



SAFE CHILDREN, STABLE FAMILIES, SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES

Substance Abuse Training Partnership

Child Welfare System Spotlight

August 28, 2015





Background

- Opiates on the rise in every county
- PCSAs struggling with increased cases, children being removed, not returning home, and lack of available & timely treatment options for parents
- In early 2014, the Child Welfare Opiate Engagement Project was formed by Governor's Cabinet Opiate Action Team (GCOAT), OhioMHAS, and PCSAO





Intent

- Create a shared understanding among stakeholders about the impact of opiate addiction on Ohio's child welfare system.
- Develop a planning process for community systems to effectively intervene with opiate-addicted parents to ensure the safety and wellbeing of their children.
- "Opiate" to include both illicit opiate drugs (i.e. heroin) and prescription opioids.





Goal

To identify best practice standards that will use the accountability of family dependency courts, the oversight of child welfare agencies and local treatment assets to:

- improve the treatment outcomes for opiate-addicted parents, and**
- decrease the number of children who are removed from parental custody.**





Final Product

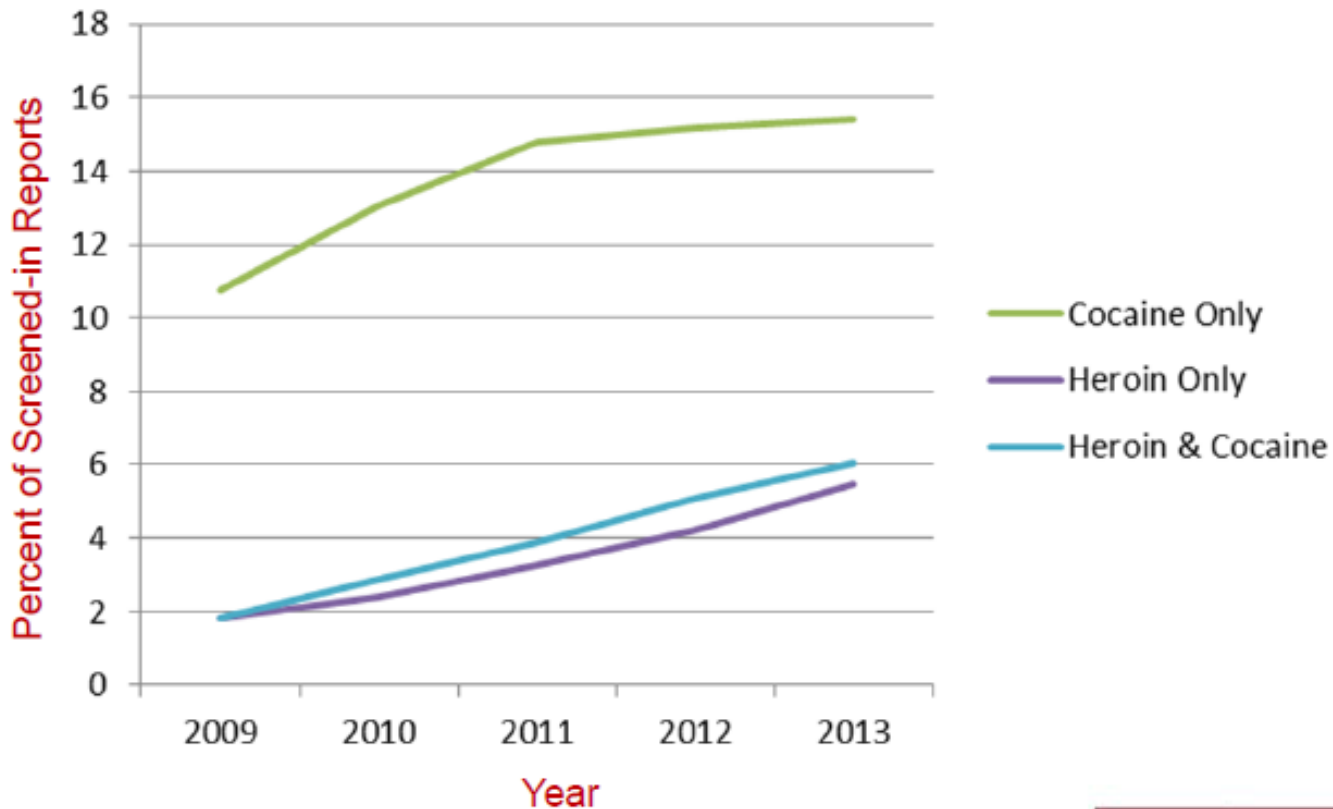
- **A whitepaper with recommendations addressing the following issues:**
 - The nature of opiate addiction,
 - The scope of opiate addiction in the child welfare system,
 - The financial and clinical impact of opiate addiction on Ohio children and families,
 - Current and best practices for local coordination of CPS, Treatment, Judicial and others related to these cases.





