

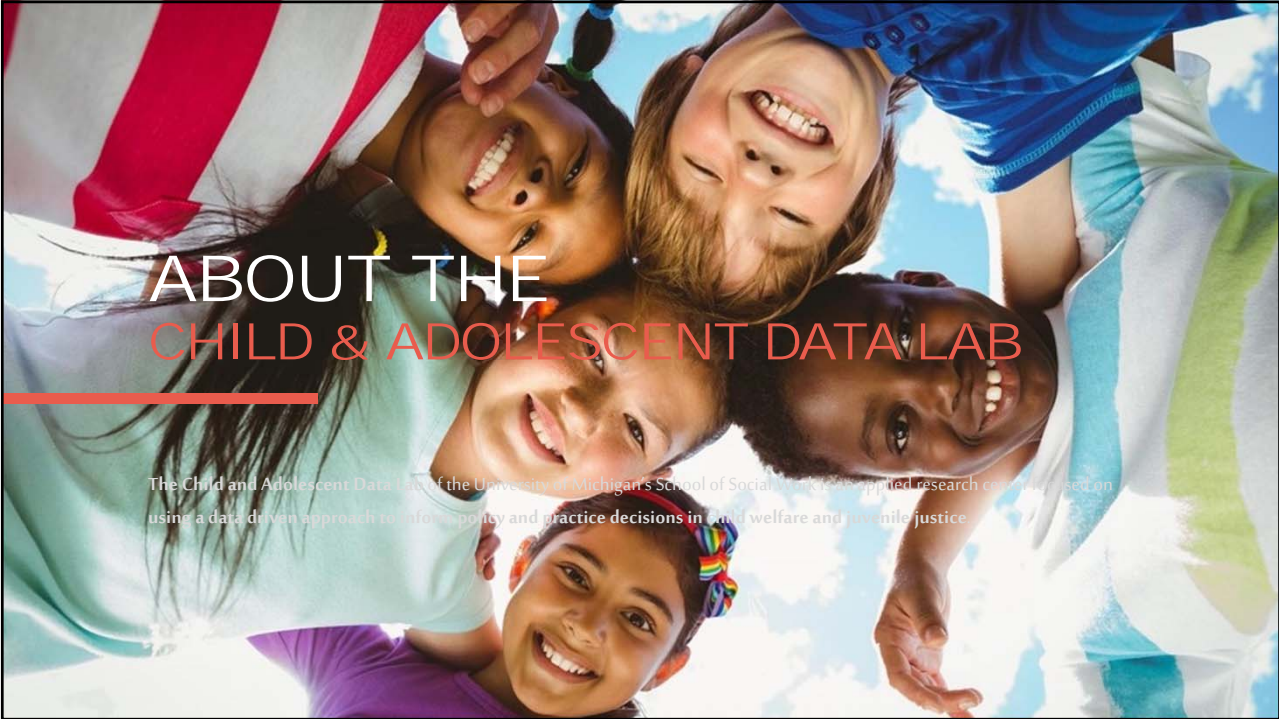
# Parental Substance Abuse and Child Welfare

Family Impact Seminar  
November 20, 2018

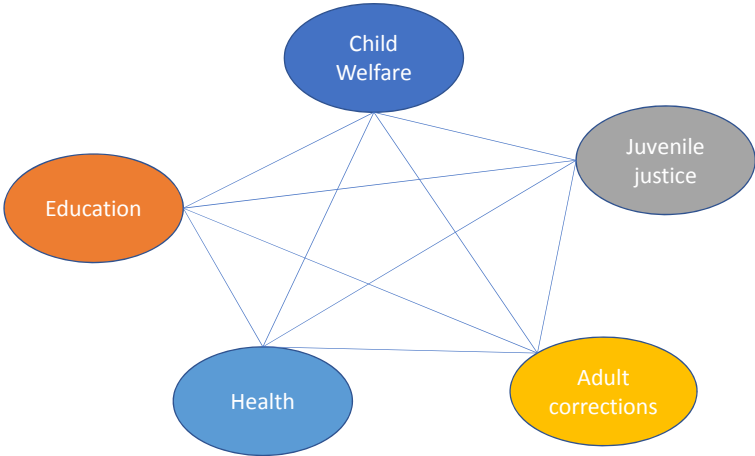


## OVERVIEW

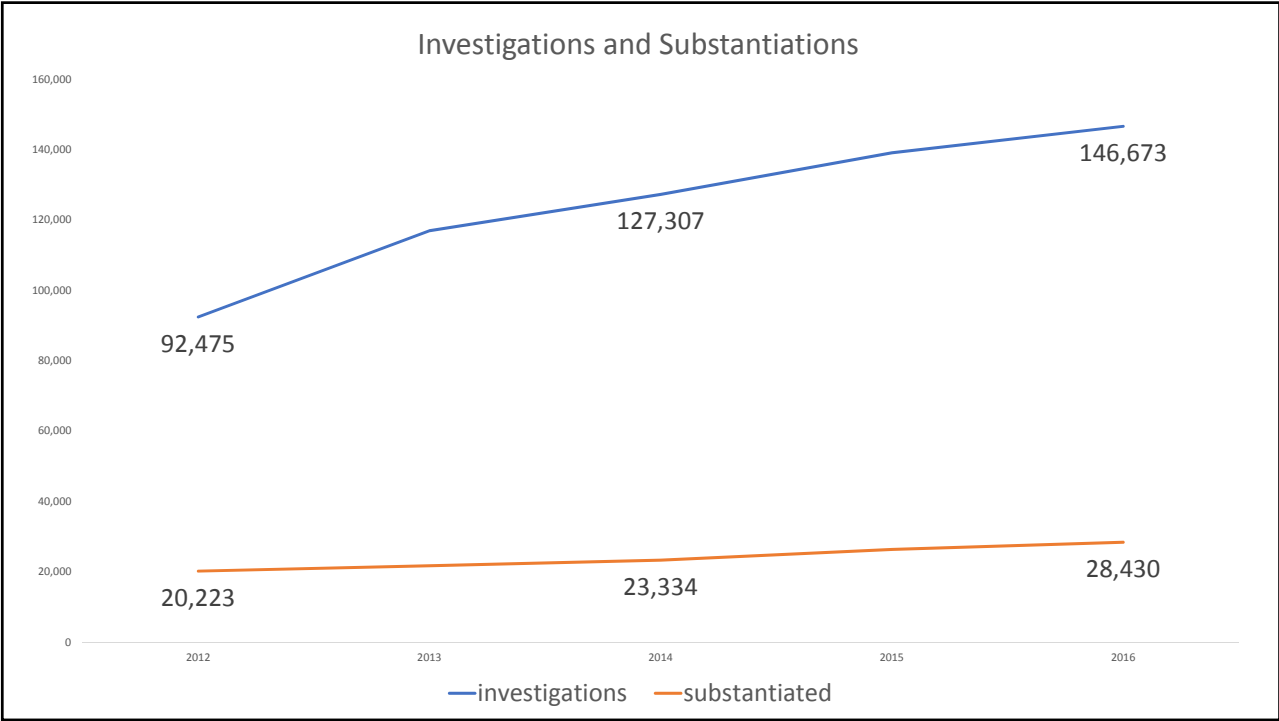
- 01 Opioids Impact on Child Welfare  
*- context is important*
- 02 Parental Addiction and Child Welfare
- 03 Potential State Response

