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# Measuring Situations and Outcomes: Public Health Impact of the Law

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# Introduction

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

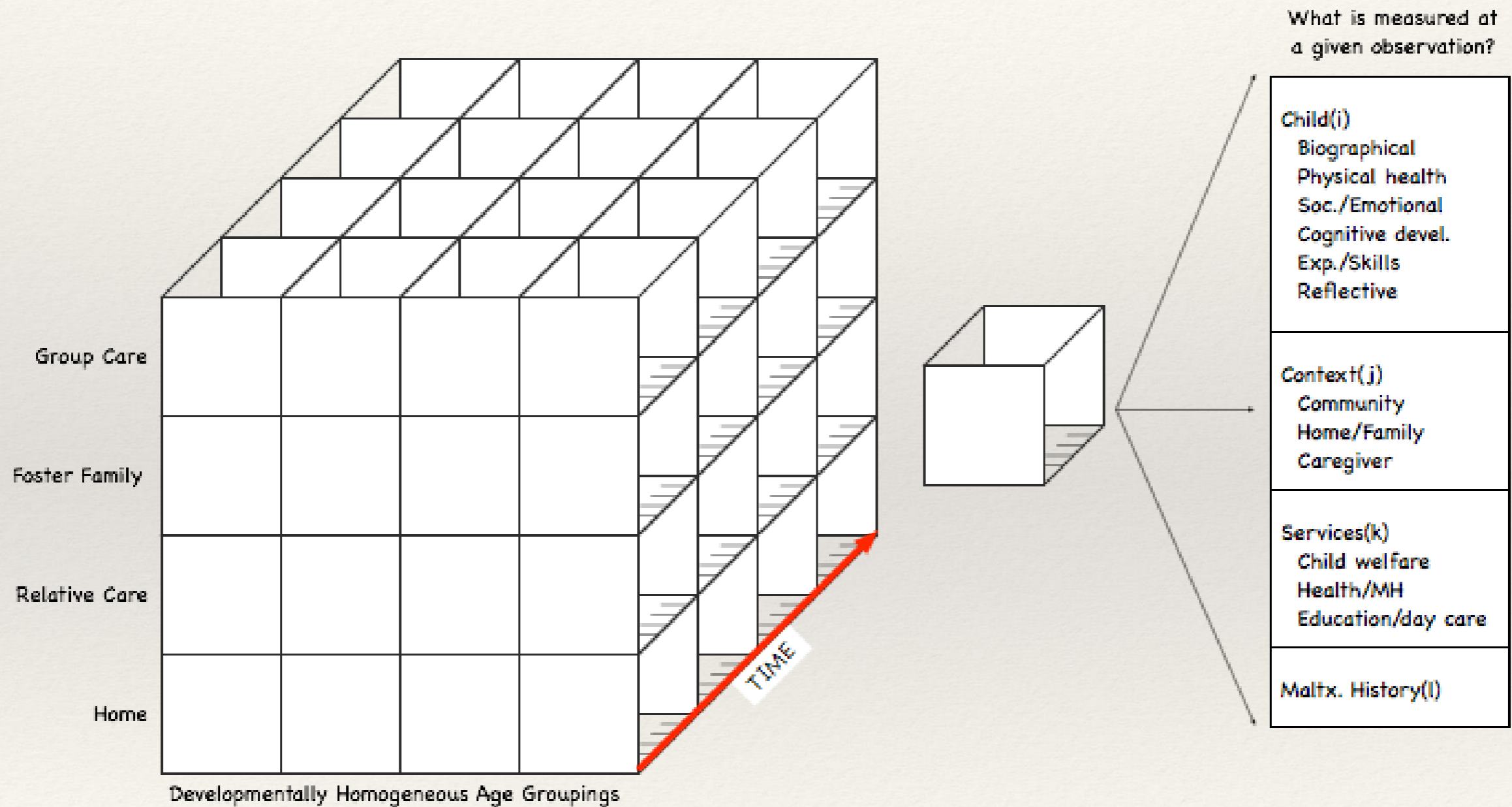
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# The Role of Science

