



Memphis Hearing: The Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities.

The Potential for the Children's Advocacy Centers' MDT Process to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities

Teresa Huizar, Executive Director
National Children's Alliance
Washington, DC



Core Components of CACs

- A multidisciplinary team response to child abuse allegations.
- Cultural competency in service provision.
- Forensic interviews conducted in a legally sound manner.
- Victim support and advocacy services provided to all CAC clients and their caregivers.



Core Components of CACs

- Specialized medical evaluation and treatment.
- Evidence-based, trauma-focused mental health services.
- Case review—a formal process in which case planning and decision-making occurs.
- Case tracking sufficient to monitor case progress and outcomes.
- These occur in a child-focused setting that is physically and psychologically safe, with the organizational infrastructure to deliver the requisite services in a sustainable way.



Case Flow

HOW DOES THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER MODEL WORK?



Core Function of CAC



Function Provided by a Team Member

LAW ENFORCEMENT



⋮
The role of local law enforcement is grounded in public safety

⋮
If not criminal in nature, law enforcement may not take action



CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

⋮
The role of CPS is to ensure that a child's home is safe

⋮
If the family/caretaker is not the alleged abuser, CPS may not take action





Case Flow Cont' d

Immediate Response



Priority Assigned
(24-72 hours)



Child is brought to children's advocacy center

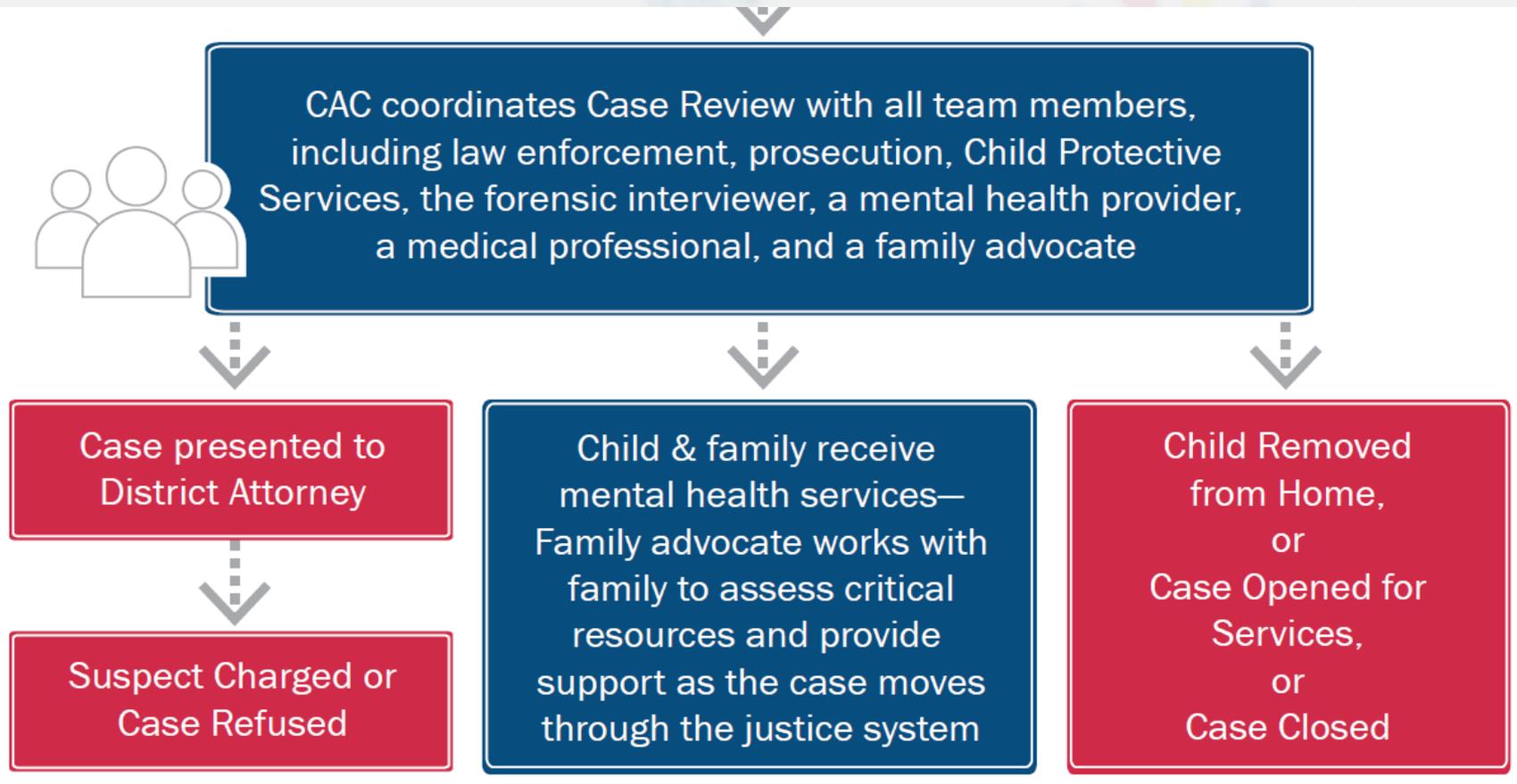


Joint Investigation Begins
Forensic Interview
Evidence Collected
Photos Taken
Witness Interview
Medical Treatment and Exam



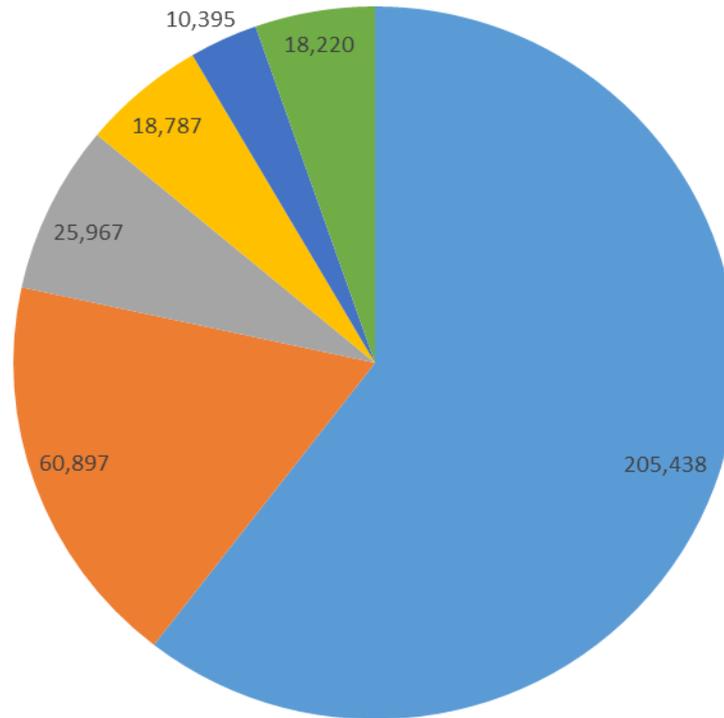


Case Flow Cont' d





Primary Presenting Reason for Referral to CACs, 2014

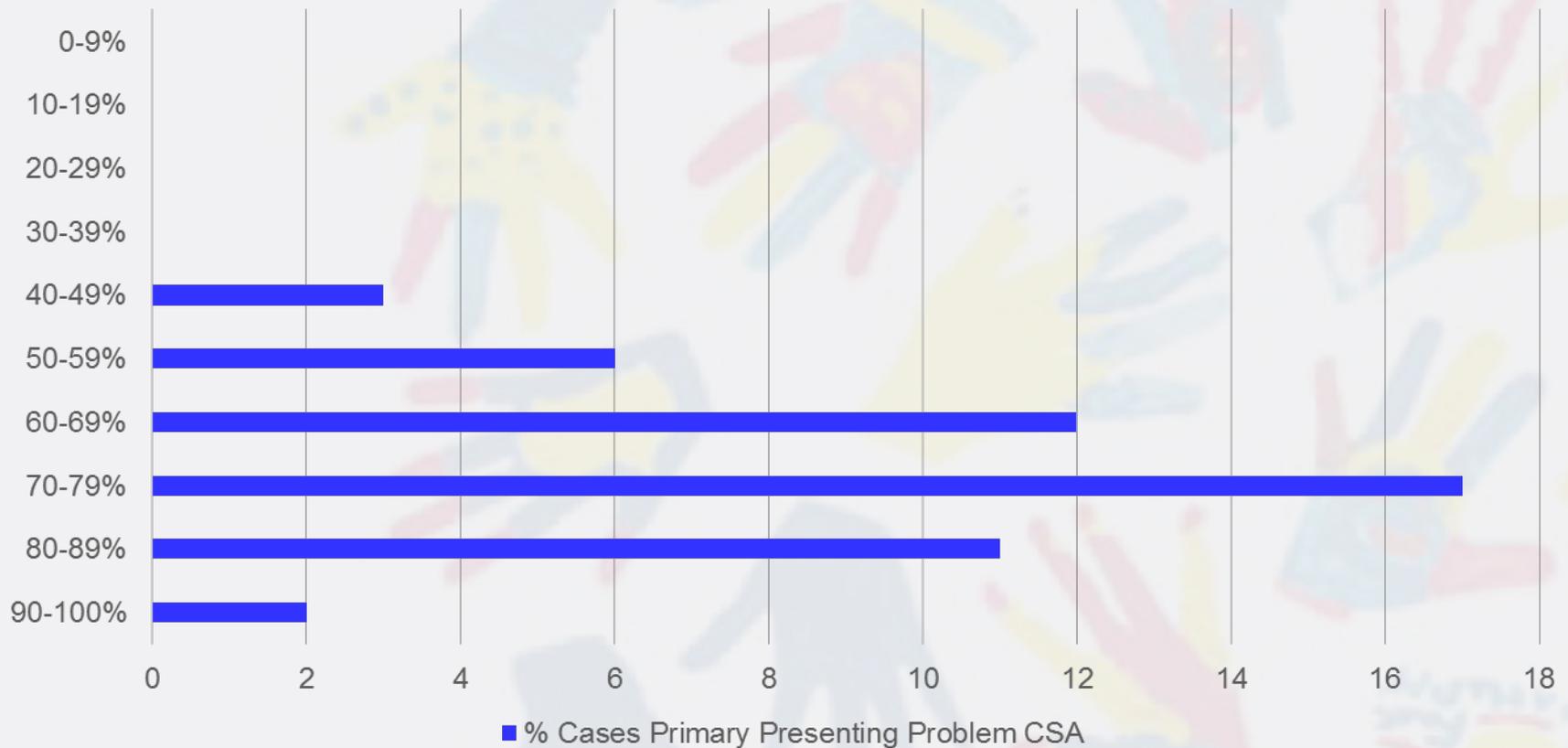


■ Sexual ■ Physical ■ Neglect ■ Witness to Violence ■ Drug Endangerment ■ Other



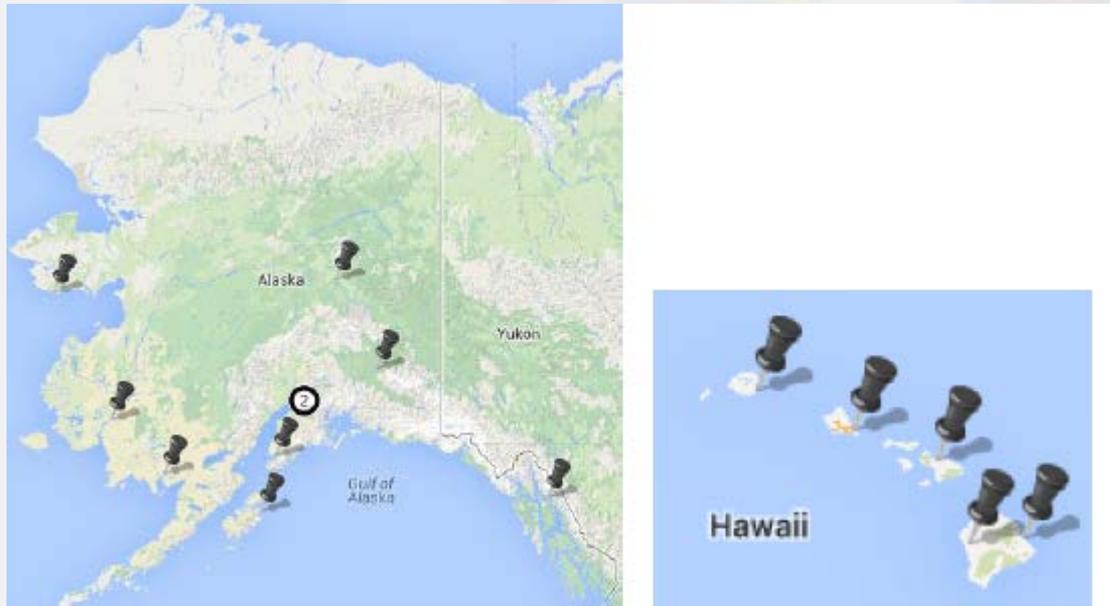
Variability in Service Pool by State

% Cases Primary Presenting Problem CSA





Locations of CACs in the US

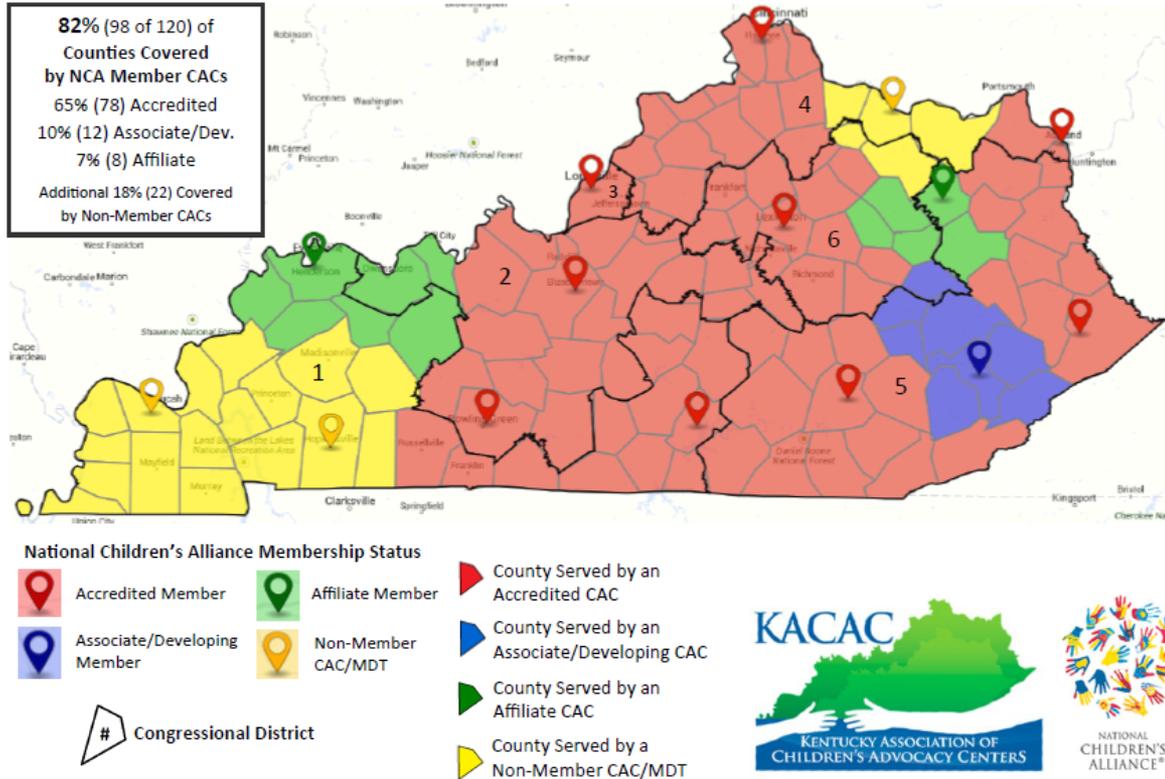




Service Coverage Gap Analysis

Kentucky Children's Advocacy Centers

CAC Locations, Coverage Areas by NCA Membership Status Level, Congressional Districts

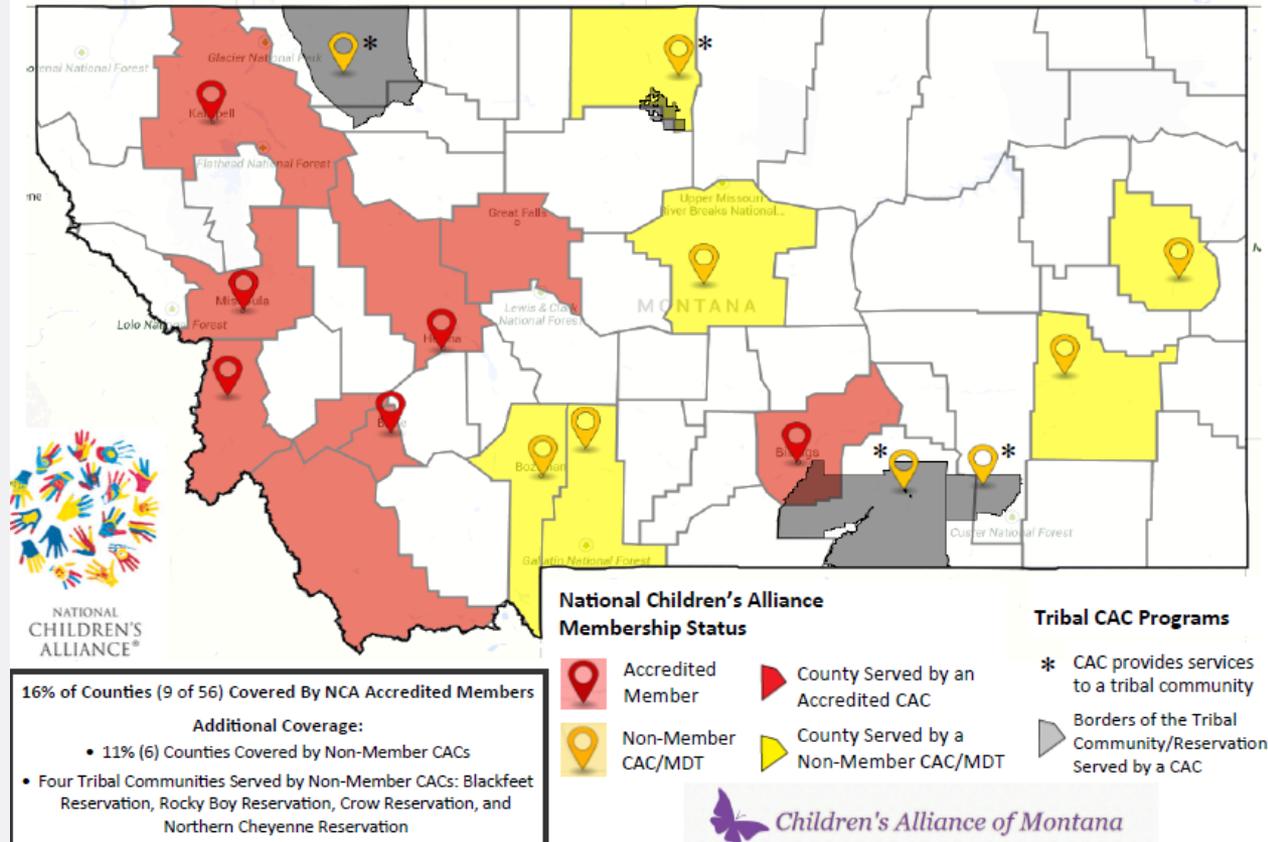




Development Opportunities for Underserved Areas

Montana Children's Advocacy Centers

CAC Locations, Including Coverage Areas by NCA Membership Status Level & Tribal CAC Programs





Proven Effectiveness of the CAC Model

- A shortened length of time to disposition;
- Increased rates of prosecution;
- More satisfaction on the part of child victims and their caregivers;
- Higher levels of service provision for medical evaluations;
- Increased access to mental health treatment.
- Save on average over \$1,000 per child abuse case.

