**Early Childhood Interventions. Figures, Data and Facts 2018.
FRÜDOK Annual Report:**

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Summary

Background

Since the beginning of 2015, regional early childhood intervention networks have been set up or expanded in all provinces according to the Austrian basic model. The aim of these regional networks is to provide need-based support to parents-(to be) and families with small children in stressful life situations and to promote health equity.

Regional implementation is accompanied by the National Centre for Early Childhood Interventions (NZFH.at). Its tasks include the provision of uniform documentation and the analysis of the data collected.

Methods

Descriptive data analysis of contacts with early childhood intervention networks and families supported for the year 2018. Presentation of the structural characteristics of the regional networks as well as feedback of families on the satisfaction and benefit of the offer.

Findings

Early childhood intervention has been in place in all nine provinces since 2016. As of 31 December 2018, 24 regional early childhood intervention networks were available, which are active in a total of 63 political districts. In 2018, there were 1,974 families in Austria who were placed with regional early childhood intervention networks by professionals in the health and social sector or friends, acquaintances and relatives or who made contact themselves. 2,222 families were supported throughout the year, and 1,110 family supports were completed.

The primary target group – pregnant women and families with infants and young children up to three years of age – is reached very early: 25 percent of contacts were made during pregnancy; more than a third of the youngest children in the family were under three months old. In line with the objective, families with social, psychological and/or medical strains were reached: e.g. half of

the families were at risk of poverty, one third of the mothers had a migrant background or at most a compulsory school leaving certificate, one fifth are single parents and ten percent of the mothers showed signs of postpartum depression, almost one fifth of the children were premature and ten percent multiple births.

Conclusion

The target group continues to be well reached on an early stage. A further expansion of the catchment areas and an increase in the coverage of needs should be aimed throughout Austria, so that all families in stressful life situations are given the opportunity to receive tailored support. The data set, which has grown in the meantime, is to be used over the next few years for in-depth evaluations, also of smaller subgroups (e.g. family supports during pregnancy), so to provide further insights into the life situation of families supported and into the functioning of family support.

Keywords

The full report is available in German and can be downloaded here:

https://www.fruehehilfen.at/de/Service/Materialien/Publikationen/Fruehe-HilfenbrZahlen-Daten-und-Fakten-zu-den-begleiteten-Familienbrspan-stylefont-size-16pxFRUeDOK-Jahres-bericht-2018.htm