Findings

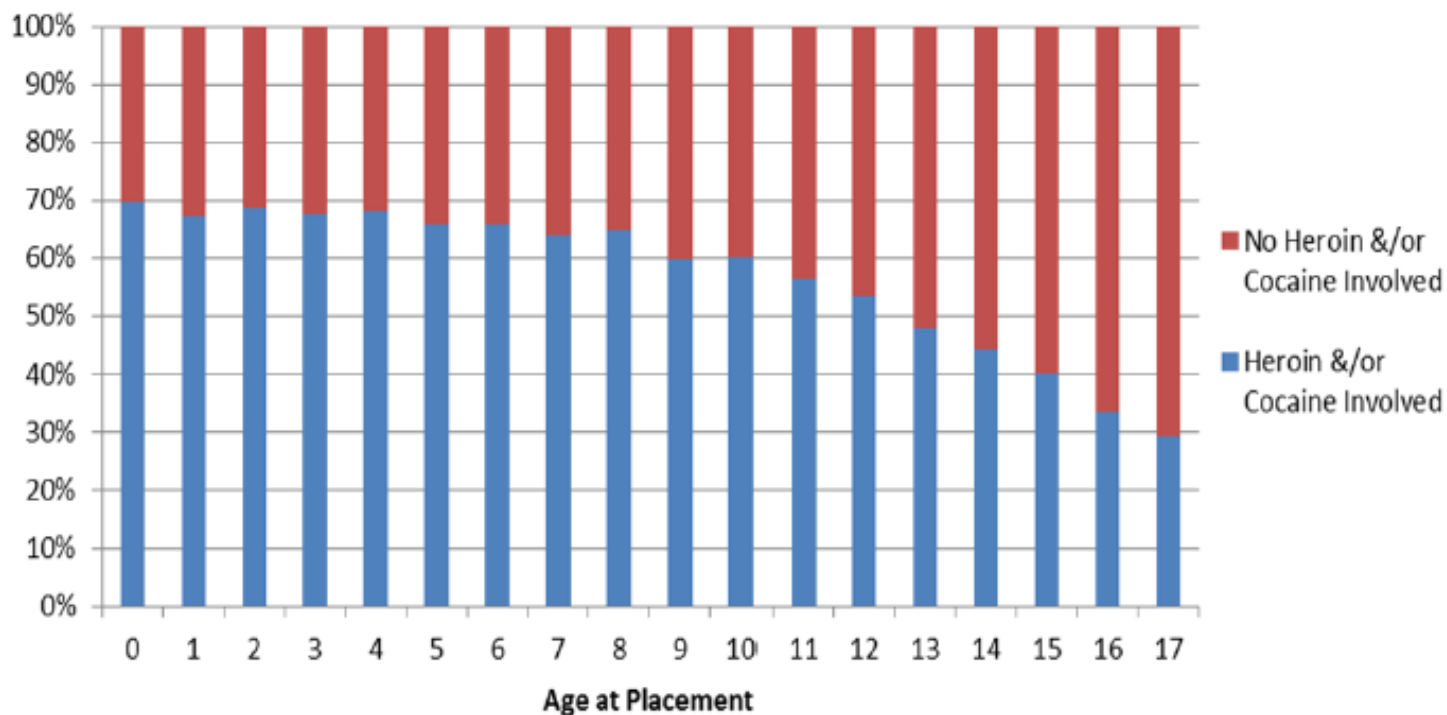
Percent of Cocaine & Heroin Reports





Findings

How Old are the Children at Placement?