* research citations in slide notes.



Opportunities for CAC Intervention in All Forms of Child Maltreatment

- Extensive national network of child abuse experts and facilities
- Proven effective model
- Existing protocols could be expanded to incorporate all forms of child maltreatment
- Experienced facilitating MDTs and collaborative teamwork.
- Data can be mined for patterns.
- Familiar with safety planning for CSA; could be extended to other forms of safety planning.



**National Children's
Advocacy Center**

Origins, Evolution, and Emerging Practice in CACs and MDTs

The NCAC models, promotes, and delivers excellence in child abuse response and prevention through service, education, and leadership.

Original CAC/MDT Philosophy - 1985

1. Child sexual abuse is a serious issue which must be addressed
2. The “system” intended to protect children should “help” children, not further traumatize or cause lack of trust
3. The protection of children must involve all agencies involved in the investigation and intervention, and these agencies must work together



Bud Cramer



National Children's
Advocacy Center

Little House - 1985



Today

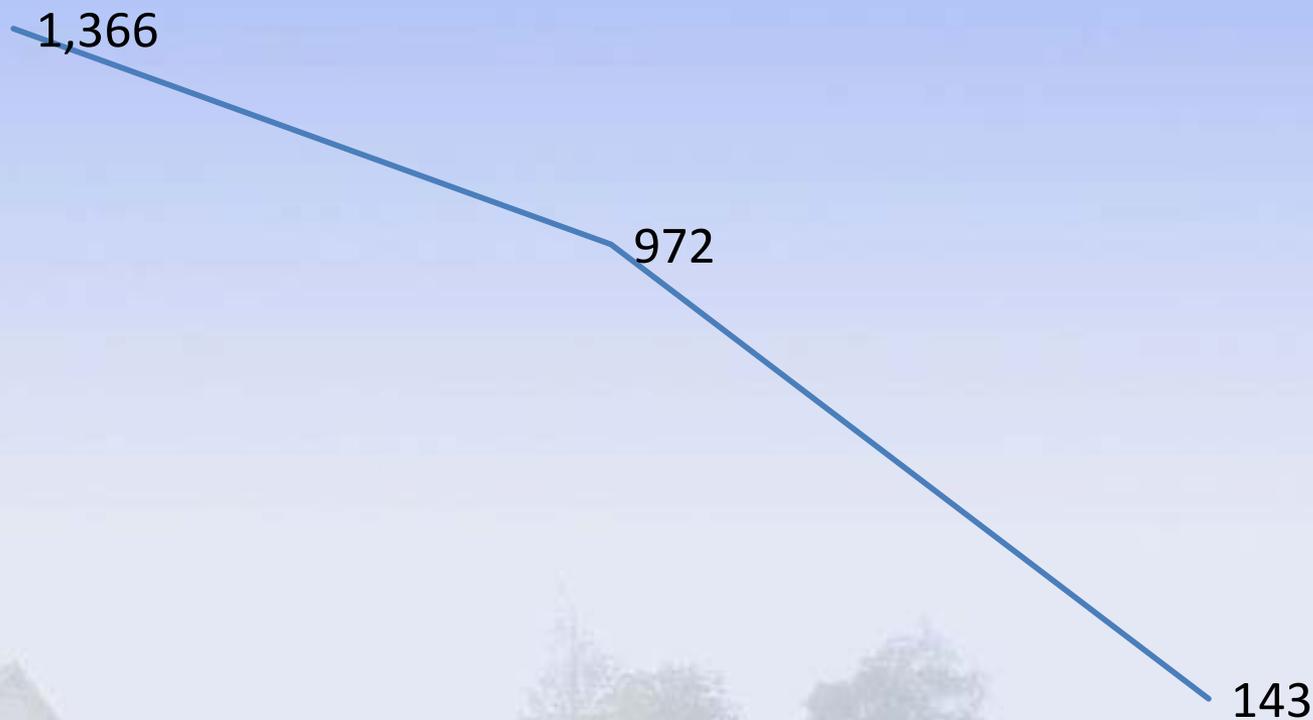


- CAC with co-location of all Multidisciplinary Team Partners including Homeland Security Investigations
- Child Abuse Prevention Programs
- Training Center – 80,000+ professionals trained
- Child Abuse Library Online (CALiO)

Evolution of Practice in CACs

- Expansion of case involvement/participation:
 - Physical Abuse
 - Exposure to Domestic Violence and other trauma
 - Drug Exposed Children
 - Child Fatality Review
 - Commercial Sexual Exploitation
- Recognition of Poly-victimization
- Incorporation of evidence-based practices

NCAC 2014 Case Flow Analysis



Reports to CPS

Cases reviewed by MDT

Criminal Charges Filed



National Children's Advocacy Center

The NCAC models, promotes, and delivers excellence in child abuse response and prevention through service, education, and leadership.

Resources

- Child Fatalities

- <http://www.nationalcac.org/images/pdfs/CALiO/Bibliographies/child-fatalities-bib5.pdf>

- Annotated Bibliography of the Empirical and Scholarly Literature Supporting the Ten Standards for Accreditation by the National Children's Alliance:

- <http://www.nationalcac.org/images/pdfs/CALiO/Bibliographies/annotated-bibliography-standards-second-ed.pdf>

- Efficacy of Children's Advocacy Centers

- <http://www.nationalcac.org/images/pdfs/CALiO/Bibliographies/efficacy-cacs-bib5.pdf>



When you STOP Here
you are Real!!

When you STOP Here you
ARE LOVED

When you STOP Here you
Are NOT Afraid.

When you STOP Here you
Have HOPE

When you STOP Here you
Have FAITH!!

Future Opportunities

- NCAC's CALiO available to support Commission
- Reactive vs. Proactive MDT
- MDT Concept applied to CF for increased prevention
 - *LE – 911, Domestic Violence, Animal Control*
 - *CPS – Intake, Data Management*
 - *Medical – Emergency Departments, NICU/PICU*
 - *NGO – Domestic Violence Program, CACs*

Our Nation's Response to
Prevent Child Fatalities related to
Substance Use and
Child Abuse or Neglect

We can do better.

Nancy K. Young, PhD

Executive Director, Children and Family Futures



Commission to Eliminate
Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities
Tennessee Public Meeting

Panel Testimony

April 28, 2015 | Memphis, Tennessee

Nancy K. Young, PhD

Executive Director, Children and Family Futures

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8.3 million children

* 2002 – 2007 SAMHSA National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)



3

Children in the
average American
classroom



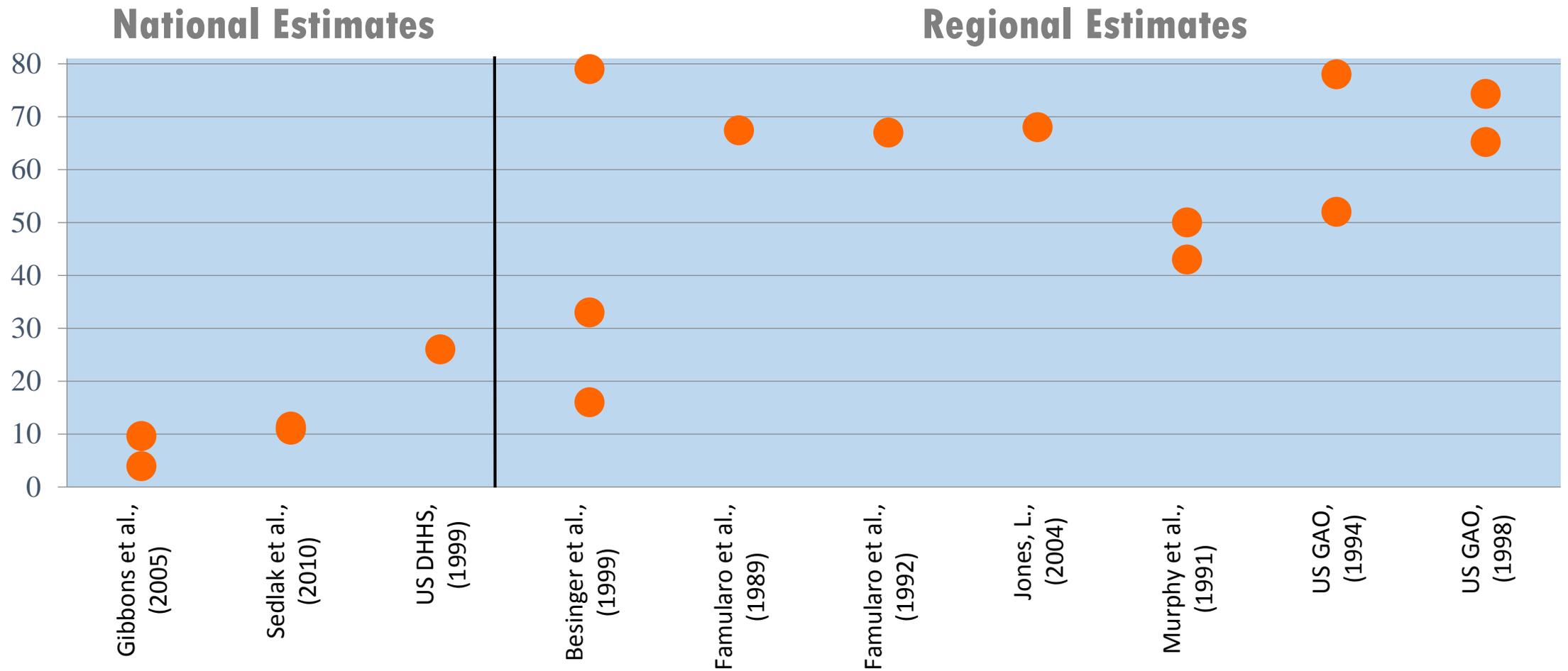
All hands on deck

Testimony Highlight Points

- Prevalence rates
- Lessons learned about what works
- Outcomes achieved for families through cross-system collaboration
- Findings from child fatality reports
- The status of CAPTA implementation
- Recommendations for the Commission



Prevalence Rates of Parental Substance Use in Child Welfare Services



Source: Seay, Kristen. (In Press). How Many Child Welfare Involved Families are Affected by Substance Abuse? A Common Question that Remains Unanswered. *Child Welfare*, Forthcoming Summer 2015.



The National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)

- Iowa
- Louisiana
- North Dakota
- Oklahoma
- Utah

- No reports on the role of parental substance use in child abuse reports, investigations, substantiated charges or the number of victims
- Data regarding parental substance use disorders are voluntary items



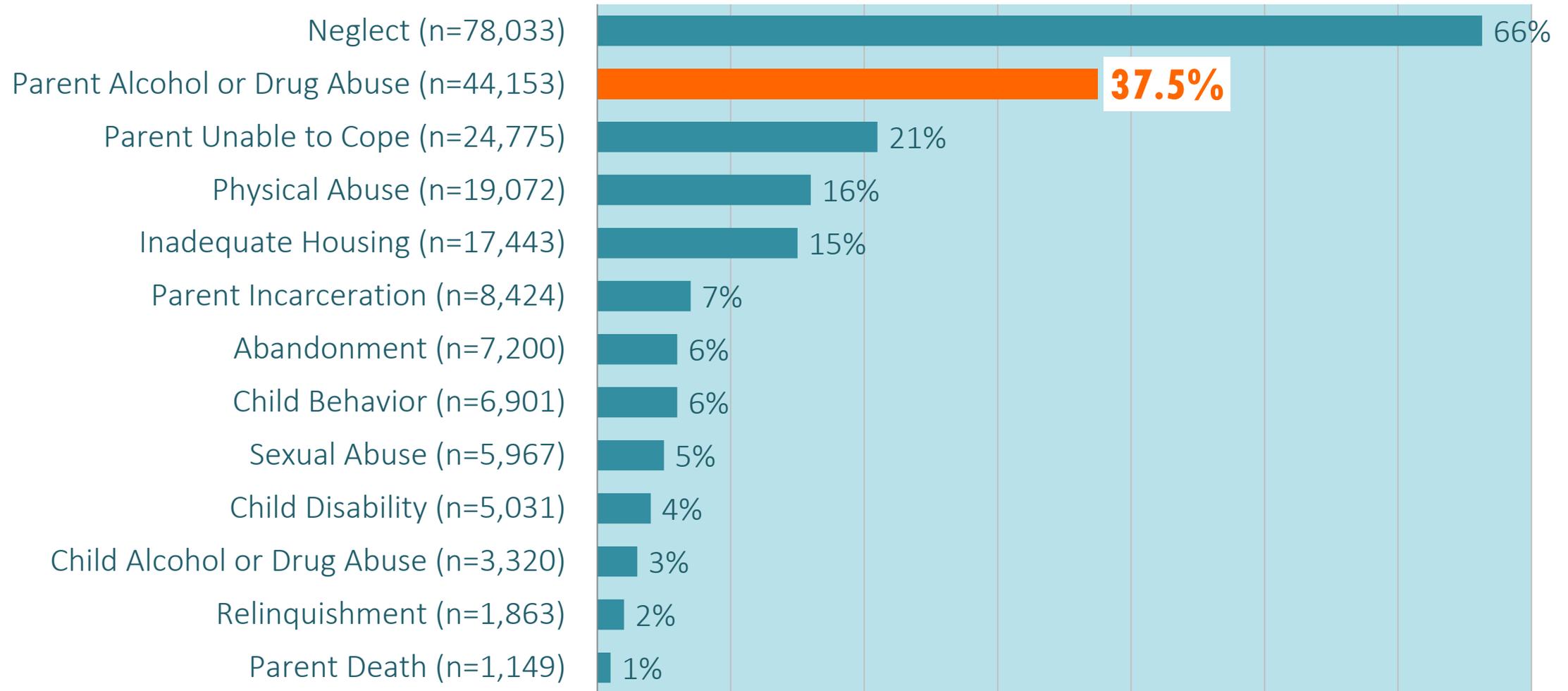
Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS)

Parental AOD As Reason For Removal In the US 1998 - 2013

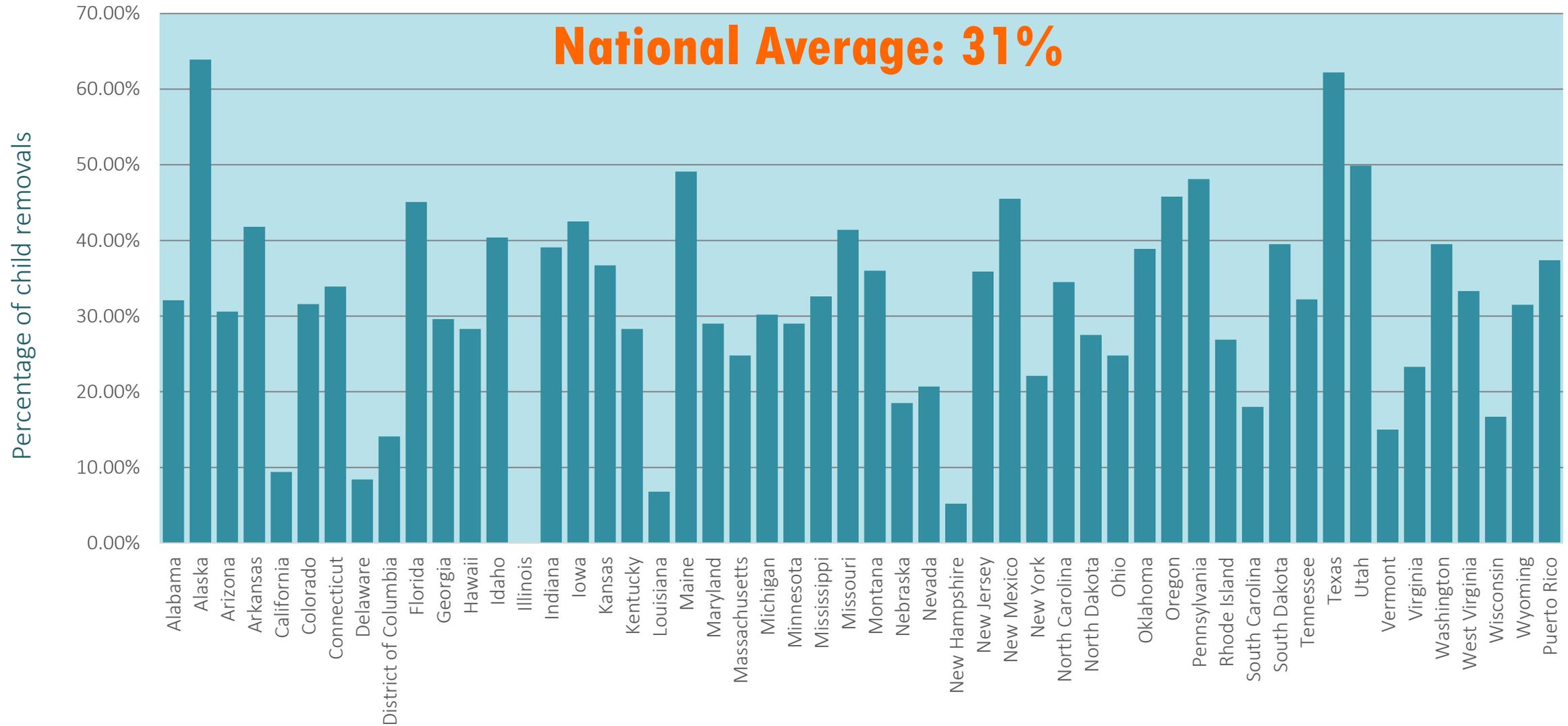


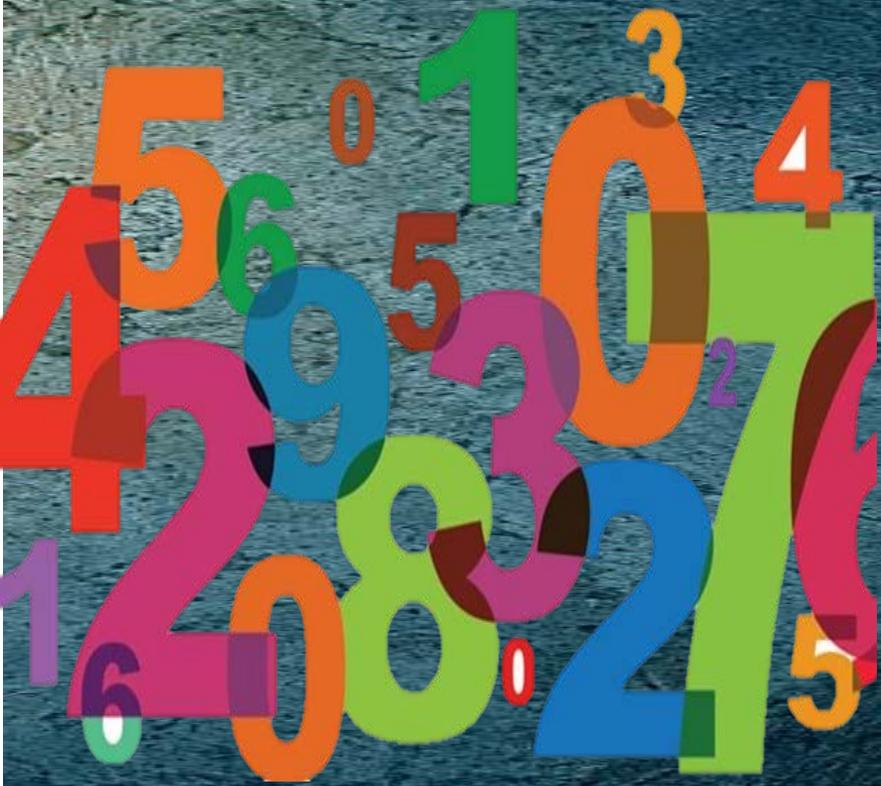
Source: AFCARS 2013

Percent and Number of Children with Terminated Parental Rights by Reason for Removal - 2013



