

# Determinants of the early childcare enrolment gap: a mixed-methods Randomized Controlled Trial

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**SciencesPo**



# Rationale: the big picture



Attending high-quality **early childcare structures\*** is an **effective lever to reduce** the consequences of **inequalities** in early childhood



\*“early childcare structures” = creches, etc.

(Carbuccia et al., 2020; Panico et al., 2015; Grobon, 2018; et al., 2017; Berger et al., 2020; Melhuish et al., 2015; Van Huizen & Plantenga, 2013)

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But... **early childcare enrolment gap**

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(Eurydice, 2019; OECD, 2016; Vandenbroeck, 2013; Collombet, 2018)

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What are the different factors that can account for this pattern?

## Supply-side



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Cost

(Abrassart & Bonoli, 2015; Busse & Gathmann, 2018; Jessen et al., 2020; Van Lancker & Ghysels, 2016)

Shortages

(Abrassart & Bonoli, 2015; Farfan Portet et al., 2011; Jessen et al., 2020; Pennerstorfer et al., 2021)

Attribution criteria

(Herman, 2017)

...

Supply-side



Cost

Shortages

Attribution criteria

...

Demand-side



Preferences

Supply-side



Cost

Shortages

Attribution criteria

...

Demand-side



Preferences

Information

Administrative  
barriers

...

# Study design

Oct. 2021- May 2022





# Qualitative fieldwork (2021-2022)

## Methods



- 59 stakeholders (e.g., councilors, directors, Cnaf)
- 68 pregnant mothers, and parents of babies from 2 months to 1 yo

