
Measuring Situations and Outcomes: Public Health Impact of the Law

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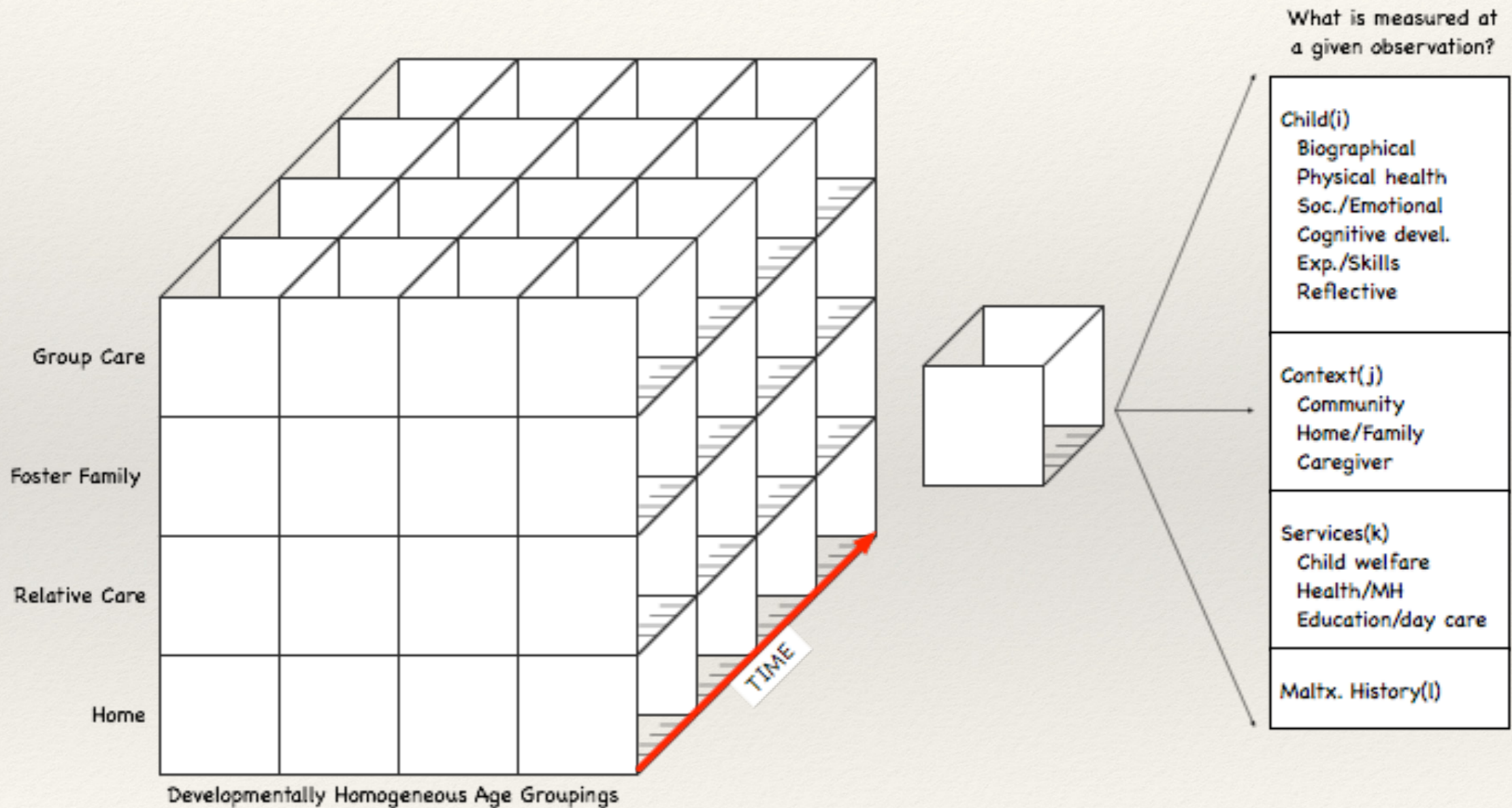
Introduction

- ▶ 3 x 5 cards
- ▶ The role of resources
- ▶ The role of politics
- ▶ The role of science and best practices

The Role of Science

- ▶ The importance of frameworks
- ▶ Situations through time
 - ▶ Person in place and time
 - ▶ The role of narrative
 - ▶ Well-being as a point process vs well-being as a trajectory
- ▶ Foster care is a system
 - ▶ Policy effects on whether children will be adopted
 - ▶ Linked Multi-level interventions