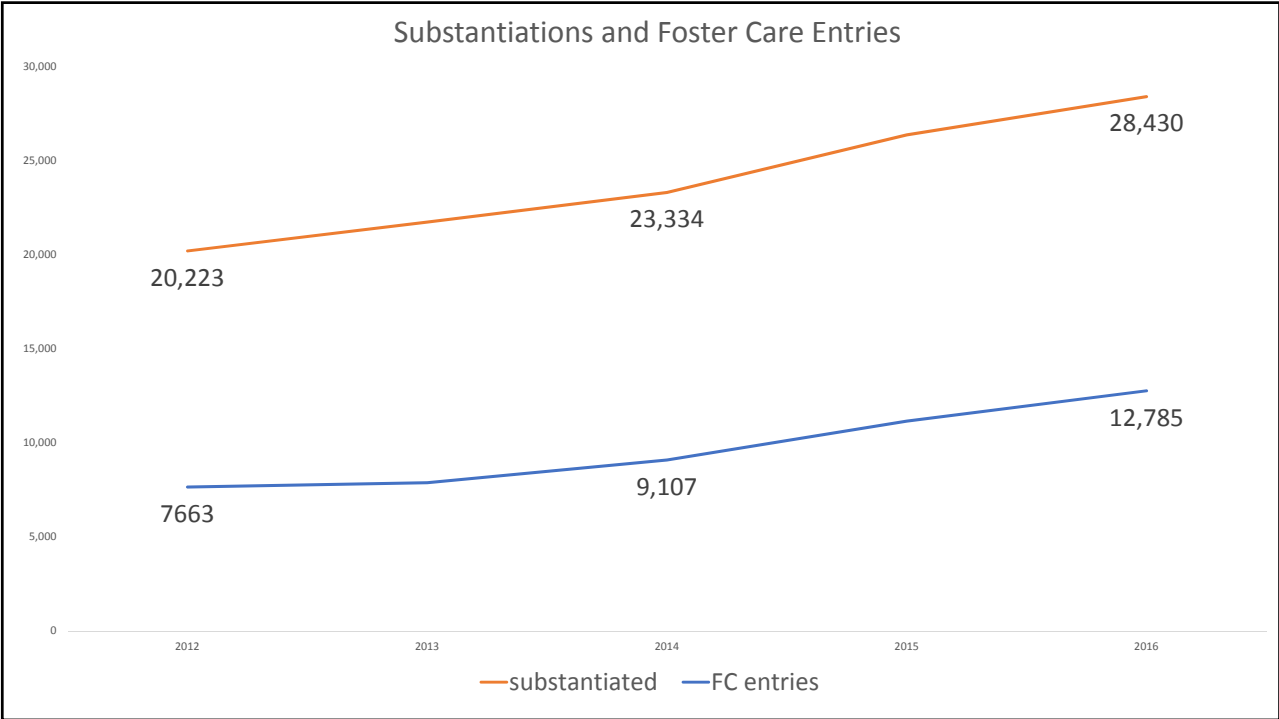
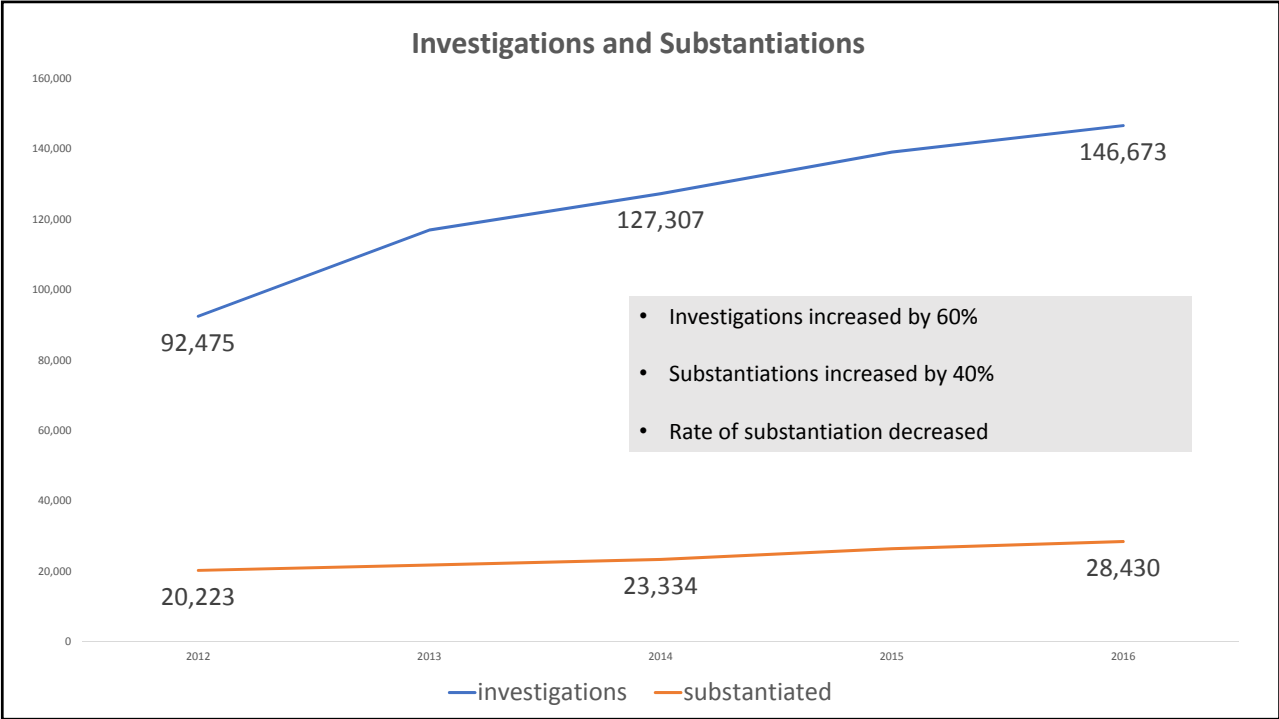