Parental Alcohol or Other Drugs as Reason for Removal, 2013

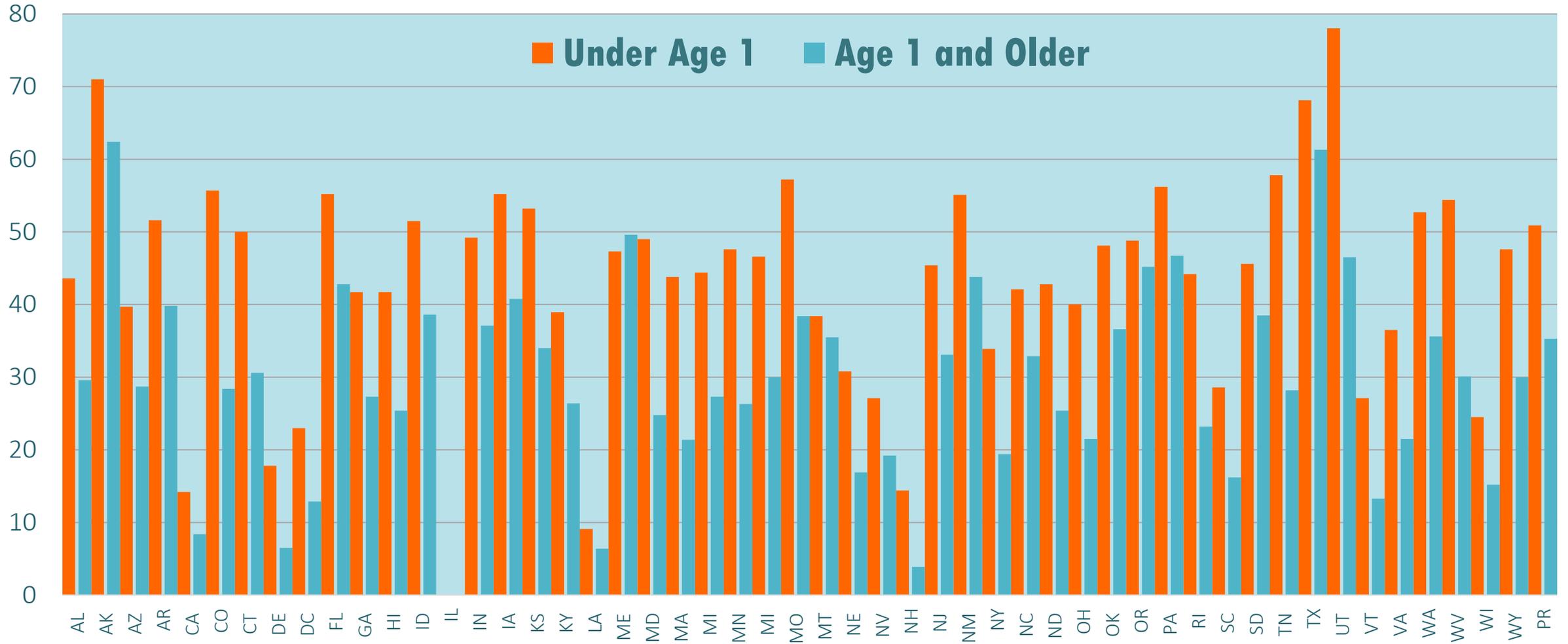




How can we the
ensure safety of
children whom
we cannot
reliably count?



Percent of Children Removed from Parents' Custody with Parental Alcohol and/or Drug Use as a Reason for Removal by Age (2013)



Source: AFCARS 2013

1:35,000 to 1:75,000	Propionic acidemia
1:50,000 to 1:100,000	Methylmalonic acidemia (methylmalonyl-CoA mutase)
1:50,000 to 1:100,000	Methylmalonic acidemia (cobalamin disorders)
1:230,000	Isovaleric acidemia
1:36,000 to 1:50,000	3-Methylcrotonyl-CoA carboxylase deficiency
fewer than 100 cases	

worldwide	3-Hydroxy-3-methylglutaric aciduria
1:87,000	3-Oxopropanoic acidemia
1:1,000,000	Is-Ketothiolase deficiency
1:40,000	Glutaric acidemia type I
1:100,000	Crotonyl-CoA carboxylase deficiency
1:15,000	Medium-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency
1:30,000	Very long-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency

Unknown	Long-chain L-3 hydroxyacyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency
Unknown	Trifunctional protein deficiency
1:70,000	Argininosuccinic aciduria
1:57,000	Citrullinemia, type I
1:185,000 (worldwide)	Maple syrup urine disease
1:200,000 to 1:300,000	Homocystinuria
1:10,000 to 1:15,000	Classic phenylketonuria

1:100,000 (worldwide)	Tyrosinemia, type I
1:3,000 to 1:4,000	Primary congenital hypothyroidism
1:15,000	Congenital adrenal hyperplasia
1:375	S,S disease (Sickle cell anemia)
No data found	S, beta-thalassemia

1:835	S,C disease
1:60,000	Biotinidase deficiency
1:4,800	Critical congenital heart disease
1:3,500	Cystic fibrosis
1:30,000 to 1:60,000	Classic galactosemia
1:40,000	Glycogen Storage Disease Type II (Pompe)
No data found	Type II (Pompe)
1 to 3: 1,000	Hearing loss
1:40,000 to 1:75,000	Severe combined immunodeficiencies

1:50,000 to 1:100,000	Methylmalonic acidemia with homocystinuria
fewer than 30 cases	Malonic acidemia
fewer than 30 cases	Isobutyrylglycinuria
1:250 to 1:500	2-Methylbutyrylglycinuria
less than 20	3-Methylglutaconic aciduria

1:40,000 to 1:100,000	2-Methyl-3-hydroxybutyryl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency
1:40,000 to 1:100,000	Short-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency
1:100,000	Medium/short-chain L-3-hydroxyacyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency
1:100,000	Glutaric acidemia type II
unknown	Medium-chain ketoacyl-CoA thiolase deficiency

at least 1 case reported	2,4 Dienoyl-CoA reductase deficiency
less than 50 cases reported	Carnitine palmitoyltransferase type I deficiency
at least 30 cases reported	Carnitine palmitoyltransferase type II deficiency
unknown	Carnitine acylcarnitine translocase deficiency
1:300,000	Argininemia

No data found	Citrullinemia, type II
1:100,000	Phenylketonuria
15-75:1,000,000	Benign hyperphenylalaninemia
1:100,000	Defect in cofactor biosynthesis

1:1,000,000	Biopterin defect in cofactor regeneration
1:250,000	Tyrosinemia, type II
few cases have been reported	Tyrosinemia, type III
1:20,000	Various other hemoglobinopathies
1:6,700	Galactoepimerase deficiency
1:100,000	Galactokinase deficiency
5:100,000	T-cell related lymphocyte deficiencies

HRSA recommends universal screening at birth for 57 conditions

The most prevalent of these conditions is Sickle Cell Anemia affecting 1 out of 350 babies

None of these recommended screenings include prenatal exposure to alcohol or other drugs



Yet, Among Pregnant Women

- 15 out of 100 used cigarettes in the prior month (15.4%)
- 9 out of 100 were current users of alcohol (9.4%)
- 5 out of 100 were users of illicit substances (5.4%)
- 2 out of 100 reported binge drinking (2.3%)
- 1 out of 250 were heavy drinkers placing their infants at high risk of developing fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) (.4%)

What prevents us from identifying this population of babies who are at risk of child abuse or neglect due to their parent's substance use disorder?

“Addiction is a Developmental Disorder of Adolescence”

Dr. Nora Volkow

Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse

First Marijuana Use (Percent of Initiates)





Elephant in the Room

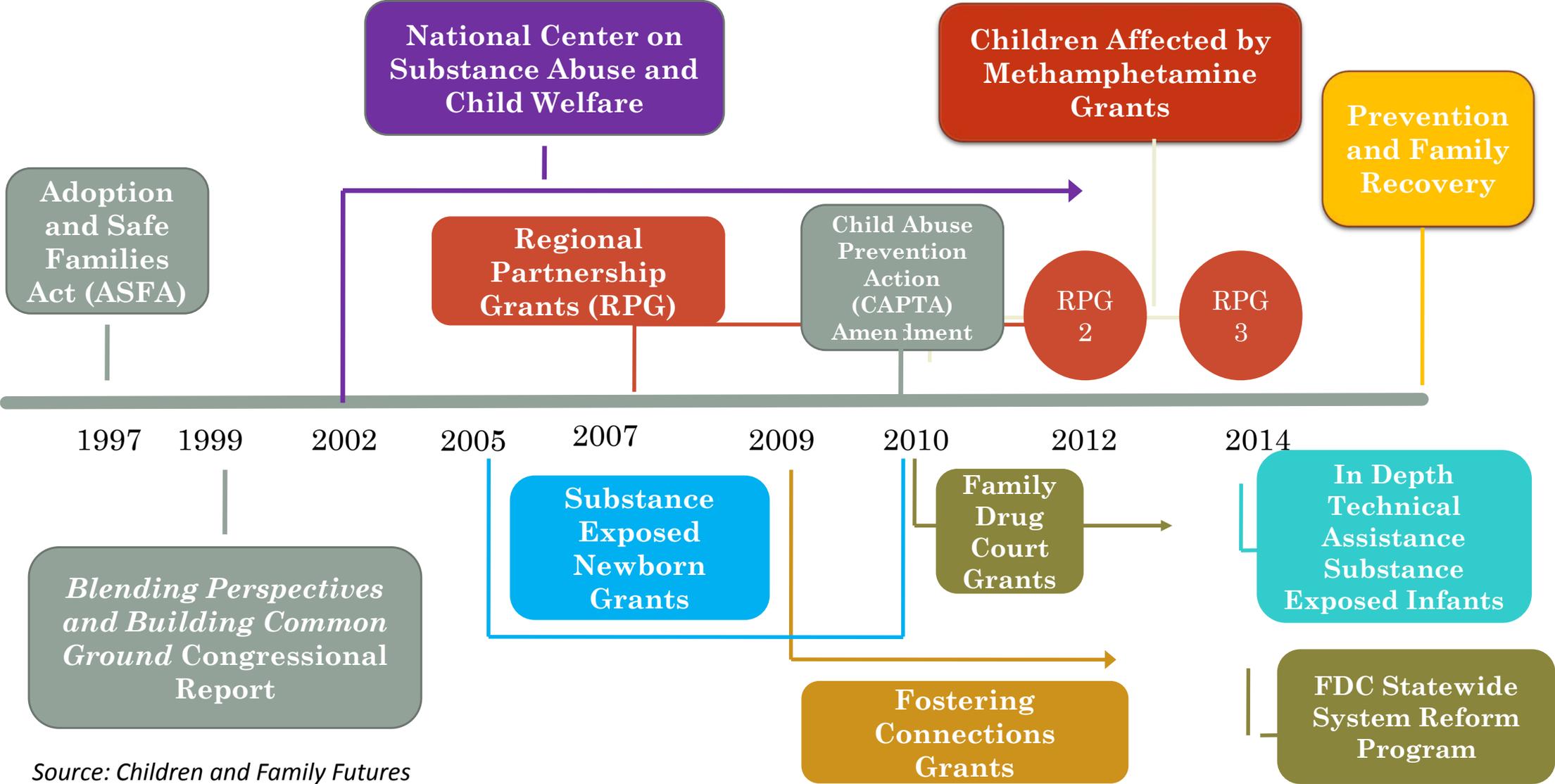
- *An obvious truth that is either being ignored or going unaddressed*
- *An obvious problem or risk no one wants to discuss*

85%

of children in
the child
welfare
system either
stay home,
or go home



Progress Since the Adoption and Safe Families Act (1997) - Leadership of Federal Government on Substance Use and Child Welfare



Source: Children and Family Futures

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

Project Goals



Broad Program Strategies



Outcomes

Improve the safety, permanency, and well-being of children affected by substance abuse in child welfare

Address common systemic and practice challenges

Establish or enhance a collaborative infrastructure to build the region's capacity

Case Management

Screening and assessment

Children's services

Parenting and Family therapy

Substance abuse treatment

Mental Health and Trauma Services

Collaborative clinical practice activities

Collaborative program and policy activities

SHORT TERM

- C1. Children Remain at Home
- C2. Occurrence of Maltreatment
- C3. Length of Stay in Foster Care
- C7. Prevention of Substance-Exposed Newborns
- C9. Child Well-Being
- A2. Retention in Substance Abuse Treatment
- A3. Substance Use
- A5. Employment
- A6. Criminal Behavior
- A7. Mental Health Status
- F1. Parenting
- F2. Family Relationships/Functioning
- F3. Risk/Protective Factors
- R1. Collaborative Capacity

LONG TERM

- C3. Length of Stay in Foster Care
- C4. Re-entries to Foster Care
- C5. Timeliness of Reunification
- C6. Timeliness of Permanency
- A3. Substance Use
- A5. Employment
- A6. Criminal Behavior
- A7. Mental Health Status
- R1. Collaborative Capacity

Broad Program Strategies

Case Management

Screening and assessment

Children's services

Parenting and Family therapy

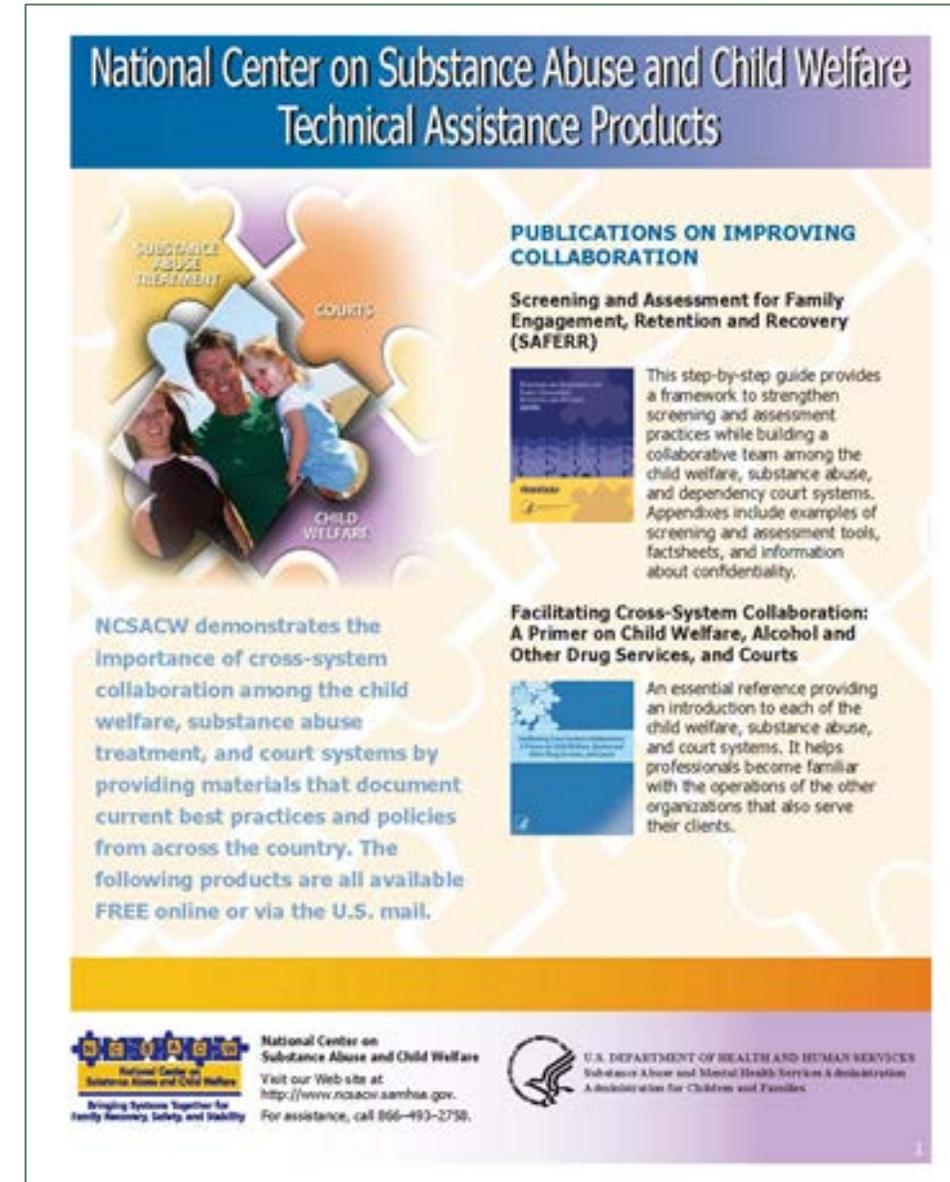
Substance abuse treatment

Mental Health and Trauma Services

Collaborative clinical practice activities

Collaborative program and policy activities

NCSACW Resources



**National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare
Technical Assistance Products**

PUBLICATIONS ON IMPROVING COLLABORATION

Screening and Assessment for Family Engagement, Retention and Recovery (SAFERR)

This step-by-step guide provides a framework to strengthen screening and assessment practices while building a collaborative team among the child welfare, substance abuse, and dependency court systems. Appendixes include examples of screening and assessment tools, factsheets, and information about confidentiality.

Facilitating Cross-System Collaboration: A Primer on Child Welfare, Alcohol and Other Drug Services, and Courts

An essential reference providing an introduction to each of the child welfare, substance abuse, and court systems. It helps professionals become familiar with the operations of the other organizations that also serve their clients.

NCSACW demonstrates the importance of cross-system collaboration among the child welfare, substance abuse treatment, and court systems by providing materials that document current best practices and policies from across the country. The following products are all available FREE online or via the U.S. mail.

NCSACW
National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare
Visit our Web site at <http://www.ncsacw.samhsa.gov>.
For assistance, call 866-493-2758.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Administration for Children and Families

<https://www.ncsacw.samhsa.gov/default.aspx>

How Collaborative Policy and Practice Impacts

A pair of hands with light-colored nail polish is gently holding a miniature model of a house. The house has a red roof, a chimney, and several windows with flower boxes. The background is a soft, out-of-focus pinkish-purple.