Bio-ecological Life Course: Placement as Situation



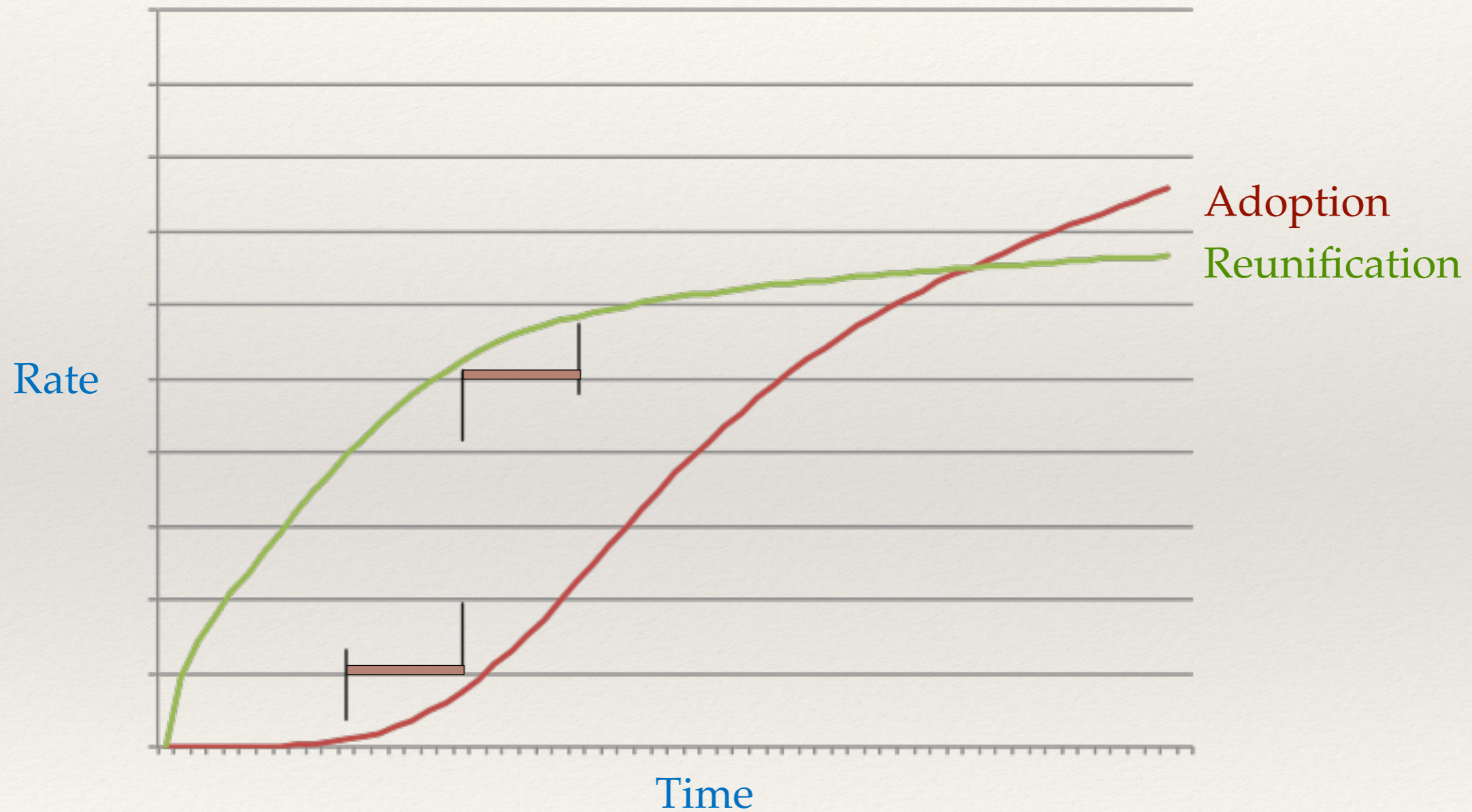
Two Examples

- ▶ Adoption from foster care
 - ▶ More common in the U. S. - it's culturally related
 - ▶ Use of adoption varies considerably even in the U.S.
 - ▶ State policy varies considerably as well
 - ▶ The impact of policy
- ▶ At scale-implementation of evidence-based outcomes
 - ▶ The dose / response problem
 - ▶ How do we know? Observational versus experimental data