# Qualitative fieldwork - Results

## **Supply-side**

- Several types of care
- Very precise calendar that follows the school calendar

# Qualitative fieldwork - Results

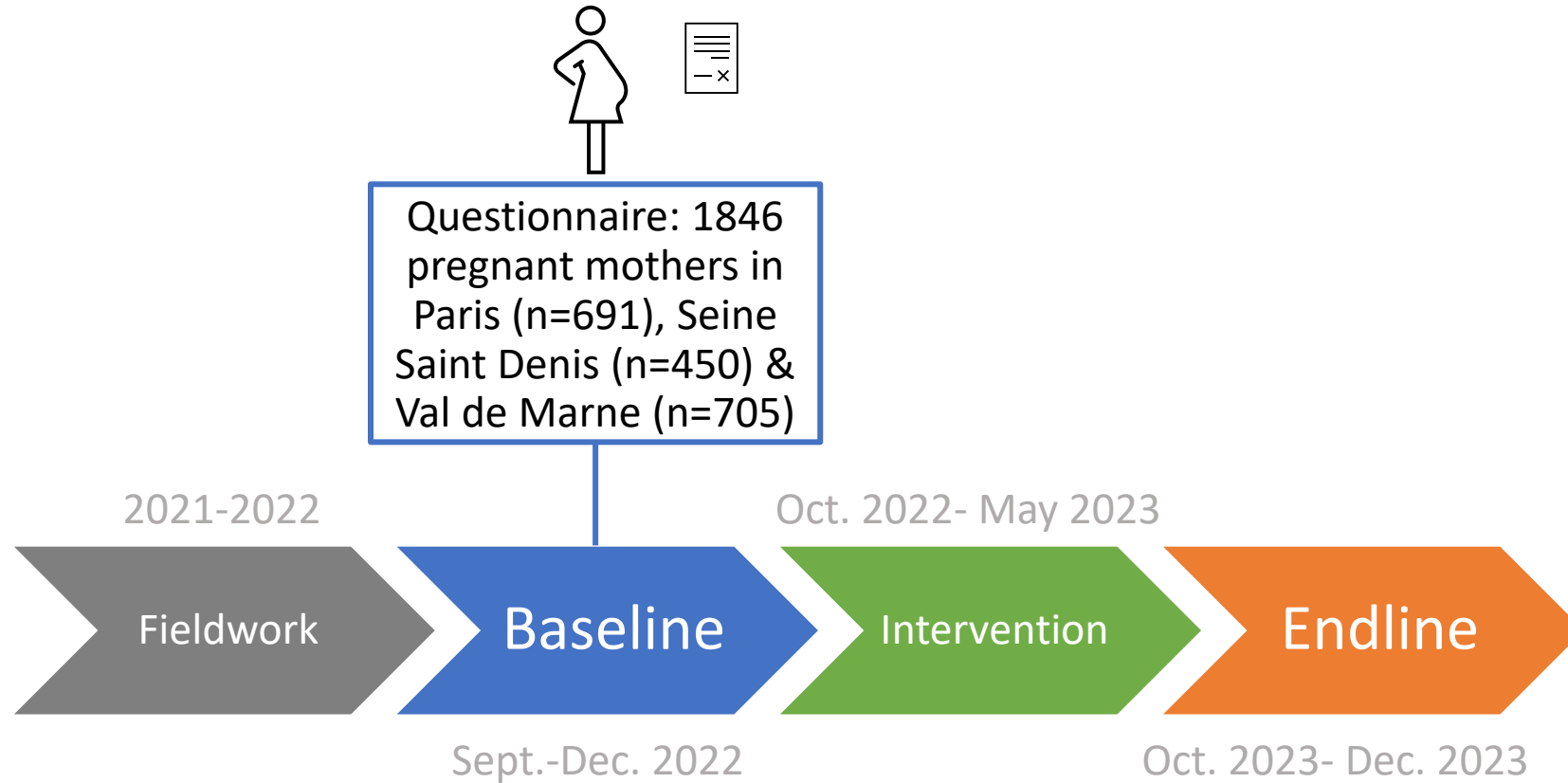
## **Supply-side**

- Several types of care
- Very precise calendar that follows the school calendar

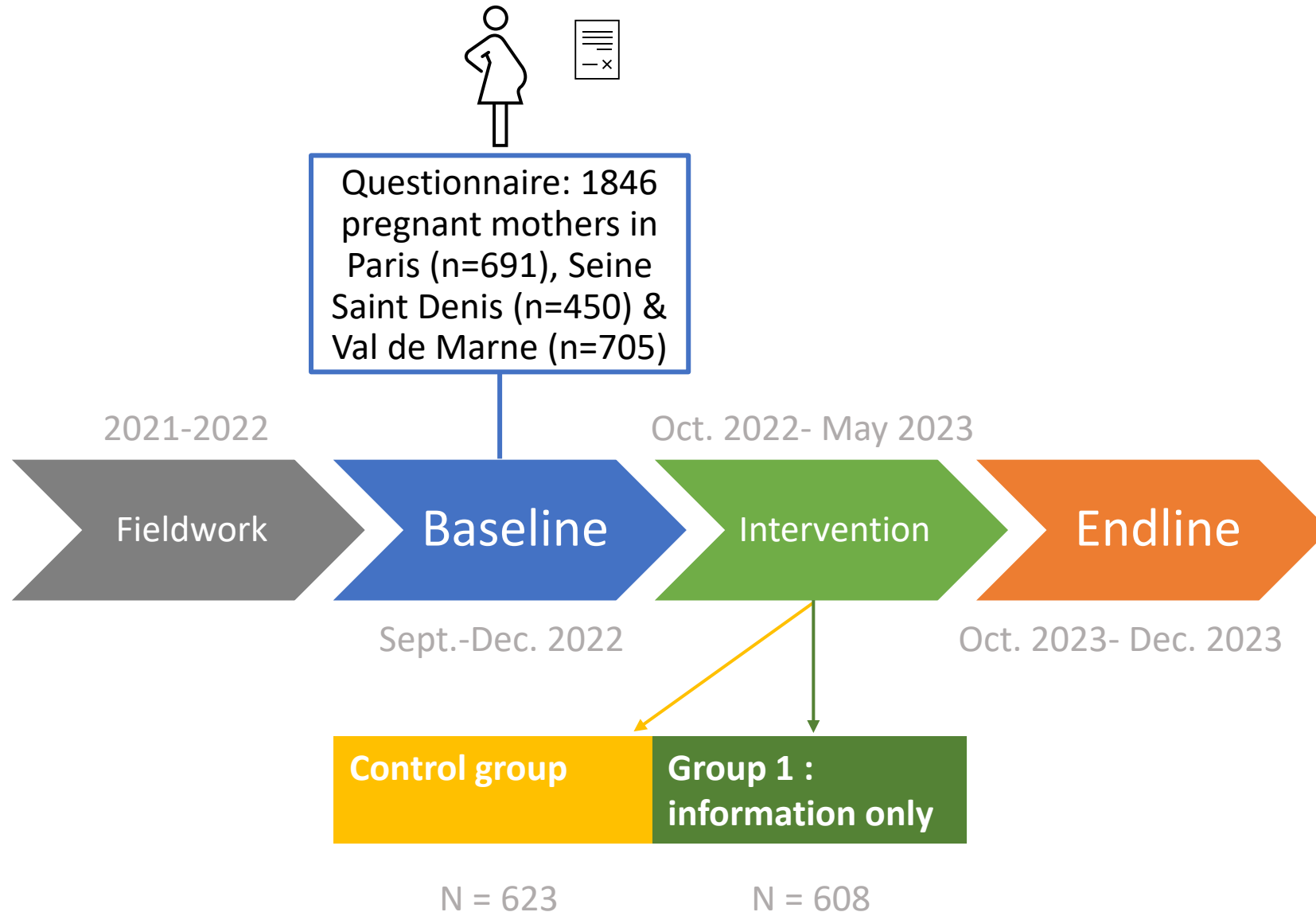
## **Demand-side**

- Information barriers
- Low-SES parents apply later and to fewer structures
- Half of the unemployed mothers are also willing to use childcare structures, but less intensively and later
