



# ECCCS

Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington

*Presents*

**“The State of Early Childhood in Southington”**

**June 7, 2023**

**Joanne Kelleher, Executive Director**  
**[www.southingtonearlychildhood.org](http://www.southingtonearlychildhood.org)**

© 2023 Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington

1



# ECCCS

Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington

**Mission: All children are healthy and  
prepared to learn.**

**Advocacy – Resources - Education**

2



# ECCS

Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington

## Welcome and Introductions

3

## Agenda

- Using Population Data: We have data, so now what?
  - Anne McIntyre-Lahner
  - Ron Schack
- Statistics and Stories
- The work of the ECCS
- Community Conversation

**ECCS**

Early Childhood Collaborative  
of Southington

4

# ECCS Community Plan

## Our Community of Southington, Connecticut

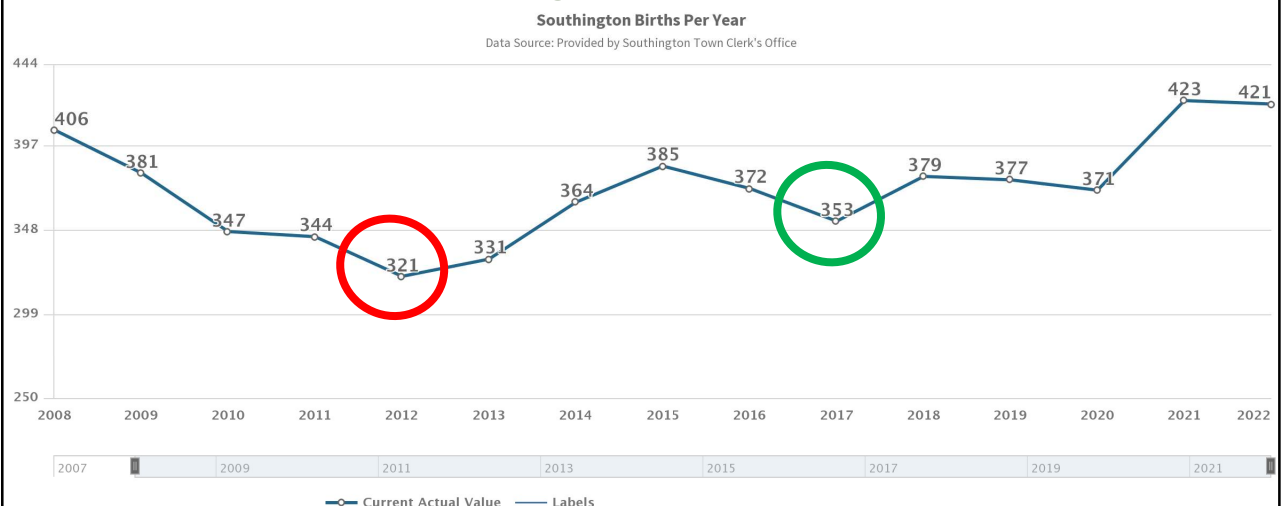
+ R	Demographics	Community Snapshot	Time Period	Current Actual Value	Current Trend	Baseline % Change
+ I	Demographics	Total Population	2021	43,474	↓ 3	9% ↑
+ I	Households	Total Households with children	2021	4,757	↗ 1	388% ↗
+ I	Population	Total Child Population	2021	9,746	↗ 1	20% ↗
+ I	Demographics	Southington Births Per Year	2022	421	↘ 1	12% ↗
+ I	Demographics	# of K-5 Public School Children	2021	2,634	↗ 1	-15% ↘



