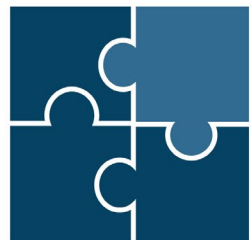


# **Module 1: Understanding the Multiple Needs of Families Involved with the Child Welfare System**

## ***Child Welfare Training Toolkit***



National Center on  
Substance Abuse  
and Child Welfare

# Acknowledgement

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National Center on  
Substance Abuse  
and Child Welfare

# Learning Objectives

After completing this training,  
child welfare workers will:

- Identify the prevalence of trauma, substance use and mental disorders in the child welfare population
- Recognize the effects of substance use and co-occurring disorders on children and families
- Describe the negative effects of stigma on treatment and recovery outcomes
- Understand the importance of a family-centered approach when working with families affected by co-occurring disorders
- Identify the benefits of collaborating with other systems and service providers to better serve children and families

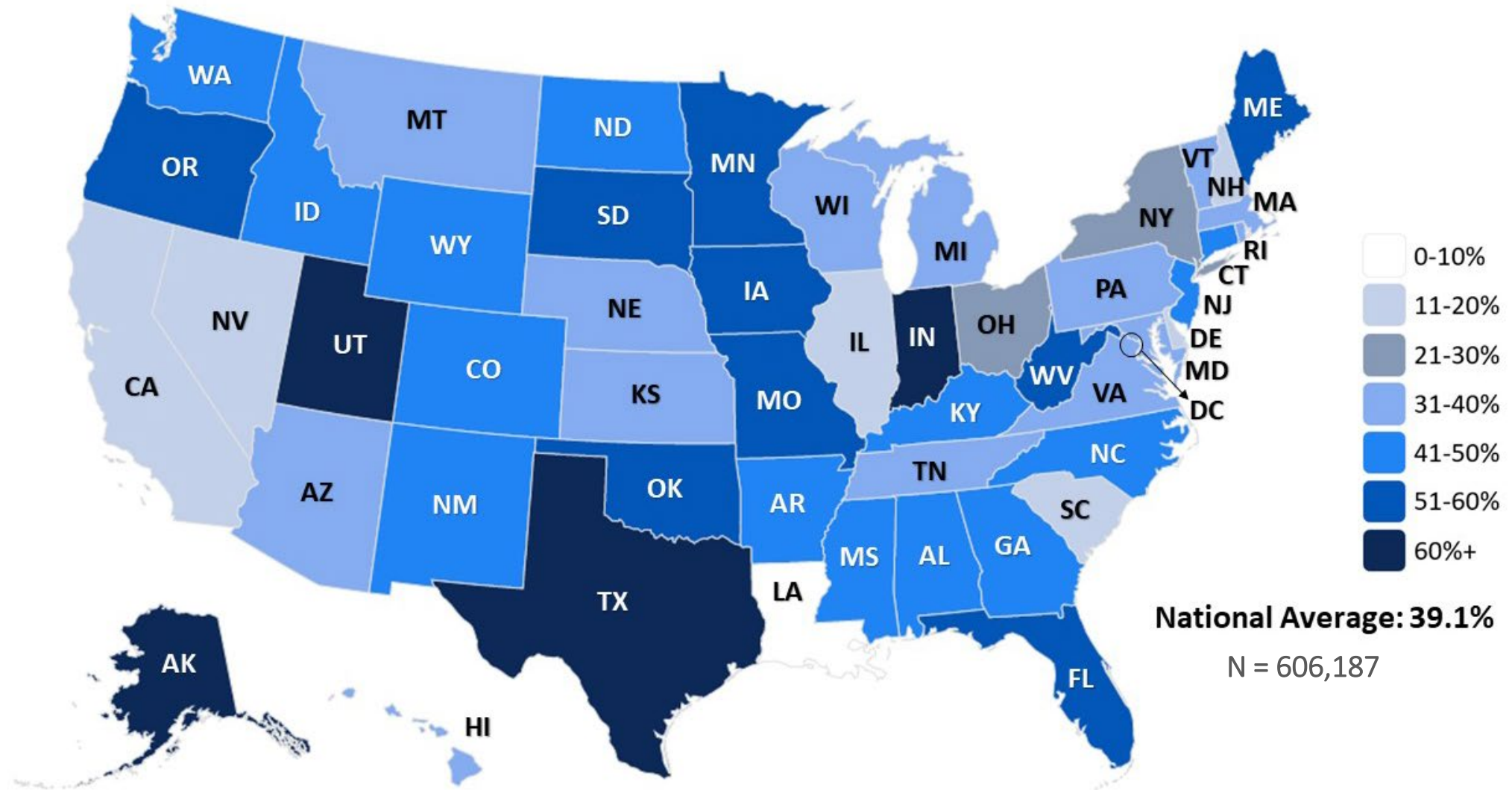


# What the Data Tells Us About Parental Substance Use





# Parental Alcohol or Drug Abuse as a Condition Associated with Removal by State, 2021



Note: Estimates based on *all children in out-of-home care at some point* during the Fiscal Year

Source: AFCARS Data 2021, as of 10/01/24

# Year 2021 Data Listed by State (A-K)

| State | Percentage | Number |
|-------|------------|--------|
| AK    | 67.2%      | 2768   |
| AL    | 46.8%      | 4250   |
| AR    | 50.3%      | 3610   |
| AZ    | 34.3%      | 7640   |
| CA    | 11.7%      | 8379   |
| CO    | 49.9%      | 4063   |
| CT    | 43.4%      | 2189   |
| DC    | 15.7%      | 127    |
| DE    | 19.6%      | 142    |
| FL    | 51.8%      | 18745  |
| GA    | 44.7%      | 7161   |
| HI    | 35.4%      | 855    |
| IA    | 60.0%      | 4448   |
| ID    | 41.9%      | 1130   |
| IL    | 11.1%      | 3033   |
| IN    | 61.7%      | 13504  |
| KS    | 35.5%      | 3654   |
| KY    | 41.6%      | 5678   |

## Year 2021 Data Listed by State (L-N)

| State | Percentage | Number |
|-------|------------|--------|
| LA    | 1.9%       | 109    |
| MA    | 34.5%      | 4685   |
| MD    | 31.2%      | 1715   |
| ME    | 51.5%      | 1638   |
| MI    | 39.3%      | 5693   |
| MN    | 51.2%      | 6187   |
| MO    | 51.3%      | 9924   |
| MS    | 48.0%      | 2668   |
| MT    | 39.4%      | 1984   |
| NC    | 44.0%      | 6745   |
| ND    | 42.6%      | 1053   |
| NE    | 36.4%      | 2003   |
| NH    | 15.4%      | 260    |
| NJ    | 43.6%      | 2303   |
| NM    | 43.6%      | 1319   |
| NV    | 15.9%      | 1133   |
| NY    | 30.9%      | 6181   |

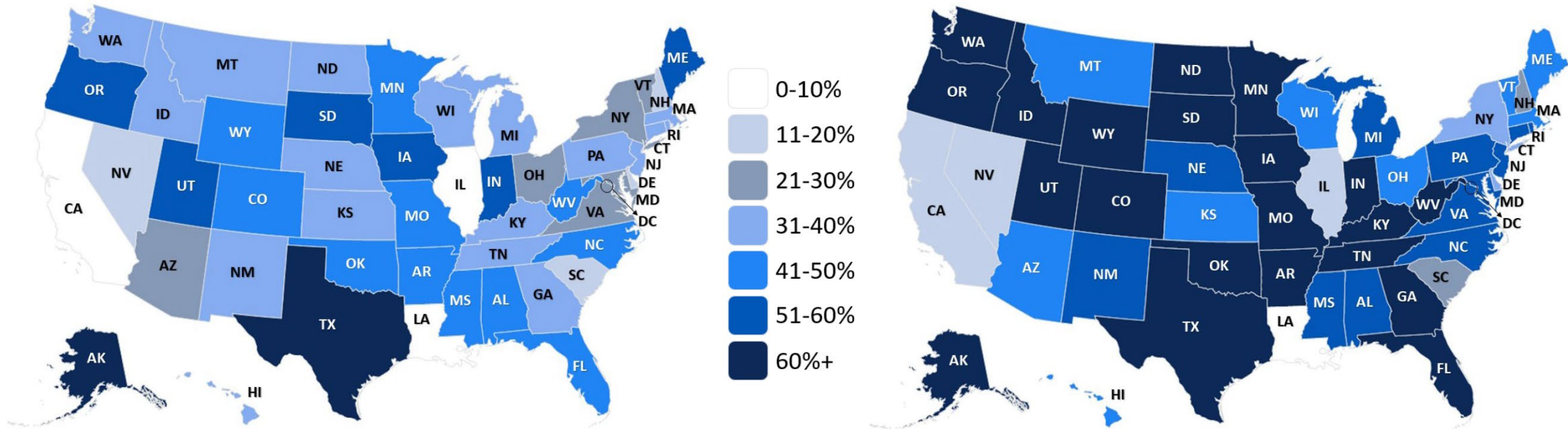
## Year 2021 Data Listed by State (O-W, Puerto Rico)