- Many low-SES parents started the application process but never finished

# The Randomized Controlled Trial



# The Randomized Controlled Trial



# The Randomized Controlled Trial - Information

Trouvez le mode de garde adapté à vos besoins :



Trouvez ceux autour de chez vous et leurs coûts :



Une place de temps en temps ? Découvrez les halte-garderies :



Comment candidater en Seine Saint Denis :



Comment candidater dans le Val de Marne :



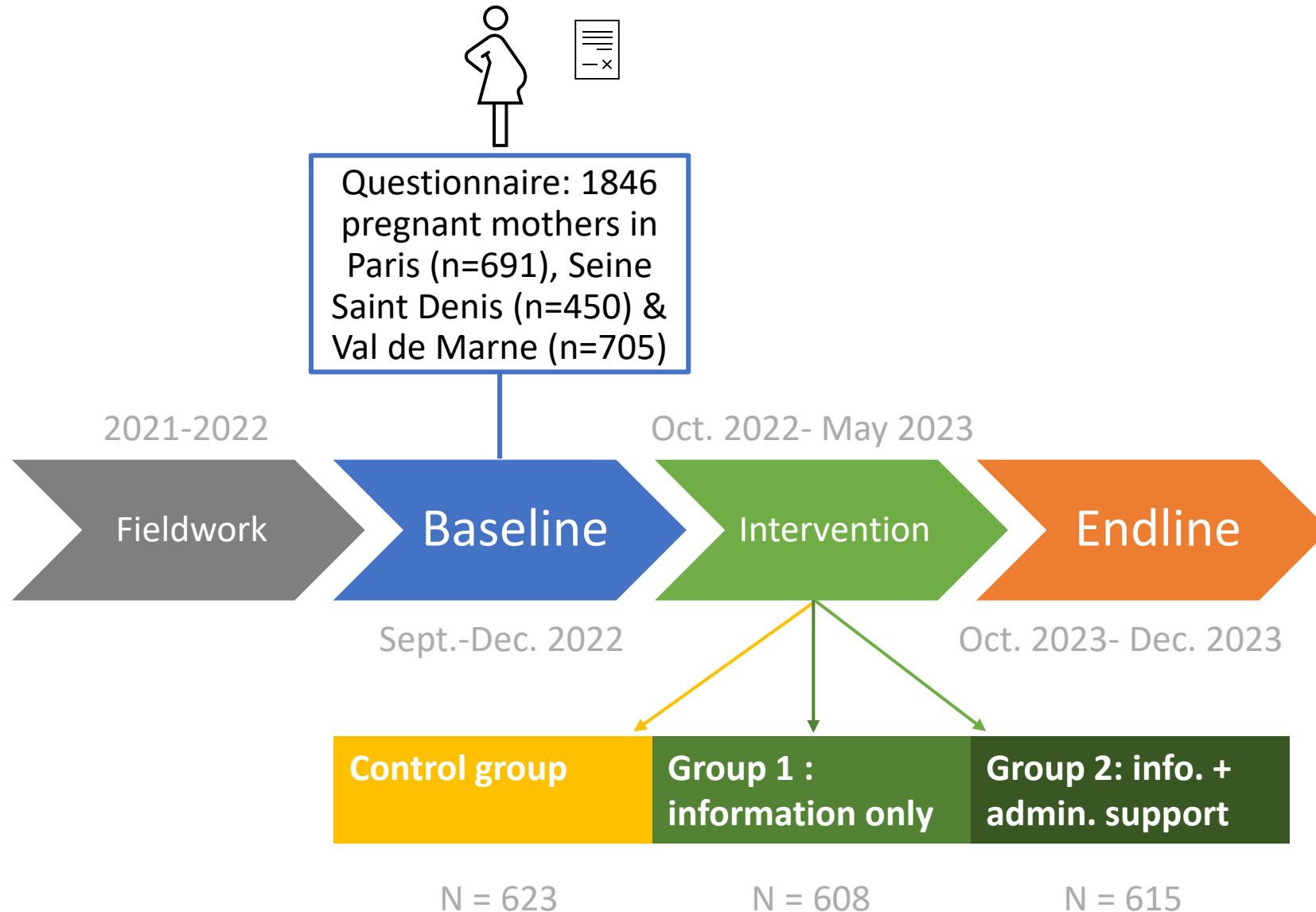
Comment candidater à Paris :