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- 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



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# Two Examples

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- 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

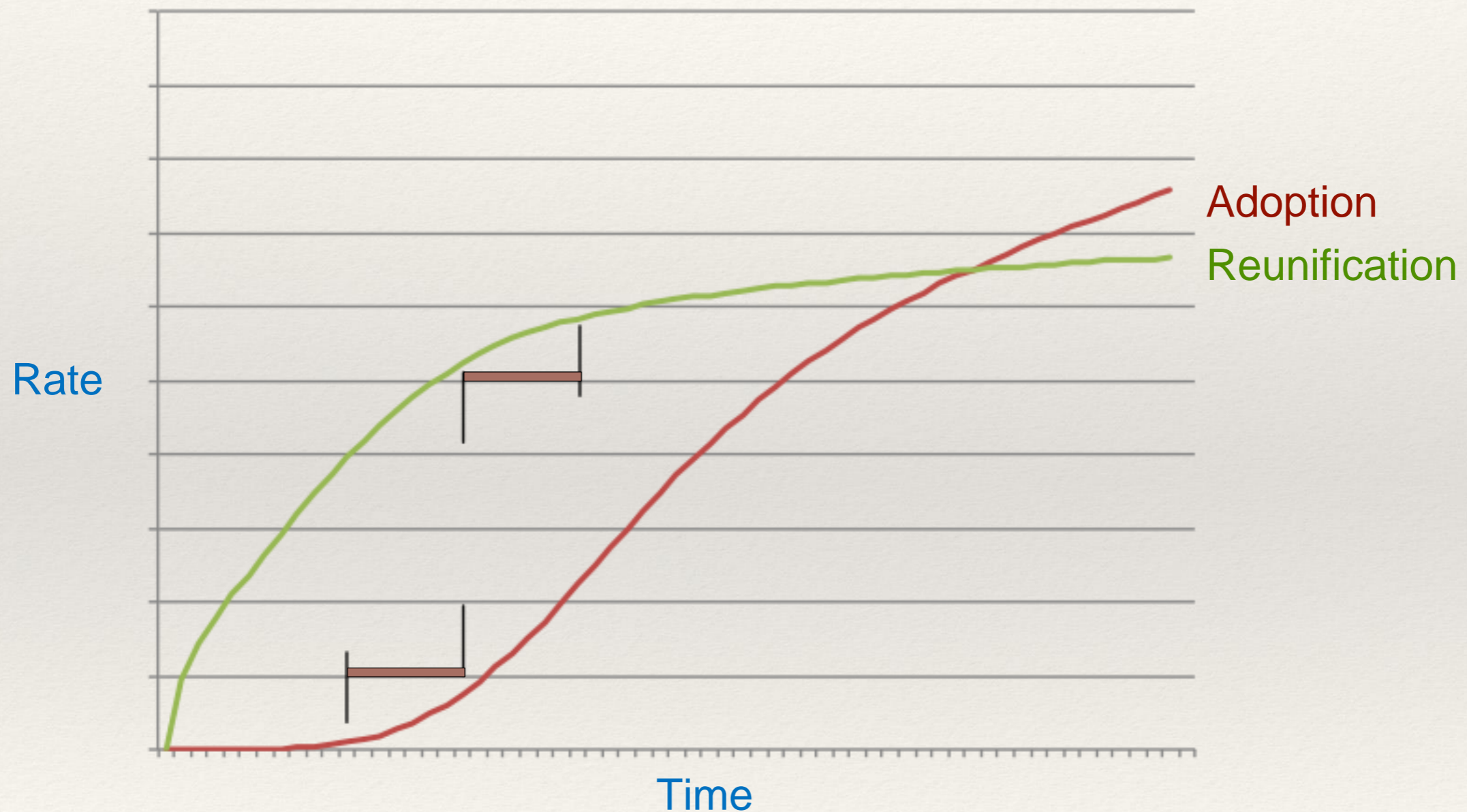
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# Adoption

