

A young boy with short dark hair, wearing a grey sweater, is sitting at a desk in a classroom. He is looking off to the side with a thoughtful expression. In the background, another student is blurred, and classroom desks are visible.

**Children & Family Services
Report to Measure X Community Advisory Board**

**Contra Costa County Employment & Human Services Department
June 9, 2021**



Our Mission



EHSD partners with the community to deliver quality services to ensure access to resources that support, protect, and empower individuals and families to achieve self-sufficiency.



Children & Family Services

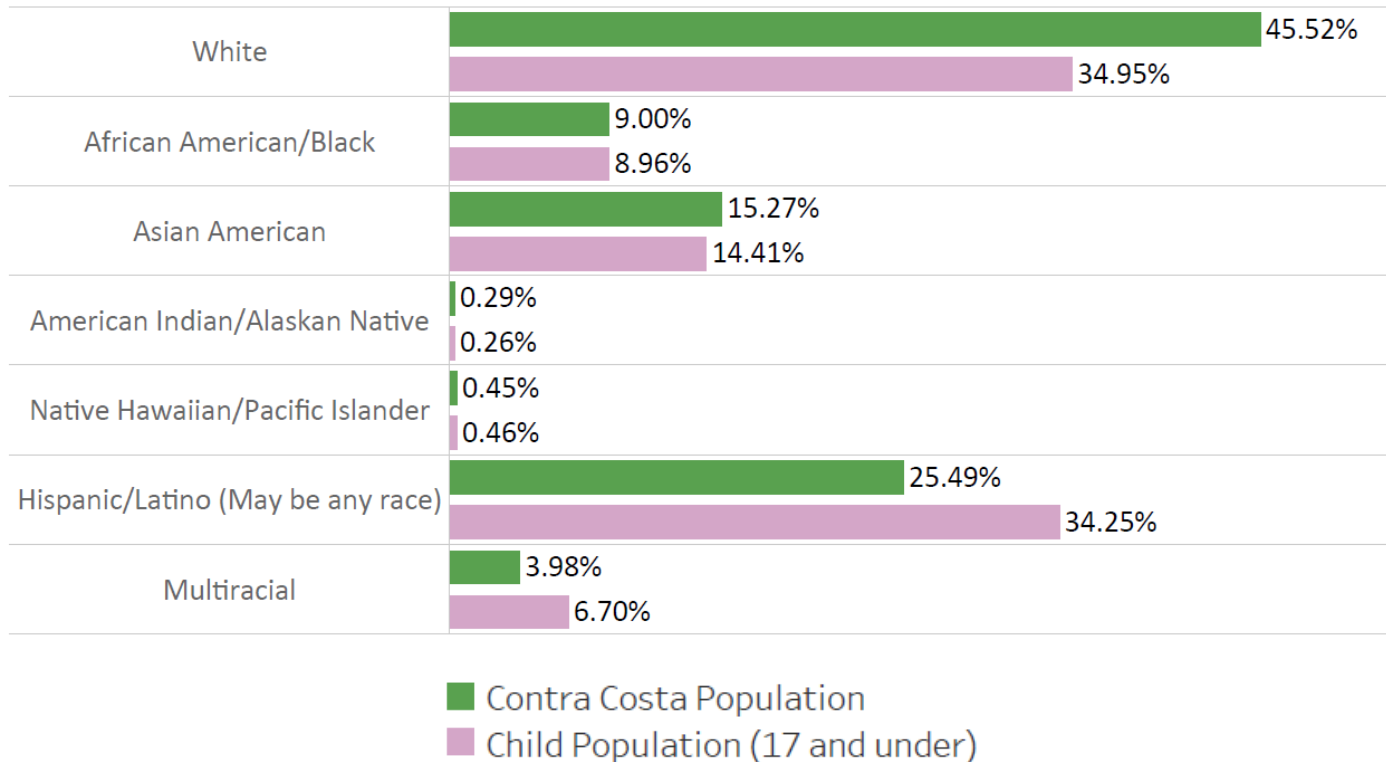
Who We Are

- The Child Welfare agency for our County.
- Mandated by Federal law and guided by the California Welfare & Institutions Code, Sections 300 and 16500.
- Responsible for assessing and responding to child abuse and neglect.
- Three main goals: to achieve safety, permanency, and well-being for all children.