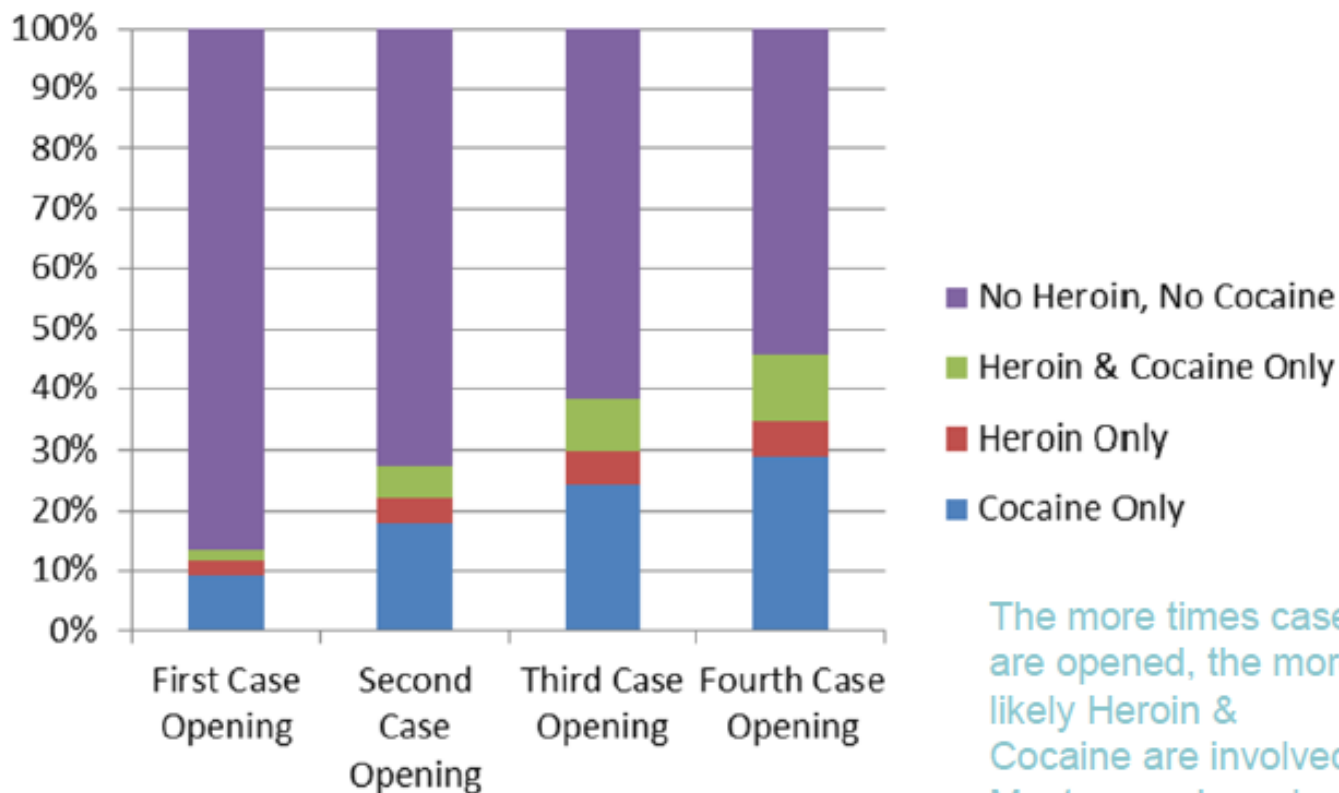
Of the children under 1 year of age who are placed, 70% have parents using Heroin &/or Cocaine.





Findings

Case Type by Number of Reports



The more times cases are opened, the more likely Heroin & Cocaine are involved. Most cases have less than 3 openings.

