

The Child Welfare System

How this System and Children with Special Health
Care Needs Intersect

The Child Welfare System 101

What we really mean when we say “the child welfare system”

- Child Protective Services
- Neglect/Abuse
- Open Case
- In-home services/Removal
- Foster Care
- Congregate Care
- Kinship Care

What is Child Abuse?

Neglect: Failure to meet the child's basic physical needs like food, water and safety. It can also be the failure to meet a child's cognitive, emotional or social needs which preclude children from developing the systems that are necessary for adequate physical and mental health.

Medical neglect: The failure to provide and/or make accessible adequate health interventions. This can include, not taking a child to a doctor, filling prescriptions,

Abuse: Child abuse or child maltreatment is physical, sexual, and/or psychological maltreatment or neglect of a child or children, especially by a parent or a caregiver. Child abuse may include any act or failure to act by a parent or a caregiver that results in actual or potential harm to a child, and can occur in a child's home, or in the organizations, schools or communities the child interacts with.

The Numbers

They Speak for Themselves

7.5 million children were referred to the protective service system in 2017

3.5 million warranted an investigation

1.3 children being significantly harmed every 60 seconds

74.9% neglect

1,720 children who died from maltreatment in 2017.

U.S. is second, only to Mexico, for most intentional child fatalities in the developing world.

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

ALL CHILDREN MATTER

How does a child enter the foster care system?

Children are placed in foster care when a child protective services worker and a court have determined that it is not safe for the child to remain at home because of the risk of maltreatment, including neglect and physical or sexual abuse

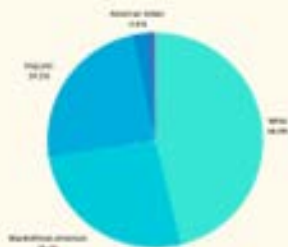
How many children are in foster care?

- In 2016, 422,000 children were in the foster care system
- In 2016, 273,539 children entered the foster care system
- Only 170,319 of these children received federal foster care dollars
- 53 % of these children will spend two years or more in foster care

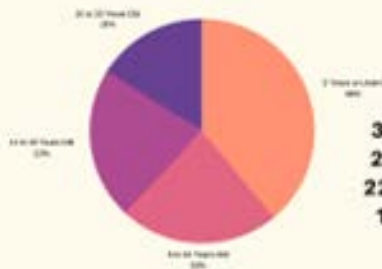
What does a child coming into the foster care system look like?



Sex
52% Male
48% Female



Race
2% - American Indian/
Alaskan Native
1% - Asian
24% Black of African
American
22% - Hispanic
42% - White

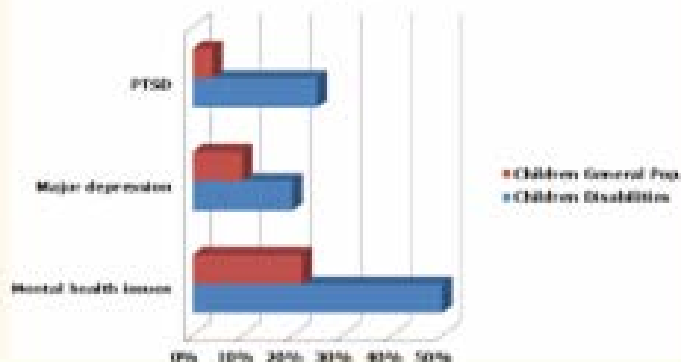


Age
39% - 5 years or under
23% - 6 to 10 years old
22% - 11 to 15 years old
16% - 16-20 years old

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

ALL CHILDREN MATTER

Children with Disabilities in Foster Care and Mental Health



Health needs of children in foster care?

- 15% of the children enter the system due to abuse.
- 85% enter for neglect
- 80% of these children present signs consistent with needing mental health services.
- >33 % enter the foster system with a chronic health problem

See Graph.

Moving Children Towards Permanency

Where will These Children Go?