5R's

Recovery

Remain at home

Reunification

Recidivism

Re-entry



- RPG adults **accessed treatment quickly:**
 - Within 13 days of entering RPG program, on average
 - 36.4% entered treatment within 3 days
- Participants **remained in treatment** a median of 4.8 months
- **65.2%** stayed in treatment more than 90 days
- **45.0%** completed treatment*

* Includes discharges for treatment completion and transferred to another facility and known to report to continue further treatment. Federal treatment outcome reporting considers such transfers a successful discharge.



- **92.0%** of children who were in the custody of their parent or caregiver at the time of RPG program enrollment **remained at home** through RPG program case closure
- The percentage of children who **remained at home significantly increased** through program implementation from 85.1% in Year 1 to **96.4%** in Year 5



- 4,078 children were discharged from foster care – 83.0% to reunification
- Median length of stay for reunified children: 9.5 months
- Percentage reunified within 12 months: 63.6%
 - 17.9% were reunified in less than 3 months
- **Timely reunification** increased significantly from 55.4% in Year 1 to **72.9%** in Year 4
- **Infants** and young children (< 1 year) had significantly higher rates of **reunification within 12 months (72.7%)** than children of all other ages (61.5%)

Safety and Permanency Outcomes: Program Results in the Context of Statewide Data

Safety and Permanency Outcomes (Median Performance)	Children in RPG Program	State Contextual Data
Percentage of Children who had Substantiated Maltreatment within Six Months after RPG Program Enrollment (N=22,558)	4.2%	5.8%
Discharge to Reunification – Median Length of Stay in Foster Care (N=3,340)	9.5 months	7.5 months
Percentage of Children Reunified in Less than 12 Months (N=3,627)	63.6%	69.4%
Percentage of Children Reunified who Re-entered Foster Care in Less than 12 Months (N=3,575)	5.1%	13.1%
Discharge to Finalized Adoption – Median Length of Stay in Foster Care (N=418)	24.2 months	29.3 months

** Contextual State Data are 2011 NCANDS/AFCARS median results for the states in which the RPG programs are operating. The state contextual data are not intended to serve as a comparison group for the RPG Program and do not allow for statistical comparisons to RPG participants.*



- Parents/caregivers achieved timely access to substance abuse treatment, stayed in treatment (on average more than 90 days), and reported reduced substance use
- The majority of children at risk of removal remained in their parent's custody
- Most children in out-of-home placement achieved timely reunifications with their parent(s)
- After returning home, very few children re-entered out of home care
- Overall child, adult, and family well-being improved from RPG program admission to discharge (for the subset of grantees who measured child well-being)

Today

*We can no longer say,
“We don't know what to do.”*





Review of 17 State Fatality Reports showed:

- Arizona
- Colorado
- Delaware
- Georgia
- Illinois
- Kentucky
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- South Carolina
- Tennessee

- Few states documented substance use as a factor in child fatalities
- Few states have adopted systemic efforts to address prevention efforts that treat substance use at the scale its prevalence demands

We can do better than this.



Review of 17 State Fatality Reports showed:

- 6 directly linked bed-sharing and substance use to child fatalities; of these, only 2 offered recommendations
- 7 states made recommendations regarding substance use and bed-sharing; three of these states provided either bullet points from, or a full reprinting, of AAP guidelines
- Many states allude to unsafe sleep environments without distinguishing the risk factors

Of states currently working with NCSACW:

- Connecticut, Virginia, Kentucky and West Virginia referenced substance use in some detail
- Ohio's report assessed a recent increase in opioid use however, there is no reference to its impact on child fatalities.

CAPTA language as amended in 2010

State Plans shall contain assurances that there is a state law or statewide program that includes:

* * *

“(b)(2)(A)(ii) **policies and procedures** (including appropriate referrals to child protection service systems and for other appropriate services) **to address the needs of infants** born with and identified as being affected by illegal substance abuse or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure, or a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, **including a requirement that health care providers** involved in the delivery or care of such infants **notify the child protective services system** of the occurrence of such condition in such infants, except that such notification **shall not be construed** to—

- (I) **establish a definition** under Federal law of what constitutes child abuse or neglect; or
- (II) **require prosecution** for any illegal action.

(iii) **the development of a plan of safe care** for the infant born and identified as being affected by illegal substance abuse or withdrawal symptoms, or a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder”

Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)

Amended 2010

- 
- Engagement of parents in effective services during pregnancy
 - Effective partnerships across systems to ensure babies and their families are safe
 - Post-natal follow-up with priority access to effective home visiting and early intervention services
 - State and federal monitoring of need and penetration rate

CAPTA - Plan of Safe Care



Zero

0

Number of States that have designated an official responsible for either compiling counts of CAPTA reports or for assessing whether written policies are actually being implemented

Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)

Recommendations - Key Actions

1. Require NCANDS and AFCARS to include parental substance use as required data items
2. Universal prenatal screening using validated screening tools and leveraging Medicaid and private insurers
3. Ensure full implementation of parity law to ensure appropriate levels of treatment and lengths of stay for all pregnant women
4. Ensure multi-disciplinary team approach to implementing plans of safe care prior to the birth event
5. Designate state office responsible for implementing and monitoring plans of safe care
6. Ensure priority access to home visiting service
7. Ensure eligibility for early intervention services
8. Require State Child Death Reports to specifically assess role of substance use

Our opportunity

Our greatest hope

Our children

Our families

Our future



Tennessee's Response to Drug-Exposed Children

Scott Modell, Ph.D., Deputy Commissioner, Office of Child Safety,
Tennessee Department of Children's Services

Carla Aaron, M.S.S.W., Executive Director, Office of Child Safety, Tennessee
Department of Children's Services

Amy Coble, MCJ, State Director of Investigations, Office of Child Safety,
Tennessee Department of Children's Services

Michael Warren, MD, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Health
and Wellness, Tennessee Department of Health

Michael Dunavent, JD, District Attorney 25th Judicial District of Tennessee

Amy Weirich, JD, District Attorney 30th Judicial District of Tennessee

TN Department of Children's Services 2014 Scope



Drug Exposed Children

Child Deaths



Rising Numbers

Policy

Lessons Learned

Promising Practices in CPS





NAS and Prescription Drugs

Tennessee Public Health Surveillance for NAS

Primary Prevention

Drug Dependent Newborns (Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome)

Surveillance Summary For the Week of April 12 – April 18, 2015¹

Reporting Summary (Year-to-date)

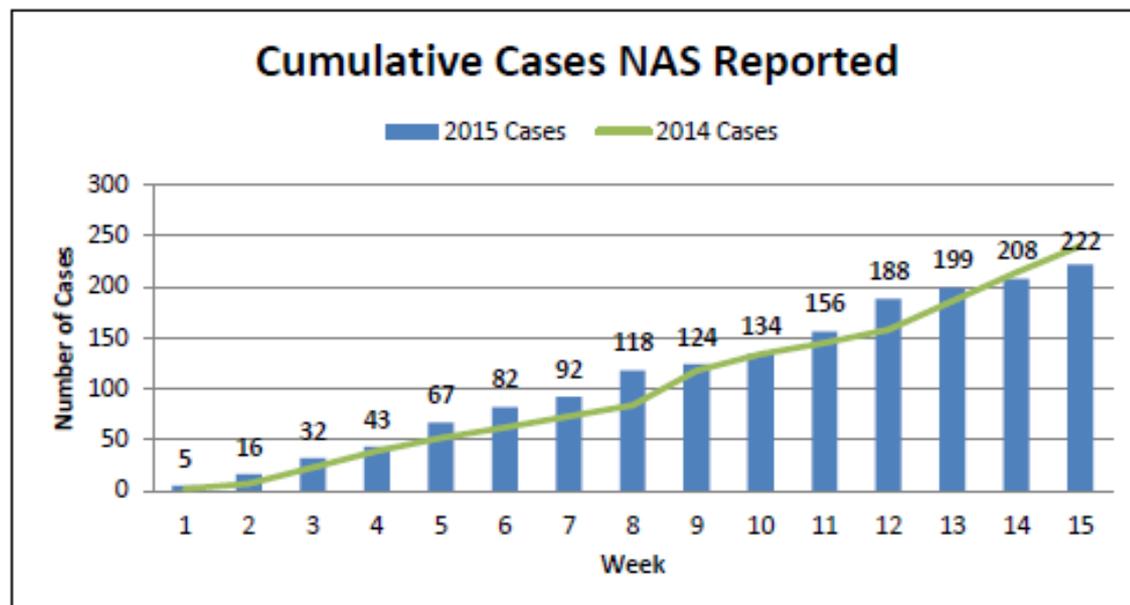
Cases Reported: 222

Male: 127

Female: 95

Unique Hospitals Reporting: 27

Maternal County of Residence (By Health Department Region)	# Cases	% Cases ²
Davidson	17	7.7
East	44	19.8
Hamilton	6	2.7
Jackson/Madison	0	0
Knox	24	10.8
Mid-Cumberland	24	10.8
North East	34	15.3
Shelby	8	3.6
South Central	13	5.9
South East	2	0.9
Sullivan	20	9.0
Upper Cumberland	27	12.2
West	3	1.4
Total	222	100.1



Source of Maternal Substance (if known) ²	# Cases ³	% Cases
Supervised replacement therapy	131	59.0
Supervised pain therapy	26	11.7
Therapy for psychiatric or neurological condition	14	6.3
Prescription substance obtained WITHOUT a prescription	72	32.4
Non-prescription substance	53	23.9
No known exposure but clinical signs consistent with NAS	3	1.4
No response	4	1.8

1. Summary reports are archived weekly at: http://health.tn.gov/MCH/NAS/NAS_Summary_Archive.shtml

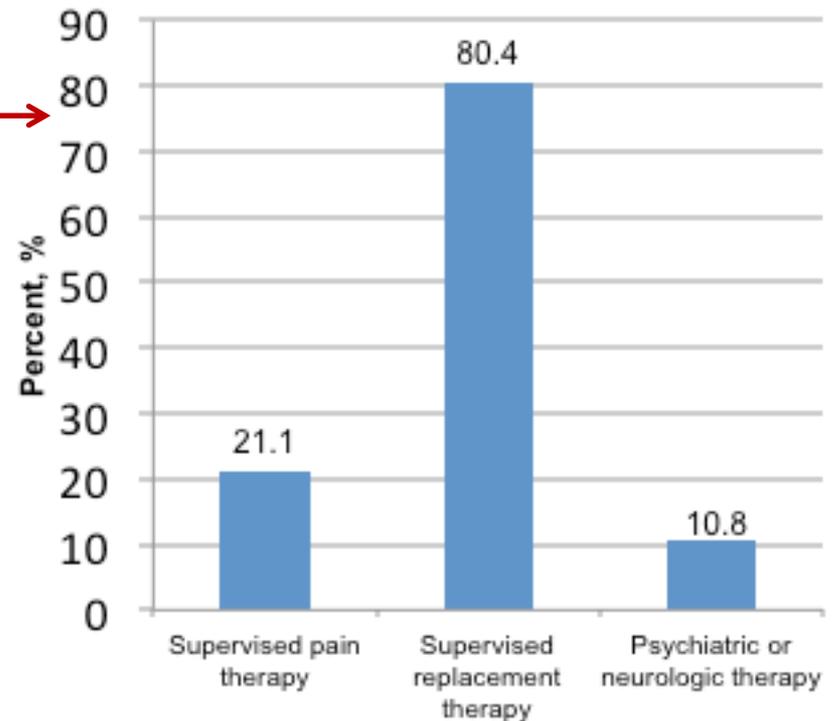
2. Total percentage may not equal 100.0% due to rounding.

3. Multiple maternal substances may be reported; therefore the total number of cases in this table may not match the total number of cases reported.

Mutually Exclusive Sources of Exposure, 2014

Source	No. Cases	% Cases
Prescription Drugs Only	474	46.6
Illicit/Diverted Drugs Only	292	28.7
Prescription and Illicit Drugs	231	22.7
Unknown	21	2.1
TOTAL	1018	100.1

Class of Prescription Drug Use Among Those with Prescription Drug Exposure Only



Treatment vs. Punishment

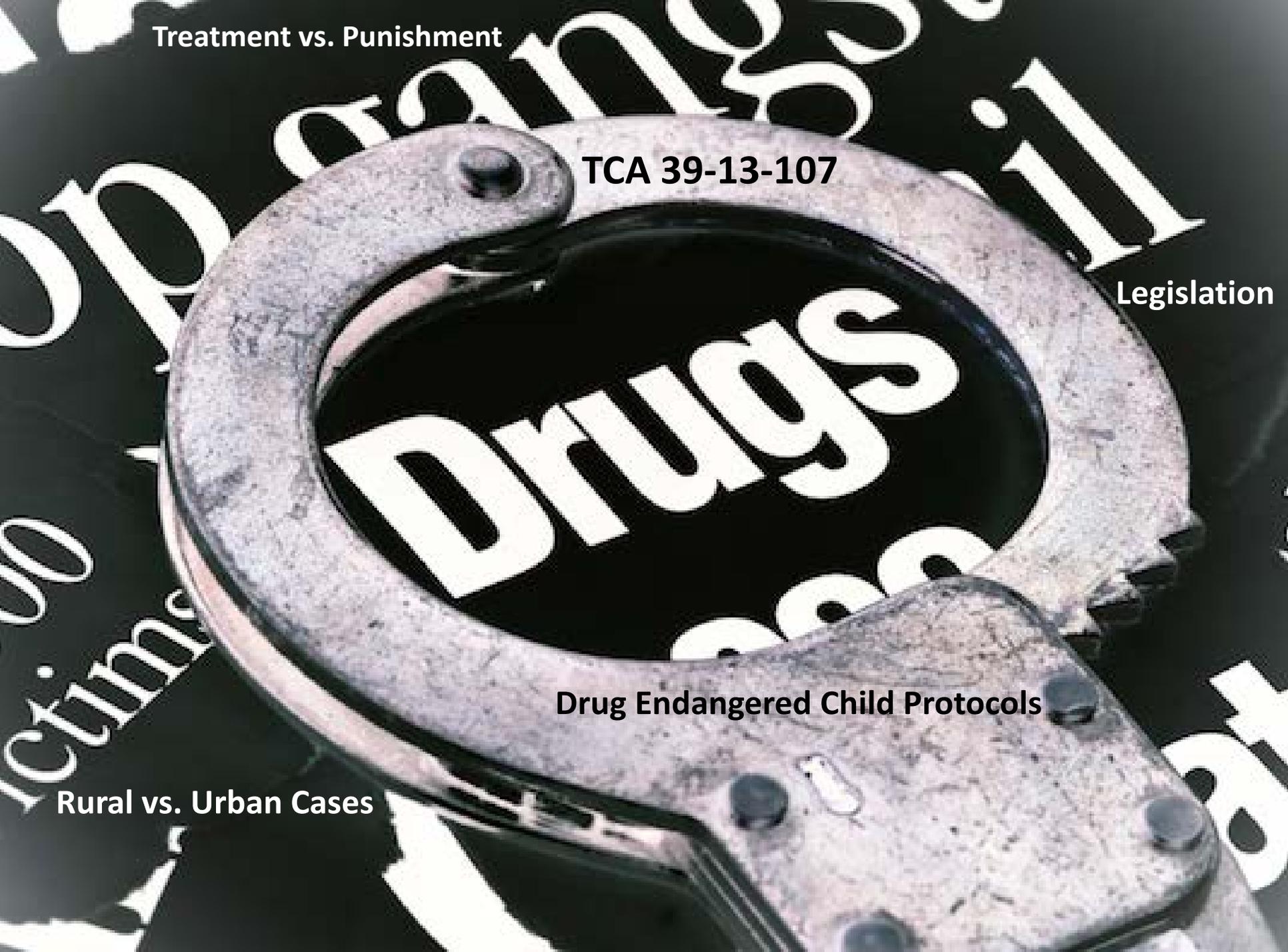
TCA 39-13-107

Legislation

Drugs

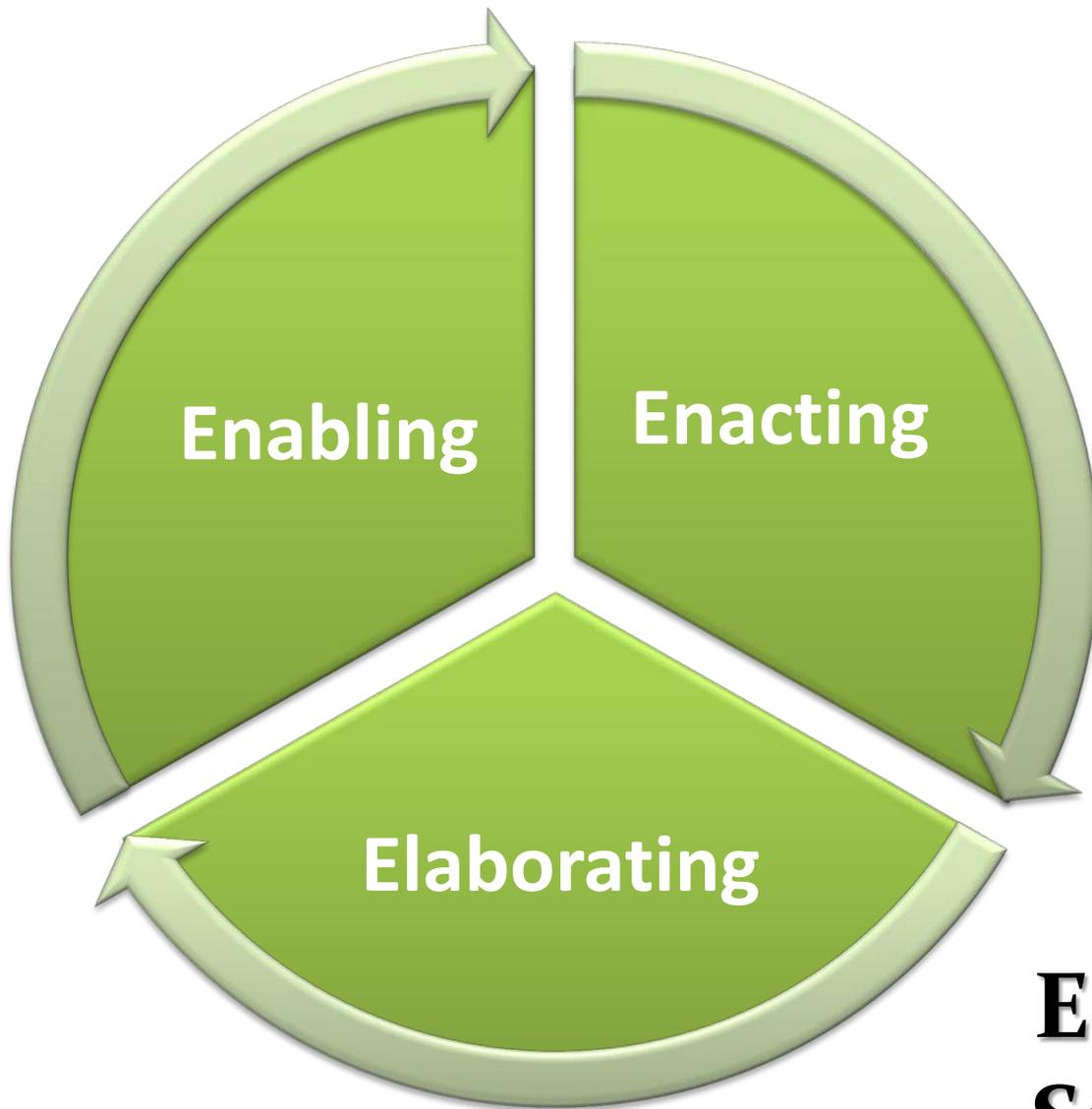
Drug Endangered Child Protocols

Rural vs. Urban Cases



Safety Science in Child Welfare





Establishing a Safety Culture



Third escape at Woodland Hills, despite security upgrades



332



Adam Tamburin, atamburin@tennessean.com

7:21 a.m. CDT September 28, 2014



Child Welfare Across the U.S.