| State           | Percentage   | Number        |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| OH              | 30.9%        | 7974          |
| OK              | 52.9%        | 6088          |
| OR              | 57.3%        | 4747          |
| PA              | 36.8%        | 7896          |
| RI              | 38.6%        | 1113          |
| SC              | 17.3%        | 1162          |
| SD              | 57.9%        | 1522          |
| TN              | 40.1%        | 5843          |
| TX              | 65.7%        | 29523         |
| UT              | 61.3%        | 2374          |
| VA              | 33.8%        | 2562          |
| VT              | 31.6%        | 512           |
| WA              | 44.5%        | 5944          |
| WI              | 38.2%        | 4049          |
| WV              | 55.2%        | 6574          |
| WY              | 50.8%        | 813           |
| Puerto Rico     | 17.5%        | 471           |
| <b>Total US</b> | <b>39.1%</b> | <b>236143</b> |



# Parental Alcohol or Drug Abuse as a Condition Associated with Removal for Children by Age, 2021

N = 606,187



Note: Estimates based on all children in out-of-home care at some point during Fiscal Year

Source: AFCARS Data 2021, as of 10/01/24

# Year 2021 Data Listed by State, by Age (A-K)

| State     | Under Age 1 |      | Age 1 and Older |       |
|-----------|-------------|------|-----------------|-------|
| <b>AK</b> | 75.00%      | 565  | 65.40%          | 2203  |
| <b>AL</b> | 60.80%      | 1108 | 43.30%          | 3142  |
| <b>AR</b> | 64.90%      | 855  | 47.10%          | 2755  |
| <b>AZ</b> | 47.80%      | 2166 | 30.90%          | 5474  |
| <b>CA</b> | 16.70%      | 2612 | 10.30%          | 5767  |
| <b>CO</b> | 76.30%      | 1247 | 43.20%          | 2816  |
| <b>CT</b> | 54.00%      | 655  | 40.10%          | 1534  |
| <b>DC</b> | 27.00%      | 38   | 13.30%          | 89    |
| <b>DE</b> | 37.20%      | 55   | 15.10%          | 87    |
| <b>FL</b> | 66.00%      | 5152 | 47.90%          | 13593 |
| <b>GA</b> | 61.10%      | 1969 | 40.50%          | 5192  |
| <b>HI</b> | 48.30%      | 232  | 32.20%          | 623   |
| <b>IA</b> | 70.80%      | 908  | 57.70%          | 3540  |
| <b>ID</b> | 63.10%      | 320  | 37.00%          | 810   |
| <b>IL</b> | 14.00%      | 907  | 10.20%          | 2126  |
| <b>IN</b> | 72.50%      | 3180 | 59.00%          | 10324 |
| <b>KS</b> | 48.60%      | 731  | 33.30%          | 2923  |
| <b>KY</b> | 61.60%      | 1416 | 37.60%          | 4262  |

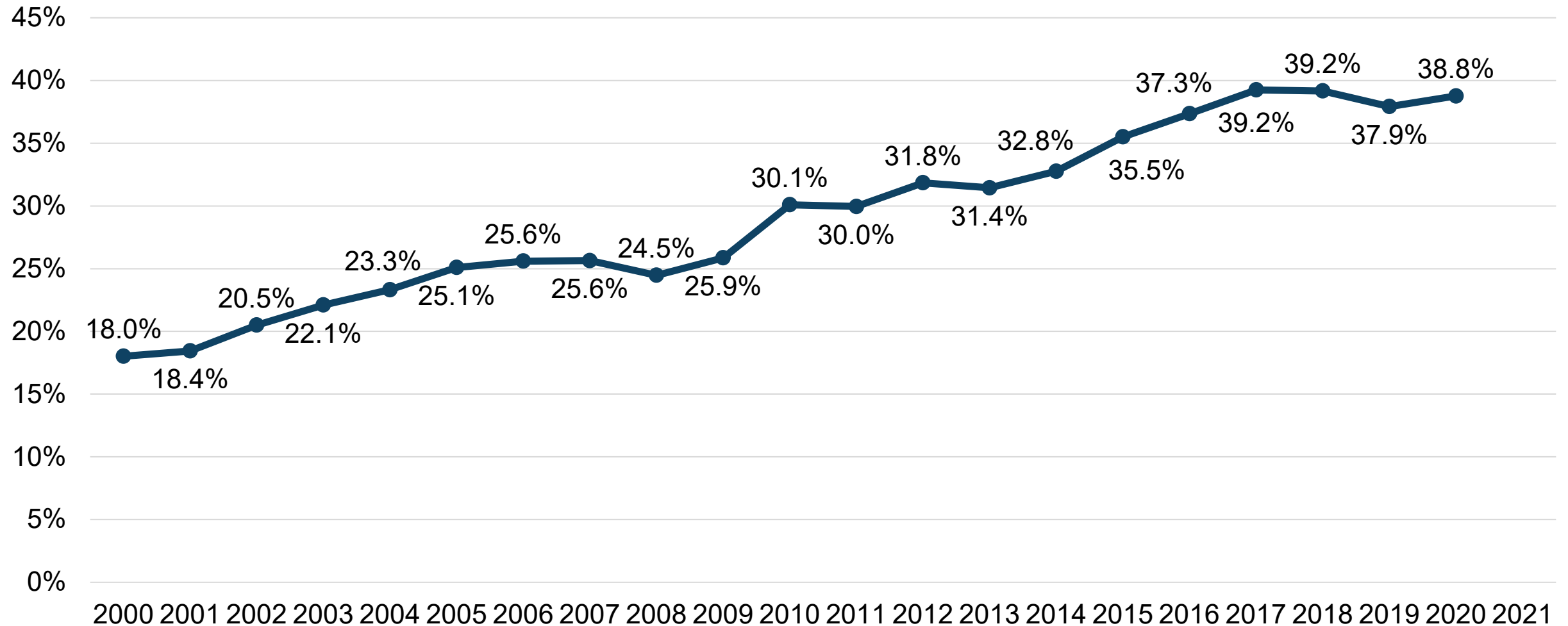
Year 2021  
Data Listed  
by State,  
by Age (L-N)

| State | Under Age 1 |      | Age 1 and Older |      |
|-------|-------------|------|-----------------|------|
| LA    | 2.00%       | 28   | 1.80%           | 81   |
| MA    | 48.50%      | 1243 | 31.20%          | 3442 |
| MD    | 51.90%      | 558  | 26.20%          | 1157 |
| ME    | 50.70%      | 368  | 51.70%          | 1270 |
| MI    | 53.10%      | 1657 | 35.50%          | 4036 |
| MN    | 65.10%      | 1372 | 48.30%          | 4815 |
| MO    | 70.50%      | 2654 | 46.70%          | 7270 |
| MS    | 58.40%      | 687  | 45.20%          | 1981 |
| MT    | 48.60%      | 476  | 37.20%          | 1508 |
| NC    | 55.70%      | 1597 | 41.30%          | 5148 |
| ND    | 67.10%      | 312  | 37.00%          | 741  |
| NE    | 52.10%      | 440  | 33.50%          | 1563 |
| NH    | 26.90%      | 72   | 13.20%          | 188  |
| NJ    | 56.10%      | 840  | 38.60%          | 1463 |
| NM    | 56.50%      | 316  | 40.60%          | 1003 |
| NV    | 20.10%      | 332  | 14.60%          | 801  |
| NY    | 39.20%      | 1844 | 28.30%          | 4337 |