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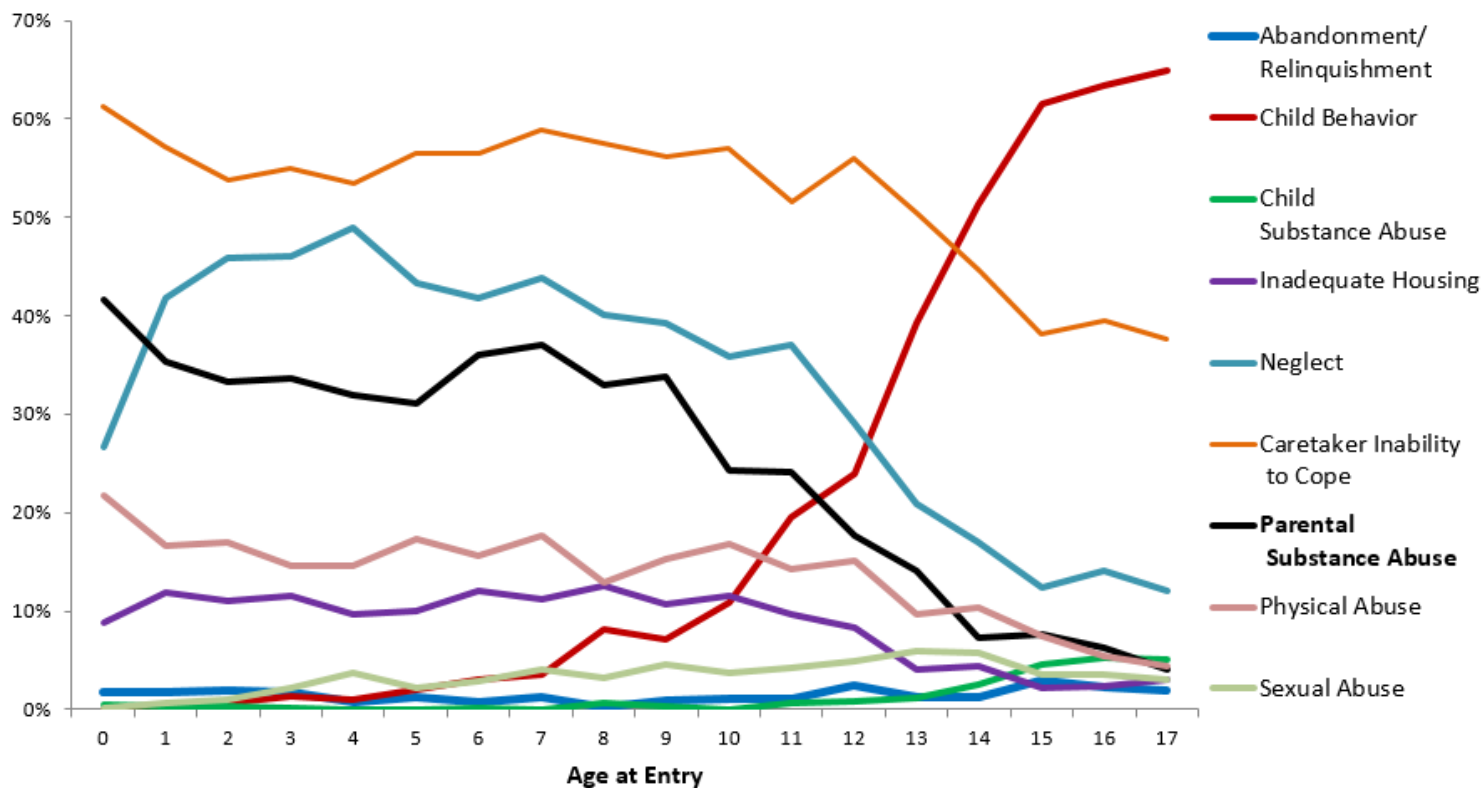




Findings

Ohio Statewide Removal Reasons FY13

Caretaker inability to cope and neglect are the overriding reasons younger children are removed from their homes. Child behavior issues increase at age 13. Note: a child may have more than one removal reason and not all jurisdictions use all reasons.





Human & Fiscal Cost Findings

- Placement - \$45M/year to Ohio child protection system *(assuming children are in foster & kinship care vs. congregate care)*
- Missed Birthdays – 60% of foster children under five, spend at least one birthday in temporary care!
- Trauma – multiple adverse childhood experiences, likely social/emotional/cognitive issues; possible high risk behaviors and later serious health issues.





Child Protection Timelines

- The Adoption and Safe Families Act, 1997 – time limited reunification services – permanency within 15 / 22 months
- Ohio's ASFA, HB 484 – decisions w/in 12 months, two optional 6 month extensions (24 months)
- Treatment need URGENT & may take longer...





Recommendations – Sept 2014

- SAFERR Model of Screening, Collaboration (SAMHSA)
- Expansion of Family Dependency Tx. Courts
- Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) with Recovery Services
- Time Limited Prioritized Treatment Access (HB 484)
- Intensive Child Welfare Case Management (such as START partnering parents as mentor with caseworker and families)





And Today – One Year Later

- Still impacting the child protection system with some counties claiming it has increased caseloads by 300-400%
- Still struggling with timelines between child protection and substance abuse recovery
- Still struggling with access to available treatment options
- Counties are committed to working together on recommendations!





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Thank you!

Angela Sausser
Executive Director
(614) 224-5802
angela@pcsao.org

