Conceptualizing Child Maltreatment: What is it and how can we fix it?

Family Impact Seminar
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see blue.
in everything we do.
Terse Overview

• What is child maltreatment?
  – Conceptualization & Key Terms
• Child Maltreatment Statistics
• Consequences of Child Maltreatment
  – Including Foster & Kinship Care
• Current Treatment & Prevention Efforts
• Areas for continued growth in Kentucky
Why are we here?

Salient Takeaways

• **Understand** what child maltreatment is;
• **Recognize** the real consequences of child abuse and neglect CAN;
• **Identify** promising Kentucky practices for the prevention and treatment of CAN;
• And, **appreciate** the need to continue to invest in promising practices to address CAN.
What is Child Maltreatment?

Also referred to as child abuse and neglect (CAN)

- Two types of maltreatment: abuse and neglect

Child abuse: deliberate acts or threats of harm committed against a child.

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
What is Child Abuse and Neglect?

**Child neglect:** failure to meet the child’s basic needs.

Basic needs include:

- Housing
- Clothing
- Education
- Medical Care
- Supervision
National Statistics on Child Maltreatment

The percent increase of children who received an investigation or alternative response from 2010 (3,023,000) to 2014 (3,248,000).

The percent increase of children who received an investigation or alternative response from 2010 (61,643) to 2014 (71,674).

16.3%

State Statistics on Child Maltreatment

2014 Substantiated Maltreatment (By Type)

National Estimates

- Child Neglect: 526,744 children (75%)
- Physical Abuse: 119,517 children (17%)
- Sexual Abuse: 58,105 children (8.3%)

Kentucky Estimates

- Child Neglect: 19,020 children (91.3%)
- Physical Abuse: 1,998 children (9.6%)
- Sexual Abuse: 875 children (4.2%)

2014 Statistics on Child Fatalities

Nationally

An estimated 1,580 children died of abuse and neglect at a rate of 2.13 per 100,000 children in the national population.

2014 Statistics on Child Fatalities

Kentucky

15 children in Kentucky died of abuse and neglect at a rate of 1.48 per 100,000 children in the state population.

Consequences of Child Maltreatment

Caveat: The impact of child abuse and neglect is often discussed in terms of physical, psychological, behavioral, and societal consequences.

The consequences are uniquely interconnected…
Unique Consequences: Physical

**Short Term:** Bruises, cuts, broken bones, etc.

**Long Term:** Abusive head trauma, impaired brain development, poor physical health.

The National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being
Unique Consequences: Psychological

- Difficulties during infancy
- Poor mental and emotional health
- Cognitive difficulties
- Social difficulties
Unique Consequences: Behavioral

- Juvenile delinquency and adult criminality
- Alcohol and other drug abuse
- Abusive behavior
## Unique Consequences: Placement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foster Care</th>
<th>Kinship Care</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>National</strong> = 402,378</td>
<td><strong>National</strong> = 2.4 million youths</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kentucky</strong> = 7,825</td>
<td><strong>Kentucky</strong> = 107,730 in a household where a relative is the head of household.</td>
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<td>Cost per day = $74.51 (KY)</td>
<td>23,878 of these youth are in a house where NO parent is present.</td>
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<td>Average Cost Per Child**</td>
<td>$52,476.20</td>
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At the end of the day…

Nationally, the cost of child maltreatment is estimated at $124 billion each year (Direct Costs)

ROR: $47 in benefits to society for every $1 in program costs

Promising Practices: Kentucky

- START Teams/Differential Response
- Title IV-E Waiver Programs and Evaluation
- FPP and Diversion (KVC)
- First Step Programs, etc.
Moving Forward: Areas of Growth for Kentucky

- Continue to implement and evaluate innovative strategies
- Ensure an adequate workforce to provide needed services to families
- Culturally appropriate interventions
- Invest in policies that provide parental education