- Reunification
- Kinship Care
- Long Term Foster Care
- Guardianship
- Adoption

How is This System Funded?

A Complicated and Braided
System of Funds

Federal Funding

- Title IVE and IVB
- Block Grants
- Medicaid

State Dollars

Private Dollars

The Health Needs of Children in Care

Child maltreatment can be responsible for changes to the structure and chemical activity of the brain (decreased size or connectivity) and in the emotional and behavioral functioning of a child.

Data from the last 30 years demonstrating the high prevalence of health problems have led the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) to classify children in foster care as a population of children with special health care needs.

Overall, 30% to 80% of children come into foster care with at least 1 medical problem, and one-third have a chronic medical condition.

Up to 80% of children and adolescents enter with a significant mental health need, and almost 40% have significant oral health issues.

Approximately 60% of children younger than 5 years have developmental health issues, and more than 40% of school-aged children have educational difficulties.

Health Needs Continued- Mental Health

Up to [80 percent](#) of children in foster care have significant mental health issues, compared to approximately [18-22 percent](#) of the general population.

The range of mental health issues that is evident among foster children is vast and varied, and includes post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), panic and anxiety disorders, major depression and drug/alcohol abuse. And while it would seem natural that these issues might emerge as a child ages and reaches adolescence, what may be surprising is how early they arise, and how prevalent they are in the very young — those under the age of six.

Care Delivery... It's lacking.

For foster youth in particular, access to comprehensive physical and mental health care is rather poor. Why?

- Medicaid Coverage
- Transience which leads to:
 - Disjointed Care
 - Lack of coordination among providers
 - Different Insurance, Different Providers
 - Lack of support system to ensure appointments are made, transportation is provided.
- Florida: An example of Medicaid Innovation

Resources

Helping us better understand the
health and mental health needs
of foster youth

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18595968>

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Kinship

Navigator
Programs

2.5M

children live with kin
without a birth parent
in the home

1/3

of all children in
kinship care have
special healthcare
needs.

80%

enter care with
significant mental
health needs

\$1.09M

CA receives \$1.09M in
federal funding dollars
to help accommodate
the 282,000 children
who live in kinship care

- Kinship Navigator Programs provide the support grandparents, relatives and other caregivers need when they take on the responsibility of caring for another relative's child.
- The main goal of Kinship Navigator Programs is to provide kinship families with access to local community resources.

Kinship Navigator Services

Legal Services

Information

Aging Services

Referrals

Youth Services

Support Groups

County Services

Case Management

Education Services

- Roughly 70 Kinship Navigator Programs across the US are federally funded with the budgeted \$20M from Congress through the Family First Prevention Services Act.
- A full list of all registered Kinship Navigator Programs nationwide can be found at: www.grandfamilies.org

List of Kinship Navigator Programs

Program Name	Website
Alabama Department of Senior Services	www.alabamagov.com/agesanddisability/departmentofseniorservices
Grandfamilies Network Program	https://www.vcaak.org/grandfamilies
Arizona Kinship Navigator Program (AzKN)	www.arizonakinship.org
Arkansas Voices for the Children Left Behind	www.arkansasvoices.org
Families Helping Families	http://cocosouthla.org/keeping-families-together/
Lilliput Children's Services	www.lilliput.org
YMCA Kinship Navigator	https://www.ymca.org/community-support/vmca-youth-and-family-services
California Kinship Navigator Program	http://www.edgewood.org/kssp/
211 iFoster Kinship Navigator Collaborative	https://www.unitedwaysca.org/our-work/2-1-1-resources
2-1-1 Health and Human Services	http://www.ctunitedway.org/
Child and Family Guidance Center	http://cfguidance.com/
Kinship Care Program	http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dssc/kinshipcr.html
KIN-Tech	https://www.childrenshomenetwork.org/kinship/
Georgia Kinship Navigator Program	https://dhs.georgia.gov/kinship-navigator-program
Idaho 2-1-1	http://211.idaho.gov/kinicare.aspx
Indiana 211	https://www.in211.org/
Kansas Children's Service League	http://www.kcsl.org
Adoptive & Foster Families of Maine	https://www.affm.net/
Baltimore County Family Navigator	https://www.catholiccharities-md.org/services/kinship-navigator-services/
Maryland Kinship Navigator Program	http://dhr.maryland.gov/foster-care/kinship-care/
Caregiver Support Program	https://www.co.jackson.mi.us/623/Caregiver-Support-Programs
Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota	http://www.lssmn.org/kinshipcaregivers/
Foster Kinship	http://www.fosterkinship.org/
2-1-1 New Hampshire	http://www.211nh.org/
Family Service Association	http://fsasi.org/
CarePlus, NJ	http://www.careplusnj.org/
The Salvation Army	https://newjersey.salvationarmy.org/NewJersey/newark
Children's Home Society of NJ	www.chsofnj.org
New York State Kinship Navigator	http://www.nysnavigator.org/
Richland County Kinship Care Program	https://www.richlandcountychildrenservices.org/
Franklin County Kinship Care Program	https://childrenservices.franklincountyohio.gov/programs/kinship.cfm
Kinship Navigator Program	http://areaofficeonaging.com/programs

