



Strengthening Families and Fostering Care

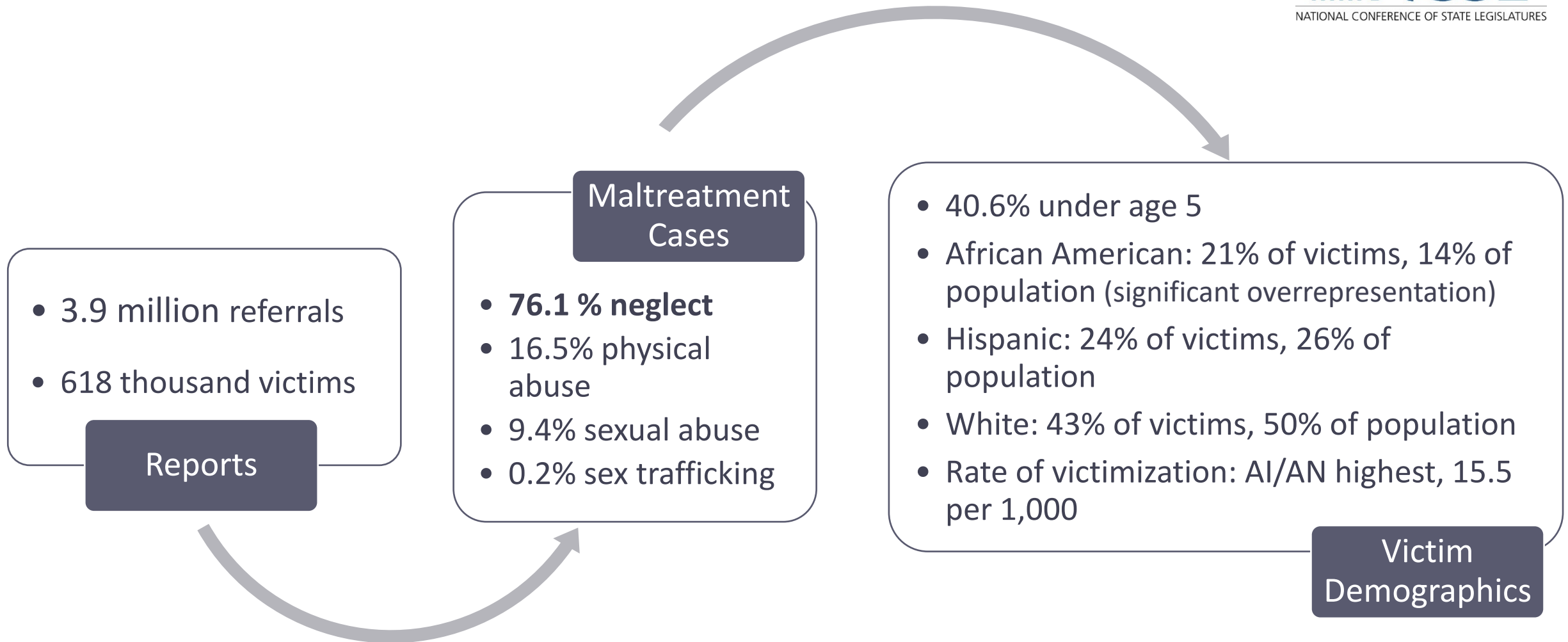
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Child Maltreatment: The Latest National Data



[2020 Child Maltreatment Report](#), published Jan. 19, 2022

Compiled from data reported by the 50 states, District of Columbia and Puerto Rico

Types of Child Maltreatment

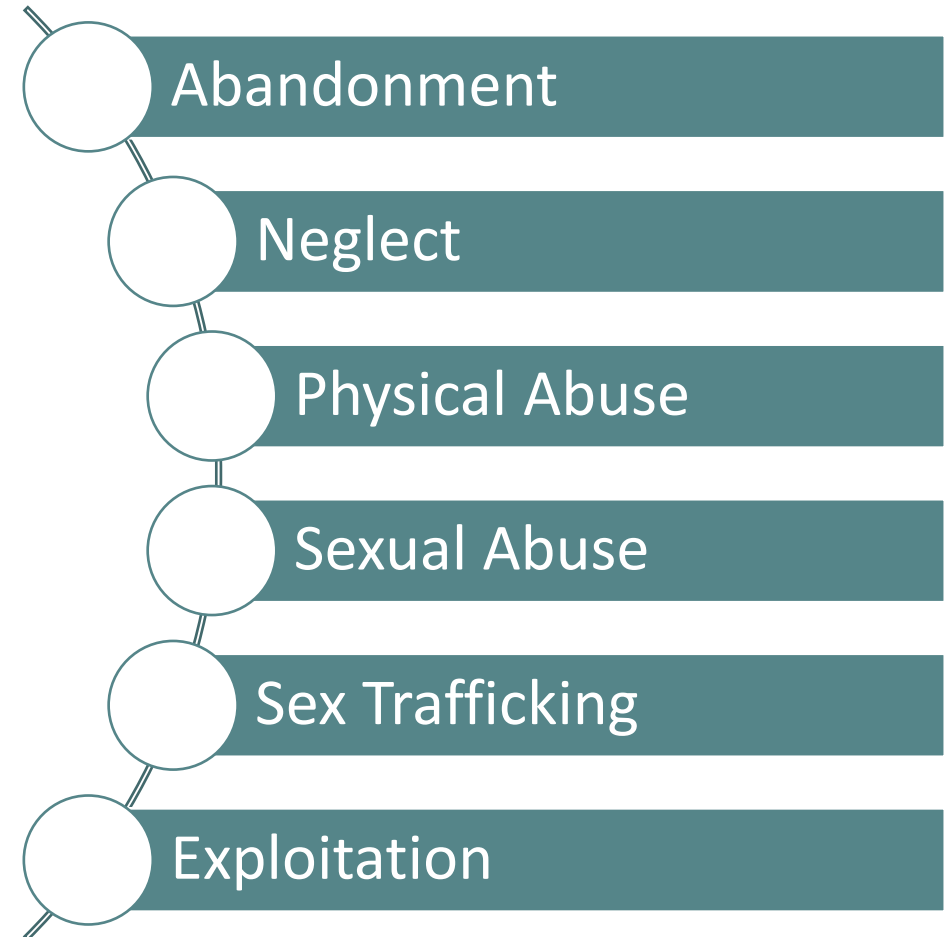
Federal Definitions from CAPTA:

“Any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker, which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation.”