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- ▶ 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

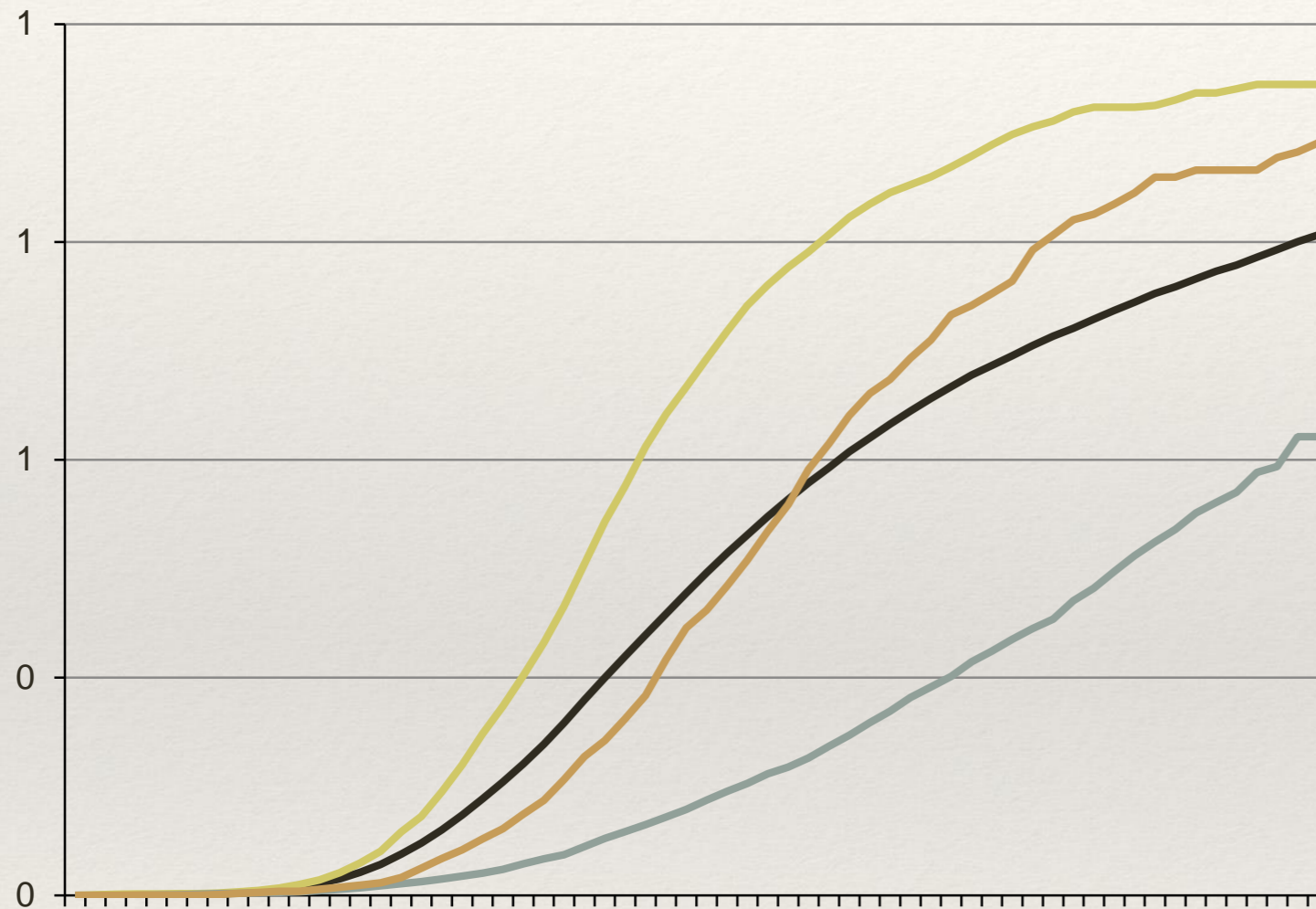
# Reunification and Adoption



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

# Adoption Rates by State

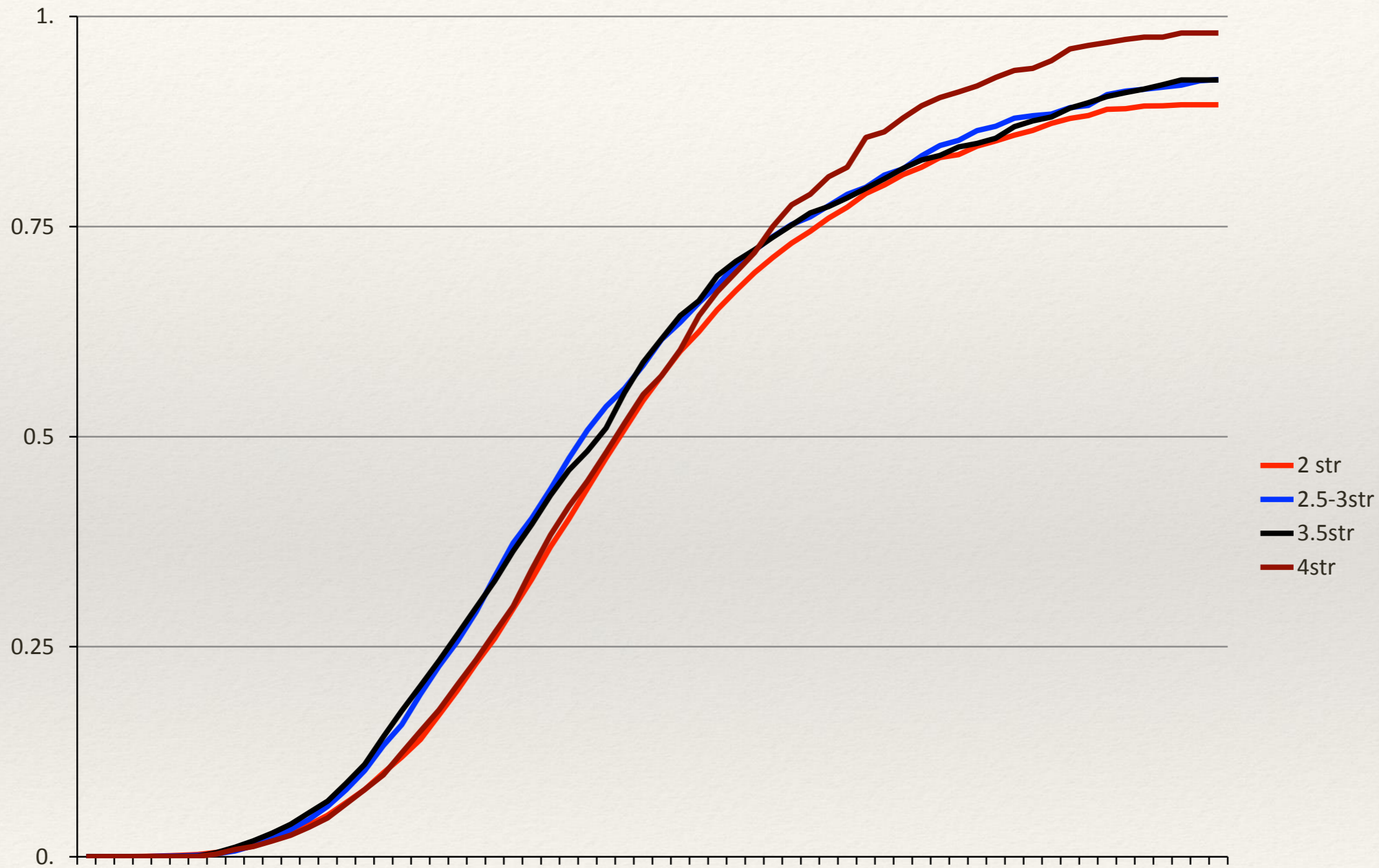
## Policy & System Effects



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



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

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- 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