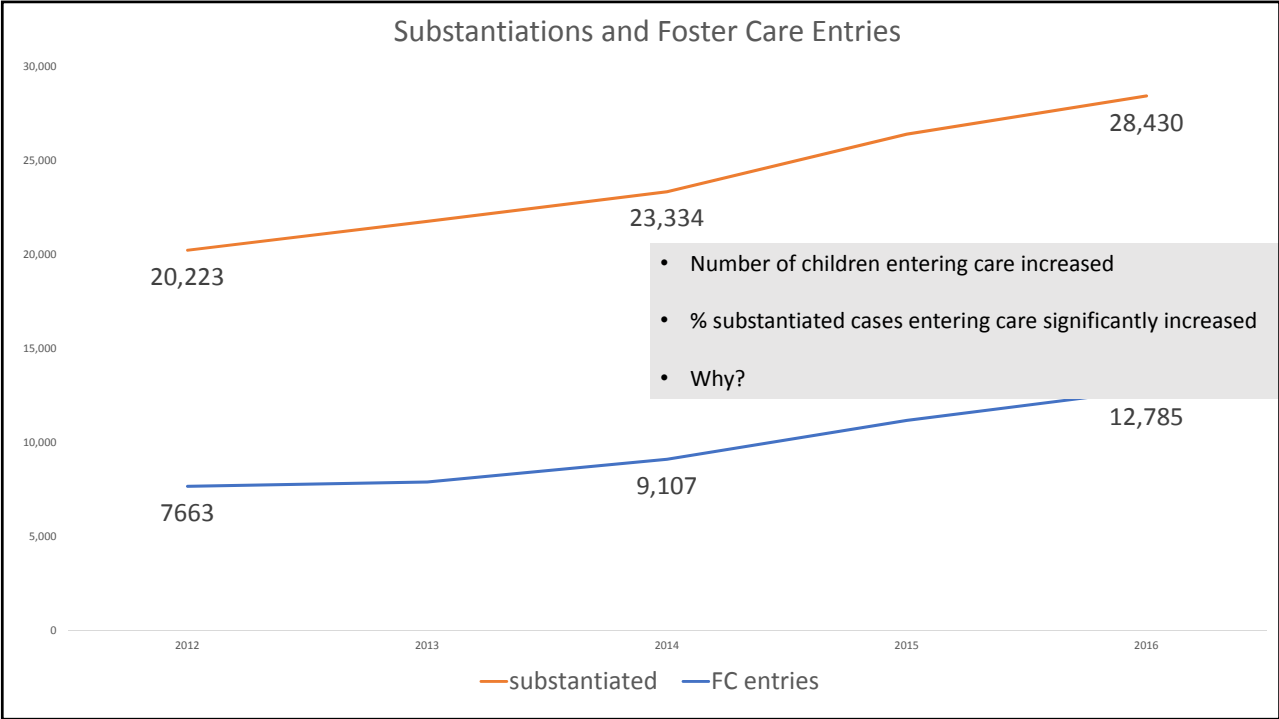
Harnessing the Power of These Data Require Bridges/Links



PART ONE  
Opioids Impact on Child Welfare  
*- context is important*







PART TWO

## Parental Addiction and Child Welfare

## Parental Substance Abuse Estimates

- Parental substance abuse increases the risk of child maltreatment
- Evidence is compelling, exact mechanisms are less certain.
- Estimates vary widely with regard to child welfare populations
  - Boston foster care: 43 to 50%
  - California, New York, and Pennsylvania foster care: 65% to 78%
  - Los Angeles and Chicago foster investigation: 66%
  - NSCAW foster care 43%
  - Indiana – reason for removal **25.8%** in 2012 to **55%** in 2017 (child welfare eval, June 2018)
- Most states have very little data on the role of substance abuse in their child welfare system – and this is a major obstacle for (1) understanding the scope of the problem and (2) effectively and efficiently addressing the problem.
- 19 case file reviews is not an appropriate or adequate approach

## Parental Substance Abuse and Outcomes

- Parental substance abuse should have a significant impact on child welfare performance metrics
- First time foster care placements stable (approximately 15% between 2012 and 2016)
- Maltreatment in care stable (less than 1% between 2012 and 2016)
- Children experience recurrence stable (approximately 6.7% between 2012 and 2016)
- Exits to reunification has increase (60% in 2012 to 70% in 2016)
- Time in care stable (median is approximately 13 months)
- Movements between foster homes is stable (approximately 90% with 2 or less)
- Number of TRPs decreased (2,047 in 2012 to 1,266 in 2016)
- What to make of these estimates? New population or increase of same population?

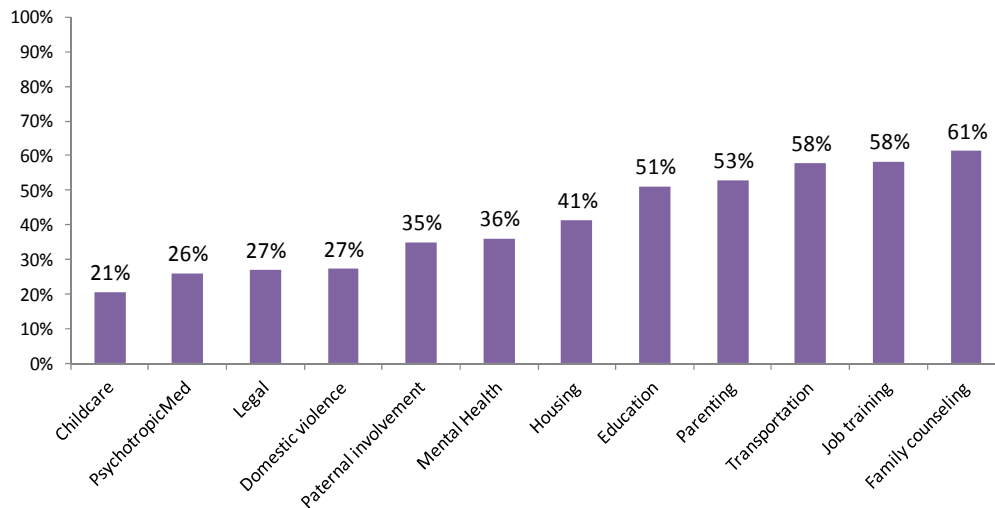
PART THREE

## Potential State Response

### Illinois Substance Abuse and Child Welfare

- Basic problem in Illinois – children in substance abusing families were not returning home
  - 15% of SEI were reunified after 7 years
- Started with formal standardized assessment (data driven approach)
  - Juvenile Court Assessment Project (JCAP)
  - AOD assessment based on DSM IV & ASAM criteria
- So if substance abuse is a problem – we can understand WHY is it a problem?
- And then we can think about how to solve this problem?