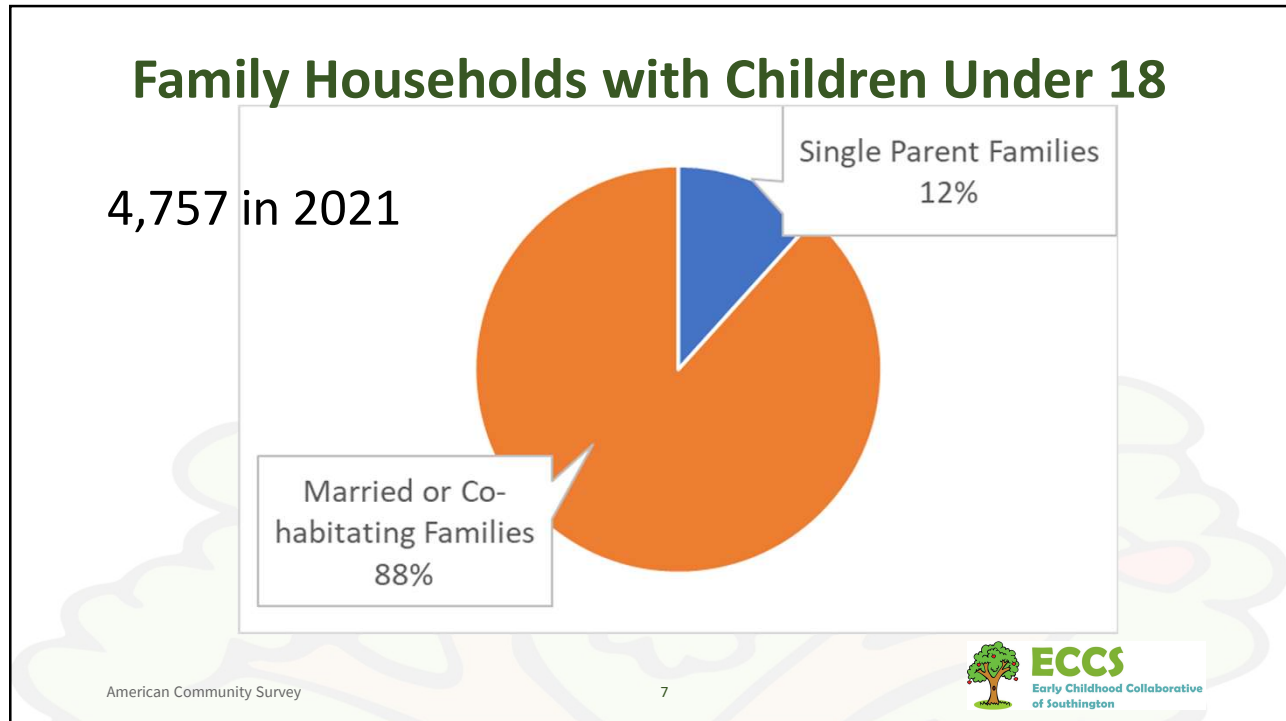
5

## How Many Young Children Are There? Babies Born to Southington Families

Source: Town Clerk's Office



6




7

## Birth to Three in Southington

Birth to Three supports families when they have concerns about their children's development.

Fiscal Year (July to June)	Referred	Evaluated	Eligible	Served
2022	100	85	58	110
2021	117	61	66	100
2020	51	89	46	87
2019	93	57	99	55
2018	99		60	95
2017	83			88

Source: <http://www.birthe23.org/aboutb23/annualdata/>


**ECCS**  
 Early Childhood Collaborative  
 of Southington

8

## Birth to Three in CT – 2017 Birth Year

Child Development Infoline Contacts (9911 = 28% children born in 2017)

Part C Referrals (8583 = 25%)

Evaluations (8083 = 23%)

Eligible (5940 = 17%)

Enrolled (5560 = 16%)

Early Childhood Special Education Eligible (2210 = 6%)

Connecticut Birth to Three Annual Data Report FY22 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022) <https://www.birthe23.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/FY22-Connecticut-Birth-to-Three-Annual-Data-Report.pdf>

9



9

## Children With Preschool Experience



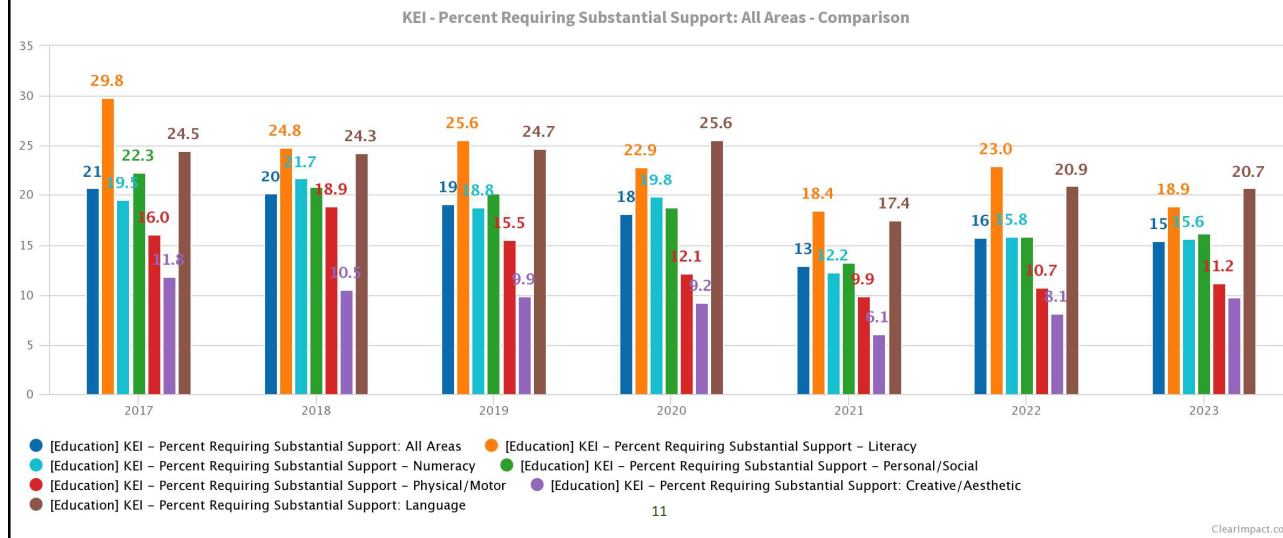
Source: SPS via Connecticut State Department of Education



