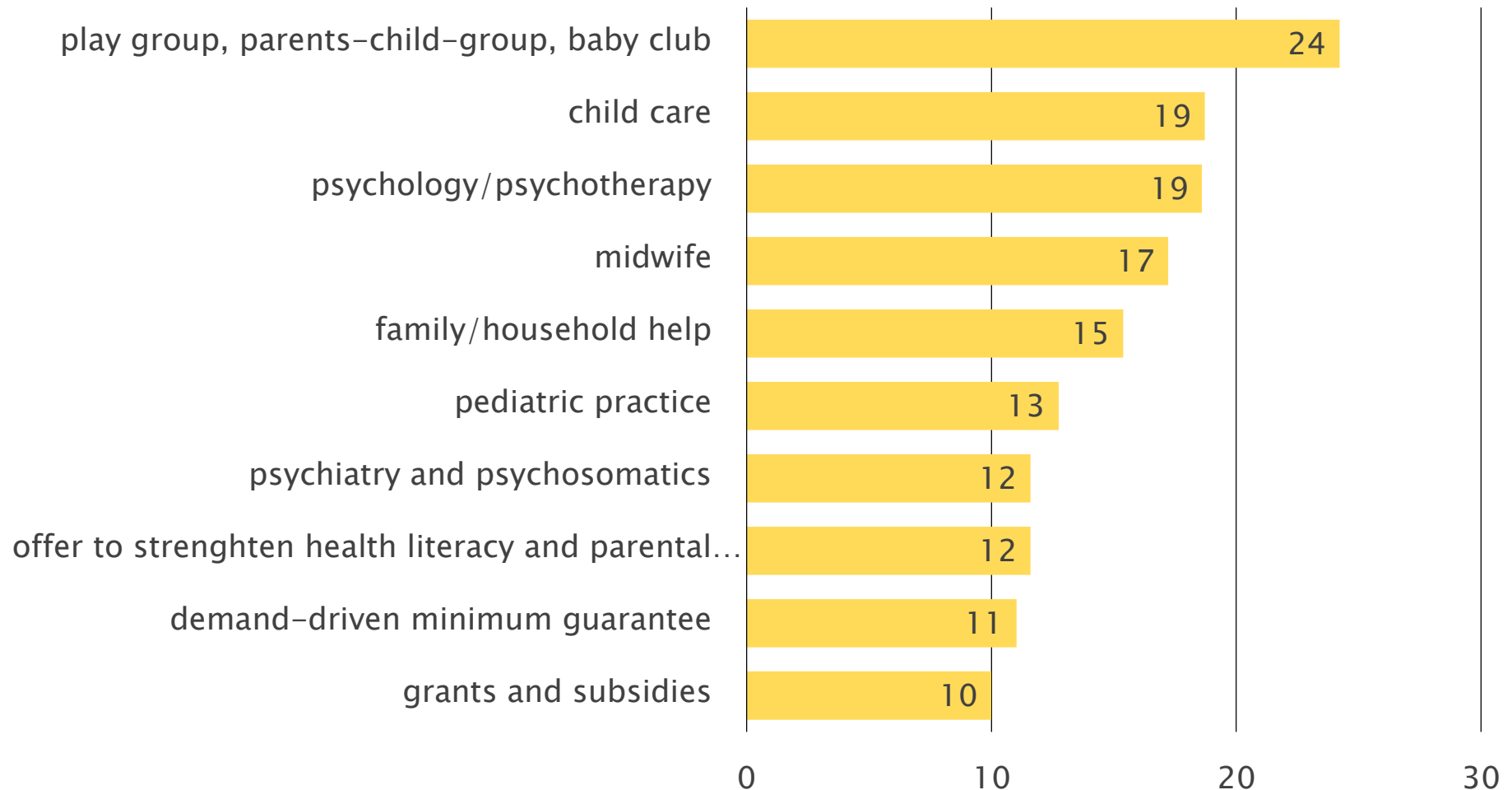
Family supports 2015–2018



n=3.719

Sources: FRÜDOK, 25. 4. 2019; Netzwerk Familie Vorarlberg, 1. 4. 2019

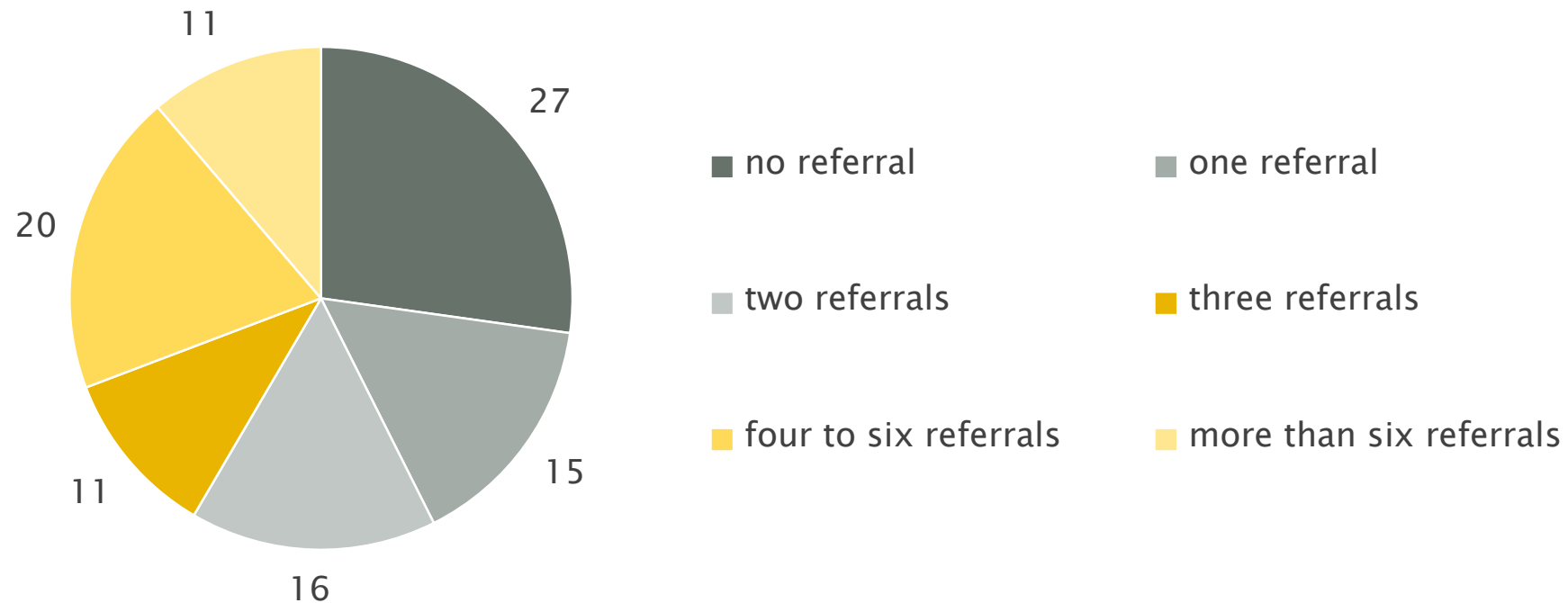
Need for support services 2018



in % of all completed family supports, n=871

Source: FRÜDOK, 25. 4. 2019

Referrals to additional services



in % of all completed supports, n=871

Source: FRÜDOK, 25. 4. 2019

EVALUATION: Families do benefit from early childhood intervention networks

Impact on health determinants (material, social and societal environment) by increases in personal/available resources as well as reduction of strains/burdens:

resources



- + self-esteem
- + health, health literacy
- + parenting skills, parent-child-bonding
- + child development
- + familiar relations/atmosphere
- + social net
- + perspectives for parents life/future



strains/burdens

- anxiety and exhaustion
- financial burden/distress



Thank you for your attention!

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Additional slides

Case study – family M.

Mother: 31 years old, married

Baby: 5 months old

Father: works in construction,
isn't at home much

stable financial
situation

Problems with
mother-child-interaction

Signs of postpartal
depression of mother

sleeping and screaming
problems/disorder of
child

conflicts with
gandparents
paternal side

No family or social
network

Interventions for family M.

Talks to build up trust and relationship with mother

Toddler group

Psychiatric assessment

Mediation

Therapeutic group

Talks with father

Outreach parent counselling

Family assistance