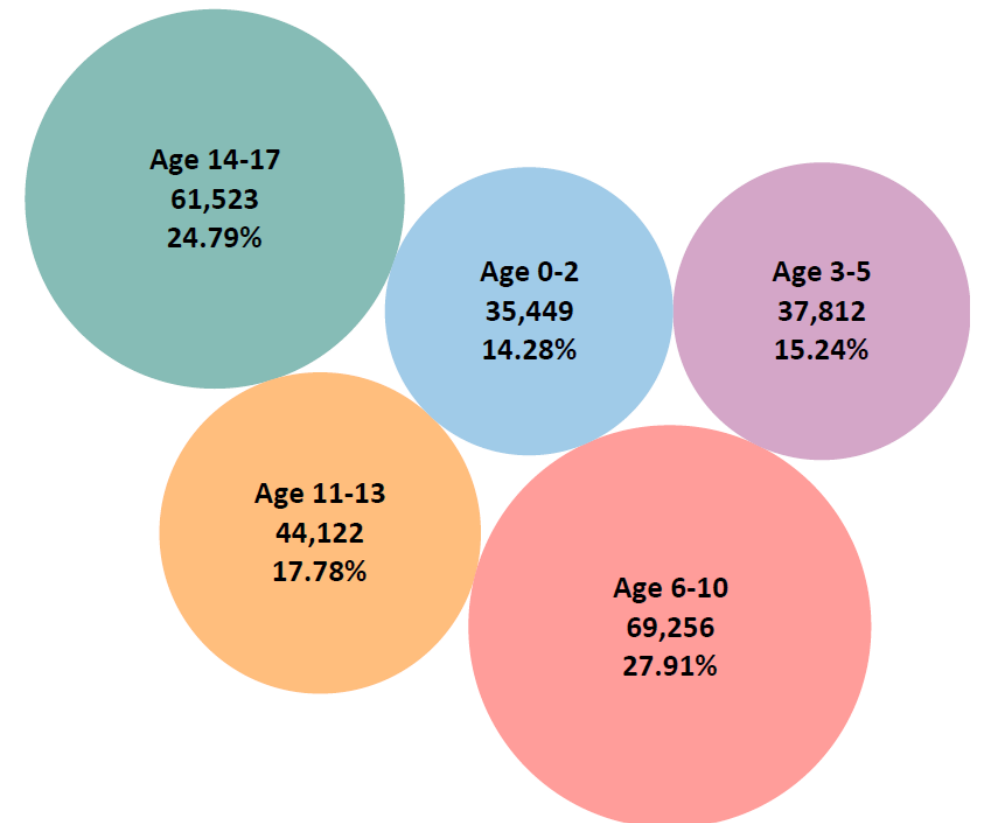


A Snapshot of Contra Costa's Child Population

Contra Costa Total Population vs. Child Population (17 and Under)

