



Background

- * To improve early intervention (EI) systems, practices, and outcomes for children and families, the Office of Special Education Programs has required that states implement State Systemic Improvement Plans (SSIP).
- * This study describes the patterns and trends in states' SSIP progress.

State Systemic Improvement Plans

- * The SSIP is a comprehensive multiyear three-phase plan to improve results for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.
- * **Phases I & II:** States (Phase I) analyzed data to identify the area of focus and their state-identified measurable result (SiMR) as the focus of their improvement plan and (Phase II) developed their implementation and evaluation plans.
- * **Phase III:** States are implementing and evaluating their improvement efforts.
- * **April 2017:** States reported on their progress during the first year of Phase III SSIP implementation (FFY 2015), consistent with the implementation and evaluation plans they developed in Phase II.

Methods

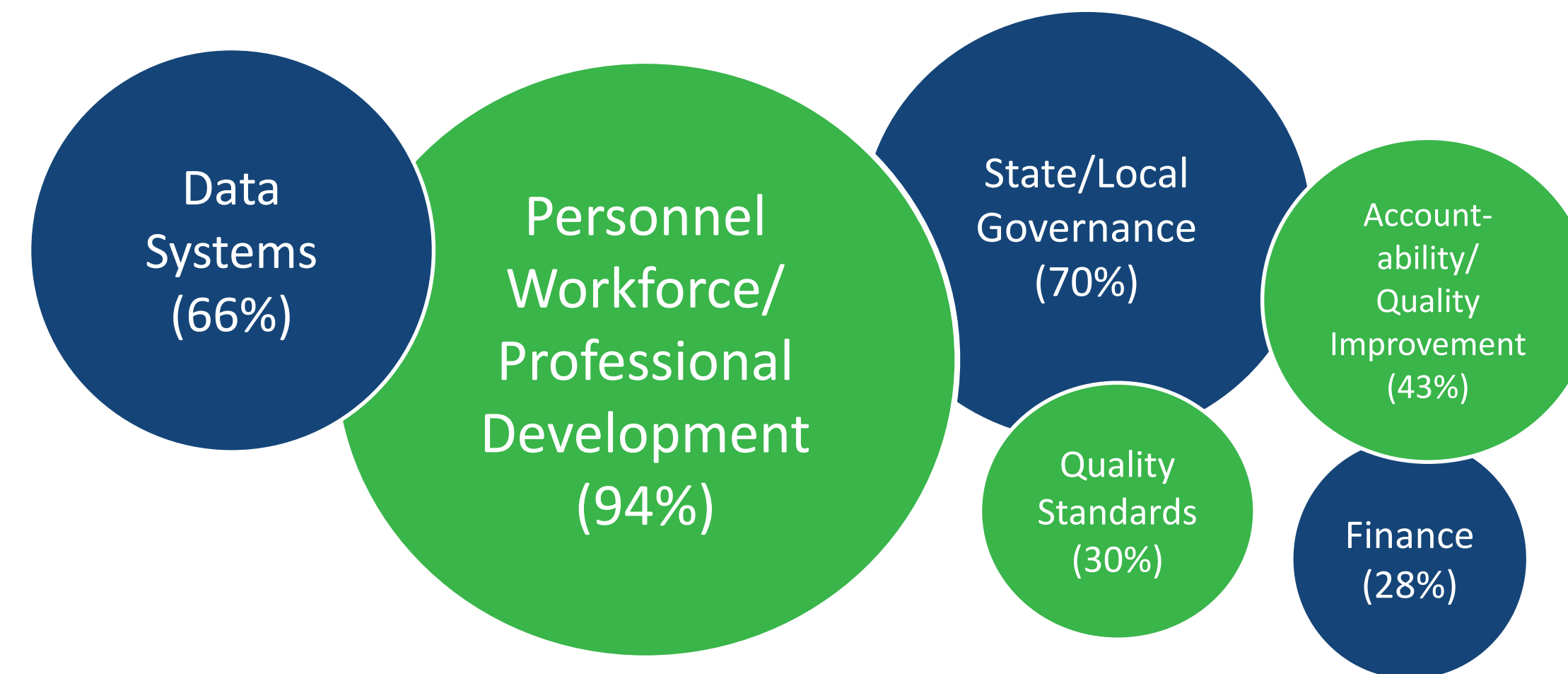
- * **Sample:** The 55 states and territories that provide EI services for children from birth through 2 years.
- * **Data source:** Phase III Year 1 SSIP reports for EI.
- * **Data analysis:** Reports were reviewed and coded to describe progress, trends, and future needs for research and technical assistance. Two coders reviewed each document, and disagreements were reconciled.