# Year 2021 Data Listed by State, by Age (O-W, Puerto Rico)

| State           | Under Age 1   |              | Age 1 and Older |               |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
| OH              | 47.20%        | 2256         | 27.20%          | 5718          |
| OK              | 65.30%        | 2015         | 48.40%          | 4073          |
| OR              | 67.70%        | 1118         | 54.70%          | 3629          |
| PA              | 53.40%        | 2284         | 32.70%          | 5612          |
| RI              | 51.60%        | 320          | 35.10%          | 793           |
| SC              | 30.20%        | 300          | 15.10%          | 862           |
| SD              | 71.80%        | 328          | 55.00%          | 1194          |
| TN              | 70.00%        | 1521         | 34.90%          | 4322          |
| TX              | 76.70%        | 7564         | 62.60%          | 21959         |
| UT              | 79.40%        | 540          | 57.50%          | 1834          |
| VA              | 55.30%        | 591          | 30.30%          | 1971          |
| VT              | 46.90%        | 123          | 28.60%          | 389           |
| WA              | 66.20%        | 2324         | 36.80%          | 3620          |
| WI              | 49.10%        | 1066         | 35.40%          | 2983          |
| WV              | 75.90%        | 1611         | 50.70%          | 4963          |
| WY              | 70.50%        | 146          | 47.80%          | 667           |
| Puerto Rico     | 31.10%        | 111          | 15.50%          | 360           |
| <b>Total US</b> | <b>51.30%</b> | <b>63130</b> | <b>36.00%</b>   | <b>173013</b> |

# Incidence of Parental Alcohol or Drug Abuse as a Condition Associated with Removal in the United States, 2000 to 2021

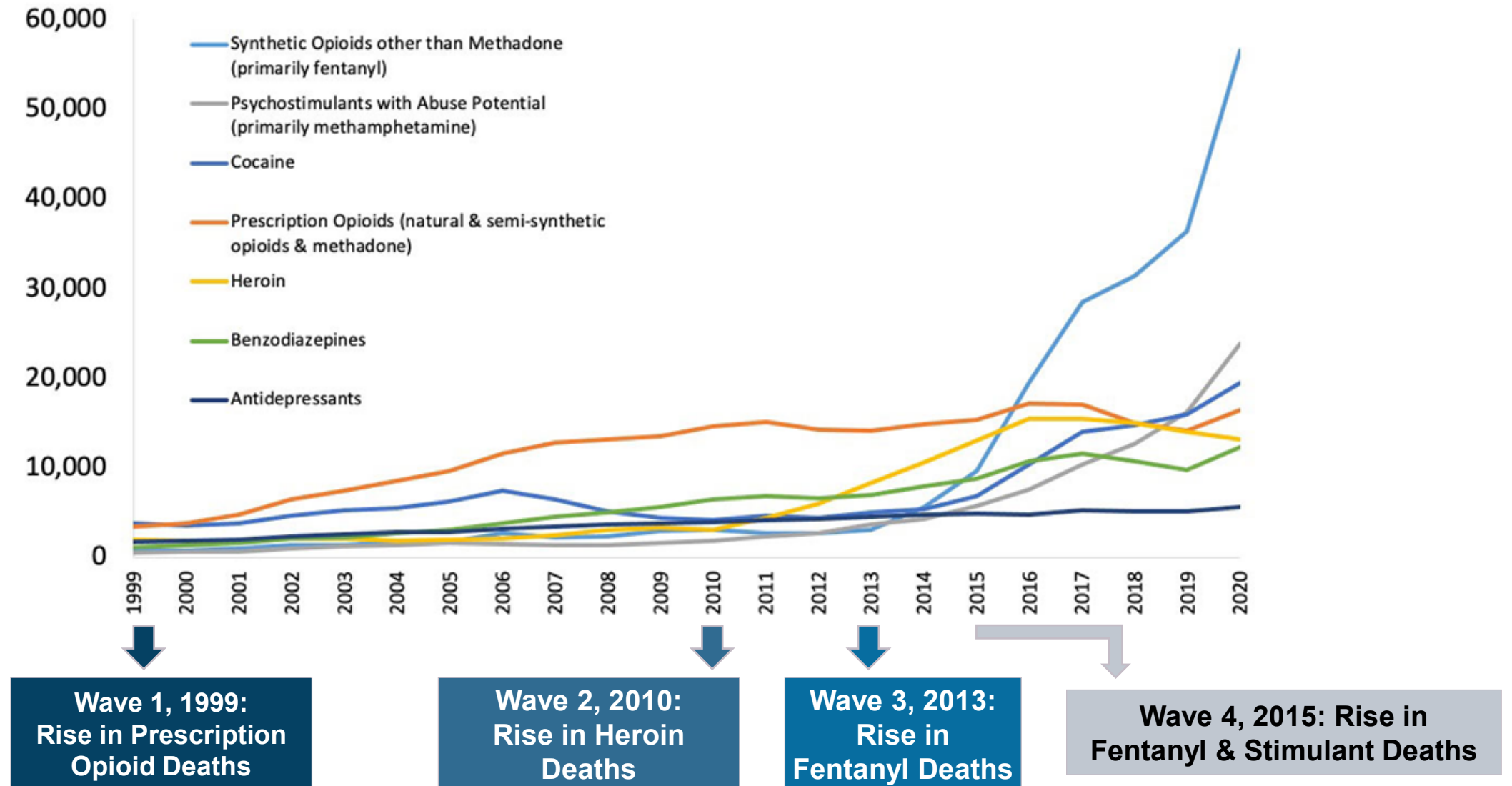


Note: Estimates based on children who entered out-of-home care during Fiscal Year

Source: AFCARS Data 2021, as of 10/01/24



# Understanding the Cumulative Effects of Overdose Rates on Parental Capacity & Family Well-Being



# Child Welfare Laws & Considerations for Families Affected by Parental Substance Use

Key Federal Legislation  
Related to Infants with  
Prenatal Substance  
Exposure in the U.S.

1974

Child Abuse Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA)

2003


The Keeping Children & Families Safe Act

2010

The CAPTA Reauthorization Act

2016

Comprehensive Addiction & Recovery Act (CARA)



# Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA)

Primary goals for child welfare intervention:

- Safety
- Permanency
- Well-being

# Key ASFA Provisions

Permanency Hearings

Permanency Timeline

Reunification Guidelines

Safety Checks

Accountability



# Conflicting Timelines: Time to Treatment Matters!



Child Welfare

Child Development

Treatment & Recovery



# Indian Child Welfare Act

# Historical Events Leading to the Passage of ICWA

Indian Removal Act of 1830

Boarding School Experience

Urban Relocation Program

Indian Adoption Project

# The Passage of ICWA in 1978

Governs state child-custody proceedings by

- Recognizing Tribal jurisdiction over decisions for Indian children
- Establishing minimum federal standards for the removal of Indian children from their families
- Establishing preferences for placement of Indian children with extended family or other Tribal community members
- Instituting protections to ensure that birth parents' voluntary relinquishment of their children is truly voluntary

# The Heart of ICWA: Lukas' Digital Story

Video Credit & Permission to Use by National Indian Child Welfare Association  
[WWW.NICWA.ORG](http://WWW.NICWA.ORG)