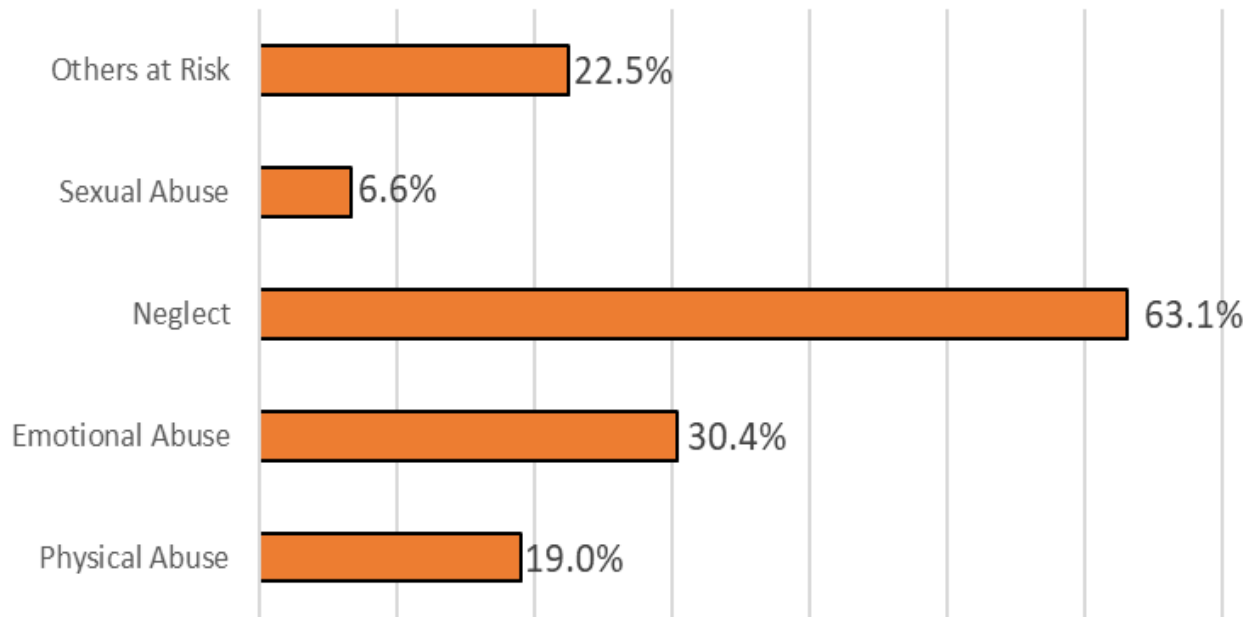


Contra Costa Children 17 and Under, by Age Group

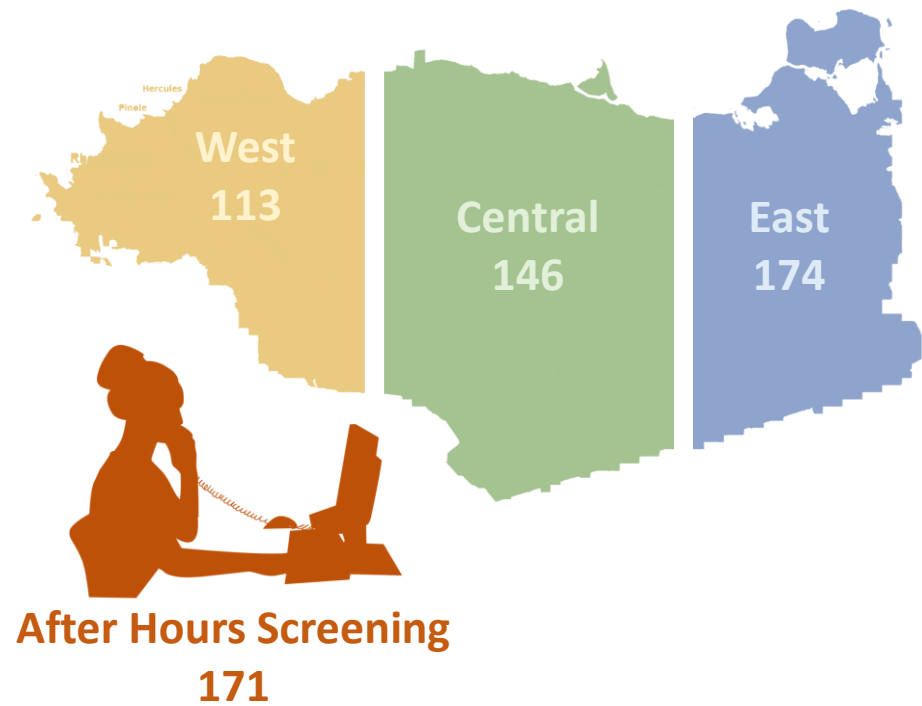