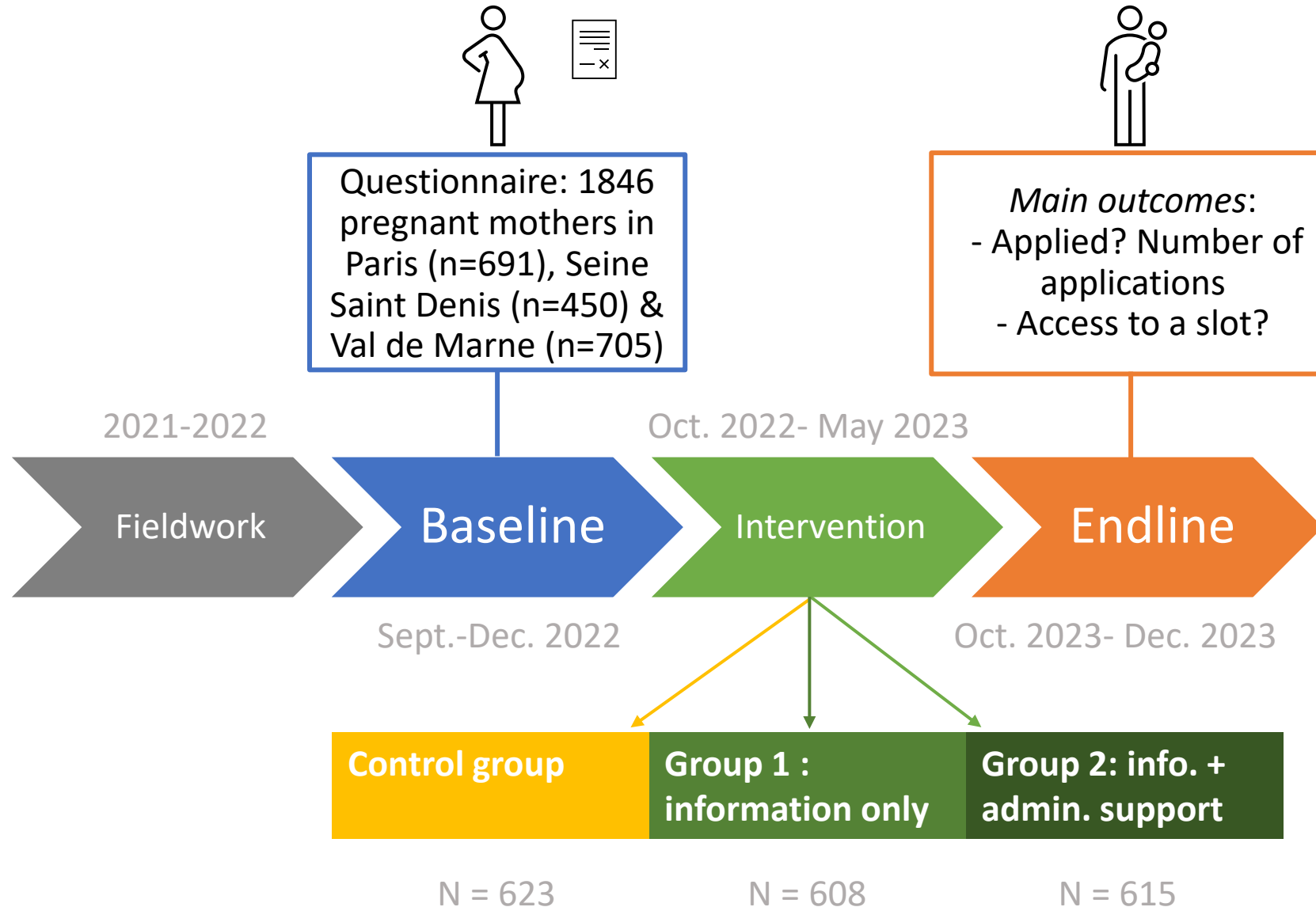
Nos astuces pour avoir une place :