ClearImpact.com

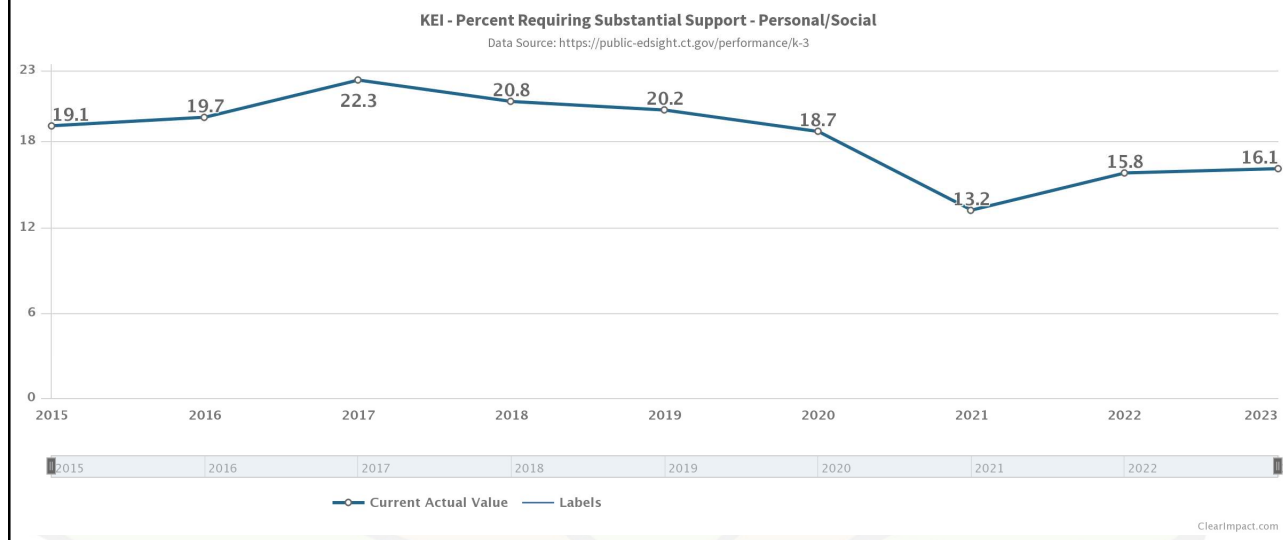
10

## KEI - % Requiring Substantial Support

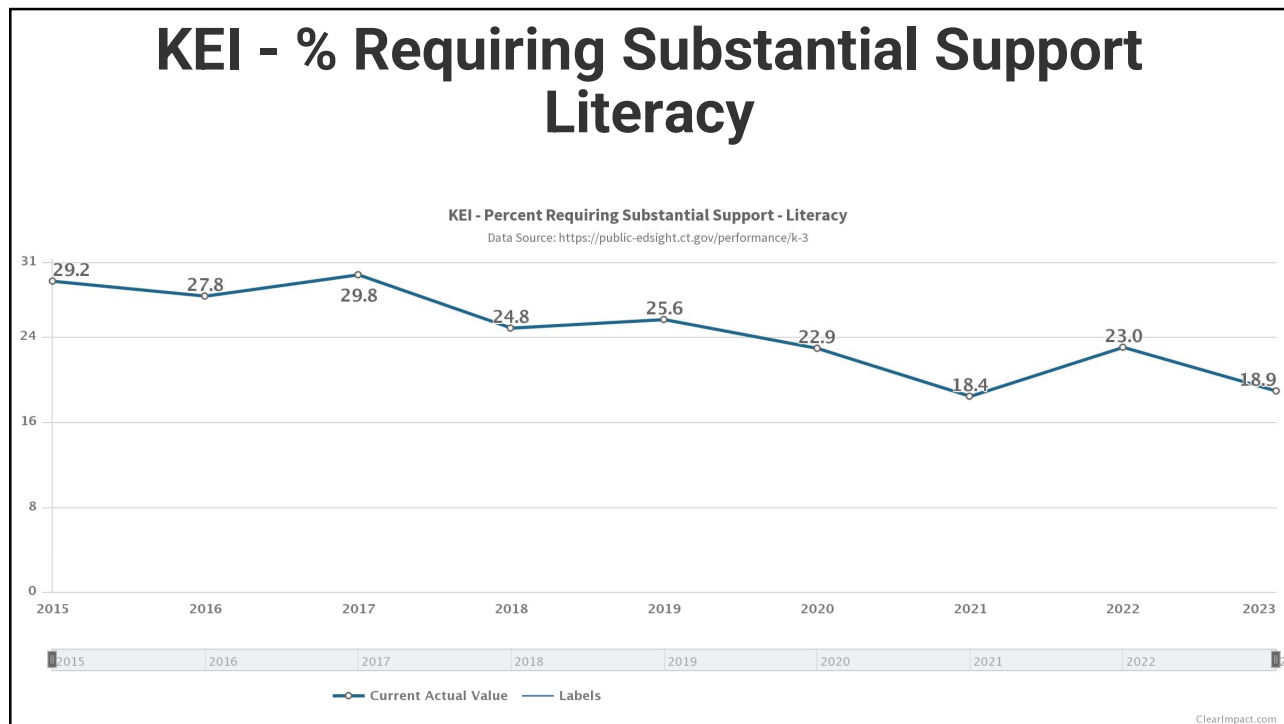


11

## KEI - % Requiring Substantial Support Personal/Social



12



13

### Summer Reading @ the Southington Library

**Summer Reading sign ups**

Starting June 12th, join the Summer Reading Program at the Library. You can sign up in-person or online.