Monthly Referrals by District and Types of Abuse

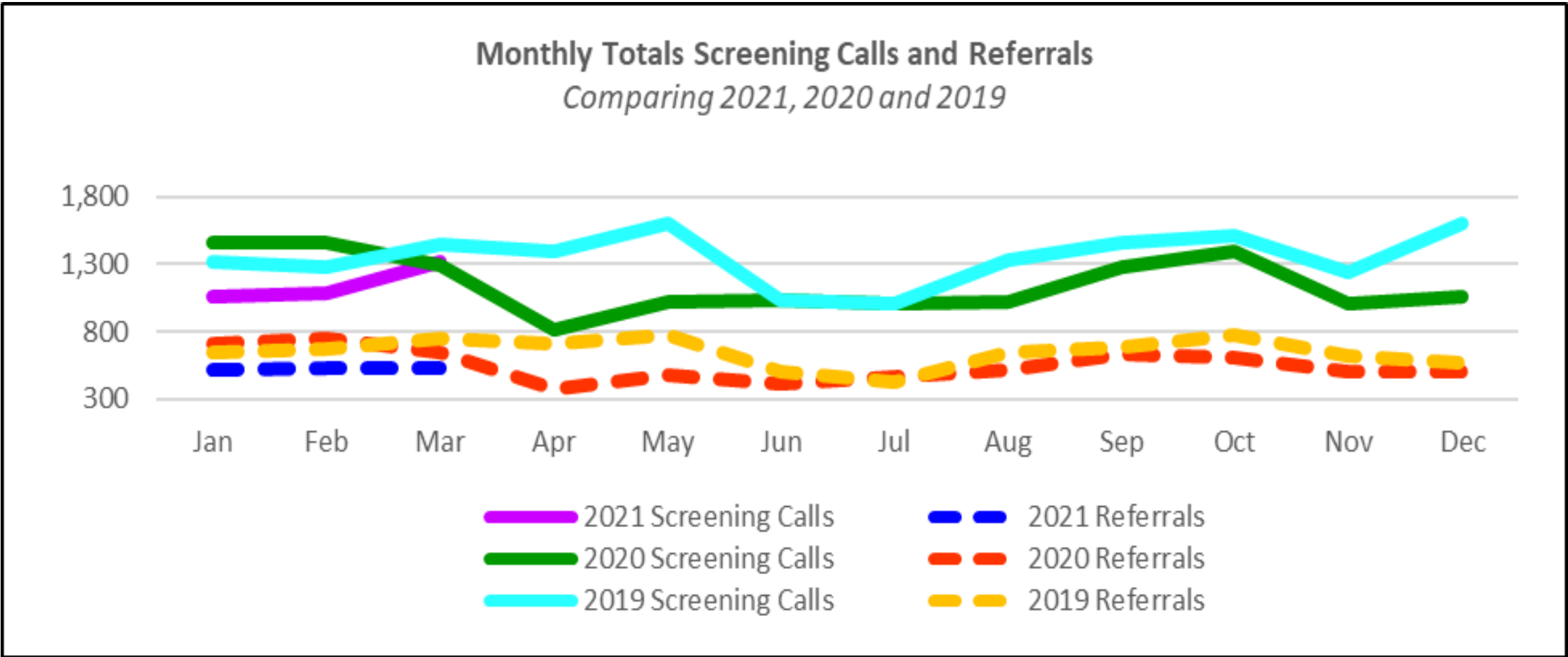
Percent of Children with Allegation Type
(Multiple Allegations per Referral)