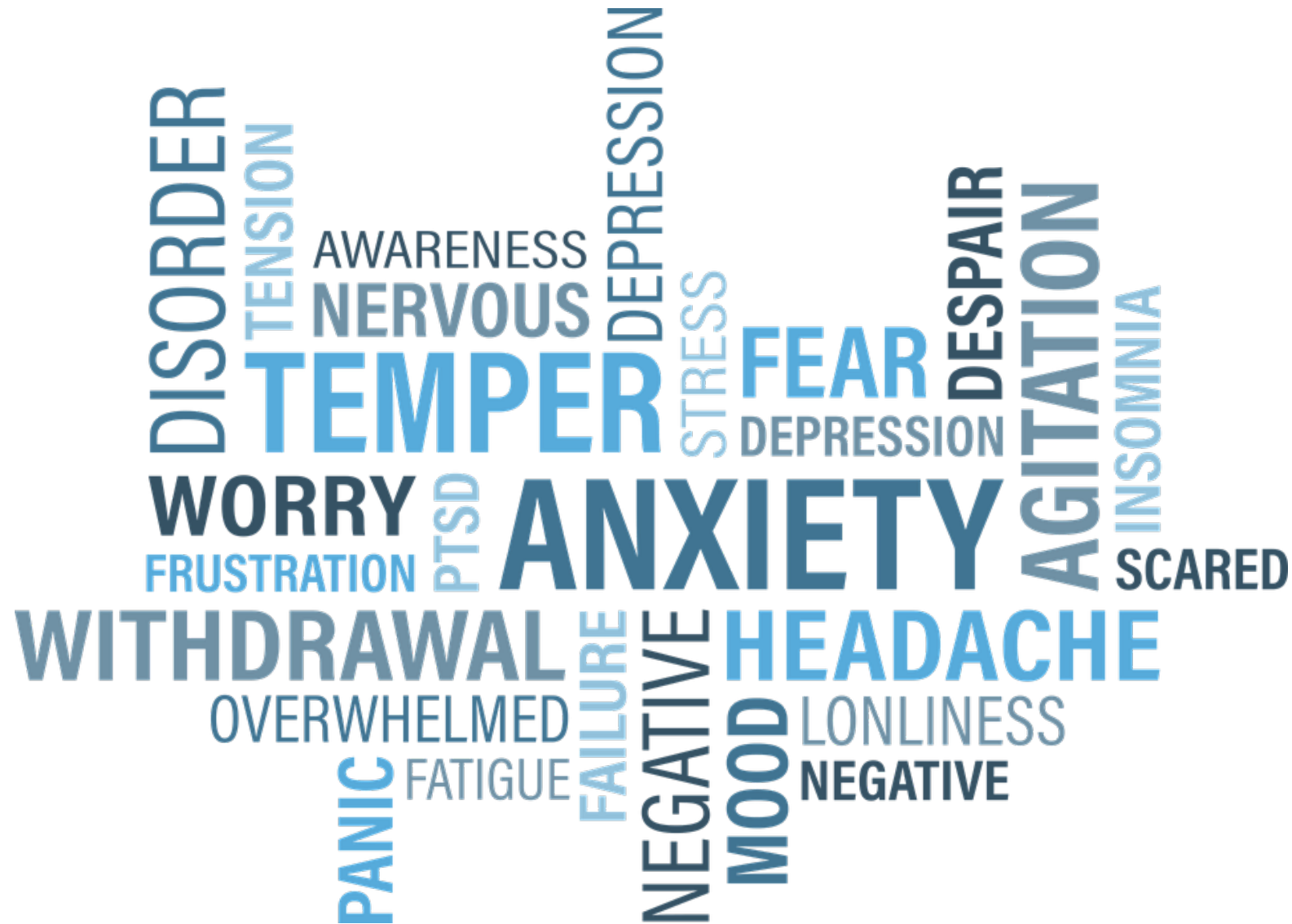


# Understanding Substance Use & Co-Occurring Disorders

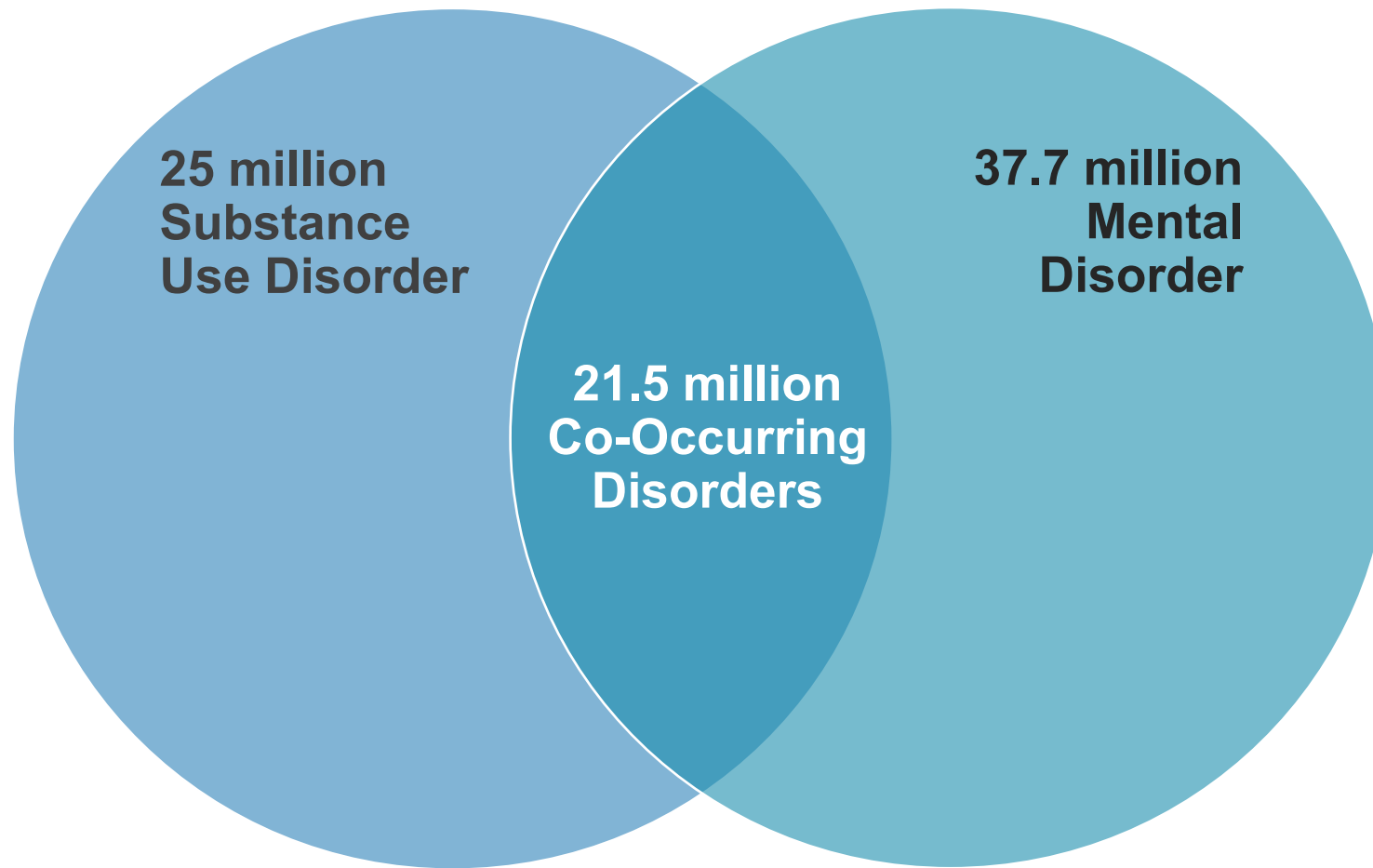
# What is a Co-Occurring Disorder?