List of Kinship Navigator Programs

Program Name	Website
Kinship Care Navigator Services	http://www.summitkids.org/FosterCareAdoptionKinship/KinshipCare/KinshipCareNavigatorServices/tabid/218/Default.aspx
Integrated Services for Behavioral Health	https://integratedservice.org/services/kinship-navigator/
Kinship Permanency Incentive Program	https://ifs.ohio.gov/ocf/kinship_care.stm
Kinship Care Program	http://lcooa.org/index.php/service-menu/kinship-care-program
Family KINnections	http://www.northcare.com/programs/children-family/
Pennsylvania Kinship Navigator	http://aeese.psu.edu/extension/intergenerational/program-areas/kinship
HALOS	http://www.charlestonhalos.org/
Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities	https://www.uthsc.edu/bcdd/services/demonstration/rcp/services.php
Upper Cumberland Development District	http://ucdd.org/housingandfamilyservices/rcp/
Family and Children's Services	http://www.fcsnashville.org/#/https://www.fcsnashville.org/programs-and-services/family-child-permanency/
Southeast Tennessee Area Agency on Aging & Disability	http://www.setaaad.org/www/docs/108
South Central Caregiver Program	http://thecenterforfamilydevelopment.org/HeavenSent/4-columns/
New Vision, Inc.	http://www.newvisiontn.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=187613&type=d&termREC_ID=&pREC_ID=380687
Grandfamilies	http://cssutah.org/services/kinship-care/grandfamilies-programs/
Vermont Kin as Parents	http://vermontkinasparents.org/?page_id=66
New Found Families	http://newfoundva.org/about-kinship
Catholic Charities	http://catholiccharitiescw.org/services/child-youth-family-programs/kinship-non-parent-guardian-navigation
Catholic Family & Child Services	https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/catholic-family-and-child-services-0
Children's Home Society, Southwest Washington Region	http://www.helpingelders.org/
Rural Resources Community Action	http://www.ruralresources.org/get-help/senior-services/caregiver-support/
Elder Services - Spokane Mental Health	https://fbhwa.org/programs/elder-services/family-caregiver-support-services/
Rural Resources	http://www.ruralresources.org/get-help/senior-services/caregiver-support/
Catholic Family & Child Services	https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/catholic-family-and-child-services-0
Catholic Community Services	http://ccsww.org/get-help/services-for-seniors-people-with-disabilities/kinship-
HopeSparks	http://hopesparks.org/programs-full-width/relatives-raising-children/
Stillaguamish Senior Center	http://stillycenter.org/caregiver.shtml
Northwest Regional Council (AAA)	http://www.nwrcwa.org/family-caregiver-support-program/
Family Education and Support Services	http://familyess.org/