Referrals by District, March 2021



Calls to Hotline – Monthly Averages

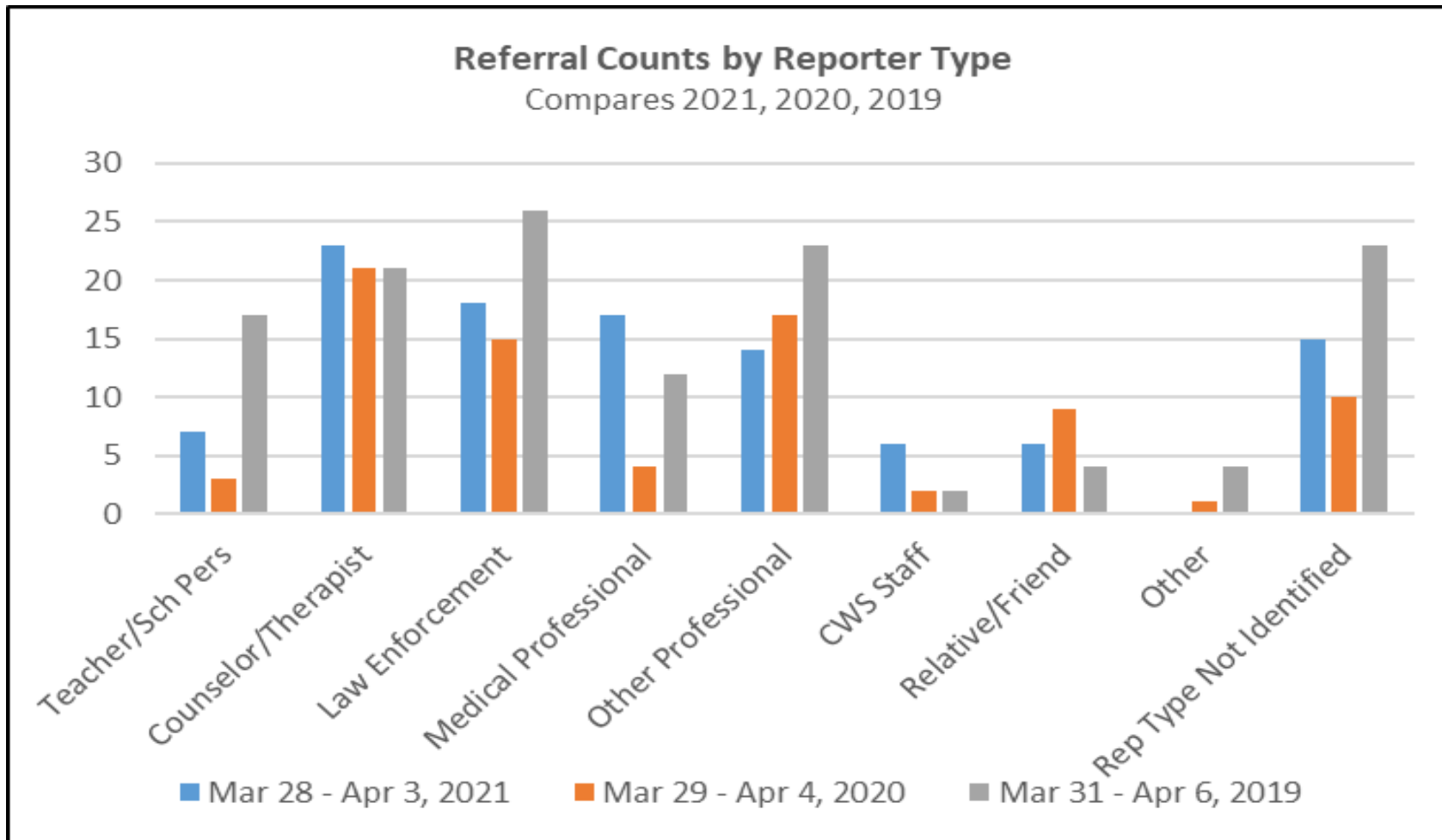


Allegations and Children In Care by Race and Ethnicity

Race and Ethnicity	Allegations 2020 Per 1,000	In Care July 1,2020 Per 1,000
Black	87.7	13.1
White	22.9	2.1
Latino	33.0	2.3
Asian/P.I.	14.3	0.7
Nat Amer	47.1	M

Source: Webster, D., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Wiegmann, W., Saika, G., Chambers, J., Hammond, I., Ayat, N., Misirli, E., Hoerl, C., Yee, H., Flamson, T., Gonzalez, A., & Briones, E. (2021). *CCWIP reports*. Retrieved May 21, 2021, from University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project website. URL: <https://ccwip.berkeley.edu>

Who is the Reporting Party?