“An act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm.”

However...

- States determine their own definitions in statute.
- Child maltreatment is not a monolith.



State Legislator Survey Responses

Perceived Causes of Child Maltreatment	# of Mentions
Economic Insecurity (referred to as poverty by most respondents)	26
Substance Abuse/Misuse	19
Inadequate Supports for Parent, Children and Families	18
Mental Illness	13
Intergenerational Cycle of Abuse/Violence/Trauma	12
Parenting (negative)	5
Housing Insecurity	4
Lack of Affordable High-quality Child Care	4
Stress	3
Education (undefined)	3
Inadequate Health Care	2
Reporting	2
Family Structure	2
Food Insecurity	1

What Happens when Maltreatment is Confirmed?

National Data on Removal (2020)

- 22% of victims removed
- Reasons for removal:
 - **Neglect (64%)**
 - Parental drug abuse (35%)
 - Caretaker's inability to cope (13%)
 - Physical abuse (13%)
 - Housing (9%)
 - Child behavioral problem (8%)
 - Parental incarceration (6%)
 - Sexual Abuse (4%)

Child Welfare Systems

Impact of removal on children and parents

Many types of placements:

- Foster care, kinship care
- Therapeutic foster care, congregate care, Qualified Residential Treatment Programs
- Emergency, respite

Pathways to Permanency

- Reunification
- Parental rights terminated & adoption

Preventing Child Maltreatment

Primary

- Universally available interventions
- Example policies:
 - Public awareness
 - Family strengthening programs
 - Public education on child development

Secondary

- Interventions available to those with higher risk
- Example policies:
 - Targeted economic supports
 - Family resource centers
 - Home visiting programs

Tertiary

- Interventions to prevent further maltreatment when it has already occurred
- Example policies:
 - Family preservation services
 - Behavioral health services



Prevention Continuum

State Legislator Survey Responses

Child Welfare Spending Areas	Avg. Current Prioritization	Avg. Desired Spending
Primary prevention	4 th	32% of budget
Secondary prevention	3 rd	25% of budget
Tertiary prevention	1 st	24% of budget
Foster Care, Kinship Care and Adoption	2 nd	20% of budget



Children do better when the adults in their lives do better.

NCSL Strengthening Families & Fostering Care Session

Children's Bureau

JUNE 28, 2022, 3:30 - 4:30PM PST



Agenda



- ❖ **Children's Bureau (CB)**
 - ❖ What is CB?
 - ❖ CB Vision & Goals
- ❖ **Q & A**



The Children's Bureau

- ❖ **The Children's Bureau (CB) is the oldest federal agency for children. It currently administers the Federal child welfare programs.**
- ❖ **The CB partners with states, territories, tribes and local agencies to improve the overall health and well-being of our nation's children and families. With an annual budget of almost \$10 billion, CB administers entitlement, formula and discretionary grants and provides support and guidance to programs that focus on:**
 - ❖ **Strengthening families and preventing child abuse and neglect**
 - ❖ **Protecting children when abuse or neglect has occurred**
 - ❖ **Ensuring that every child and youth has a permanent family connection**



The Children's Bureau

The CB focuses on improving outcomes for children and families in the following key areas:

- ❖ **Safety—Preventing and responding to maltreatment of children**
- ❖ **Permanency—Stabilizing children's living situations and preserving family relationships and connections**
- ❖ **Well-Being—Enhancing families' capacity to meet their children's physical, mental health and educational needs**



Children's Bureau Vision



A loving approach to helping children obtain what they need to live with dignity by comprehensively supporting families through a collaborative network of carefully selected resources and effective public and private investments, grounded in community and culture, and a workforce fully devoted to serving with intentional equity.



Children's Bureau priority goals:

Prevent Children from Coming into Foster Care

Support For Kinship Caregivers

Ensure Youth have Strengthened Relationships, Holistic Supports, and
Opportunities
when they leave care

Invest in the Child Welfare Workforce



1

Prevent Children from Coming into Foster Care

Call upon jurisdictions to examine and amend their definitions of neglect; particularly definitions that conflate poverty with neglect

Expand funding for civil legal representation for families before foster care becomes necessary, and to facilitate reunification

Strengthen interagency partnerships, coordination, and collaboration

FFPSA -
Utilizes the most expansive definition of candidacy



Support for Kinship Caregivers

Promote equitable
licensing standards for
kinship caregivers



Increase the number of
kinship families by
removing inequitable
barriers to licensing and
require that any approved
IV-E eligible kinship home
receive federal support

Ensure Youth Leave Care with Strengthened Relationships, Holistic Supports, and Opportunities

3



Provide youth in foster care with safe, healthy, and normative experiences

Ensure youth have a successful transition into adulthood

Empower youth to chart their life's course after foster care



Invest in the Child Welfare Workforce

Create pathways for jurisdictions to recruit, retain, and nurture a diverse and well-equipped child welfare workforce

Partner with child welfare agencies to devise innovative strategies to support the child welfare workforce

Encourage and expand educational and training opportunities to recruit and retain child welfare professionals

Questions