## Family Problems and Service Needs

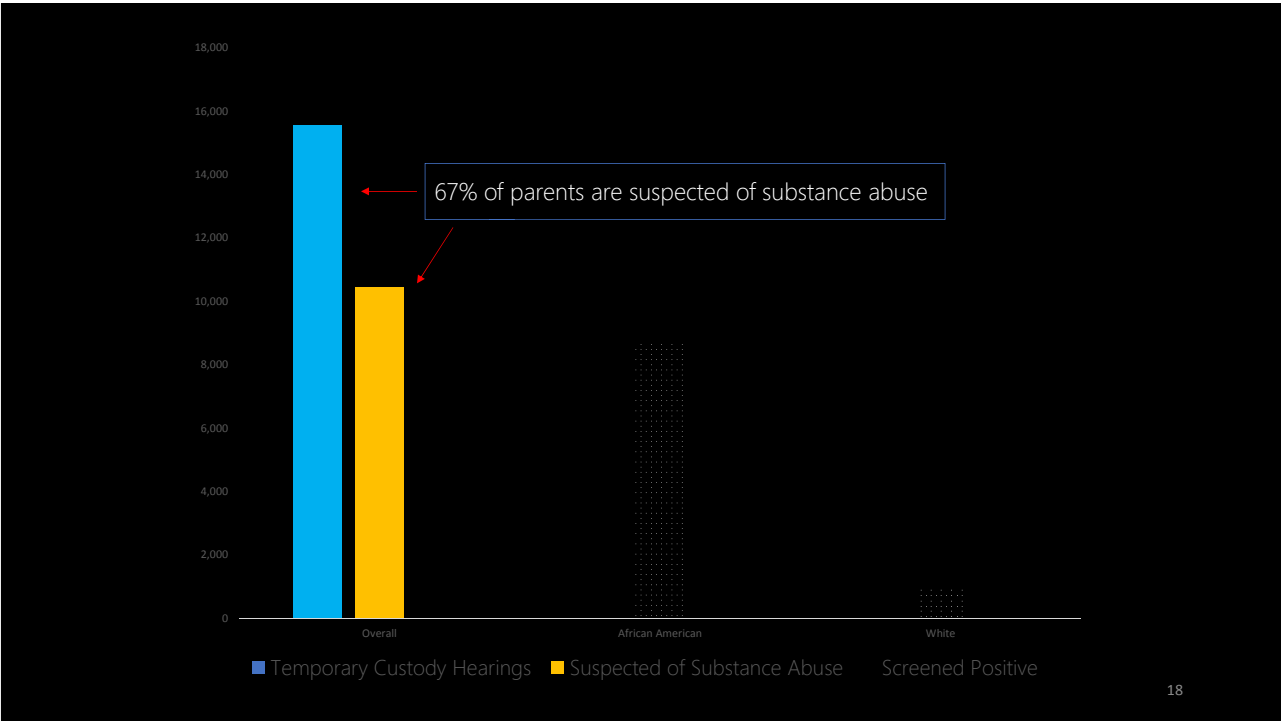
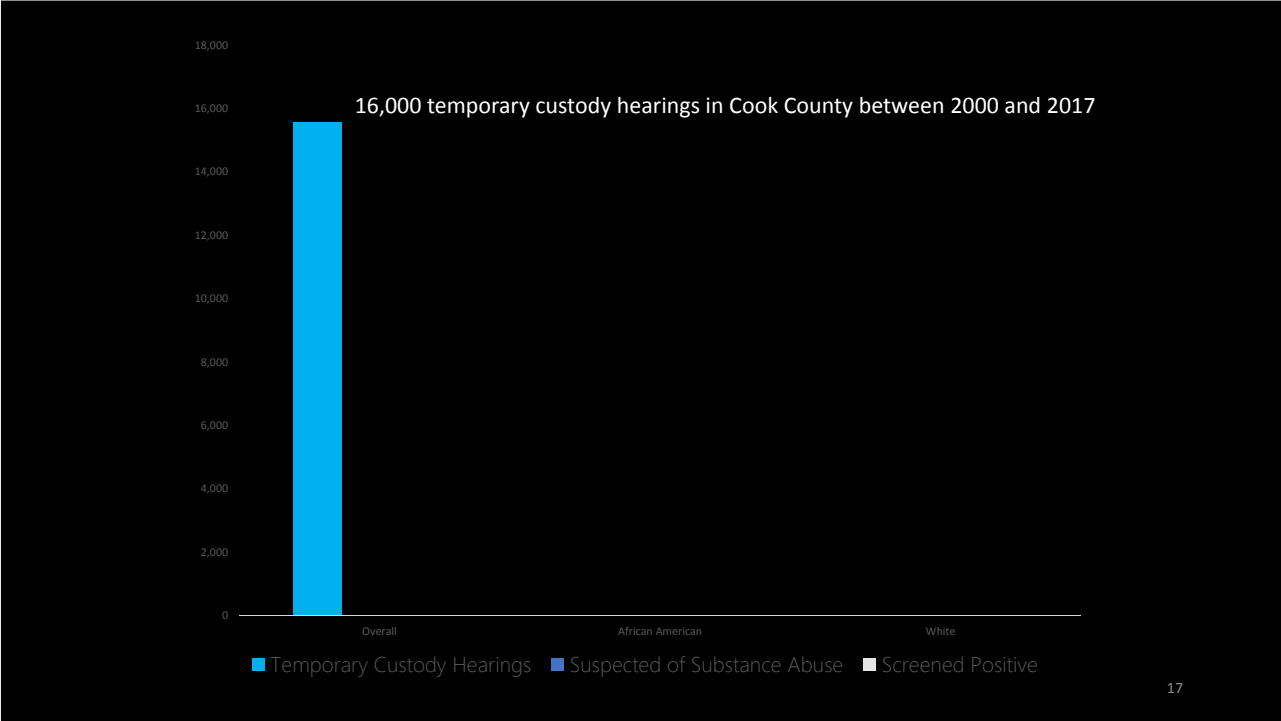