Family Maintenance Services

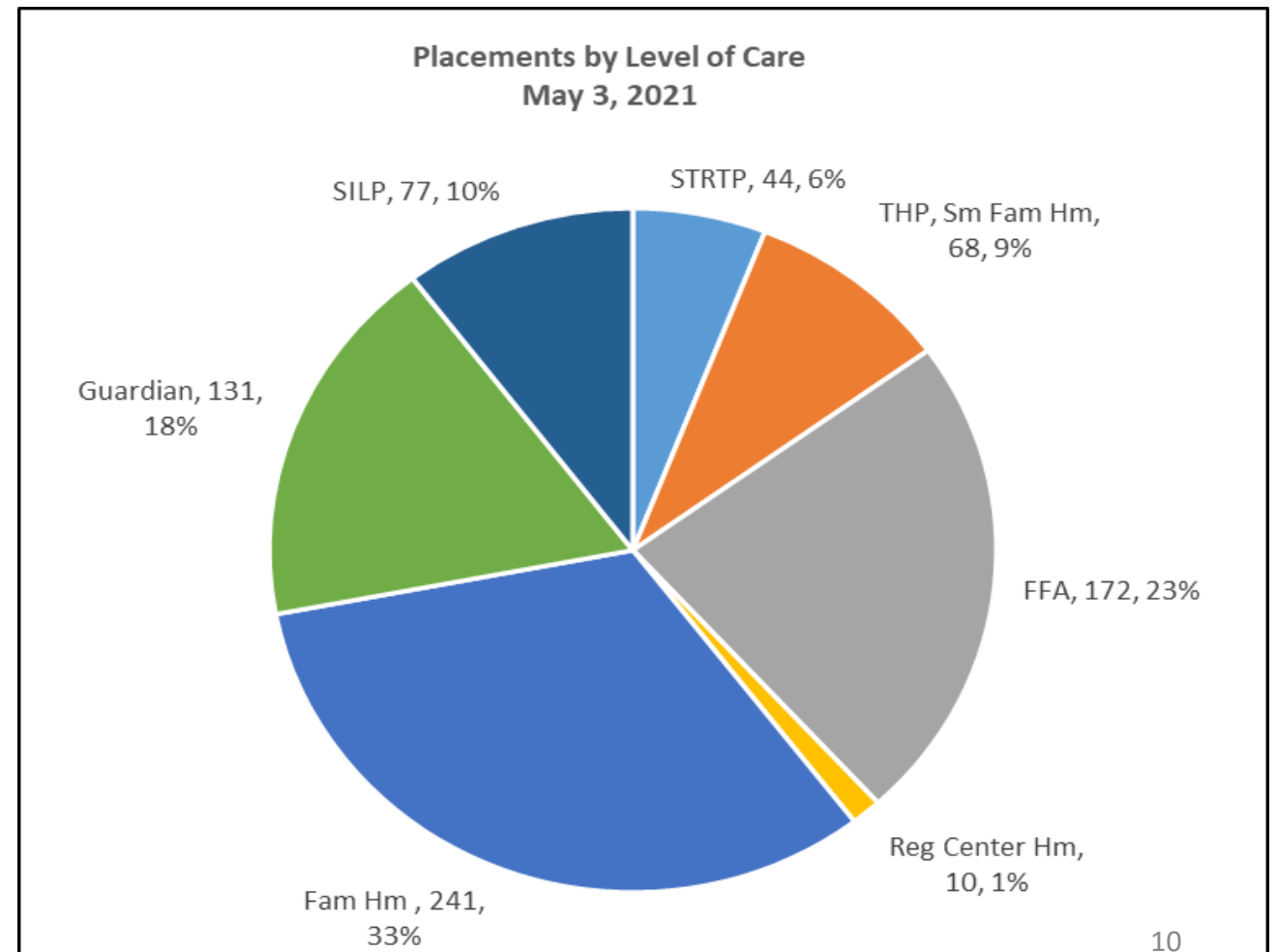
- Some children are not removed from their parents when they can safely remain in their homes with added supports and services.
- The supports are provided by CFS, Community Based Organizations, and the Courts.

Point in Time – May 5, 2021	East	Central	West	Total
<i>Voluntary FM</i>	38	24	2	64
<i>Family Maintenance</i>	77	37	74	188
<i>Total</i>	115	61	76	252



When Children Cannot Remain Safely at Home Number of Children in Placement and Types of Placement

Congregate Care	54	7.3%
Family Home Relative/ NREFM Care	184	24.8%
Family Home Community Care	361	48.6%
Self Care	144	19.4%
Total in Care	743	100.0%



National Data: Poverty and Child Welfare

Family income is the greatest predictor of maltreatment & child welfare entry. Economic hardships increase risk of child welfare involvement, e.g., utility shutoffs, difficulty paying for housing, inadequate housing, food insecurity and material economic stress.

Children in low socioeconomic status families are...

7x more likely to
experience neglect

5x more likely to
experience abuse

40x more likely to enter child welfare
than middle income families



National Data: Poverty & Children of Color

73% of children in poverty are children of color

- **1 in 3** Black children
- **1 in 3** Native American children
- **1 in 4** Latino children
- **1 in 11** White children

14% of US children are Black, but are **27%** of children in poverty

- **53%** of Black children are investigated by CPS by age 18
- **23%** are in foster care

Emerging Themes and Trends



COVID impacts on children and families: home schooling, job losses and hours reductions, childcare issues for parents



Behavioral Health: more support and services needed for children and parents



Continuum of Care Reform (CCR): placements for children with very high needs are hard to find in County or nearby



Families First Prevention Services Act: New Child Welfare Initiative launches October 2021