**Mark your reading!**

Starting June 19th, mark every day that you read 20 minutes on the paper log or in the reading app.

**Enter to win!**

For every 5 days that you read, you will receive one (1) raffle ticket for our Grand Prize Drawing!

**Don't Forget about Programs!**

We have animals coming to the library, movie lunches, music, storytimes, and SO MUCH MORE!

255 Main St.    860-628-0947 x3    [www.southingtonlibrary.org](http://www.southingtonlibrary.org)

## Summer Reading Program

**ECCS**  
Early Childhood Collaborative  
of Southington

14

## Economic - Southington

- Children living in poverty: 434 of 9746 (under 18) - 2021
- Homelessness: 21 students (PreK-12) - 2022-23
- Children without health insurance: 65 (under 18) - 2021
- Percent of Households Paying 30% or More of Gross Income on Housing: 25% overall, 48.7% renters - 2021

[Homeless Dashboard \(ct.gov\)](https://homeless.ct.gov)

15

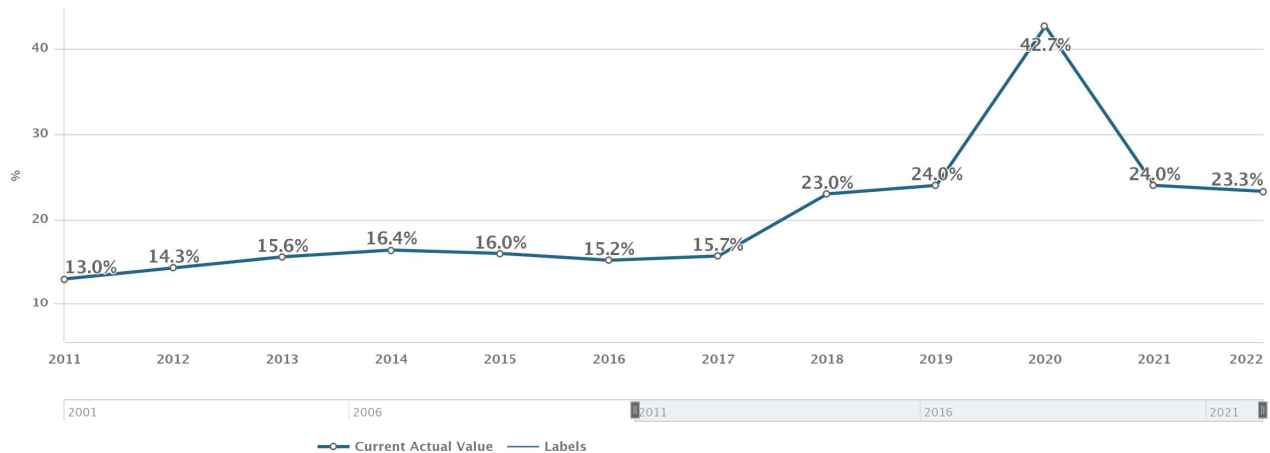


15

## Free and Reduced Lunch Eligibility K-12

Students Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals K-12

Data Source: EdSight



16



ClearImpact.com

16



## Smarter Balanced Assessments - Southington ELA and Math, All Grades Combined, Free/Reduced Price Meal Eligibility

		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2021-22	
Subject	Free/ Reduced Price Meal Eligibility	Total Number with Scored Tests	% Met or Exceeded	Total Number with Scored Tests	% Met or Exceeded	Total Number with Scored Tests	% Met or Exceeded	Total Number with Scored Tests	% Met or Exceeded
ELA	N	2571	70.9	2338	72.7	2229	73.2	2103	69.3
ELA	Y	464	46.8	635	49.9	682	51.3	616	46.4
Math	N	2570	63	2336	64	2227	68.2	2098	64.4
Math	Y	463	36.7	637	36.7	681	43.8	614	37.9

Source: <https://public-edsight.ct.gov/performance/smarter-balanced-achievement-participation>

17



17

## Summer Lunch Program



*So no one goes hungry.*

### 2023 Southington Summer Lunch Program

Bread for Life will be providing healthy lunches and fun, at no cost, for kids and teens in their neighborhoods in town this summer beginning June 19, 2023.

**No registration needed!**

#### Grab and Go Lunches

DePaolo Middle School  
Monday/Wednesday/Friday • 11:45am–12:30pm

Bread for Life  
Monday through Friday • 11:45am–12:15pm

#### Lunch and Activities

Summerbrook Apartments  
Monday/Wednesday/Friday  
12:00pm–1:00pm

**FRIENDS!  
FOOD!  
FUN!**



18

## A Crisis with Childcare: Parents

- High Cost
- Space Availability
  - Better than a year ago for some ages
- Waiting lists
- Staff turnover – impact's child's attachment
- Health concerns



19

## A Crisis with Childcare: Providers

- Staffing shortage
  - Per CAHS Early Childhood Providers survey, 3,800 staff openings in CT spring 2023, down from 4,440 last year.
- Pay - long hours, low wages, minimal benefits
  - Minimum wage increased to \$15 on June 1
- Increased Financial pressure
  - COVID relief State and Federal funding will not continue
  - State support in budget not as much as requested.