Overall Progress

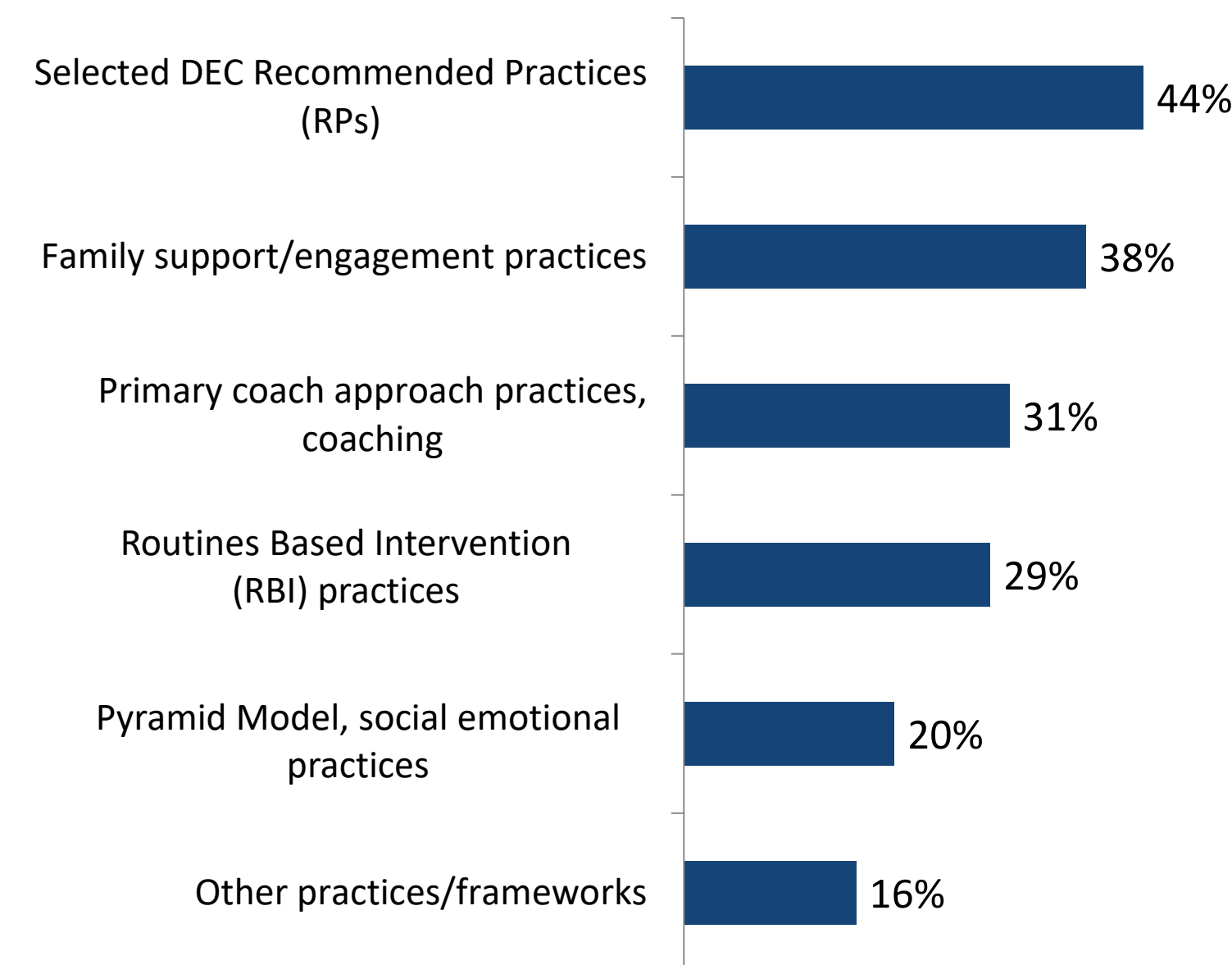
- * 45% of states reported making some measurable progress on their SiMR.
- * 96% reported that they implemented infrastructure improvement activities.
- * 89% reported implementing activities to improve practices.