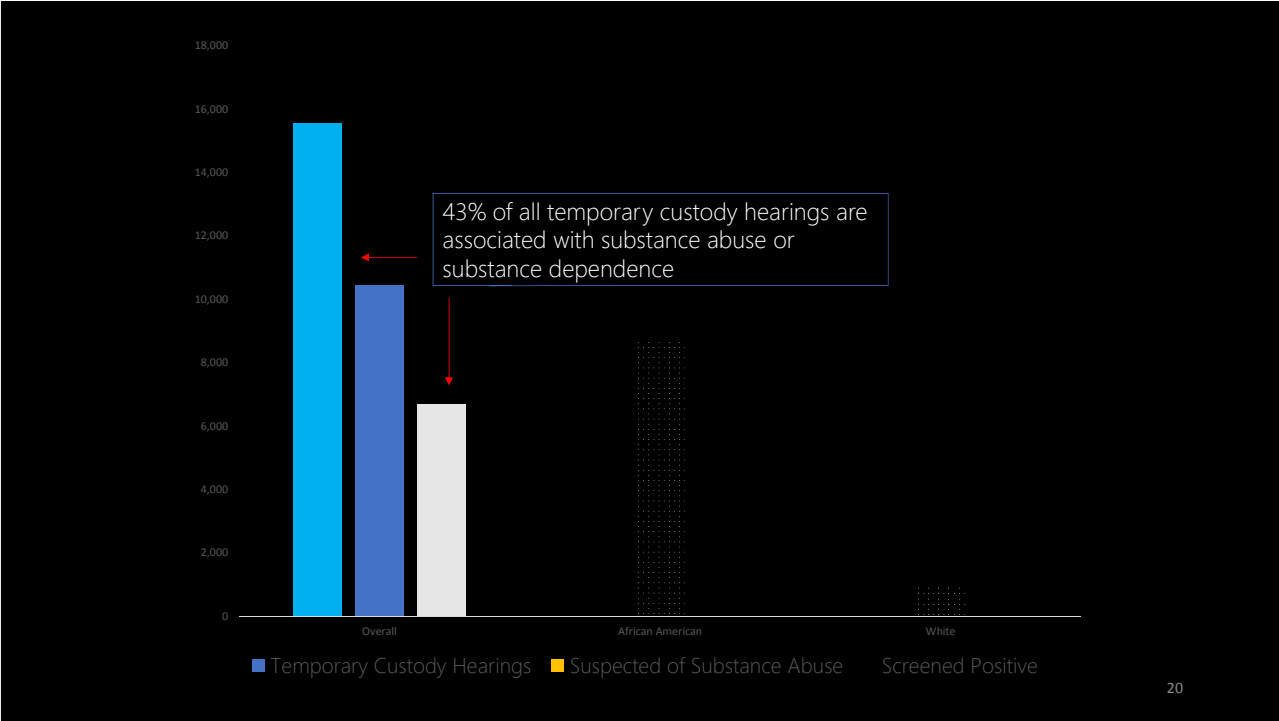
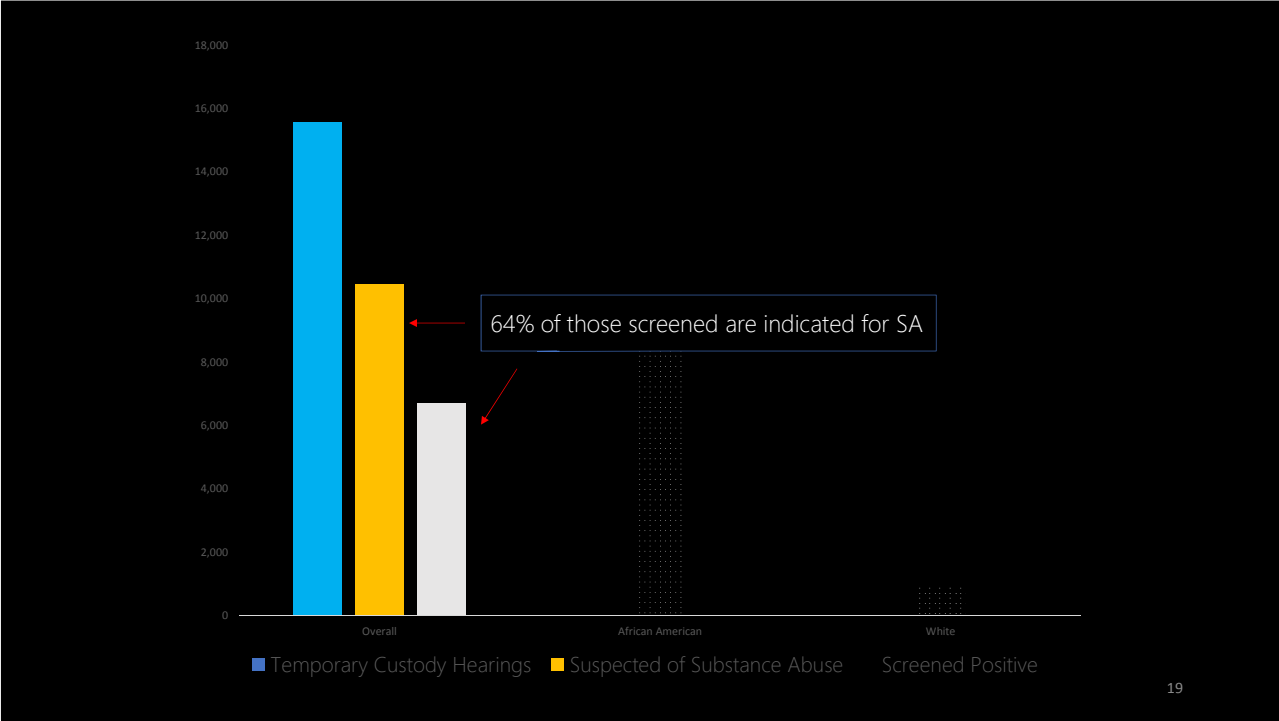
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## Recovery Coach: Roles and Responsibilities

- Caseworkers have too many services to manage – and substance abuse TX is challenging
- Specialty case managers produce better outcomes
- RC's work in collaboration with caseworker; not a replacement
- Provide ongoing assertive outreach and re-engagement efforts
- Assists in removing barriers in engaging, retaining and re-engaging parents
- Coordinate AOD planning efforts
  - arrange staffings, participate in family meetings, testify in court
- Urinalysis testing
- Standardized monthly reporting to worker & the courts
- Locate parents!