Florida

May 2011

Florida cuts \$48 million from DCF budget, terminates 500 agency positions.

Budget Cuts Lead to Loss of Staff at DCF

Gov. Scott is cutting nearly 500 positions in the Department of Children and Families

Tuesday, May 24, 2011 | Updated 10:38 AM EDT

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Getty Images

Rick Scott

The Department of Children and Families is cutting nearly 500 positions to save the state \$48 million as Gov. Rick Scott tries to balance the state budget and slash spending by nearly \$4 billion, the agency said Monday.

Secretary David Wilkins said critical services will not be affected. About half the positions will come from three state hospitals: Florida State Hospital, Northeast Florida State Hospital and

June 2013

4 children with DCF history die within 6 week period,
causing media meltdrom

CHILD WELFARE

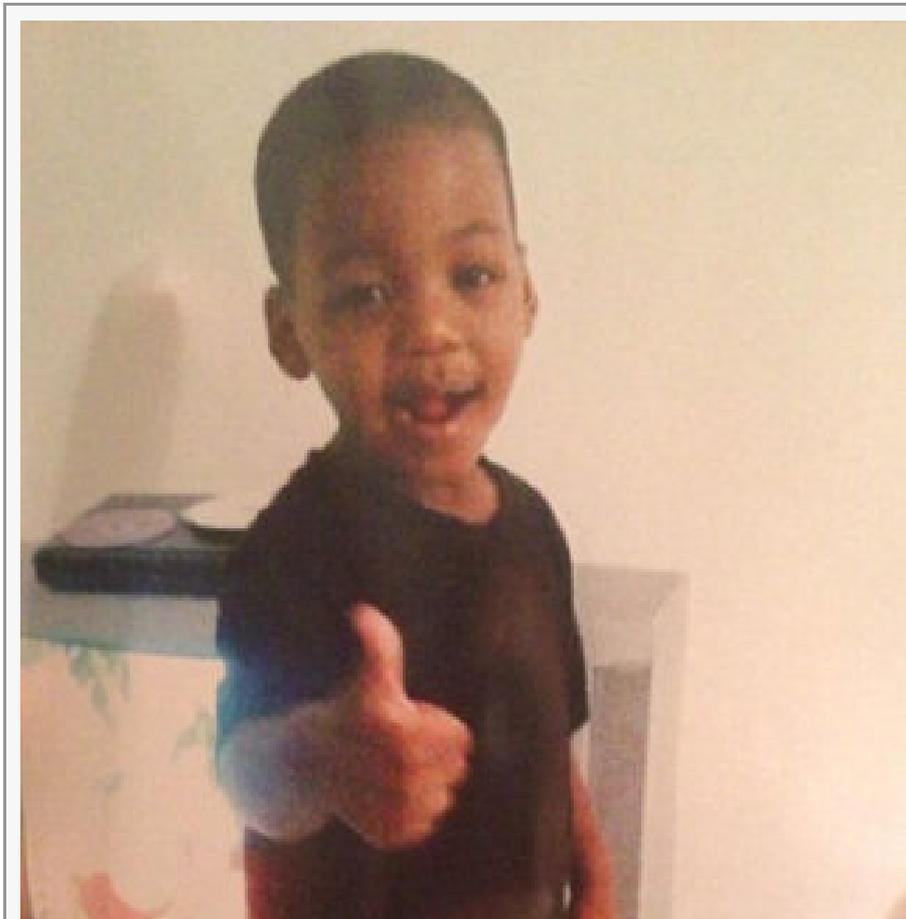
DCF roiled by another child's death



BY CAROL MARBIN MILLER
CMARBIN@MIAMIHERALD.COM

For the fourth time in six weeks, the state Department of Children & Families is investigating the death of a Florida child who, only weeks or months earlier, had drawn the attention of agency administrators.

The latest to die is Ezra Raphael, age 2. Police say they were "summoned" to Ezra's home at 15664 NE 10th Ct. in North Miami Beach, at 11:08 p.m. last Thursday to check on a "sick and unresponsive child." When paramedics arrived, police said in a statement, they found Ezra unconscious on the dining room floor. The toddler was pronounced dead shortly after he arrived at Jackson North Medical Center.



July 2013

Head of DCF resigns following scandal surrounding the deaths of the 4 children.

POLITICS

Florida DCF head David Wilkins resigns Like 62



David Wilkins, Florida's top child welfare and social service administrator, shown in this Dec. 19, 2012 file photo, resigned Thursday, July 18, 2013, amid [Buy Photo](#)

BY CAROL MARBIN MILLER AND MARY ELLEN KLAS
CMARBIN@MIAMIHERALD.COM

David Wilkins, Florida's top child welfare and social services administrator, resigned Thursday amid an escalating scandal over the recent deaths of four small children who had a history of involvement with child-abuse investigators.

Wilkins is leaving the agency to "pursue opportunities in the private sector and to provide more attention" to a foundation he leads, Gov. Rick Scott said in a statement.

Wilkins, who became the governor's longest-serving agency head, served as secretary of the Department of Children & Families since Scott's inauguration in 2011. But in recent months, Wilkins became mired in a simmering controversy over the deaths of four youngsters in a six-week period, all but one from Miami-Dade and Broward counties. A fifth child, also from Miami, nearly died from a lacerated liver after the agency failed to act when the infant suffered a broken thigh bone months earlier.

March 2014

Miami Herald publishes series alleging DCF underreported child death numbers.

INNOCENTS LOST

FLORIDA'S UNDERCOUNT OF CHILD ABUSE DEATHS

The state says abuse and neglect deaths are receding after a spike. But are they? And, if so, by how much? A closer look at the numbers.

BY CAROL MARBIN MILLER AND AUDRA D.S. BURCH

CMARBIN@MIAMIHERALD.COM

PUBLISHED MARCH 22, 2014

April 2014

Legislators pledge \$47 million in new funding for child welfare.

LEGISLATURE 2014

House, Senate settle on \$47 million in new money for child welfare



The Miami Herald and WLRN hosted a town hall meeting to discuss Innocents Lost, the investigative series that looked at 477 Florida child deaths by abuse or neglect that occurred over a six-year span.

BY MARY ELLEN KLAS

HERALD/TIMES TALLAHASSEE BUREAU

TALLAHASSEE -- With breakneck speed, House and Senate budget negotiators met Tuesday and agreed to \$47.8 million in new money for child welfare, far below what child advocates had hoped for but with more money for treatment services than either chamber had originally sought.

The proposal also gives the governor only about \$21 million of the \$39 million he had asked for to expand child protection services.

The agreement may be only preliminary, said Senate President Don Gaetz, R-Niceville, who said budget negotiators may find additional funds for child welfare programs as they work to finish their \$75 billion budget this week.

Arizona

March 2009

\$7 million budget cut, Arizona CPS lays off 159 case workers, reducing staff by 15%.

112 case workers laid off at CPS

by *Mary Jo Pitzl* - Mar. 10, 2009 12:00 AM
The Arizona Republic

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Another round of job cuts to the state's Child Protective Services program means 112 case specialists are out of jobs, leaving the staff 15 percent smaller than it was earlier this year.

That translates into fewer workers to investigate complaints about child abuse, a move that one state lawmaker predicted would lead to children dying due to abusive conditions.

The agency late last week laid off 112 specialists, bringing to 159 the total number of case workers and investigators who have been dismissed as the state Department of Economic Security makes cuts to help the state balance its current-year budget.

November 2013

Revelation-CPS did not investigate over 6000 reports of child abuse ignites national media firestorm.

By CRIMESIDER STAFF / CBS/AP / November 21, 2013, 2:48 PM

6,000 Arizona child abuse reports not investigated



ISTOCK PHOTO

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PHOENIX - Thousands of cases of child abuse that were reported to a statewide hotline in Arizona have gone uninvestigated since 2009, putting children across the state at risk, state officials disclosed Thursday.

January 2014

Amid growing scandal surrounding uninvestigated cases, Governor Brewer abolishes CPS and creates new agency to replace it.

Brewer moves to abolish CPS, create new cabinet-level agency

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Ross D. Franklin

Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer, front, waves as she arrives at the podium in front of Arizona Speaker of The House Andy Tobin, right, R-Dewey, and Arizona Senate President Andy Biggs, R-Gilbert, prior to her State of the State address in the Arizona House of Representatives at the Arizona Capitol Monday, Jan. 13, 2014, in Phoenix. The Republican governor used her annual State of the State address to focus on overhauling a troubled child welfare agency, boosting the economy and changing the way schools are funded. (AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin)

April 2014

Director of new child welfare agency fires 6 CPS workers deemed "most responsible" for uninvestigated cases .

6 CPS workers fired for ignoring child abuse reports

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April 24, 2014 6:45 am • Howard Fischer Capitol Media Services

 (0) Comments

PHOENIX — Six state workers associated with having nearly 6,600 reports of child abuse ignored were fired Wednesday.

Charles Flanagan, head of the new Division of Child Safety and Family Services, said five were people who were part of a special team charged with handling the backlog of cases at what was at the time Child Protective Services. He said they were found to have been instrumental in crafting and implementing a policy that resulted in ignoring state laws that require all complaints be investigated.

May 2014

Governor Brewer asks legislators for nearly \$60 million in

Brewer seeking \$60 million for new child welfare agency

Story

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Posted: Thursday, May 22, 2014 12:45 pm

By Howard Fischer, Capitol Media Services

Gov. Jan Brewer asked lawmakers today to approve nearly \$60 million in immediate new funds to create a new child welfare agency and revamp how Arizona handles abuse and neglect complaints.

And that's just the first step on top of the more than \$827 million already being spent. Brewer's plan calls for legislators to add another \$38.5 million for the following budget year and \$30.1 million the year after that.



Howard Fischer/Capitol Media Services

Georgia

2007 – 2012

Georgia DFCS budget reduced by 28% over five year period.

Updated: 9:57 a.m. Thursday, April 12, 2012 | Posted: 5:38 a.m. Thursday, April 12, 2012

Hit hard by budget cuts, DFCS strains as workload jumps

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[Photos: Agency faces funding cuts](#)

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Phil Skinner

By [Shannon McCaffrey](#) and [Craig Schneider](#)

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

More abused and neglected children are getting state protection under an aggressive new policy mandate, but deep budget cuts are threatening efforts to help those children and their families heal, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution has found.

The Division of Family and Children Services lost 28 percent of its state funding for child welfare services over five years and is bracing for the loss of millions in federal dollars. Now, under a new regime, DFCS is emphasizing children's safety by opening thousands of additional investigations and taking hundreds more children into foster care.

November 5th 2013

Alleged mishandling of child death cases by DFCS prompts media firestorm and public outcry.

Posted: 9:14 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2013

DFCS investigating alleged child abuse deaths

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Father charged with murder claimed boy drowned

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By Alexis Stevens

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Eric Forbes and Emani Moss lived 60 miles apart. But together, their tragic deaths allegedly at the hands of their parents could spark changes for the state agency responsible for protecting children.

November 13th 2013

DFCS fires two employees connected to reportedly mishandled death cases.

Two DFCS employees fired after two child deaths



FORBES FAMILY RESPONDS TO FIRED DFCS WORKERS  6:05
57°

11ALIVE DATELINE: FAILED TO DEATH | DFCS PETITION | ROME MOTHER CHARGED
HEADLINES: CAMDEN CO. DEPUTY SHERIFF DRESSED AS BLACK JAIL INMATE SUSPENDED

Two Georgia Division of Family and Children Services employees involved have been fired, after deaths of two children.

11Alive Staff, WXIA 3:27 p.m. EST November 13, 2013



ATLANTA -- Two Georgia Division of Family and Children Services employees have been fired, after internal investigations into the deaths of Eric Forbes and Markea Berry.

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November 14th 2013

Georgia Governor Nathan Deal proposes plan to increase DFCS budget by \$27 million and hire 500 additional caseworkers.

Local

6:00 AM THU NOVEMBER 14, 2013

Deal Proposes \$27M DFCS Funding Boost



E-mail



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By MICHELL ELOY

Gov. Nathan Deal says he wants to expand the Division of Family and Children Services.

His plan, which will be introduced in his upcoming FY2015 budget proposal, calls for hiring about 500 DFCS case workers and supervisors and increasing the division's budget by nearly \$27 million over the next three years.



June 12th 2014

As part of continuing series of reforms, Governor Deal announces new DFCS director (the fourth new agency head in a four year period).

New DFCS director starts Monday



Gov. Nathan Deal announced a change of leadership in the troubled Division of Family and Childrens Services that includes a new director. 11Alive News

11Alive Staff and Doug Richards, WXIA 6:25 a.m. EDT June 16, 2014



(Photo: Governor's Office)

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FORSYTH, Ga. — Gov. Nathan Deal announced a change of leadership in the troubled Division of Family and Children's Services that includes a new director. The governor, who is running for re-election this year, says he wants to change the culture of the agency.

jibo

Vermont

2010

\$4.5 million rescinded from Vermont DCF fiscal year budget.

Legislature asks: Is DCF doing enough?

Story

Comments

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Posted: Thursday, October 1, 2009 12:00 am | Updated: 12:26 pm, Wed Jul 10, 2013.

By Jesse Roman |  0 comments

“In fiscal year 2010, the Legislature budgeted \$338.9 million for the department — bolstered in large part by \$26.5 million from the federal stimulus bill, Giffin said. Since then, \$4.5 million has been rescinded from the budget...”

March 2014

Death of infant with prior DCF history prompts concern of lawmakers.

Vt. lawmakers probe child protective services

Posted: Mar 12, 2014 9:11 AM CST

Updated: Jun 27, 2014 10:49 AM CST

By Kyle Midura - [bio](#) | [email](#)

MONTPELIER, Vt. - The February death of 2-year-old Dezirae Sheldon is the subject of a criminal and administrative investigation. Wednesday, lawmakers began looking into whether state child protection laws need an update.

"The history of abuse and involvement with the state's protective services has raised serious questions and concerns," said Sen. John Campbell, D-Vt. President Pro Tem.

Sheldon's stepfather is charged with her murder. Her mother lost custody of Dezirae last year, after she pleaded guilty to child cruelty for failing to get Dezirae prompt medical care for a broken leg.* Many wonder why social workers returned the child to the family months later.

"While this is certainly a tragedy and a horrific crime, the agency, the department, the division are dealing with many, many cases like this every day," Doug Racine said.

As secretary of the Agency of Human Services, Racine oversees the Department for Children and Families. He says social workers can always use more resources, but he does not believe Sheldon's case represents institutional failure.

"But bad things do happen and if there's something that can be done and we can learn out of this and you can learn out of this where we can do even better, than we would welcome that," Racine said.



Dezirae Sheldon



April 2014

Death of second child with previous history within two month period leads to increased scrutiny of DCF by legislators and flood of media exposure.

VPR News

5:59 PM FRI APRIL 18, 2014

Report Of Second Dead Child Rattles Lawmakers

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By [NEAL GOSWAMI](#)

The Chittenden Unit for Special Investigations is investigating the death of a second child in Vermont within the past few months, raising ire among some lawmakers about the lack of information shared with them by state officials.

 **Listen**

1:38

Sen. Dick Sears, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and co-chairman of the special Senate Review Panel on Child Protection, learned Wednesday through the media of the death of a 14-month-old boy in Winooski on or around April 4.

The special Senate panel was created after 2-year-old Dezirae Sheldon, of Poultney, died in February from severe head trauma, allegedly at the hands of her stepfather, Dennis Duby, who has pleaded innocent to a second-degree murder charge.

Public outrage erupted after it was revealed that Dezirae was returned to her mother, Sandra Eastman, 31, also of Poultney, despite a 2013 conviction for cruelty to a child for not immediately seeking treatment for the girl's two broken legs. Despite the conviction, the Department for Children and Families returned Dezirae to live with Eastman shortly before the girl's death.

May 2014

Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin announces plan to increase DCF funding and hire 18 additional caseworkers.



By Bridget Shanahan
BIO >>

Governor announces changes to DCF in wake of childrens' deaths

UPDATED 6:35 PM EDT May 21, 2014



Governor Peter Shumlin is tasking Health and Human Services Secretary Doug Racine with coming up with a reorganization plan for the Department for Children and Families. Shumlin plans to hire 18 additional DCF caseworkers, provide target training for those caseworkers, narrow the focus of DCF and require all cases of serious abuse to go through DCF's central office.

POST A COMMENT

June 2014

Public airs outrage toward DCF during series of legislative hearings.

NEWS + OPINION » POLITICS

JUNE 11, 2014

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DCF Hearings Draw Crowds

By MARK DAVIS [@DAVIS7D](#)



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MATTHEW THORSEN

Locals speak to state legislators about the Department for Children and Families

At nine recent meetings, state legislators faced people gathered to criticize the Vermont Department for Children and Families. Reading from a script, they asked the audience to recommend policies to improve an agency under fire for the recent deaths of two children who had been in its care.

June 2014

DCF fires director of regional office that oversaw first child death case.

DCF to replace head of Rutland office

SAM HEMINGWAY Free Press Staff Writer

6:05 p.m. EDT June 20, 2014



(Photo: Free Press file photo)

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The Department for Children and Families says it will replace the director of its Rutland office, the decision coming one week after a Vermont State Police report sharply criticized how the office handled a case of a Poultney toddler who later died.

"This office has been under a lot of stress, a lot of challenges," department Commissioner David Yacovone said in an interview. "The report raised very serious concerns about the performance of the office. I felt this action was warranted because of those concerns."

The move Friday also comes four days after state Sen. Kevin Mullen, R-Rutland, told the Burlington Free Press that if changes to the office weren't made soon, he would consider calling for Yacovone's resignation.

South Carolina

2008 - 2009

South Carolina DSS loses more than \$100 million due to budget cuts.

DSS not meeting requirements



Adam Parker [✉ Email](#) [f Facebook](#) [t @adamlparker](#)

May 24 2010 12:01 am [🕒 Mar 23 3:12 pm](#)

By the numbers

Key findings in a federal assessment of South Carolina's child abuse protection system: Permanency and stability in living situations — A success rate of 25 percent. Continuity of family relationships and connections — A success rate of 38.5 percent. Enhanced ability to provide for children's needs — A success rate of 33.8 percent. Adoption

The state agency responsible for addressing child abuse and neglect has lost so much money to budget cuts that it can't meet many federal requirements for child welfare, according to a recently released report.

The S.C. Department of Social Services lost more than \$100 million from July 2008 to December 2009 -- nearly \$50 million in state money along with federal matching aid that would have flowed to the state if legislators had made targeted rather than across-the-board budget cuts.

As a result, thousands of children risk prolonged exposure to dangerous conditions at home or remain in foster care. Social workers at the cash-starved agency are so overloaded that they often can't provide even basic help.

February 2014

DSS faces controversy after admitting mistakes in case of 4-year-old Robert Guinyard Jr., who was killed by his parents despite reports of abuse by family.