Adoption

- ▶ Two critical measures for understanding policy effects
 - ▶ How likely is it they will be adopted?
 - ▶ How long does it take?
 - ▶ If adoption confers developmental advantages to children then how long it takes and how often it happens are of fundamental importance
- ▶ State policy differs with respect to focus
 - ▶ State policies that target likelihood
 - ▶ Children in these circumstances
 - ▶ State policies that target timing
 - ▶ When can the state start its work
- ▶ Two are often confused

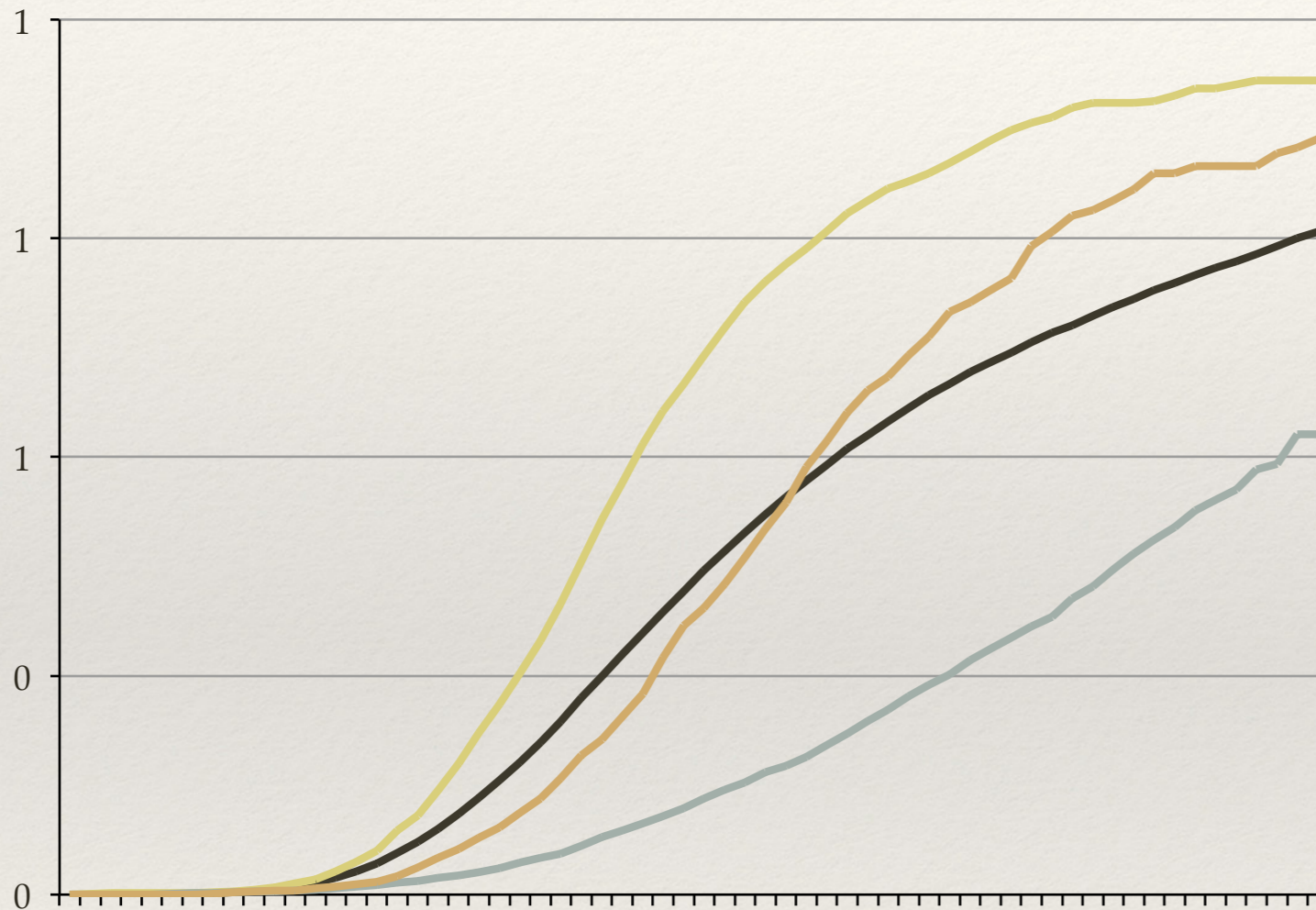
Reunification and Adoption



Changes in slope are tied to efficiency: adoptions / reunifications per unit of effort