20

## Insights from Childcare Providers

- Many of new children had not been in a childcare/preschool program prior due to Covid.
- More social/emotional challenges.
- More behavior issues.
- Extra support from outside agencies is limited with waiting lists and shorter time allotted.
- Teachers are stressed as they try to do their best in difficult situations.



21

## Mental Health

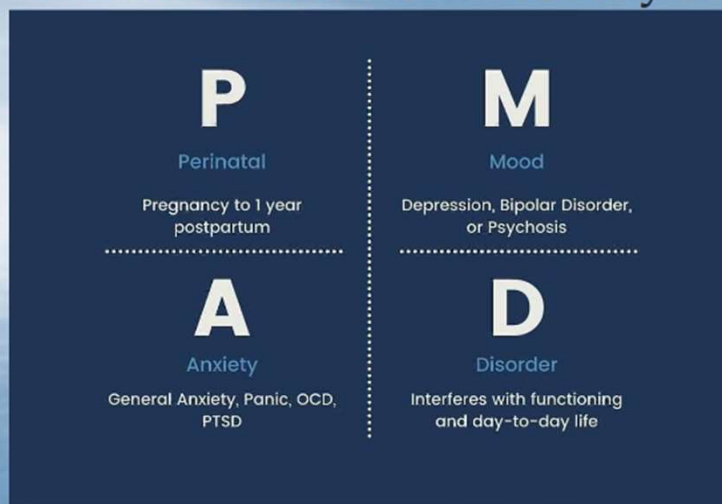
- Perinatal
  - CT Association for Infant Mental Health 2023 conference
- Adults
  - CT 211
- Teens and Children
  - Connecticut School Health Survey (CSHS)
  - STEPS Survey 2022 - Administered to Southington Students: Grades 7, 9 & 11
  - ECCS Survey 2022 – Administered to parents

[Under Pressure](#)



22

## Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders (PMADs)



*ALL Perinatal Birthing People  
Experiences Emotional and  
Psychological Changes  
Related to Role Changes,  
Social and Cultural  
Expectations and Status,  
Relationships, Biological and  
Physiological Changes.*



23

## How the Pandemic affected the Transition to Parenthood:

- Limited support groups; no in-person groups
- Travel restrictions, infection & prevention protocols limited family visitors
- Public health protocols ceased home-based programming (ie; Early Intervention, Home Visiting)



24

## Mental Health

- Stillbirths increased during pandemic
- PMADs
  - Pre-pandemic 15%
  - During/post pandemic 30-64%
- Maternal depression and grief symptoms interfered with baby bonding
  - Increase substance use among parents
  - Less treatment resources for parents were available
- Trauma and Loss
- Formula shortage