DSS Death: "The System Failed Robert"

Clark Fouraker, WLTX

11:54 p.m. EST February 24, 2014



(Photo: Family photo)

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- 8 Employees Fired After Death
- Agency Evaluates Previous Abuse Reports More

home on July 1, 2013, the night he died. Incident reports say deputies found Robert face down unresponsive. Watt's office would later perform the autopsy on the four year old boy.

"Through full body x-rays basically, we were able to determine not only an immediate traumatic injury to the child, but also a history of abuse," Watts said. "There was certainly an extensive history of this."

Family members say they witnessed incidents of abuse and reported them to DSS.

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Columbia, SC (WLTX) - The agency charged with protecting vulnerable children in South Carolina says they dropped the ball.

Despite multiple reports to the South Carolina Department of Social Services, steps were never taken to remove Robert Guinyard Jr. from his home before he died.

"They were notified on multiple occasions of abuse with this child," said Richland County Coroner Gary Watts.

Along with the Richland County Sheriff's Department, Watt's office responded to Guinyard's



April 2014

DSS Director Lillian Koller testifies before senate panel and receives criticism from state legislators over handling of child death cases.

DSS director testifies before Senate panel



Cynthia Roldan Email Facebook @cynthiaroldan

Apr 16 2014 10:55 am Apr 16 6:41 pm

COLUMBIA - The embattled director of the South Carolina Department of Social Services spent her Wednesday morning fending off criticism and allegations made against her administration during past several months.

Director Lillian Koller testified about reports of shortfalls at the agency by current and former staffers, and about coroners and families who have said the system has failed the children of South Carolina. The problems have come to light during a series of hearings held by the Senate's DSS Oversight Subcommittee since last fall.



South Carolina DSS Director Lillian Koller talks with reporters after her testimony Wednesday before a Senate DSS Oversight Committee. Cynthia Roldan/Staff



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June 2014

Director Koller resigns from DSS amid scrutiny over child death cases.

DSS chief Lillian Koller resigns, says her leadership has become a "distraction"

Posted by JAMIE SELF on June 2, 2014



Department of Social Services director Lillian Koller testifies for the second time at a Senate panel charged with investigating the agency's role in cases where children died.

GERRY MELENDEZ — gmelendez@thestate.com [Buy Photo](#)

January 2015

Governor Nikki Haley proposes \$7.1 million budget increase for DSS to hire 200 additional caseworkers and to raise employee pay.

Education, DSS top Haley's budget proposal

BY BENJAMIN JEFFERS – [UPDATED JANUARY 15, 2015](#)

Source: Greenville Journal

Discussion: [0 Comments](#)

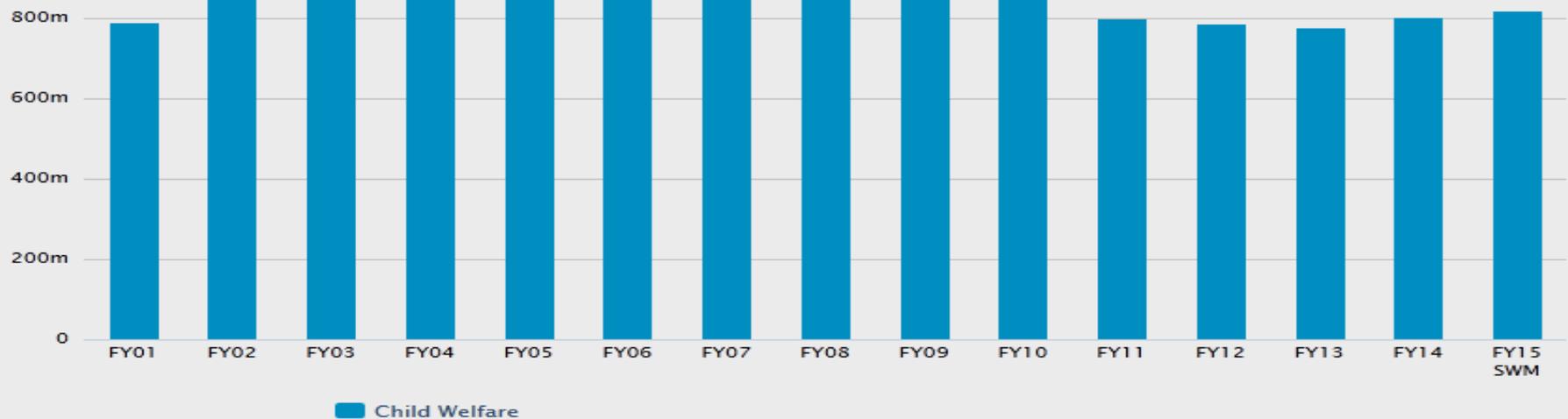
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“Haley also devoted \$7.1 million to hiring 200 additional DSS caseworkers and more than 60 caseworker assistants. The additional funds include \$1.8 million to give DSS workers a 10 percent pay raise.”

Massachusetts

2008 - 2013

Massachusetts cuts \$137 million from child welfare funding, a reduction of 15.1%.



Highcharts.com

[download as spreadsheet](#)

	Adjusted for inflation (CPI)	NOT adjusted
FY15 SWM	\$818,987,413	\$818,987,413
FY14	\$803,012,026	\$787,436,016
FY13	\$777,293,337	\$749,803,189
FY12	\$786,464,924	\$746,160,781
FY11	\$801,439,855	\$738,639,317
FY10	\$855,012,968	\$772,676,358
FY09	\$912,144,909	\$816,309,511
FY08	\$915,106,890	\$807,621,073

See Changes in Funding

Between and



comparisons adjusted for inflation (CPI)



January 2014

Disappearance and presumed death of 5-year-old receiving DCF services causes media uproar.

Mass. DCF under siege regarding handling of child welfare cases



Mass. DCF under siege regarding handling of child welfare cases

Recent cases of children like Kaydn Hancock and Jeremiah Oliver have agency, Mass. gov. accused of negligence

January 8, 2014, 5:49 pm

February 2014

Boston Globe publishes piece claiming that children under the watch of DCF "die with alarming regularity."

Savage toll of abuse for children in DCF care

More than 95 have died since '01, state reports say

By Jenifer McKim | NEW ENGLAND CENTER FOR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING FEBRUARY 02, 2014

ARTICLE

COMMENTS (31)



April 2014

DCF Chief resigns after discovery of missing 5-year-old's body and deaths of two infants with DCF contact occur within 15 day period.

DCF Chief Olga Roche Resigns After Deaths

By The Associated Press April 29, 2014 Updated Apr 29, 12:05 pm



Gov. Deval Patrick, who had earlier defended DCF chief Olga Roche, said it was clear now that Roche had the expertise to do her job but no longer had the support of the public or her staff. (Josh Reynolds/AP)

BOSTON — The embattled head of Massachusetts' child welfare agency resigned Tuesday under intense scrutiny of the department following the unrelated deaths of three children, with Gov. Deval Patrick saying it was impossible for her to continue in the job.

May 2014

Lawmakers propose \$38 million increase to DCF budget.

As Mass. DCF Moves Under New Leader, Lawmakers OK Funding Boost

by: Sarah Birnbaum

MAY 1, 2014

BOSTON

As the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families undergoes a change in leadership, lawmakers are trying to increase the agency's budget.

The House is recommending a \$38 million boost over last fiscal year for the department. That's roughly what Gov. Deval Patrick proposed.



New Jersey

January 2003

Death of 7-year-old Faheem Williams, who had prior history with DYFS, causes outrage in the media and among the public.

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ACCIDENTAL ARTIST

A damaged brain drives a man to obsessively create art.



Learn about Jon Sarkin by viewing the story, photos and video.

[THE ACCIDENTAL ARTIST, BY AMY ELLIS NUTT](#) »

Newark abuse death gets uglier

Amid claims of DYFS inaction, angry McGreevey vows a probe
Tuesday, January 7, 2003

BY SUSAN K. LIVIO AND MARY JO PATTERSON

STAR-LEDGER STAFF

Faheem Williams came into the world around 11 a.m. on June 13, 1995, at University Hospital in Newark, a few minutes before his twin brother, Raheem. That much is known from his birth certificate.

He departed it seven years later, police say, starved and beaten and concealed in a filthy basement in which his surviving twin and a 4-year-old brother also were imprisoned.

But between his birth and the shocking discovery Sunday of his corpse, there is precious little documentation of Faheem's short life. No photographs of a happy toddler blowing out birthday candles. No pre-school diploma. No evidence that he ever attended elementary school.

Just 11 filed and apparently forgotten notations in a New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services file dating back to 1992, recording neglect complaints made about the children's mother, Melinda Williams. The last report, on Oct. 3, 2001, alleged that the children were being beaten and burned.

Yesterday, as Faheem was autopsied and his rescued brothers treated at a hospital for malnutrition, state officials reacted swiftly to what appeared to be a clear case of bureaucratic fumbling. Gov. James E. McGreevey, who termed initial news reports of the case "revolting" and "disgusting," promised an exhaustive review of the state's performance.

"Clearly something went very wrong," McGreevey said. "The state has a legal and moral responsibility, and we will provide the most thorough, agonizing and exhaustive review of the agency's actions to determine what happened in this case."

The governor also predicted that heads would roll.

NE

Lo

AP Photo/Ken Cedeno

September 2003

New Jersey creates independent watchdog agency to monitor DYFS following the death of Faheem Williams.

New Jersey Creates Independent Child Advocate Office

By RONALD SMOTHERS

Published: September 27, 2003

NEWARK, Sept. 26— Gov. James E. McGreevey today appointed a close aide and longtime child advocate to head the newly created independent Office of the Child Advocate. It was yet another step to repair a state child welfare system that he has described as broken.

The governor also signed into law measures to improve screening of workers and families who care for children receiving public services.

The actions by Mr. McGreevey came nine months after the discovery of the body of Faheem Williams, a 7-year-old child in foster care whose neglect and abuse case had been closed by the state. His decomposed body was found in the basement of a Newark house.

In creating the independent child advocate's office as part of the Department of Law and Public Safety, Governor McGreevey and lawmakers gave it broad powers to hold hearings, investigate allegations of abuse and neglect, and even sue other state agencies.

"We need someone who answers to no governor, no Legislature and no court, but answers purely to New Jersey's children," Mr. McGreevey said.

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October 2003

Nine DYFS employees involved with the Faheem Williams case are fired.

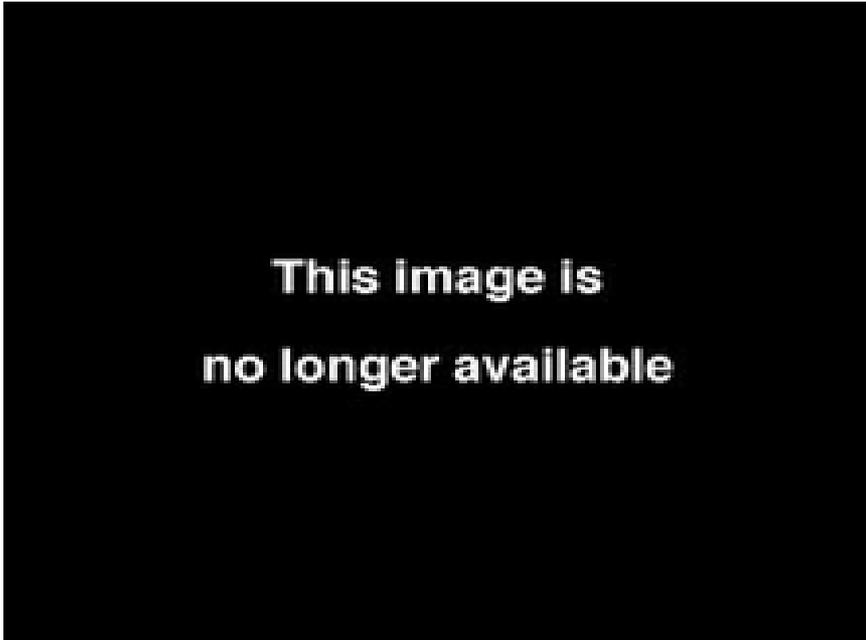
State workers to be fired in neglected boys case

Tuesday, October 28, 2003 Posted: 1039 GMT (8:39 PM HKT)

TRENTON, New Jersey (CNN) -- Nine employees of New Jersey's Division of Youth and Family Services will be fired for their roles in a case in which four malnourished brothers were found in an adoptive home, state officials announced Monday in Trenton.

Authorities say the couple that had adopted the brothers — aged 19 to 9 — used locks to keep them away from the kitchen and said they had been reduced to looking through the trash for food.

One of those employees is the caseworker who visited the Collingswood, New Jersey, home 38 times in the past four years and reported that they were "happy and thriving."



This image is
no longer available

The house in Collingswood where the four brothers lived. The oldest, 19, was so malnourished that police thought he was 10.

March 2004

New Jersey pledges \$321 million in funding and 1,500 additional caseworkers in effort to improve DYFS.

Panel approves DYFS overhaul N.J. would hire 1,500 caseworkers and add 1,000 foster homes under a \$321 million proposal to improve the agency.

By Mitch Lipka INQUIRER TRENTON BUREAU

POSTED: March 20, 2004

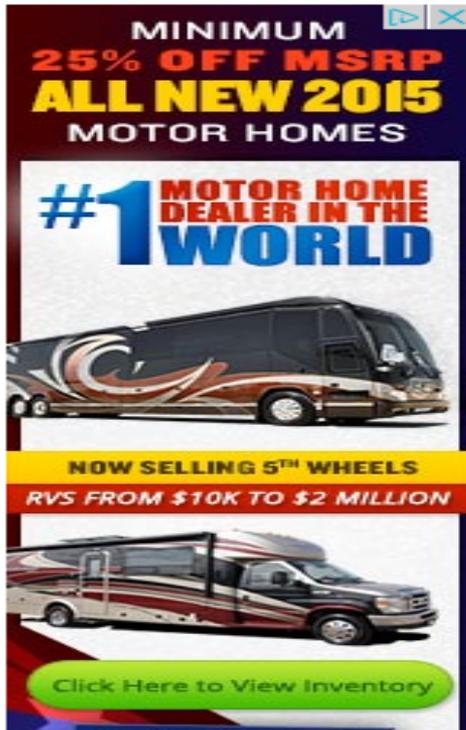
New Jersey has agreed to add workers to its failed child-welfare system more quickly than originally planned as part of a \$321 million overhaul that was approved in principle yesterday by an oversight panel.

Nearly 1,500 workers would be added to the Division of Youth and Family Services in the next 2 1/2 years. The plan also calls for adding 1,000 foster homes.

The state's Department of Human Services initially had intended for the next round of hiring to start on July 1, but the panel wants 276 people to be hired as soon as possible.

The panel called the plan "impressive and comprehensive" and praised Gov. McGreevey's willingness to commit the resources they said it would take to reinvent DYFS, which has become known nationally for a series of tragedies last year.

Faheem Williams, 7, was found dead in Newark - the victim of beatings and starvation - after a DYFS caseworker closed an abuse complaint without ever seeing the boy or his brothers. And in a home in Collingswood that DYFS workers had visited numerous times, police found four adopted brothers whom authorities say had been starved over a period of years.



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March 2010

New Jersey moves to eliminate Office of the Child Advocate.

N.J. Gov. Chris Christie's proposed budget eliminates Office of the Child Advocate



By Susan K. Livio | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

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on March 25, 2010 at 9:21 PM, updated March 26, 2010 at 5:32 AM

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Ed Murray/The Star-Ledger

Gov. Chris Christie during a press conference.

TRENTON -- New Jersey's Office of the Child Advocate, created to protect the rights of thousands of mistreated and neglected children, would be abolished under Gov. Chris Christie's proposed budget.

The office was created at the height of the scandals engulfing the Division of Youth and Family Services seven years ago, when state officials determined the child welfare agency's dysfunction was so severe, they needed to create a separate "watchdog" entity.

The decision to eliminate the \$1.3 million office and its 14 employees saves money, but

Most Read



Why a startling Amber Alert awakened people across N.J. early this morning



Alleged video of Dallas Cowboys' Dez Bryant exists, according to ESPN's Adam Schefter

June 2011

Death of 8-year-old Christiana Glenn 9 days after call to child abuse hotline prompts renewed criticism of DYFS.

NJ AGENCY GETS COMPLAINT 9 DAYS BEFORE CHILD DIES



Christiana Glenn

June 10, 2011 6:18:35 PM PDT

By SAMANTHA HENRY

NEWARK -- New Jersey child protection officials disclosed Friday their agency received an anonymous report of suspected abuse nine days before an 8-year-old Irvington girl was found dead in her mother's apartment, but did not order a field visit.

The Department of Children and Families is looking into why the report of the phone call, in which the caller gave an address where DCF previously had an open investigation, was not linked to the other case files. The agency had an open investigation on the family from 2006 to 2008, and classified four previous complaints of suspected abuse and neglect in the home unfounded before closing the case.

June 2011

NJ senate approves bill requiring greater tracking and reporting of child abuse data.

Starvation death of Irvington girl, 8, prompts changes to DYFS

MONDAY, 13 JUNE 2011 20:14 |

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State Senate panel approves bill setting tougher rules on investigating child abuse in New Jersey

In the aftermath of the death of Christiana Glenn, a 8-year-old Irvington girl who died of starvation and complications from a broken leg, a state Senate committee on Monday approved legislation that would require state child abuse investigators to track cases more closely and report more statistics.

A new category for investigations, "not substantiated," would mean a probe did not find a high level of evidence required for the state Division of Youth and

Family Services to take action, but would allow additional review, if necessary, for investigators get further information.

DYFS investigators would have to track and annually publish the number of "unfounded" cases that later become "substantiated." In the Glenn case,

June 2011

Manager of child abuse hotline fired following Christiana Glenn's death.

Manager of N.J. child abuse hotline is fired following case of 8-year-old Irvington girl



By [Susan K. Livio](#) | [The Star-Ledger](#)
[Email the author](#) | [Follow on Twitter](#)

on June 28, 2011 at 6:00 AM, updated June 28, 2011 at 3:21 PM

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TRENTON — The manager of the state's child abuse hotline was fired Monday, making her the first casualty in the scandal surrounding a mishandled hotline call about an 8-year-old Irvington girl found dead in her home nine days later.

A spokeswoman for the commissioner of the state Department of Children and Families confirmed that



Courtesy of the family

Christiana Glenn appears in a photo taken in 2006, the same year the state Division of Youth and Family Services received its first report that her mother, Venette Ovilde (seen in this 2001 photo), was neglecting her. Three more reports followed in less than two years.

party poker
Must be 21. Gambling problem? Call 1-800-GAMBLER.

DISCOVER THE BEST CASINO ESCAPES \$18

February 2012

DYFS restructures agency to focus on narrower mission and “Tremendous Growth in Spending and Staff”

N.J. DYFS to get new name and new mission, commissioner says



By [Susan K. Livio](#) | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

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on February 28, 2012 at 6:30 AM, updated February 28, 2012 at 9:09 AM

Print

TRENTON — The state child welfare agency is not only getting a new name, but also a narrower mission that could include farming out some of its duties to nonprofit groups after nearly a decade of tremendous change and growth in spending and staff.

Department of Children and Families Commissioner Allison Blake said she is considering whether community organizations can do a better job working with low-risk families than the Division of Youth and Family Services, which she announced last week will be renamed the Division of Child Protection and Permanency.