Findings

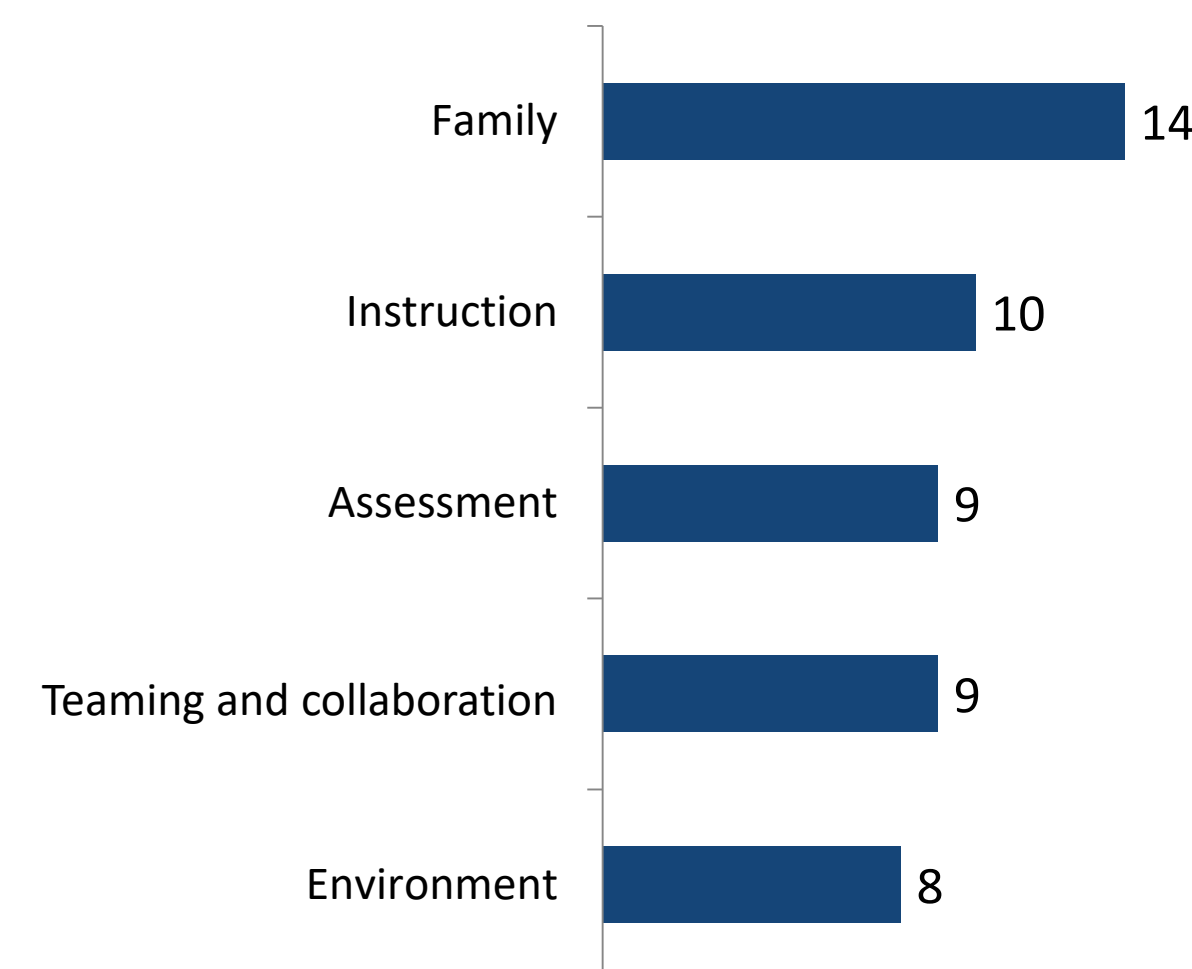
States are implementing improvements to various components of their infrastructure.



States are implementing a variety of evidence-based practices.