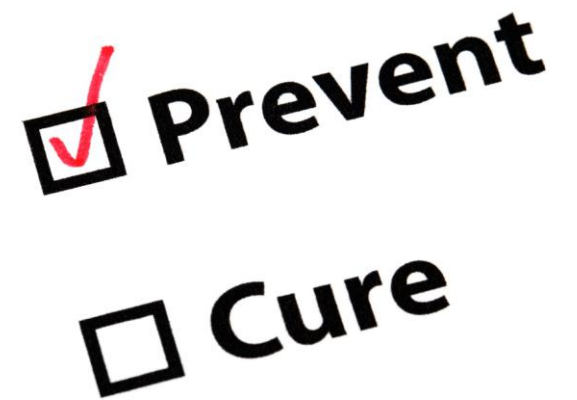
Gaps



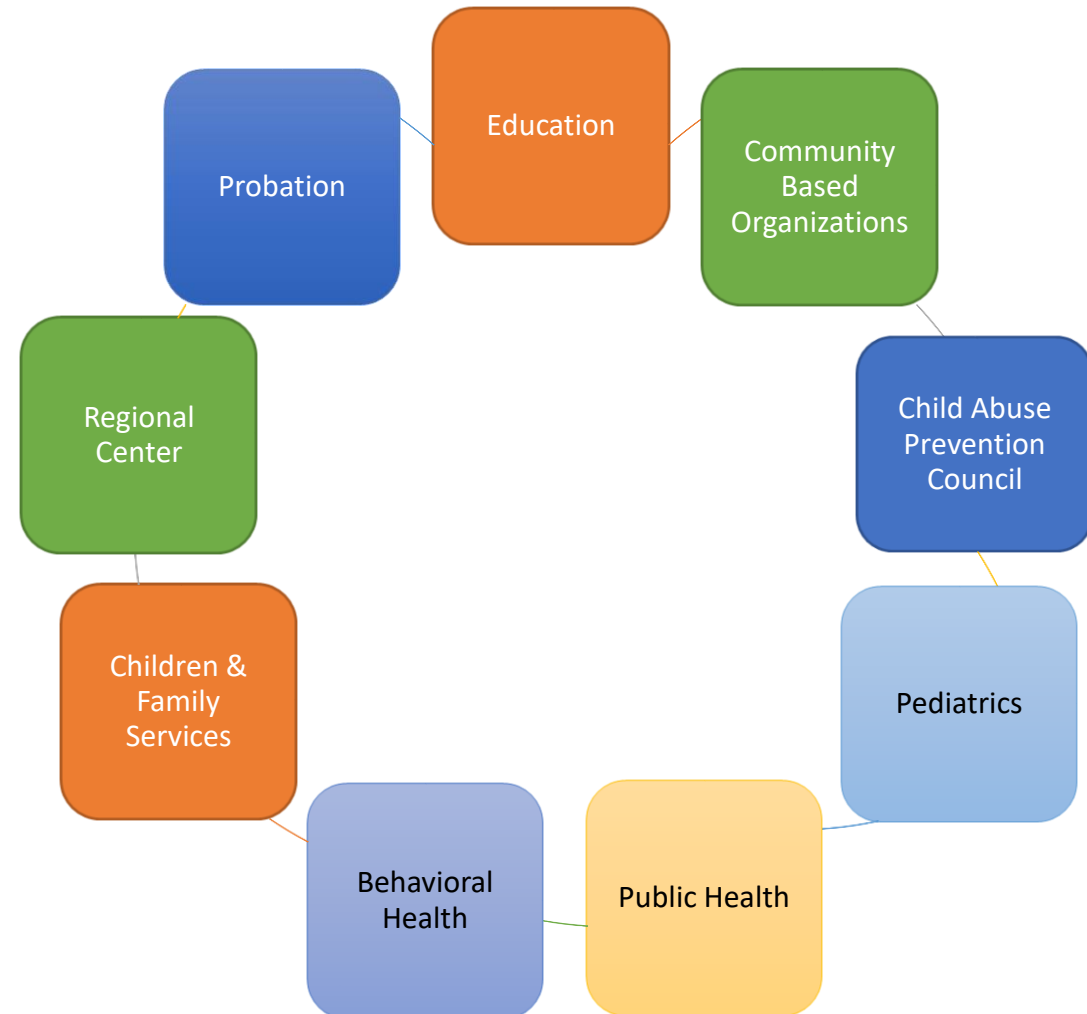
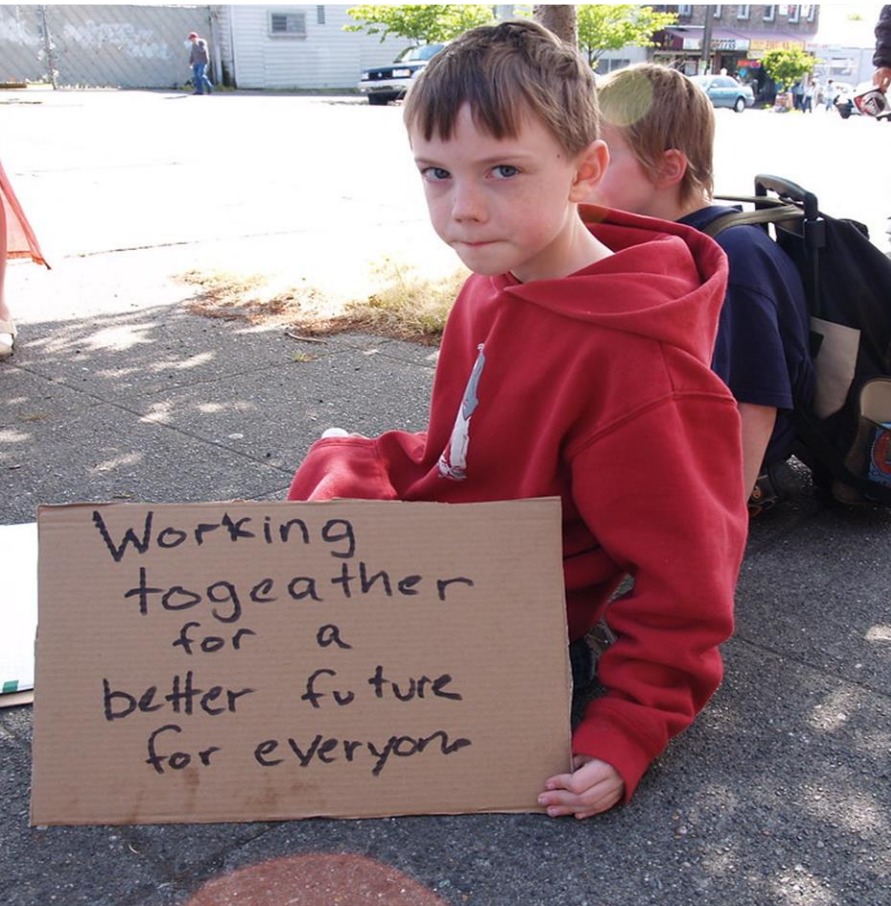
- Limited funding for **discretionary items** for children in foster care.
- Limited **concrete services for families** needing very basic help to avoid child welfare: housing, livable wages, childcare, substance abuse treatment and mental health supports for children and parents.
- Lack of safe very **high-level respite options** for children who need treatment and can't stay safely in the home.
- Insufficient **number of foster homes** in County willing to take in medically needy children, sibling groups, developmentally delayed children or children with high-level behavioral health needs.
- Lack of **Regional Center placements and services** for developmentally delayed, non-ambulatory and equipment dependent Regional Center children.