# More on Substance Use & Co-Occurring Disorders

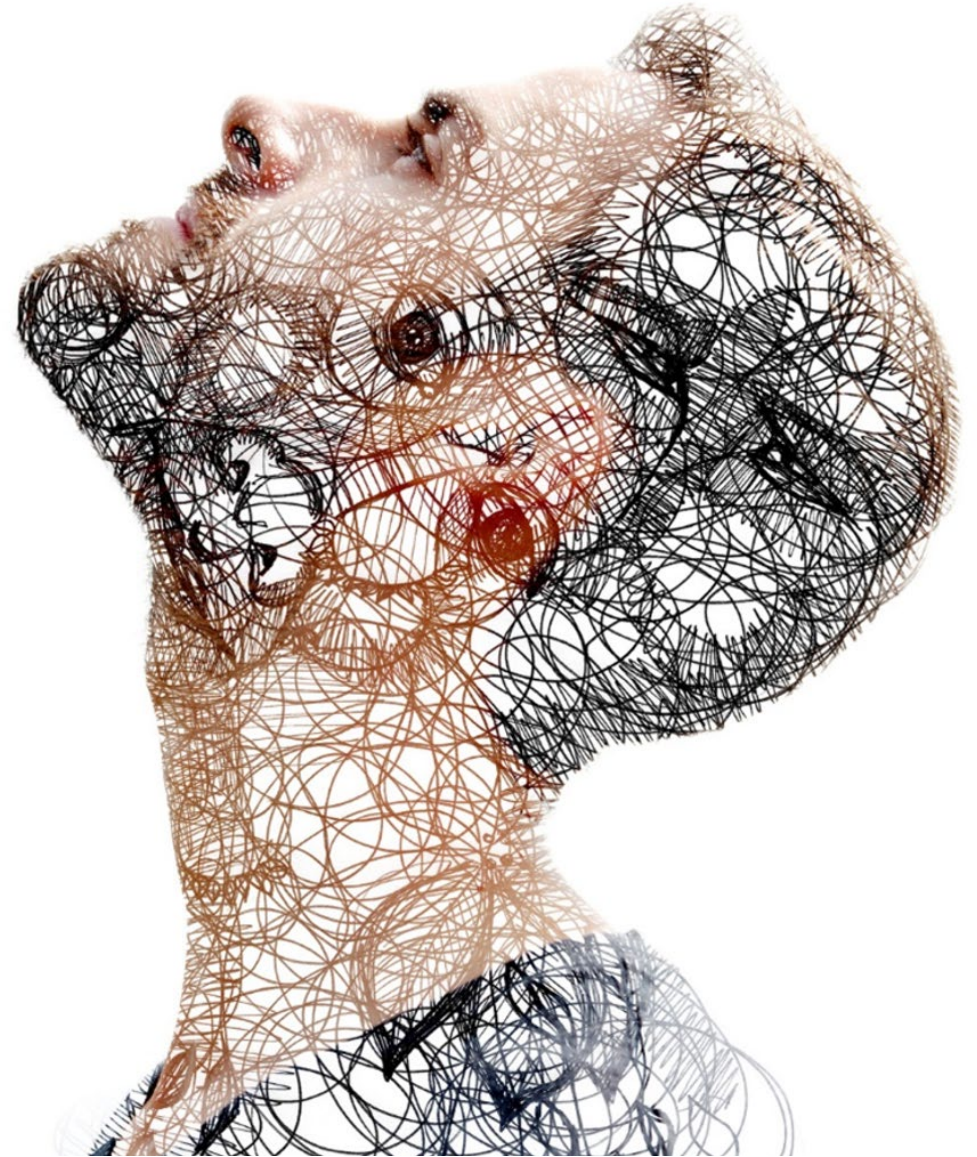


# Prevalence of Substance Use & Co-Occurring Disorders



# Understanding the Cumulative Effects of Trauma

- Physical
- Emotional/Behavioral
- Cognitive
- Interpersonal

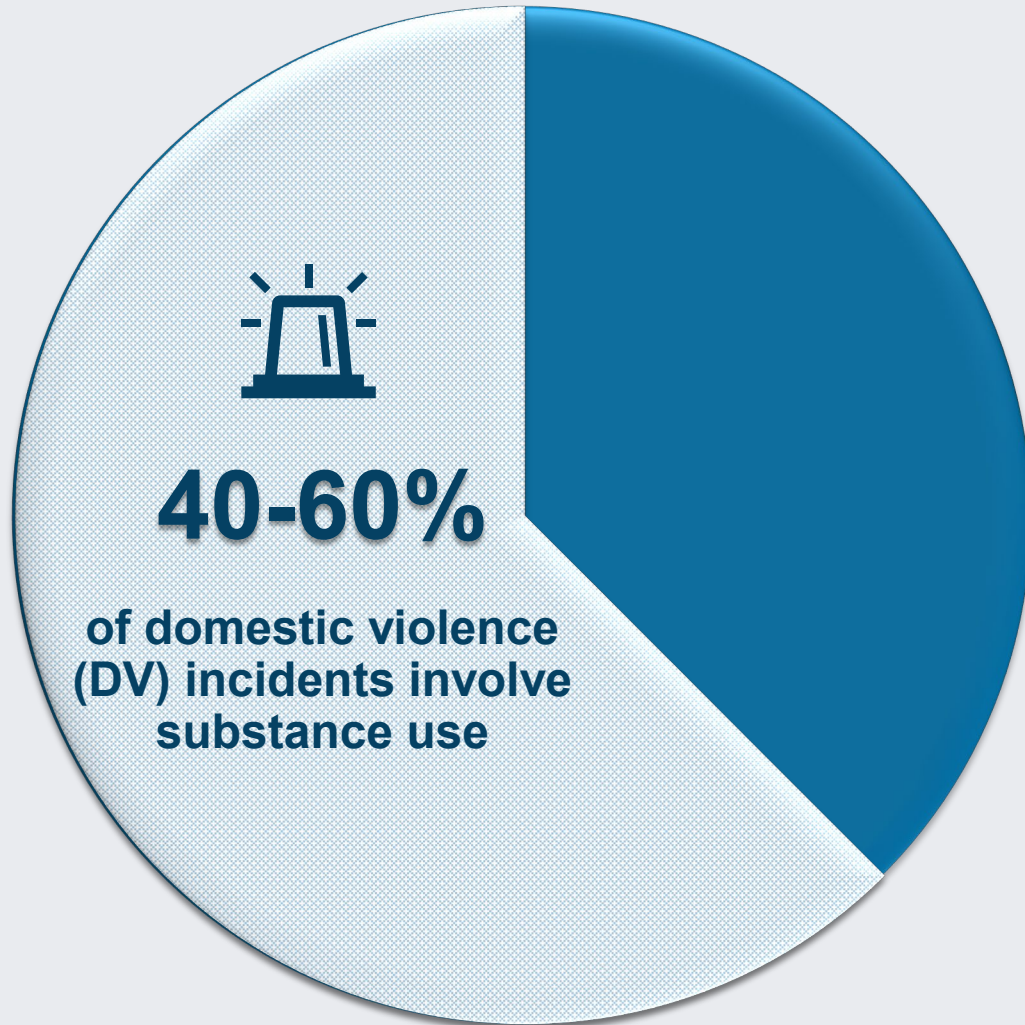




# Trauma Symptomology

Small Group Activity

# Substance Use Disorders & Domestic Violence



Women engaged in substance use disorder treatment report high rates of DV

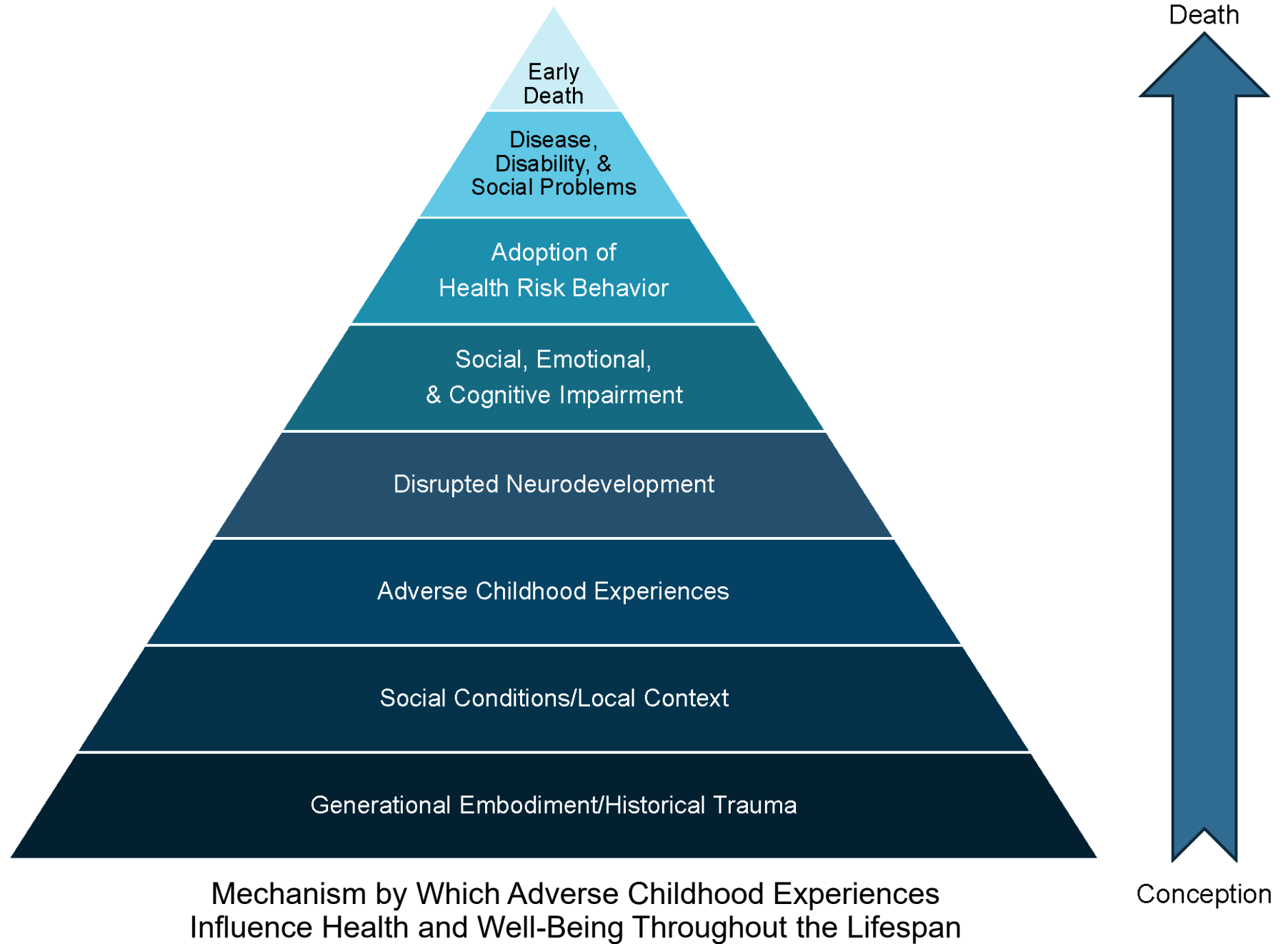
**47-90%**  
lifetime prevalence

**31-67%**

within past year



# Long-Term Effects of Trauma



# ACEs Primer on the Long-Term Effects of Trauma

[Video Credit & Permission to Use by KPJR Films](#)

# Understanding the Effects of Substance Use & Co-Occurring Disorders on Children & Families



# Effects of Substance Use Disorders on Family Functioning

Child Development

Housing/Living Conditions

Level of Parenting and Supervision

Psychosocial Stressors

Support Network

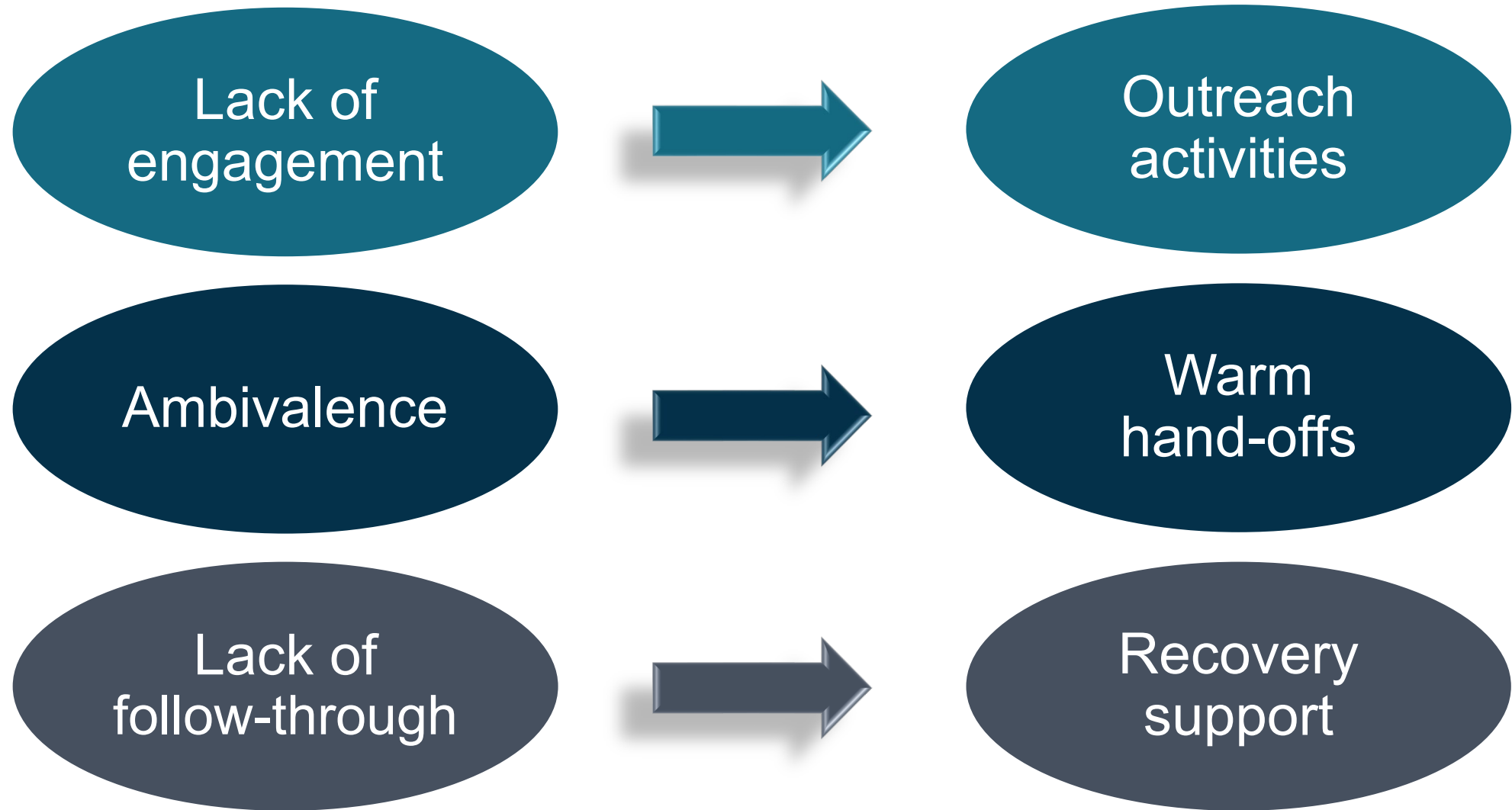


# Understanding Coping Strategies of Parents with Substance Use & Co-Occurring Disorders

# Assessment of Child Safety & Family Well-Being



# Engagement Strategies for Parents with Substance Use & Co-Occurring Disorders



# 5 Points of Intervention for Families Affected by SUDs



## PRE-PREGNANCY

Focus on **preventing substance use disorders before a woman becomes pregnant** through promoting **public awareness of the effects of substance use** (including alcohol and tobacco) during pregnancy and encouraging **access to appropriate substance use disorder treatment**

## PRENATAL

Focus on **identifying substance use disorders among pregnant women** through screening and assessment, engaging women into **effective treatment services**, and **providing ongoing services to support recovery**

## BIRTH

Focus on **identifying and addressing the needs of infants affected by prenatal substance exposure**, withdrawal symptoms, and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder **including the immediate need for bonding and attachment with a safe, stable, consistent caregiver**

## NEONATAL, INFANCY, & POSTPARTUM

Focus on **ensuring the infant's safety and responding to the needs of the infant, mother, and family** through a comprehensive approach that **ensures consistent access to a safe, stable caregiver** and a supportive early care environment