View full size [Jerry McCrea/The Star Ledger](#) Allison Blake, commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, speaks at a press conference in this file photo from June 2011.

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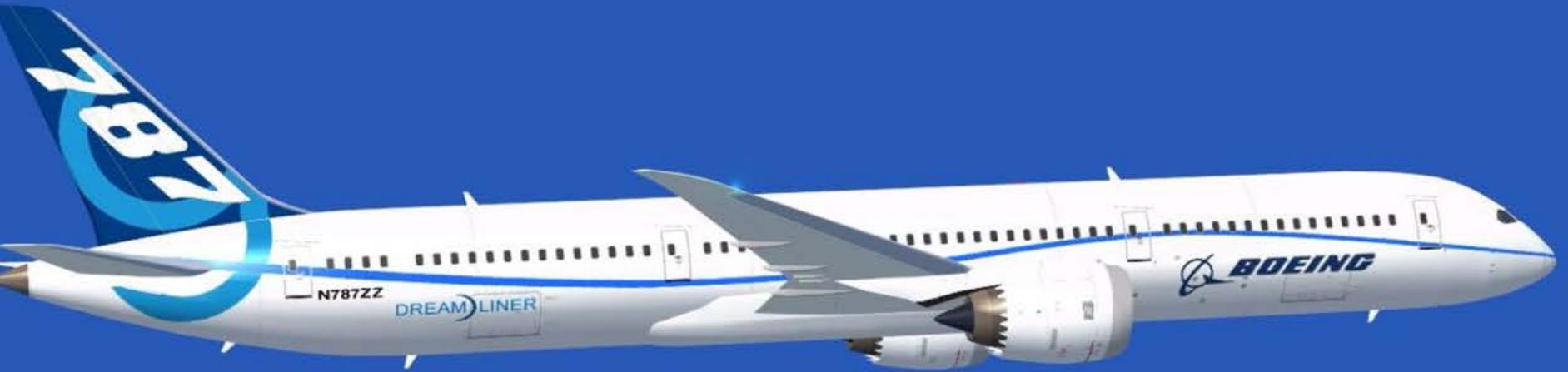
- Definitely will
- Probably will
- May or may not
- Probably will not
- Definitely will not

[VOTE TO SEE RESULTS](#)

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What's Next?

Contrasting Reviews



- Turkish Air flight TK1951 received erroneous information from the plane's radio altimeter system. The crew's response resulted in a fatal crash that claimed the lives of 4 crew members and 5 passengers.

Contrasting Reviews

A large, rectangular swimming pool with clear blue water is the central focus. The pool is surrounded by a light-colored stone or tile deck. Two large, round, light-colored decorative spheres are placed on the deck near the pool's edge. The pool is set on a well-manicured lawn with distinct mowing stripes. In the background, a large, two-story brick house with a prominent front porch and a gabled roof is visible. A paved walkway leads from the pool area towards the house. To the right, there is a brick structure, possibly a shed or a small building, and a dense hedge. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

A 2 y/o girl is left unattended by her foster parents and drowns in the family's swimming pool.

Expert Findings

- The length of B737 type training at THY, as well as procedural compliance at THY, appear to at least match industry standard.
- The Captain had close to 11,000 hours on the Boeing 737 alone. This combination of training standards and experience is apparently not enough to protect crews from the subtle effects of automation failures during automated, human-monitored flight.
- The documentation and training available for flight crews of the Boeing 737NG leaves important gaps in the mental model that a crew may build up about which systems and sensor inputs are responsible for what during an automatically flown approach.

(Dekker, 2009)

Expert Findings

- It is indisputable that OKDHS was well aware of the hazard associated with the pool.
- The home should *never* have been approved without a specific and shared understanding between OKDHS and the foster parents about the pool.
- The pool should have been removed or a suitably protective fence should have been placed around it.
- No children should ever have been placed in the home before one of these things happened.
- By failing to ensure that this hazard was either removed or mitigated, OKDHS violated CWLA and COA standards and its own policy.



LOOKING BACK

LOOKING FORWARD



Serenity Deal

Enhanced surveillance

Better communication

Reliable systems



TN examines child deaths with more care



Tony Gonzalez, tgonzalez@tennessean.com 11:57 p.m. CDT May 7, 2014



85



2



(Photo: Samuel M. Simpkins / File / The Tennessean)

f 85

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MORE

Tennessee's child abuse investigators, who confront life-or-death decisions about whether kids are safe in their homes, haven't always been willing to talk when things go wrong — when children die or suffer severe injuries.

And for at least a couple of years, caseworkers didn't have to say much of anything.

The Department of Children's Services fell behind on internal reviews of child deaths. When they did look back, the reviews did little to explain what led to each incident, or what might save other children.

That's changing.

The department recently completed its first year of new, more immediate and more exacting death reviews as required by a federal judge. A court order requiring changes followed [a Tennessean](#)

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- High caseloads make work tough for TN child abuse investigators.
- After problems, the state has a new way of reviewing child fatalities.
- So far in 2014, DCS has opened 69 child death investigations.

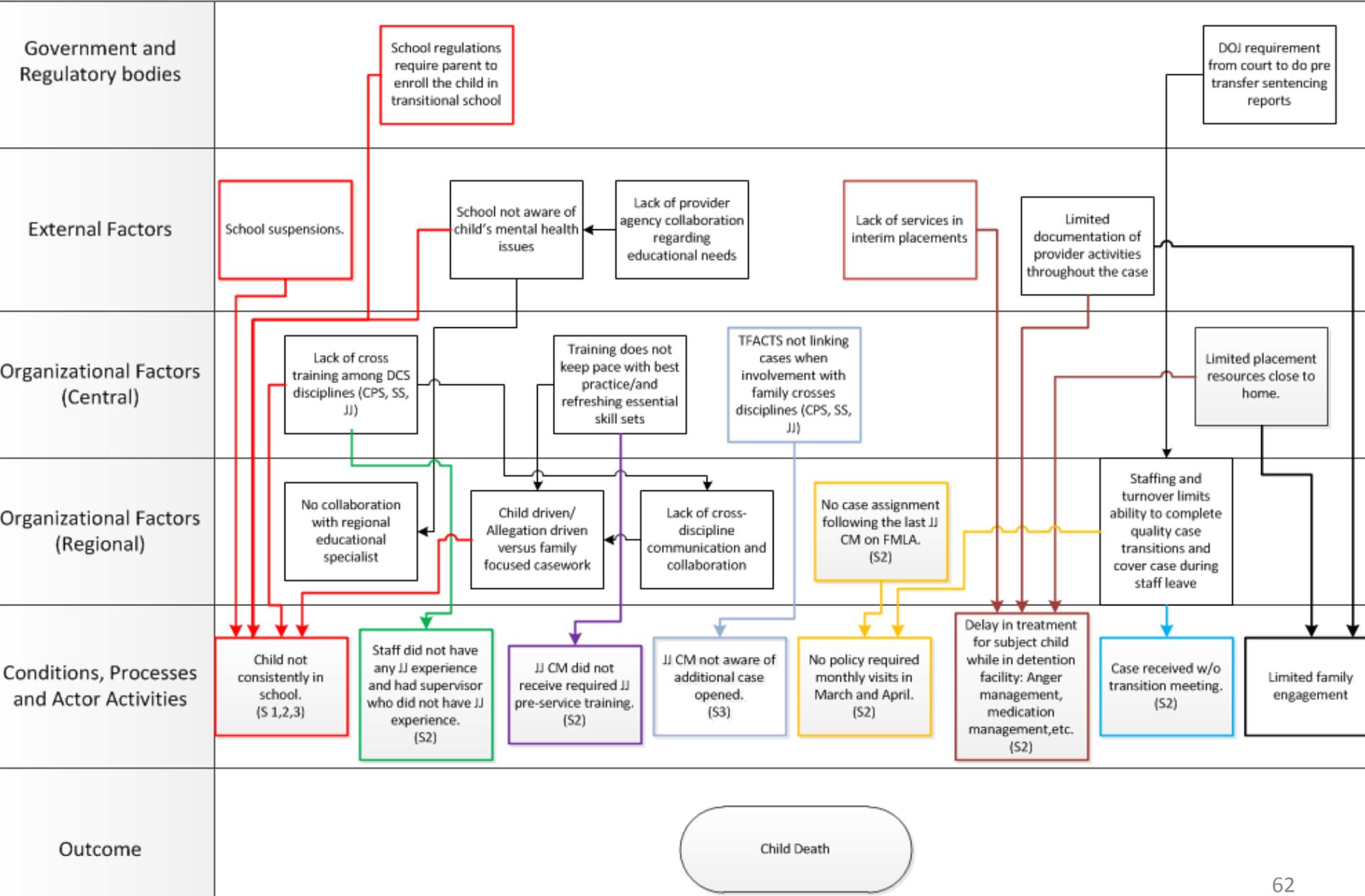
Debriefings

348 Conducted
625 Findings

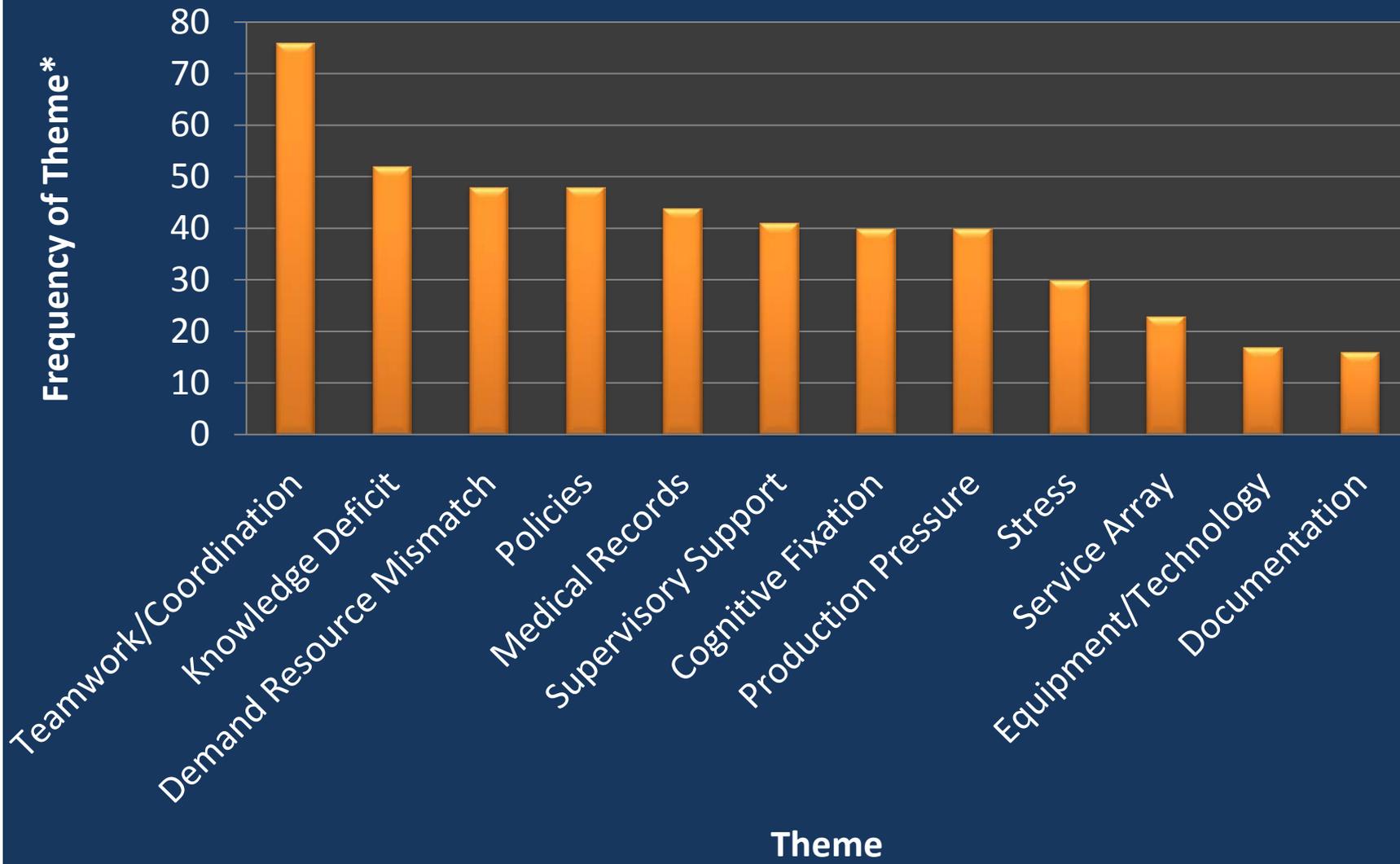


Safety Systems Map - Child Death/Near Death

Case No.: W D 051813 SS 092613



CY 2014 Child Death Review Themes







State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 21

SENATE BILL NO. 74

By Norris, Bailey

Substituted for: House Bill No. 64

By McCormick, Kevin Brooks, Lundberg, Hardaway

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-5-106, relative to the creation of a system for reporting safety-related information.

WHEREAS, the department of children's services should create a system for reporting safety-related information; and

WHEREAS, the department should look to similar reporting systems developed in such high-risk industries as aviation, nuclear power, and medicine, to develop the reporting system and improve the provision of safe and effective services; and

WHEREAS, a reporting system facilitates voluntary reporting of safety-related information that otherwise would not exist; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-5-106(a), is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

(22) Create a safety reporting system where the department's employees may report information regarding the safety of those served by the department and the safety of the department's employees.

(A) The identity of any individual who reports to or participates in the reporting system shall:

(i) Be sealed from inspection by the public or any other entity or individual who is otherwise provided access to the department's confidential records under this title;

(ii) Not be subject to discovery or introduction into evidence in any civil proceeding; and

(iii) Be disclosed only as necessary to carry out the purposes of the reporting system.

(B) Any criminal act reported into the reporting system shall be disclosed by the department to the appropriate law enforcement agency or district attorney.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.



Measuring Our Safety Culture

Tennessee's DCS workers

Tony Gonzalez, tgonzalez@tennessean.com 2:21 a.m. CDT March 26, 2014



(Photo: File / The Tennessean)

The work of investigating child endangered children from heart and strong emotions for the charged with protecting child

Now those workers with the T of Children's Services have g is believed to be the nation's child protection workers. A su Vanderbilt University profess assumptions and debunked c work caseworkers do.

MORE: [What's it really like to](#)

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- Tennessee is the first state to survey the job satisfaction of child abuse investigators.
- DCS officials say they're ending the "blame culture."
- Tennessee caseworkers put

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THE DailyNews EST. MEMPHIS 1866

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DCS Wants to Use Survey to Improve Workplace

AP

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GOVERNING

THE STATES AND LOCALITIES

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

What's It Like to Work at the Department of Children's Services?

Tennessee asked caseworkers this and more in what is believed to be the nation's first survey of state child protection workers.

BY JONATHAN WALTERS | APRIL 8, 2014



Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam (center right) meets with the Department of Children's Services. Flickr/Bill Haslam

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DCS wants to use survey to improve workplace

SIZE: + / - PRINT



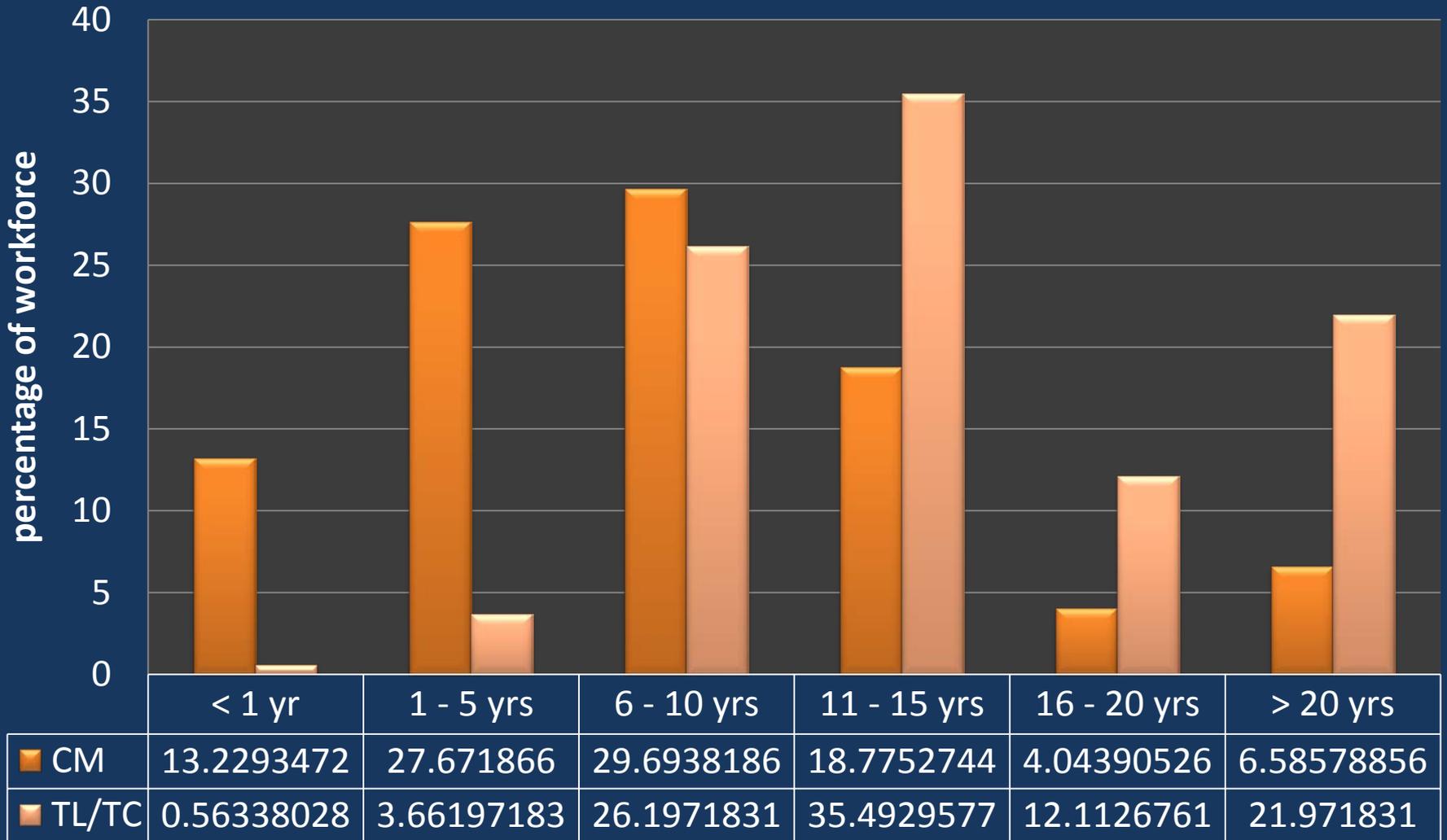
By Associated Press

Tuesday

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - Leaders at the Tennessee Children's Services plan to use the results of a survey of [employees](#) to improve the workplace.