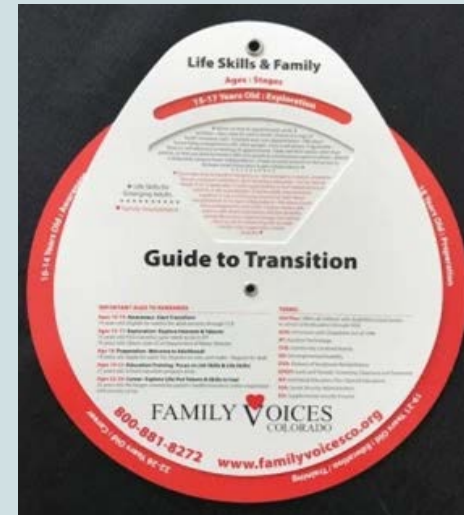
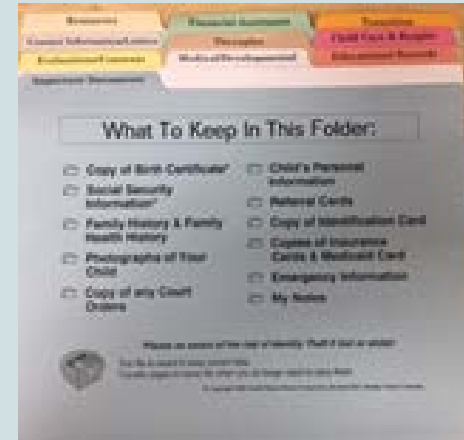


How can F2F's and SAO's Impact this population?

- Develop Kinship Navigation Programs or collaborate with existing programs
- Offer system navigation support to caseworkers and kinship navigators
- Offer “Serving on Groups that Make Decisions” training for Foster Families
- Offer Medicaid 101, Waiver, CHP+ and IEP training
- Provide resources to caseworkers and referrals to community-based services
- Provide transition resources and tools for Foster Families

Tools for Foster Care Families

- Checklist for gathering important documents
- Filing System for document storage
- Information to re-establish Medical Home
- Fast Facts and other Resources
- Transition Guides or other available tools
- “Serving on Groups training”
- Medicaid 101, Waiver, and CHP+ training
- Education System orientation



Policy Implications and Questions

- Children in the Child Welfare System by definition, have been exposed to the types of trauma that necessitate both behavioral as well as physical health interventions, without exception. However, do we consider them children with special health care needs?
- Should we?

Policy Implications and Questions

- How might our policies regarding children and youth who meet the federal definition of a child with a special health care need work in collaboration with our child welfare policies?
- Should legislators, as they continue to contemplate our Nation's rising mental health needs, acknowledge children and youth entering the foster care system as children with special health care needs and if they did, what policy changes could/should they make?

Community of Practice (CoP)
The Child Welfare Medicaid Intersection

‘CoPs develop around things that matter to people

The difference between a CoP and a team is that the shared learning and interest of its members is what keeps it together. It is defined by knowledge rather than task. It exists because participation has value to members.’

Etienne Wenger, 1998

Community of Practice

The Child Welfare Medicaid Intersection

- Communities of practice enable practitioners to take collective responsibility for managing the knowledge they need, recognizing that, given the proper structure, they are in the best position to do this.
- Communities among practitioners create a direct link between learning and performance, because the same people participate in communities of practice and in teams and business units.
- Practitioners can address the tacit and dynamic aspects of knowledge creation and sharing, as well as the more explicit aspects.
- Communities are not limited by formal structures: they create connections among people across organizational and geographic boundaries.

Community of Practice

The Child Welfare Medicaid Intersection

As a CoP what can we accomplish?

No Brainers

- Educate Caseworkers about how to connect with Early Intervention (age 0-3)
- Navigation and Transition tools for families
- “Serving on Groups” training for families
- Medicaid 101, Waiver, Educational System training for families

Short-term Satisfaction

- Develop policy goals and strategy

Long-term Big Audacious Goal

- Federal and State Legislation, Rules, Regulations, Implementation

Next Steps?

Join the CoP!

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