Prevention

- A variety and volume of **easily accessible services** for families and children to avoid entering the Child Welfare system.
- **Behavioral Health** placements and services for parent whose children need extra support.
- Services and supports that **ease parents' stress**.
- **Mental health and parenting supports** for parents with mild to moderate mental health needs to avoid involvement with Child Welfare.
- Nationally, when **concrete supports** are offered, there are fewer subsequent neglect reports and **fewer removals** into foster care.



Intersections



Transformational Bold Ideas

Whole family living resources with case management in the community meeting the entire family's needs outside of Court involvement

A **Family Visitation Center Home** that allows supervised overnight visits for parents/children in a home setting. Allows cooking with children, playing in back yard, bathing, preparing for bedtime, etc.

Respite Programs for children of **all ages** for 24 hours or more if needed



Permanent Housing Subsidies result in 50% reduction in foster care removals. Access to high-quality **Child Care** with subsidies reduces neglect by 20%.
Minimum Wage – every \$1 increase results in 10% fewer neglect reports.*



*Chapin Hall, University of Chicago. Family and Child Well-being System: Economic & Concrete Supports as a Core Component. April 2021.

Success

Children are safe, healthy,
and not in foster care

Parents have the supports they need
to raise their children and keep them
safe and free from abuse and neglect

If children must enter foster care,
they get supports and resources
to heal and experience
a safe, healthy childhood



Children in foster care achieve
permanency timely and do not grow
up in the child welfare system

The Families First Prevention Services
Act (FFPSA) will fund and support
prevention efforts, but only for
families coming to CFS' attention.
Ideally, families could have proper
community resources, not escalate
risk & not become involved with CFS.

Thank You



Building Brighter Futures Together...