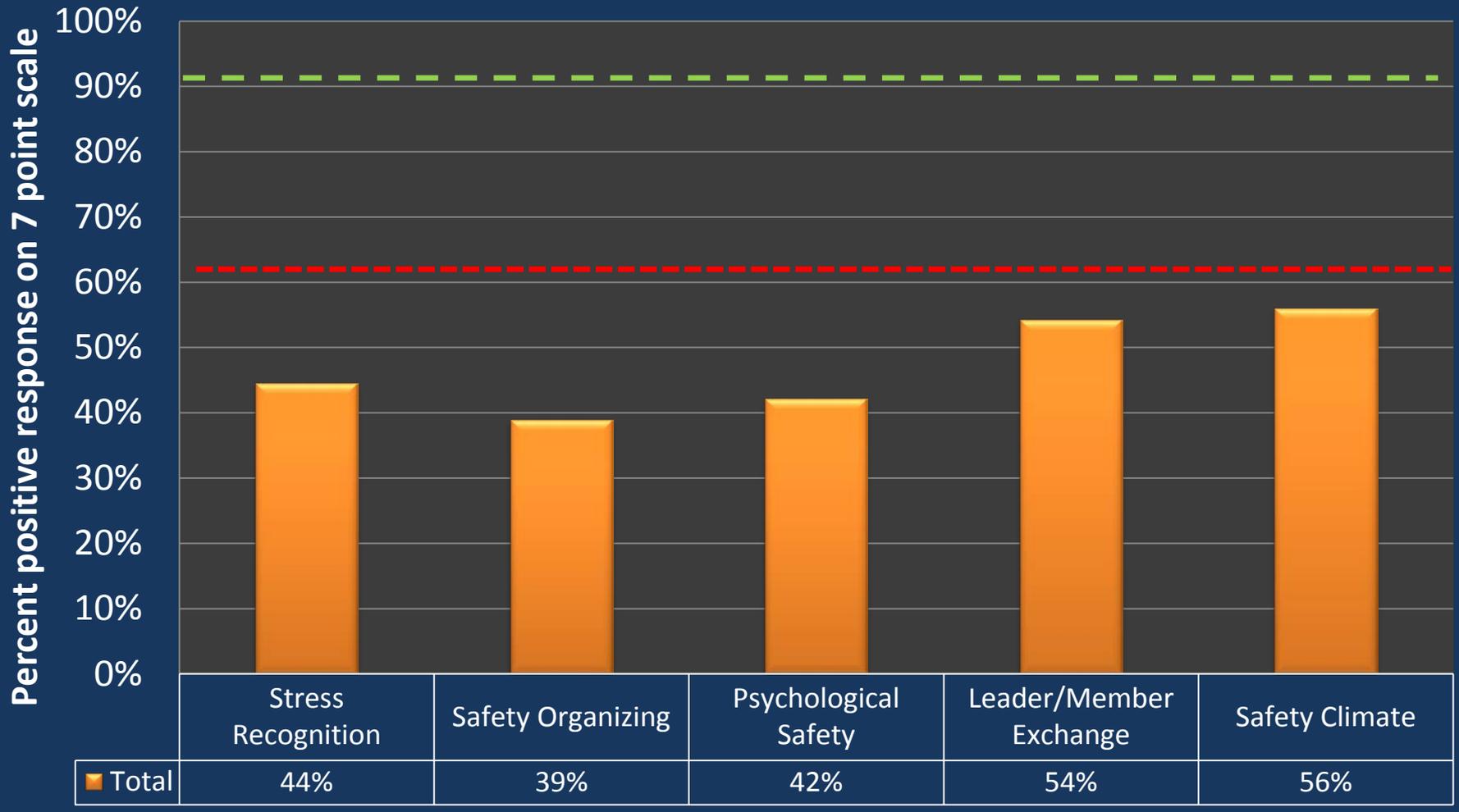
BIG TIRES

Years of Experience



(n=1365/354)

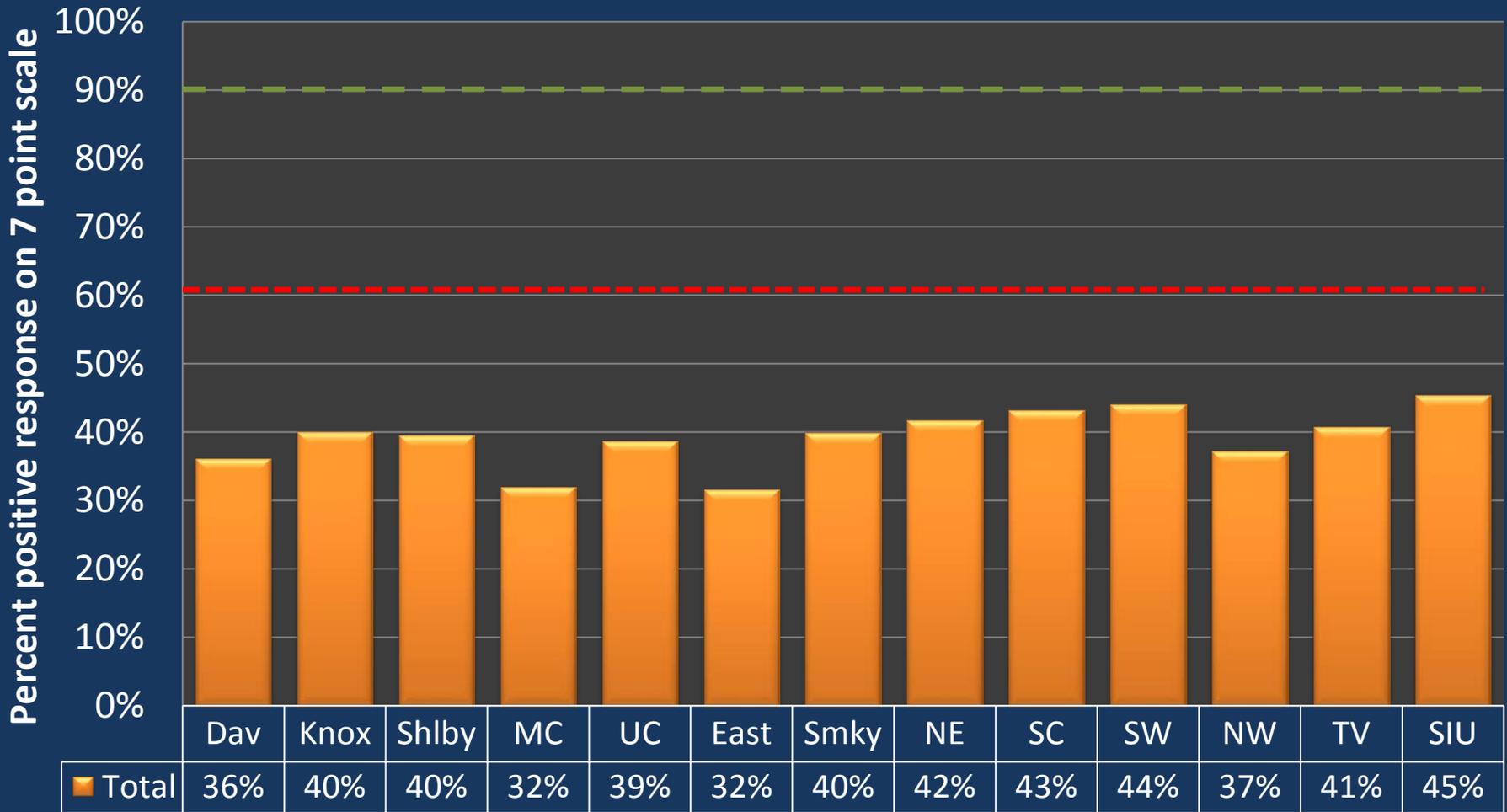
All Dimensions - All Regions All Staff



(n=1719)

Stress Recognition- All Regions

All staff



--- High performing: percent positive > 90%
--- Problematic: percent positive < 60%

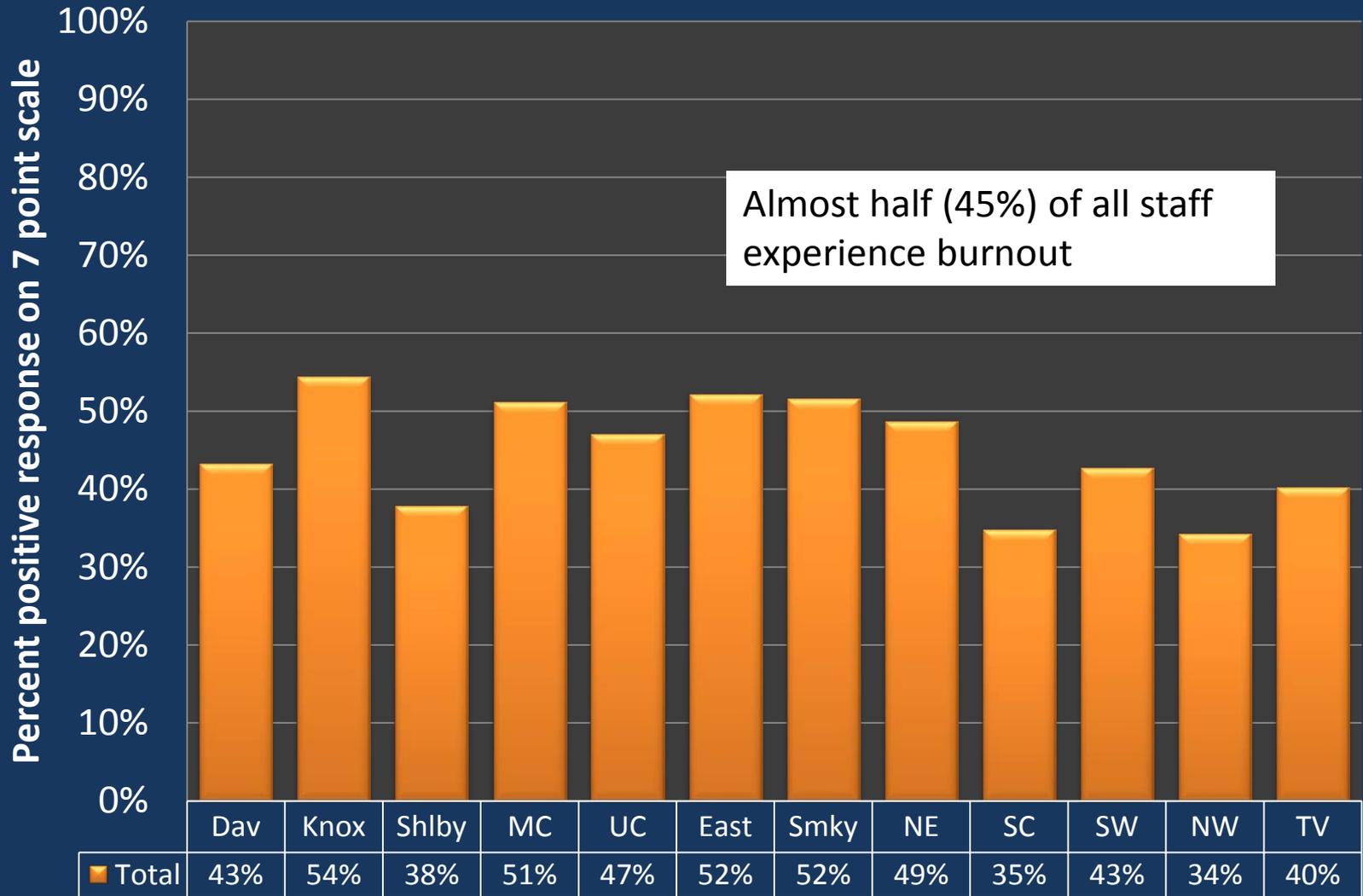
(n=1719)





Burnout - All Regions

All staff

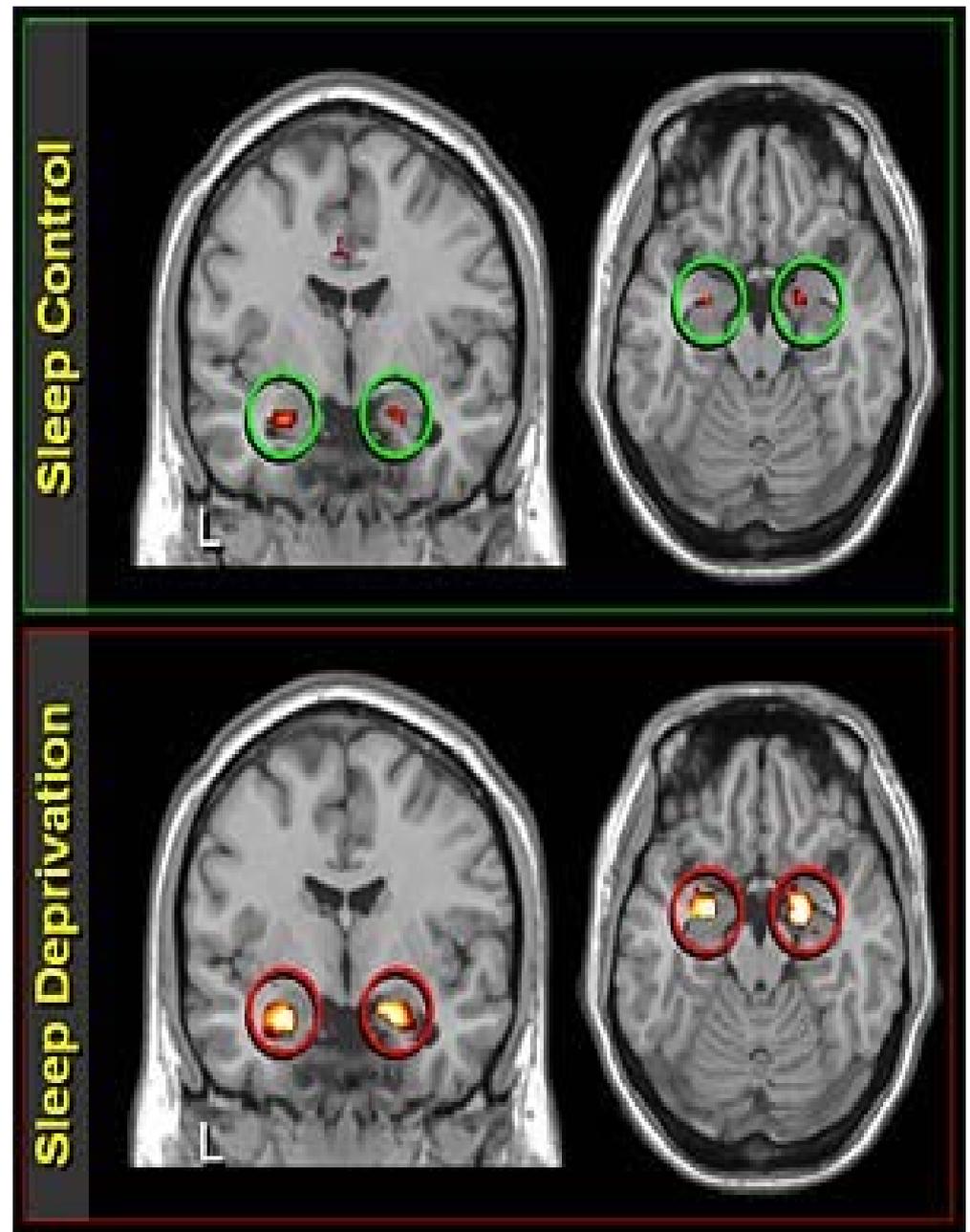


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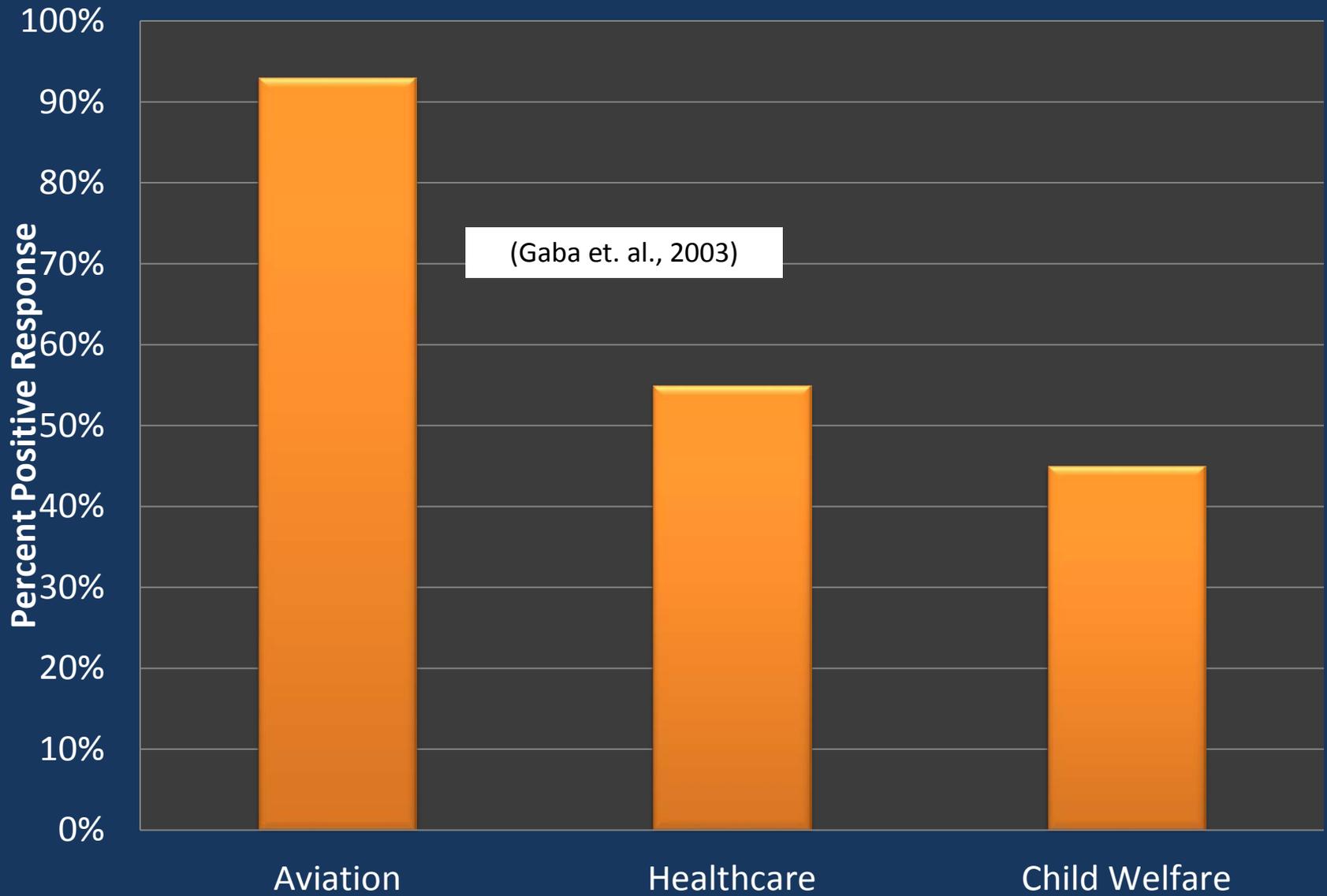
Interplay of Stress and Fatigue

"The emotional centers of the brain were over 60 percent more reactive under conditions of sleep deprivation than in subjects who had obtained a normal night of sleep,"

Walker et. al., *Current Biology*, October 2014



Stress Recognition Across Sectors



A white arrow is painted on a dark asphalt road, pointing towards the horizon. The road is flanked by a grassy area on the left. The text "What's Next?" is overlaid in the bottom left corner.

What's Next?