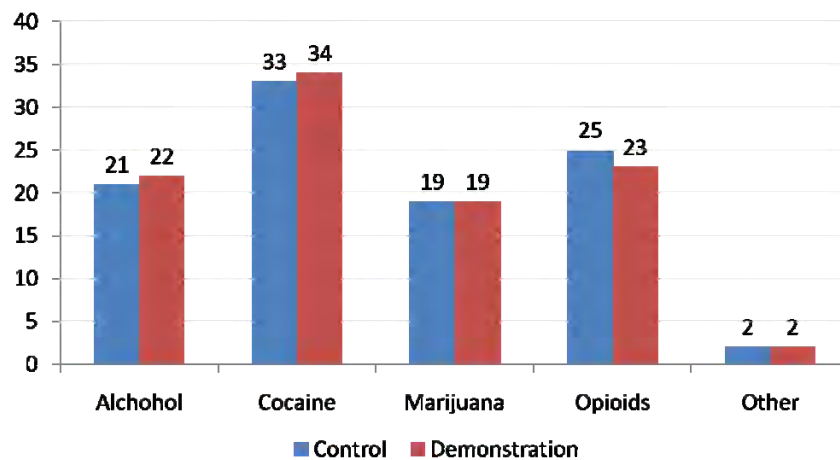




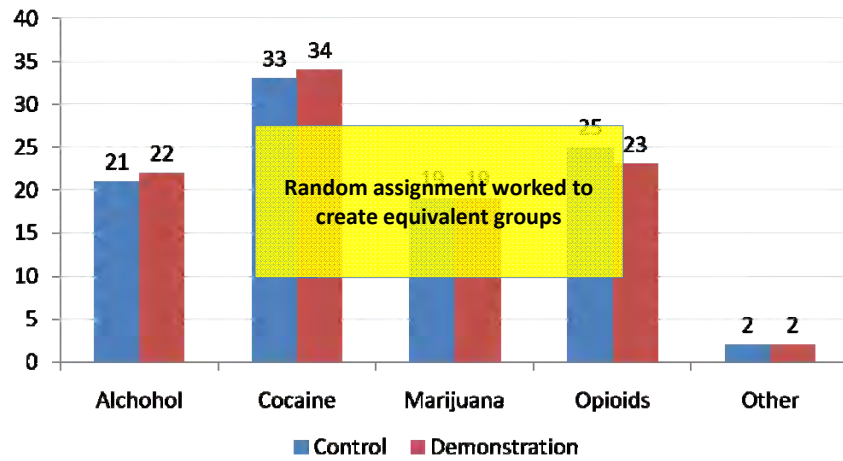
## Employed Random Assignment Caregiver Demographics

Variables	Control (N=1,200)	Demonstration (N=2,450)
Age	32 yrs.	32 yrs.
% African American	83%	80%
% Mother only	58%	57%
% Father only	14%	15%
Employment problems	21	24%
Housing problems	57%	56%
Mental health problems	24%	26%
Prior SEI	43%	46%