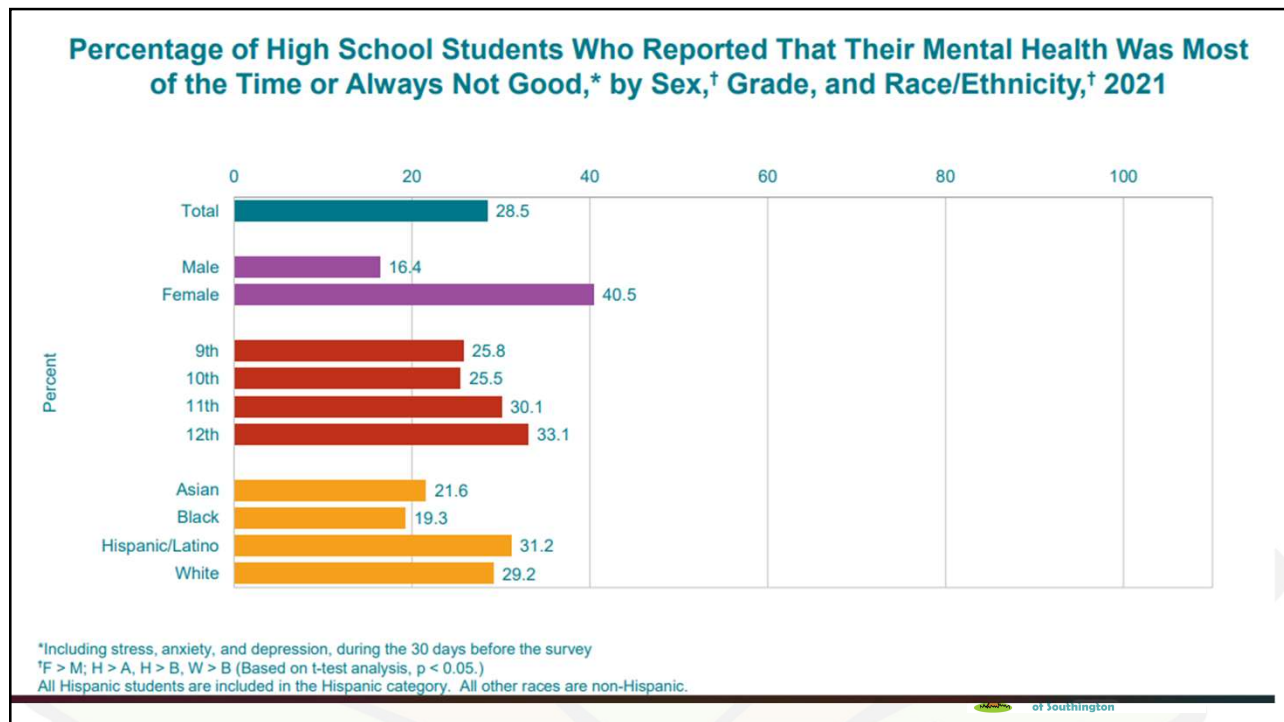
25

## Calls to 211 – Mental Health & Addiction

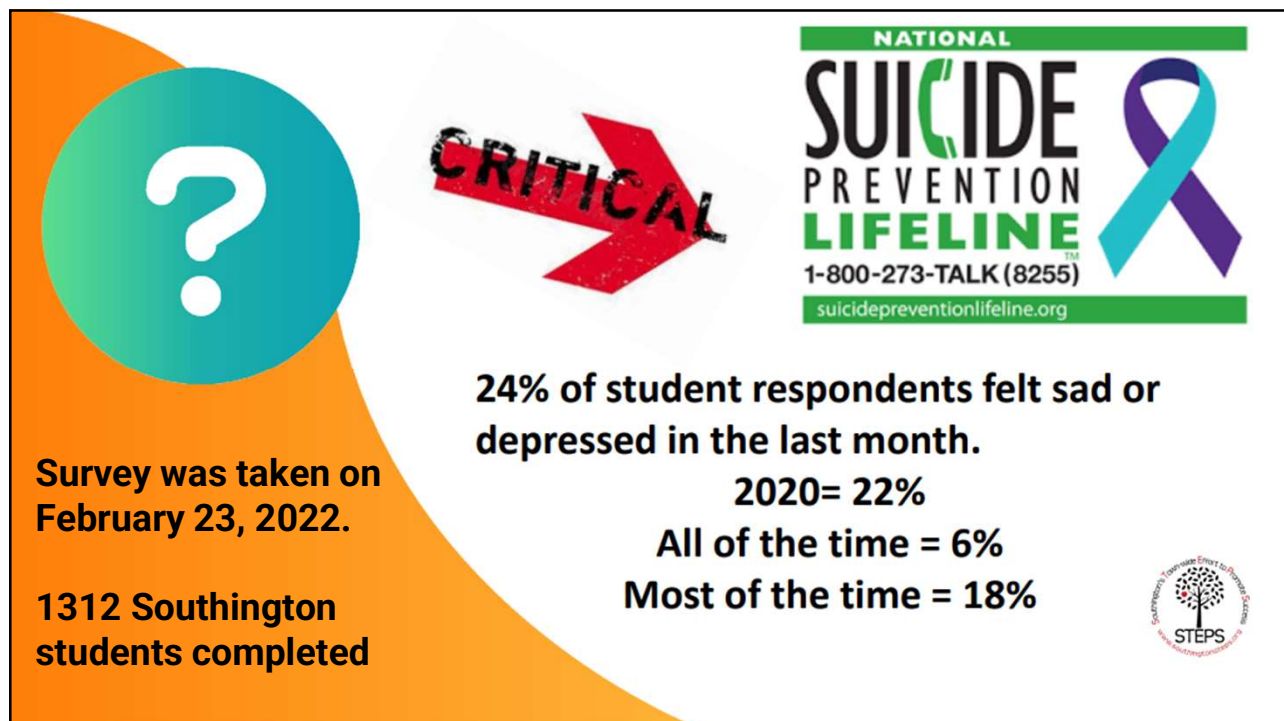


26

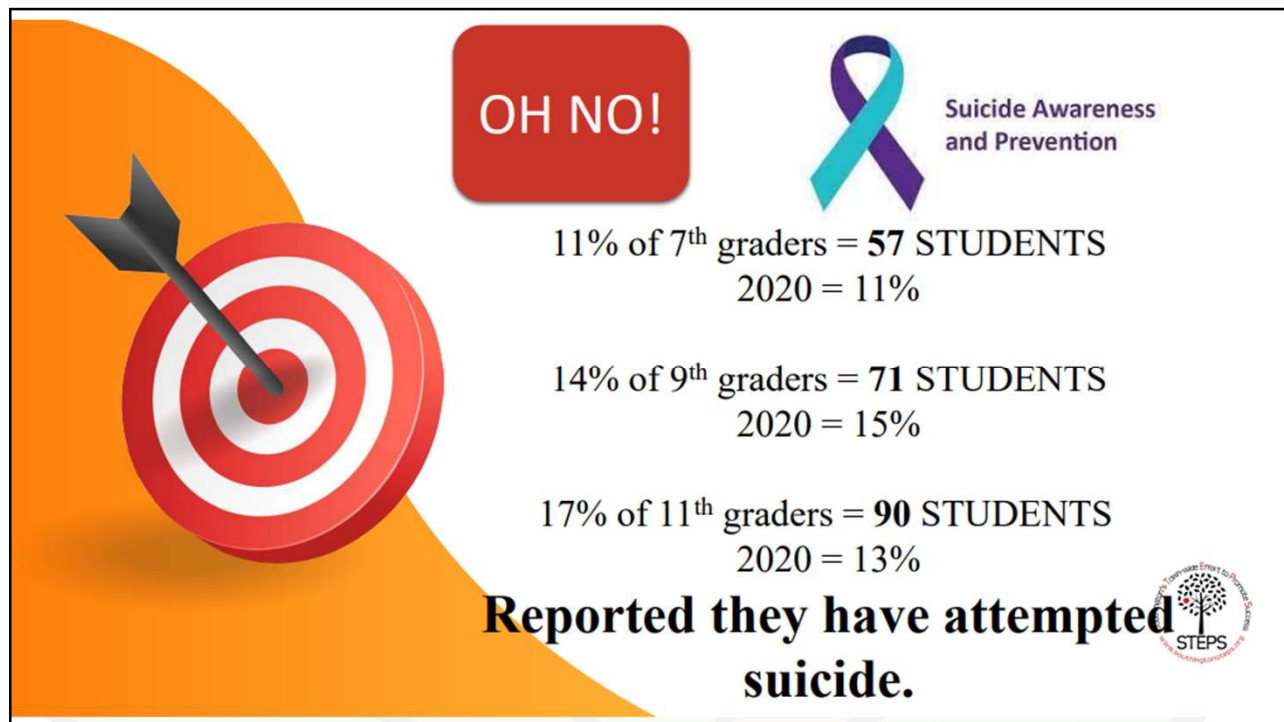




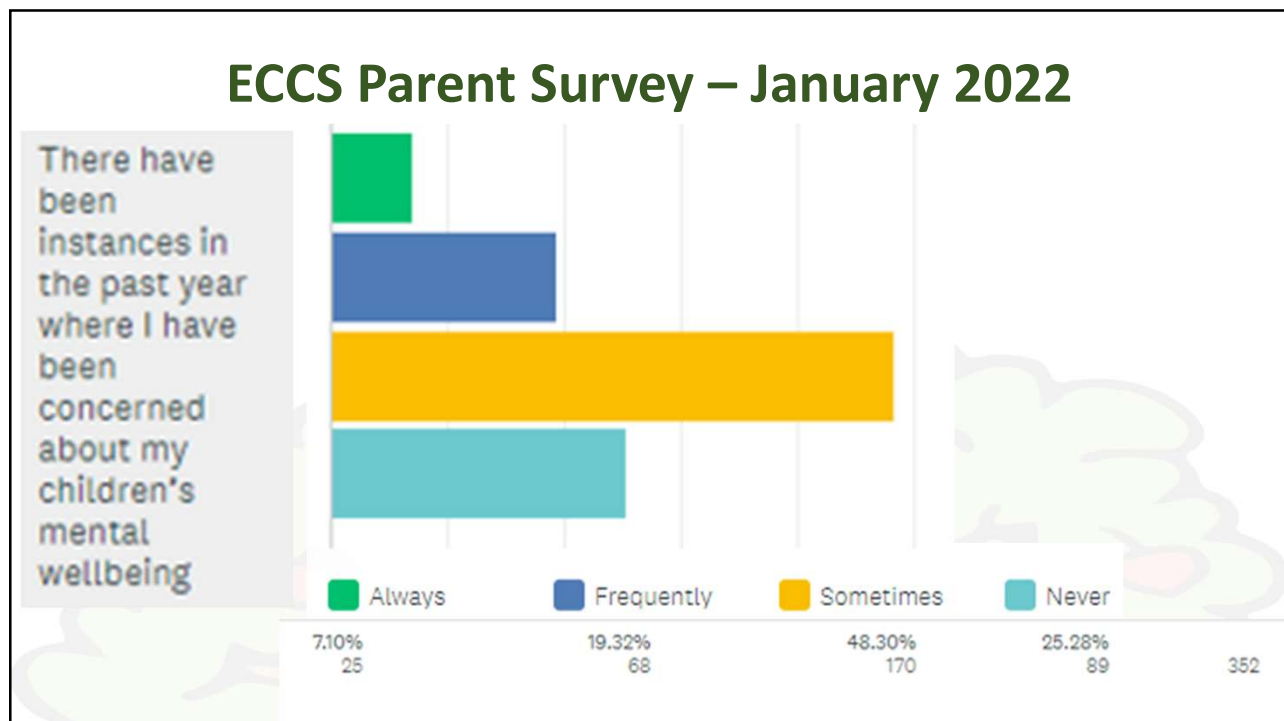
27



28



29



30

## What is ECCS Doing?

- Advocacy
- Outreach
- Resource for Information
- Education



31

## Advocacy – State and Federal

- Federal Build Back Better
- Childcare for Connecticut's Future
- State budget requests
  - Funding for childcare providers
  - Increased Care4Kids eligibility and subsidies
  - Funding for local collaboratives and Parent Cabinet
- Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Childcare



32



## Outreach

- Events: Library's ComicCon, PRIDE Festival, Farmer's Market, Touch-a-Truck, Family Funfest, Halloween in Village, etc.
- Community Organizations: Chamber of Commerce, Activate, Behavioral Health Stakeholders, ICA,
- Letter/brochure to new parents via Town Clerk's office
- Books and math kits for incoming K students
- Books via Southington Community Services
- Print ads and sign on Town Green
- Social media, email and calls to answer questions about childcare, providers, etc.