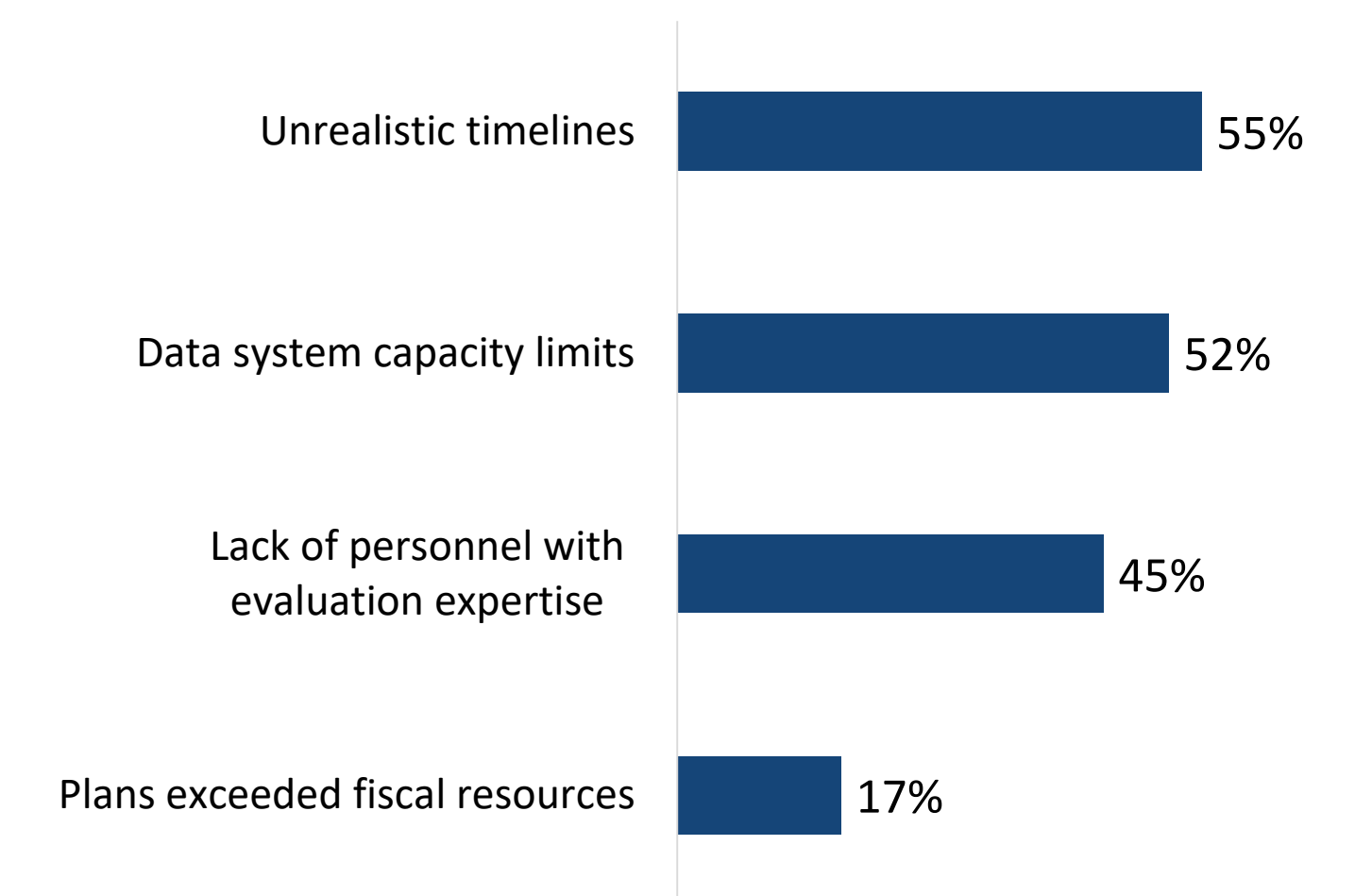


Family Practices were the most common DEC Recommended Practices reported (# of states).



Common barriers to implementation were changes in state leadership (50% of states), personnel shortages or unprepared personnel (48%), plans that exceeded fiscal resources (46%), and overambitious timelines (42%).

Evaluating the implementation of the SSIP presented challenges to most states (N = 29).



Conclusion

- * All state early intervention systems have been involved in a multiyear process to achieve statewide change to improve outcomes.
- * States have succeeded in improving state infrastructure and practices.
- * States also have encountered challenges in
 - implementing planned improvements (e.g., turnover in leadership and improving workforce capacity) and
 - evaluating their efforts (e.g., timelines, limited data capacity).
- * With increased attention to systemic improvement and given that these are long-term plans that set the stage for state policy, this is an ideal time to establish and strengthen existing partnerships between EI and the early care and education community.

The full SSIP analysis report is available at:
<https://osep.grads360.org/#communities/pdc/documents/14724>