## Primary Drug of Choice

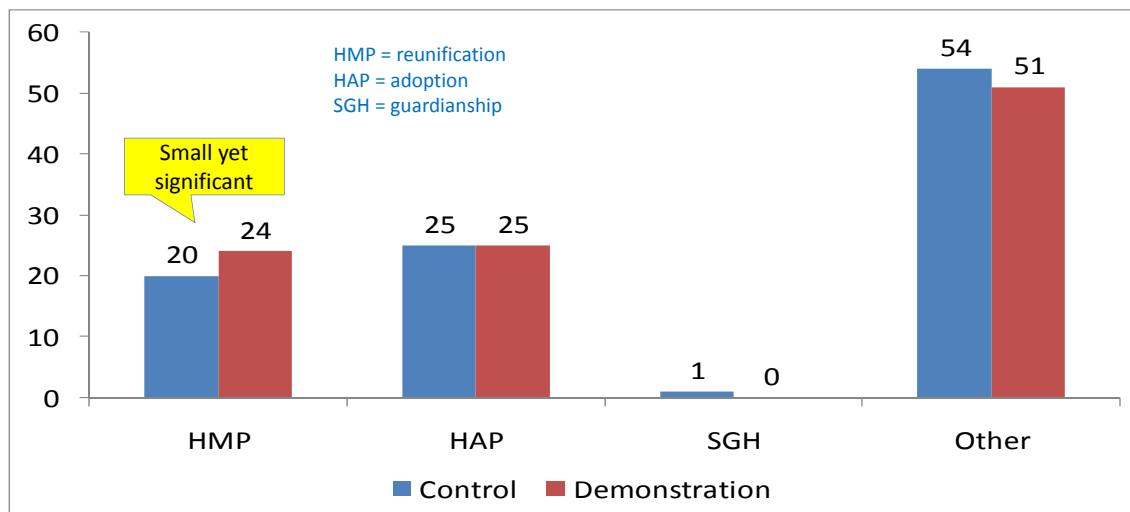


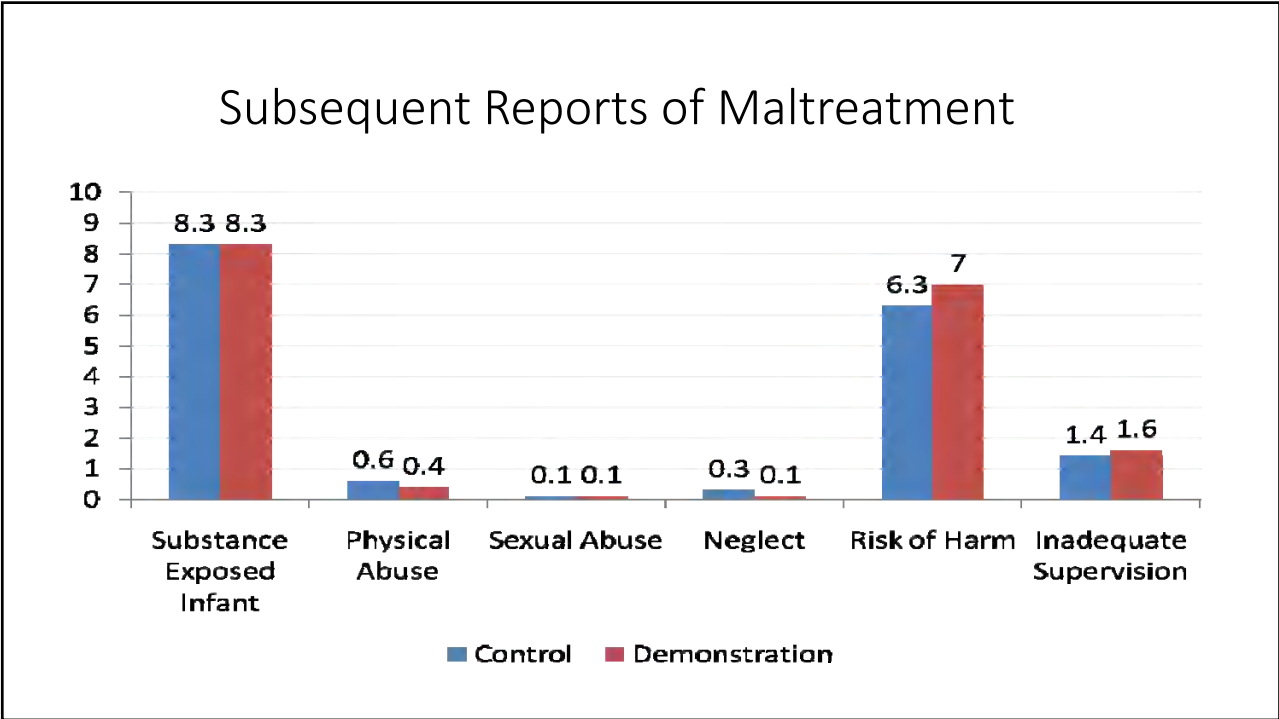
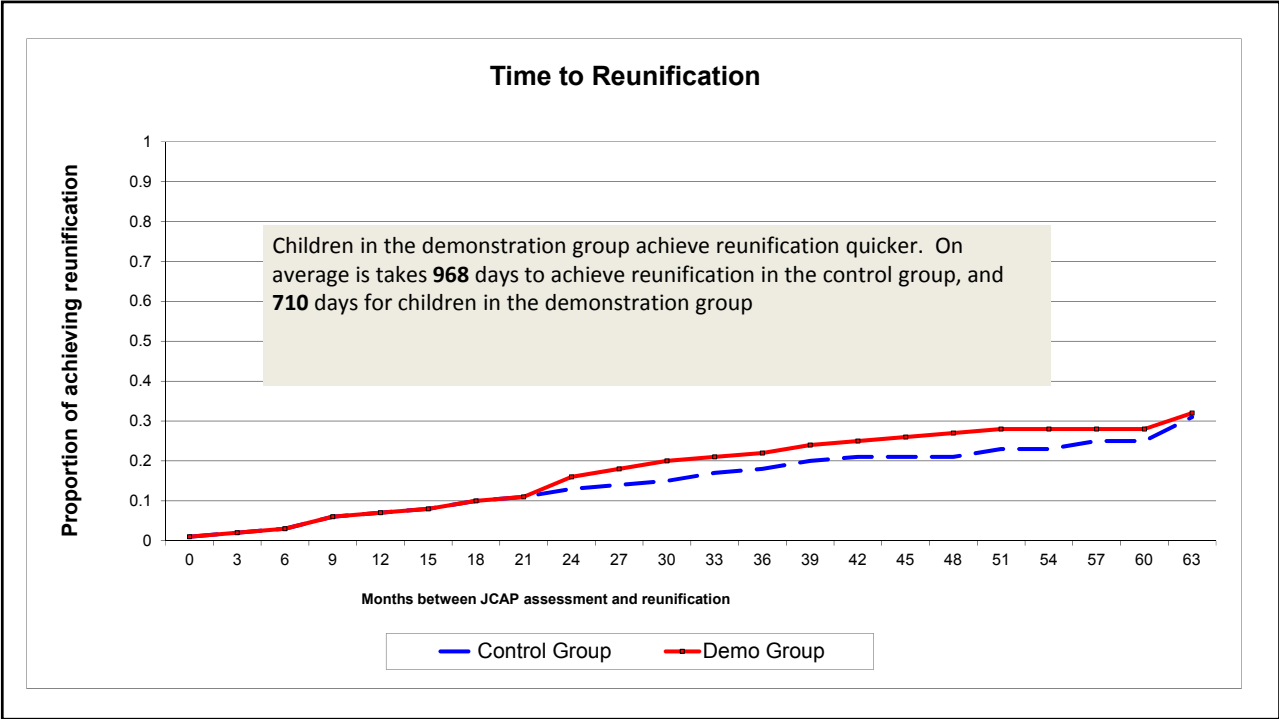
## Primary Drug of Choice