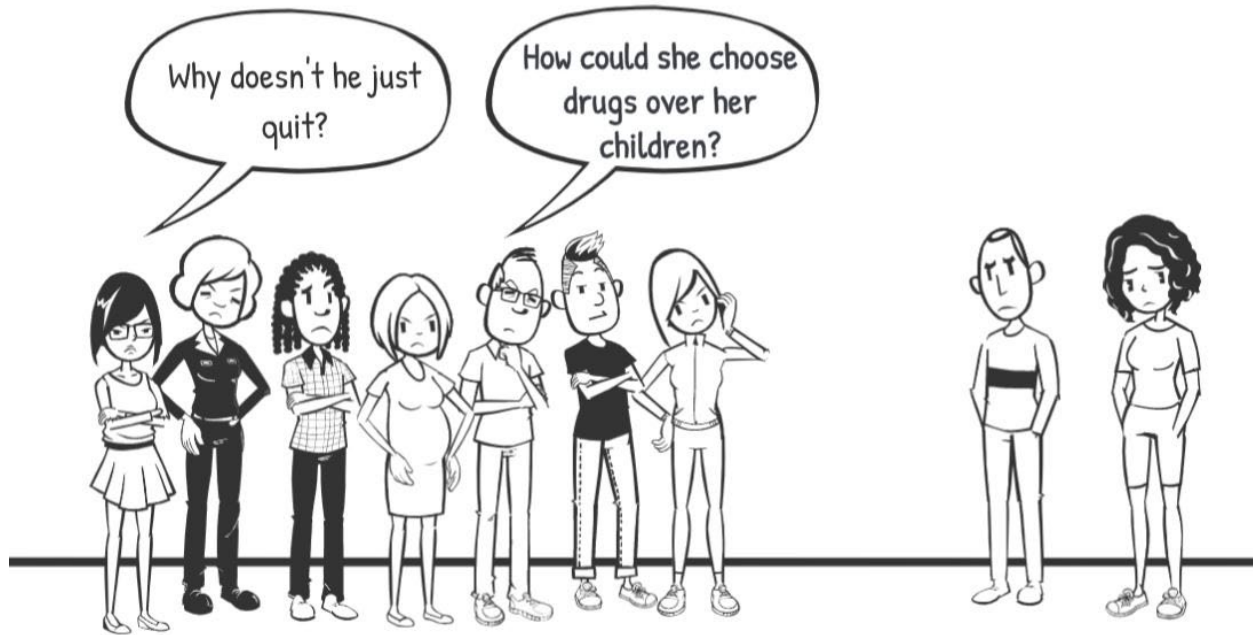
## CHILDHOOD & ADOLESCENCE

Focus on **identifying and responding to the unique developmental and service needs** of the toddler, preschooler, child, or adolescent who was exposed and/or affected by parental substance use **through a comprehensive family-centered approach**



# Understanding How Stigma Affects the Families We Serve

# What is Stigma?



Listen  
Learn  
Respect

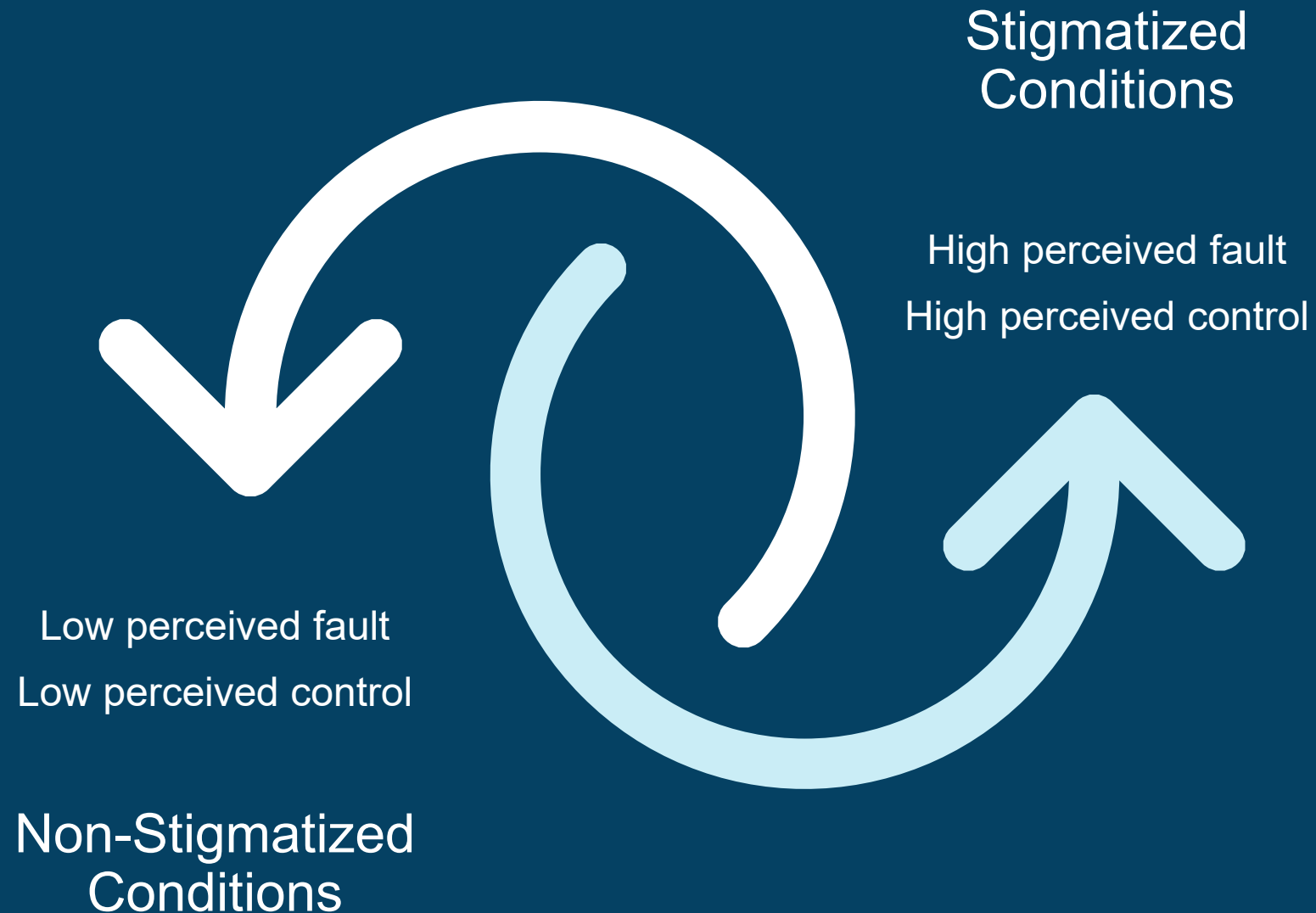
**STOP STIGMA**

Inform  
Support  
Educate

# Disrupting Stigma to Support Meaningful Change

[Animated Video by Children and Family Futures](#)

# Burden of Stigma



# Your Choice of Language Reflects Your Understanding of Substance Use Disorders as a Disease

**Instead of...**

**Try...**

**Addict/Drug Abuser**

Person/Parent with a substance use disorder



**Clean/Dirty Drug Screen**

Screen tested negative or positive for substances



**Former Addict**

Person in recovery



**Drug Addicted Baby**

Infant with prenatal substance exposure



**Hard-to-Place Kids**

Children affected by trauma



**Foster Child**

Child in-care or out-of-home placement






# Strategies for Combating Stigma

Small Group Discussion

- **Is the language we use to engage parents, children, and families strength-based and person-first?**
- **Are there other terms or labels that perpetuate stigma for families affected by substance use disorders?**
- **What about current child welfare policies and practices—do these help to reduce or perpetuate stigma for families affected by substance use disorders?**

**Small Group Discussion Questions**

# Treatment of Substance Use & Co-Occurring Disorders



**“Groundbreaking discoveries about the brain have revolutionized our understanding of addiction, enabling us to respond effectively to the problem.”**

*—Dr. Nora Volkow,  
National Institute on Drug Abuse*

## A Treatable Disease

# Overview of the Treatment Process

## Early Identification, Screening, and Brief Intervention

Done at earliest point possible

## Comprehensive Assessment

Determine extent and severity of disease

## Stabilization

Via medically supervised withdrawal when necessary

## Timely and Appropriate Substance Use Disorder Treatment

Address substance use disorder and co-occurring issues

## Continuing Care and Recovery Support

Help parents sustain recovery, maintain family safety and stability

Two vertical dark blue bars of different heights are positioned on the left side of the slide.