33

## Resources Directory / Info

- Childcare, camps and before/after school options
- Enrichment/summer activities – dance, sports, music
- Healthcare providers and mental health support
- Kid's events and activities
- Parks, playgrounds and outdoor spaces
- Health, safety, SEL and development issues
- Anti-racism, Grief...

[www.southingtonearlychildhood.org](http://www.southingtonearlychildhood.org)



34

## Education

- Parenting with a CBT Perspective Workshop series
- Conscious Discipline/Play and Learn program series
- Circle of Security program (offered but cancelled due to low enrollment)
- Kindergarten Info Session and Readiness Workshop
- Car seat checks with SPD
- Info Calls for Childcare Providers
- Parent Office Hours
- Social Media: Car seat usage, fire prevention, stress, supports, developmental milestones, activities, other health, safety and school readiness issues



35

## ECCS Parent Ambassadors

- Betsy Mintz – Establishing a special education PTO
- Jessica Mitchell – Connecting families via Southington Mom's Facebook Group and as new publisher of *Macaroni KID Southington - Bristol - Cheshire, CT* newsletter.



36



Free mobile app for CT families with children 0-5 and programs serving those families.

- **Know:** Ages & Stages Questionnaires® (ASQ)
- **Play:** Fun, off-screen activities and tips
- **Grow:** Follow progress in scrapbook
- **Connect:** Get tips and answers from experts at 211 Child Development or your school/provider

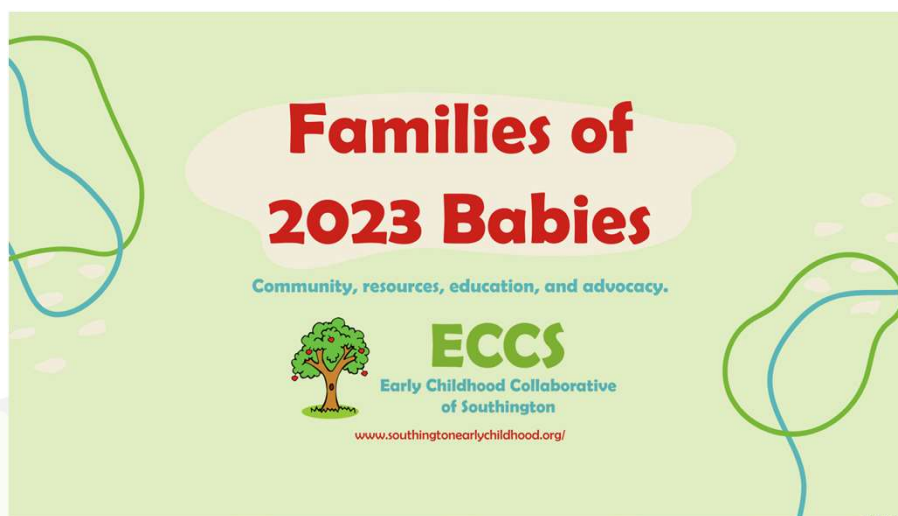
Links to the app and the registration codes for Southington are at <http://www.southingtonearlychildhood.org/sparkler/>



37

## Fostering Parent Connections

- New set of Facebook groups based on birth year.



38

## Support the ECCS

- Partner with us
- Tell a young family or make referral
- Make a Donation
- Volunteer
- Join Board
- Follow, Like, Share Us on Social Media
- Attend Workshops, Events or Fundraisers - [www.southingtonearlychildhood.org/events/](http://www.southingtonearlychildhood.org/events/)



39

## Thank You to ECCS Board

### Current board members

- Rachel Wardwell
- Lisa Chaplinsky
- Shannon Fitzsimons
- Amanda Gilbert-Largent
- Pat Johnson
- Brian Williams
- Molly Virello
- Joeline Wruck - CFGNB

### Outgoing board members

- Samantha Drotar
- Erica LaBearde

### Recruiting board members

40

## Thanks to 2022-2023 ECCS Funders



Connecticut Early Childhood  
Funder Collaborative  
A project of:



Donations from Play It Again Sports,  
Puerta Vallarta, the ECCS Board and  
members of the community.



41

## Community Conversation

- What are your thoughts?
- What data points resonated with you?
- What other needs are there in the community?
- How can we work together?
- What else can the ECCS do?

All comments are welcome.

42

## Questions?

Joanne C. Kelleher  
Executive Director

Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington  
P.O. Box 210, Southington, CT 06489

[www.southingtonearlychildhood.org](http://www.southingtonearlychildhood.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/ECCSouthington/>

[https://twitter.com/ecc\\_southington](https://twitter.com/ecc_southington)

<https://instagram.com/eccsouthington>

C: 860-385-1665