## Living Arrangements

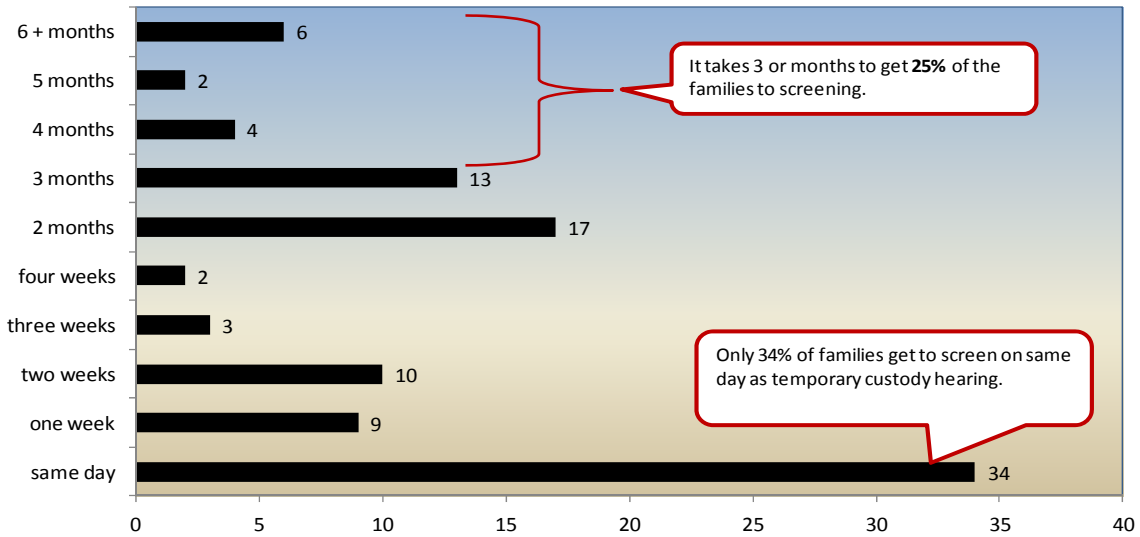
3 years post random assignment





## Timing is an Issue

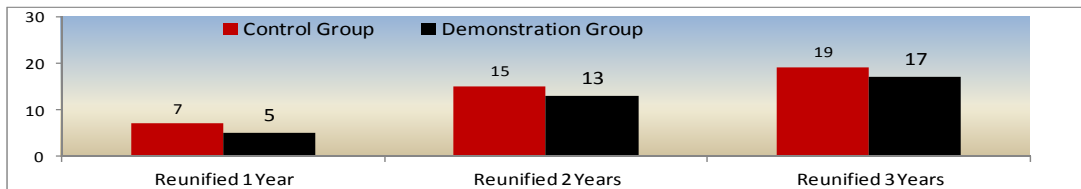
not all families show up to temporary custody hearing



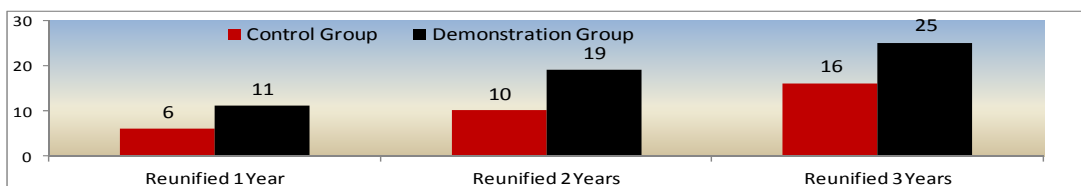
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## OUTCOMES IMPROVE when assessments and referrals happen in a timely manner

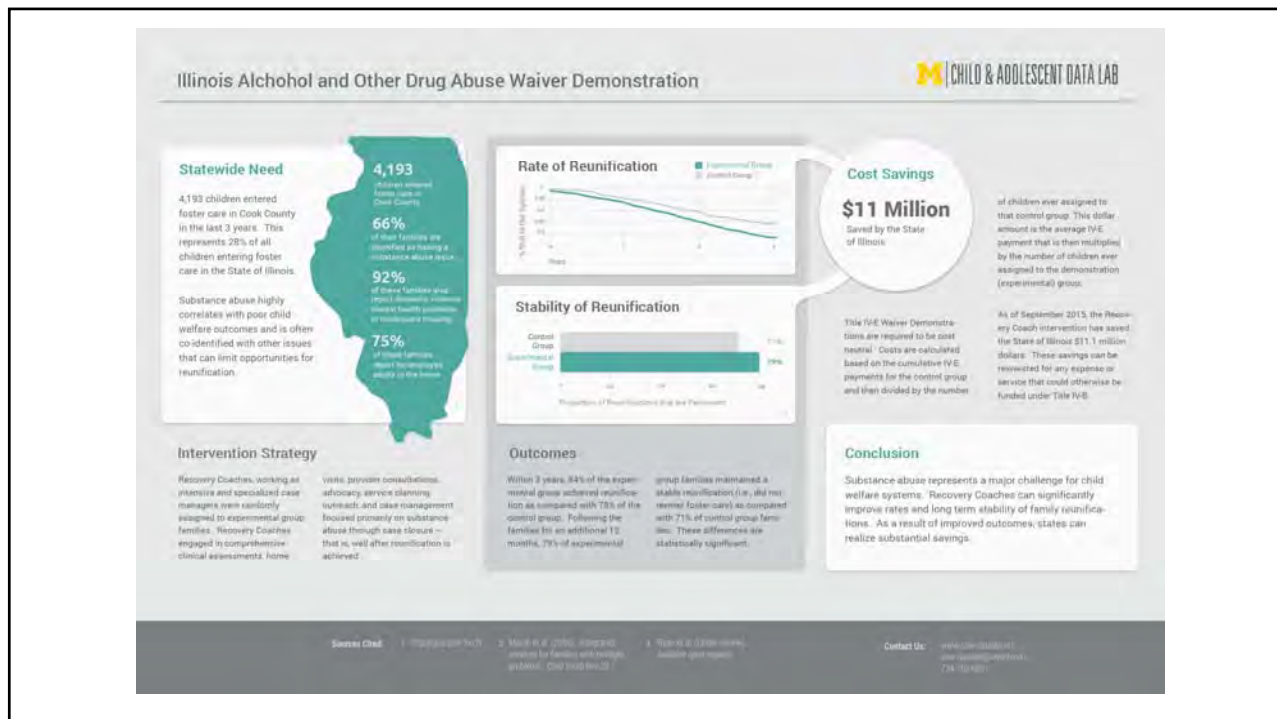
Families assessed 3+ months of temporary custody hearing (*delayed*)



Families assessed within 2 months of temporary custody hearing (*early*)



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## Summary and Implications

- Substance abuse is a long standing problem in child welfare (awareness could explain some increase)
- Child Welfare and Substance Abuse agencies generally don't work together
- Standardized screening indicates that 43% of the parents associated with a foster care placement meet criteria for substance abuse or substance dependence
- Innovative partnerships between child welfare and substance abuse can improve outcomes and generate big savings
- Recovery Coaches improve outcomes - but need to engage families early
- Improving child welfare systems requires the regular consumption of data (information)
- IMPROVE DATA COLLECTION METHODS, no more guessing, no more case reviews
- HOW ARE SUBSTANCE ABUSE RELATED CASES CHALLENGING THE CW SYSTEM IN INDIANA?
- DEVELOP AN APPETITE FOR EVALUATION AND FINDINGS THAT ARE NOT ALWAYS POSITIVE