# Specialized Treatment Services

- What is specialized treatment services?
- What are the benefits of this treatment option?
  - Considerations for males
  - Considerations for females



# Family-Focused Intervention

## Parent Recovery

Parenting skills  
& competencies  
Family connections  
& resources  
Parental mental health  
Medication management  
Parental substance use  
Domestic violence

## Family Recovery and Well-Being

Food  
Housing  
Employment  
Childcare  
Transportation  
Family counseling  
Specialized parenting

## Child Well-Being

Physical health & well-being  
Social/Emotional development  
School readiness  
Trauma  
Mental health  
Adolescent  
substance abuse  
At-risk youth prevention

# Family-Centered Approach



Recognizes that addiction is a **brain disease** that affects the entire **family**, and that recovery and well-being occurs **in the context of the family**

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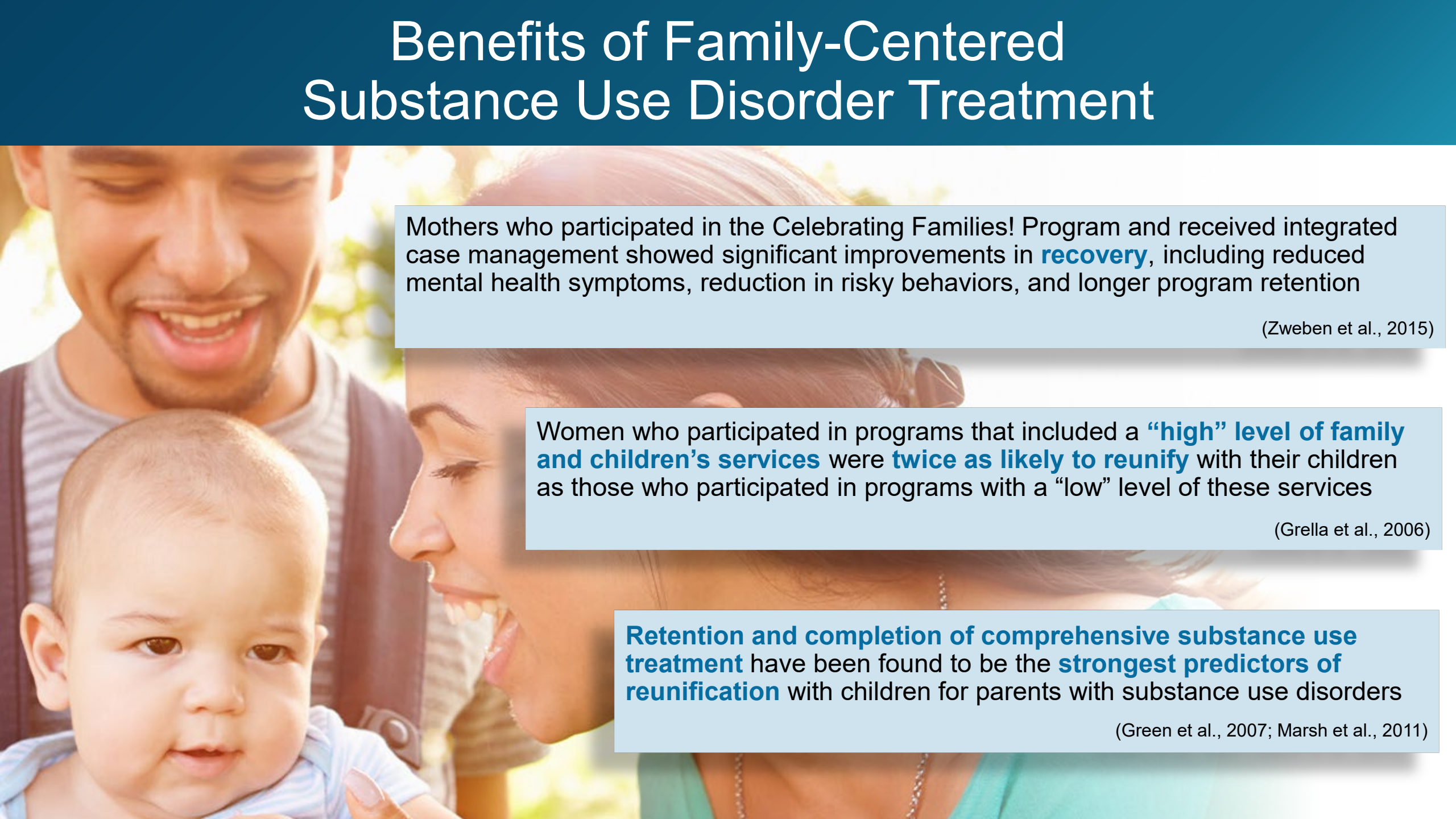
Provides a comprehensive array of clinical treatment and related support services that meet the needs of **each member in the family**, not only the individual requesting care

---



Extends well beyond the substance use disorder (SUD) treatment system, the child welfare system, the courts, and mental health services, and includes **all other agencies and individuals** that interact with and serve families

# Benefits of Family-Centered Substance Use Disorder Treatment

A warm, close-up photograph of a family. A man with a beard and a woman are smiling and looking down at a baby who is sitting in a carrier. The scene is outdoors with soft, natural light.

Mothers who participated in the Celebrating Families! Program and received integrated case management showed significant improvements in **recovery**, including reduced mental health symptoms, reduction in risky behaviors, and longer program retention

(Zweben et al., 2015)

Women who participated in programs that included a **“high” level of family and children’s services** were **twice as likely to reunify** with their children as those who participated in programs with a “low” level of these services

(Grella et al., 2006)

**Retention and completion of comprehensive substance use treatment** have been found to be the **strongest predictors of reunification** with children for parents with substance use disorders

(Green et al., 2007; Marsh et al., 2011)

# The Role of Collaborative Partnerships in Helping Families Navigate Parental Substance Use & Child Safety

# The Need to Do Better for Families

**Lower likelihood of  
successful reunification**



**Children tend to remain in out-of-home care longer**





# Improving Partnerships: No Single Agency Can Do This Alone

## *Better Together*



Improving outcomes for children and families affected by parental substance use requires a coordinated response that draws from the talents and resources of *at least* the following systems:

- Child Welfare
- Treatment Providers
- Courts



# An Important Reminder About the 'Why' Behind Our Collaborative Partnerships

Meaningful collaboration across systems that includes agreement on **common values**, enhanced **communication** and **information sharing**, blended funding and data collection for **shared outcomes**...

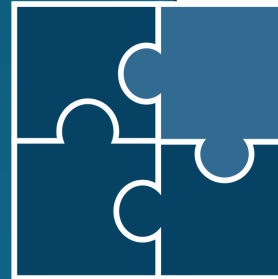
...results in improved outcomes for families including **increased engagement and retention** of parents in substance use disorder treatment, **fewer children removed** from parental custody, **increased family reunification** post-removal and **fewer children re-entering** the child welfare system and out-of-home care.

# Contact

## Contact the NCSACW Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Program

Connect with programs that are developing tools  
and implementing practices and protocols to  
support their collaborative

Training and technical assistance to support  
collaboration and systems change



## National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare



<https://ncsacw.acf.hhs.gov/>



[ncsacw@cffutures.org](mailto:ncsacw@cffutures.org)



Toll-Free @ 1-866-493-2758

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- Child Welfare Information Gateway: [\*About CAPTA: A Legislative History\*](#) (2019)
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- National Association for Children of Addiction: [\*Celebrating Families!\*](#)<sup>™</sup> (n.d.)
- National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare: [\*Building Collaborative Capacity Series\*](#) (updated 2022)
- National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare: [\*Building Collaborative Capacity Series—Module 6: Frontline Collaborative Efforts: Establishing Comprehensive Assessment Procedures and Promoting Family Engagement into Services\*](#) (updated 2022)
- National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare: [\*Child Welfare Timeline for Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Other Partners\*](#) (2023)
- National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare: [\*Collaborative Teams Toolkit for Trauma-Informed Care—Part 1: Trauma-Informed Care Tip Sheet for Collaborative Teams Serving Children, Parents, and Family Members Affected by Substance Use and Co-occurring Mental Health Challenges\*](#) (2024)

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- National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare: [Collaborative Teams Toolkit for Trauma-Informed Care—Part 2: Trauma-Informed Care Tutorial Video](#) (2024)
- National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare: [Collaborative Teams Toolkit for Trauma-Informed Care—Part 3: Collaborative Trauma-Informed Care \(C-TIC\) Tool](#) (2024)
- National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare: [Comprehensive Framework to Improve Outcomes for Families Affected by Substance Use Disorders and Child Welfare Involvement](#) (2021)
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- National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare: [How States Serve Infants and Their Families Affected by Prenatal Substance Exposure](#) (2021)
- National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare: [ICWA Active Efforts Guidance Document](#) (2024)
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- National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare: [ICWA Active Efforts—Module 1: An Introduction to the Indian Child Welfare Act and Active Efforts](#) (2024)
- National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare: [ICWA Active Efforts—Module 2: An Introduction to the Five Points of Family Intervention](#) (2024)

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- National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare: [Identifying Safety and Protective Capacities for Families with Parental Substance Use Disorders and Child Welfare](#) (2023)
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- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology: [\*Disclosure of Substance Use Disorder Patient Records: Does Part 2 Apply to Me?\*](#) (n.d.)
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