Adoption Rates by State

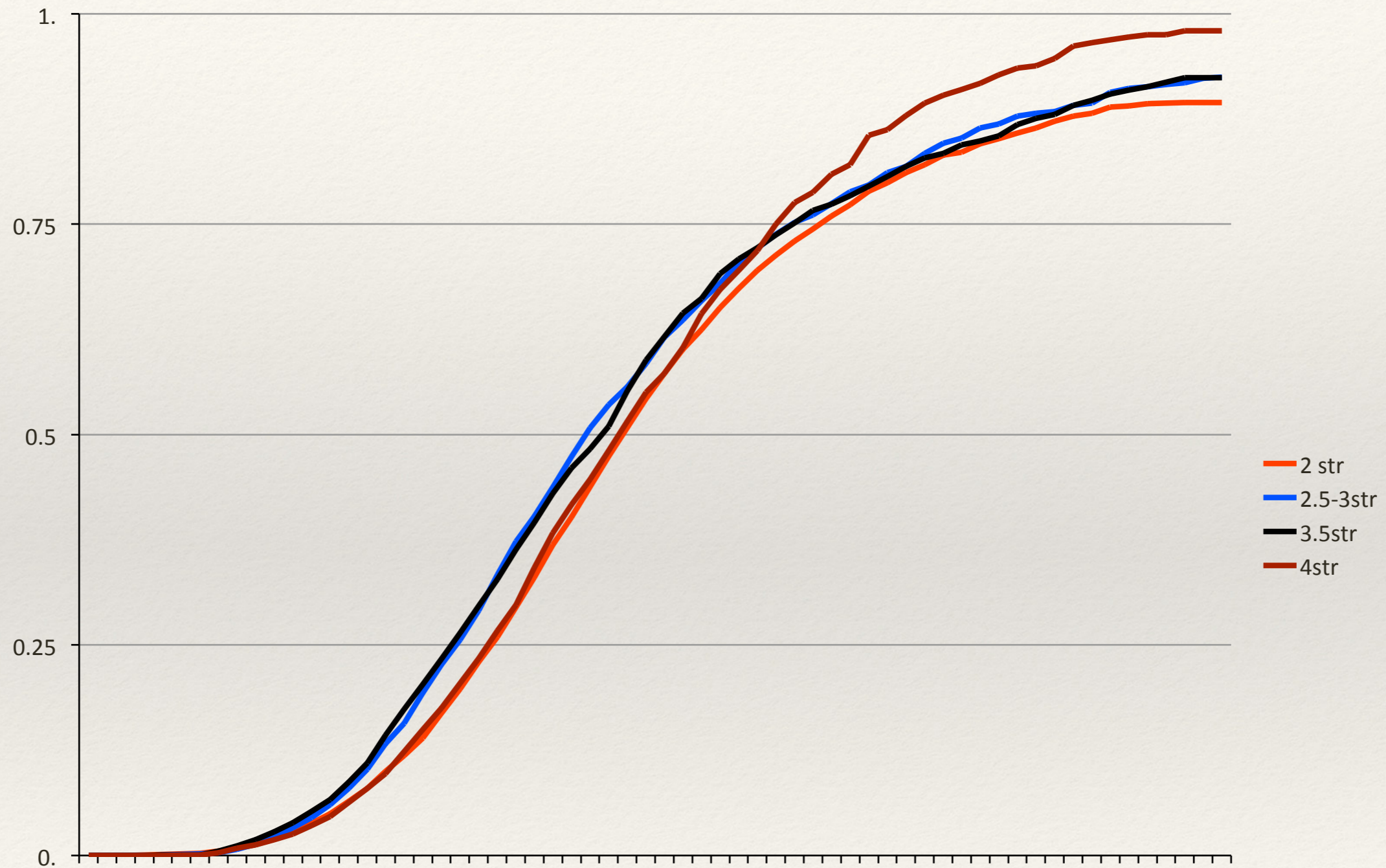
Policy & System Effects



- ▶ The average rate
- ▶ Early timing - high probability
- ▶ Late timing - high probability
- ▶ Late timing - low probability

- ▶ In which context do children tend to do better?
- ▶ Given the context, what policies move the system in the right direction?

Infant Adoption Rates by Policy Configuration



Linked Multi-level Interventions: A Framework For Improving Placement Outcomes

- ▶ Well-being as a trajectory
 - ▶ Manage the risk and protective factors at the person, family, system level
 - ▶ Positive relationships with adults are protective
 - ▶ Improve the quality of the interaction between adults and children
 - ▶ Project KEEP with PMT
 - ▶ Misalignment of fiscal incentives and outcomes is a risk factor
 - ▶ Create positive return on investment
 - ▶ Quality of work is a risk factor
 - ▶ Buy time to improve quality