# The Randomized Controlled Trial

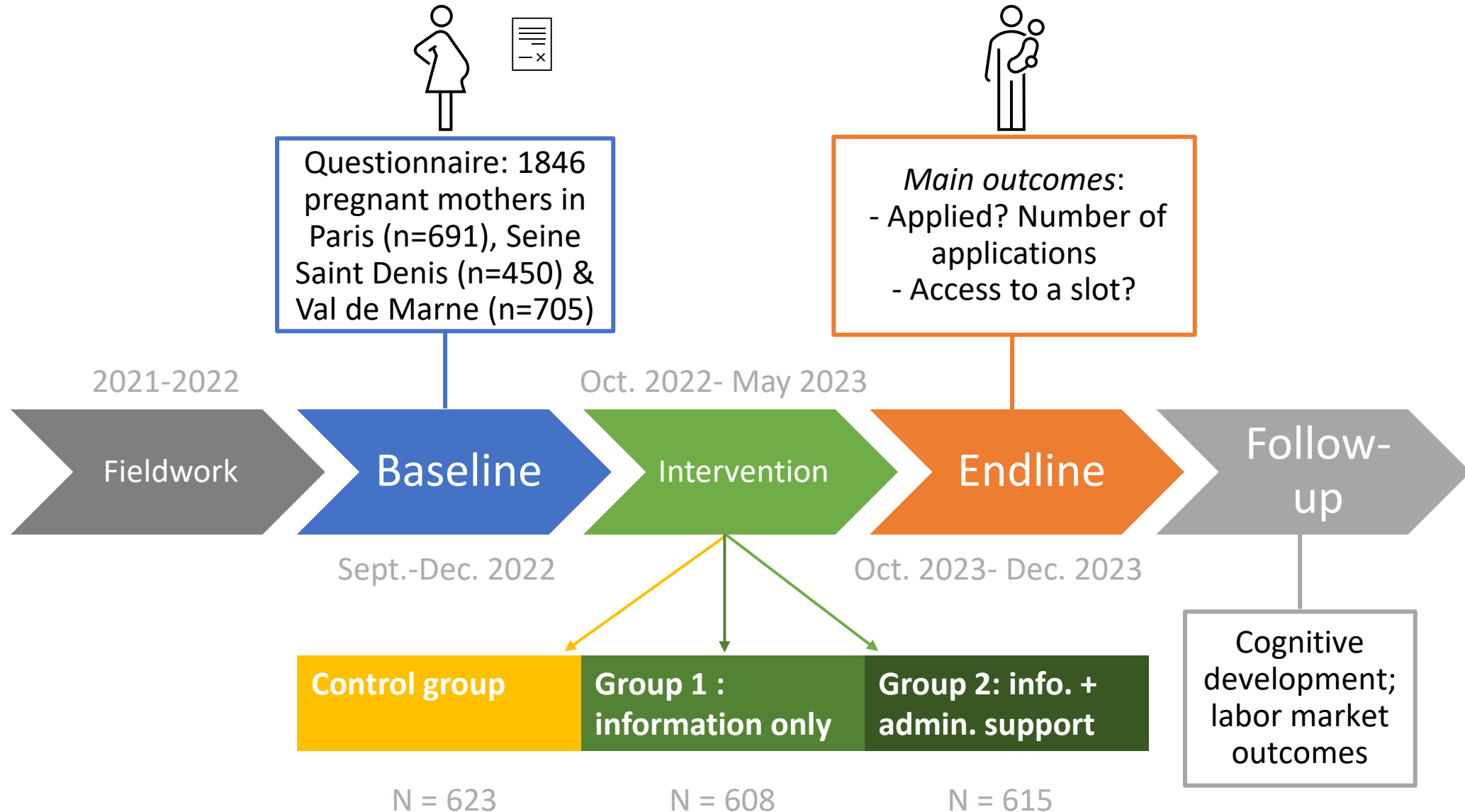


# The Randomized Controlled Trial





# The Randomized Controlled Trial



# Thanks for your attention!



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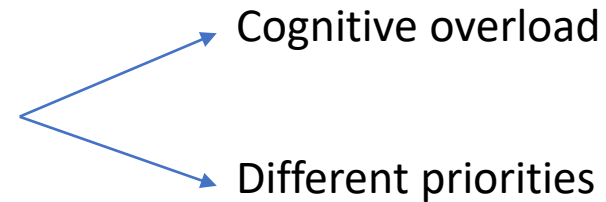
# Results

## Supply-side

- Several types of care
- Very precise calendar that follows the school calendar

## Demand-side

- Information barriers
- Underprivileged parents apply later



- Half of the unemployed mothers are also willing to use childcare structures, but less intensively and later
- Many underprivileged parents started the application process but never finished