

Supplemental Materials

National Family Treatment Court Best Practice Standards (FTC BPS)

The eight Family Treatment Court Best Practice Standards provide clear practice mandates to improve outcomes for children, parents, and families. Each standard includes clearly written mandates for FTCs which are designed to be directive and measurable (Provisions).

https://www.cffutures.org/files/OJJDP/FDCTTA/FTC_Standards.pdf

Data Capacity: What Is It and Does Our Family Treatment Court Have It?

This brief describes the 10 building blocks of data capacity, discusses how FTC teams can assess their cross-systems data capacity, and provides selected tips to help teams with concrete next steps to strengthen their data capacity.

https://www.cffutures.org/files/pfr/pfr2_webpage_data/PFR2_Data_Capacity_Building_Resource.pdf

Data-Driven Decision Making for Families Affected by Substance Use Disorder

A recording of the webinar featuring Dr. Jody Brook who discusses the vital role of data to improve programs for families affected by substance use disorders (SUDs) and child maltreatment.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-NuyiN_2Io

Beyond Counting: Strategies to Collect and (Actually) Use Your FTC Data

A Family Treatment Court Practice Academy session that provides information on strategies for collecting and using data. Links to additional resources including an animated video about data, a data exploration tool, and *Take Action!* Card.

<https://www.cffutures.org/ftc-practice-academy/beyond-counting/>

National Center on Child Abuse and Child Welfare website

NCSACW is a national resource center providing information, expert consultation, training and technical assistance to child welfare, dependency court and substance use treatment professionals to improve the safety, permanency, well-being and recovery outcomes for children, parents and families. The website offers a variety of resources, materials and learning opportunities for professionals.

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

Family Drug Courts Training and Technical Assistance Program

The National FTC Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Program is staffed by experts with specialized knowledge on improving collaborative practice and policy among the substance abuse, child welfare, Tribal and family judicial systems. The website offers a variety of resources, materials and learning opportunities for FTC professionals.

<https://www.cffutures.org/national-fdc-tta-program/>

Telling Your
Family Treatment
Court's "Story":
Tips for Team
Members

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CFF Mission

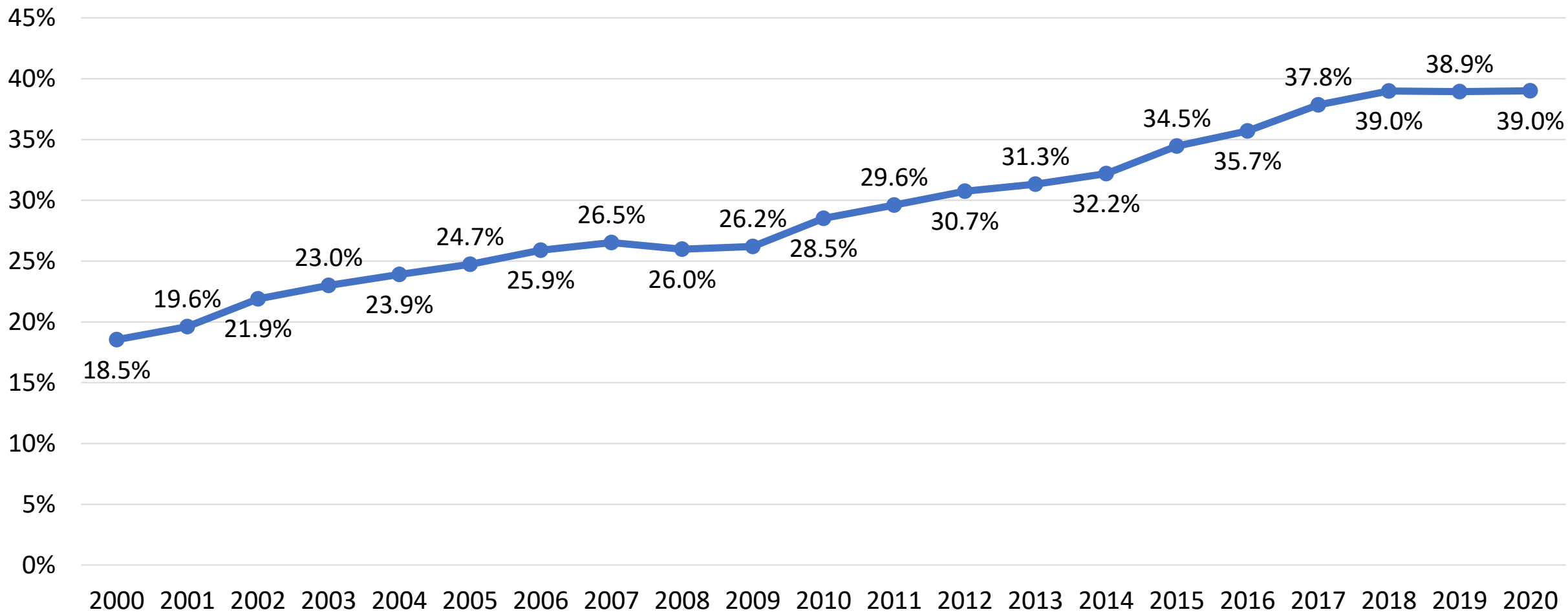
Children and Family Futures strives to prevent child abuse and neglect while improving safety, permanency, well-being and recovery outcomes with equity for all children, parents and families affected by trauma, substance use and mental health disorders.

Learning Objectives

- Explore what essential data elements are needed to tell your FTC's story and some tips for how to collect it
- Explore how continuous quality improvement (CQI), performance measurement, and evaluation can help tell your FTC's story
- Explore how your FTC can use data to examine disproportionality and disparity



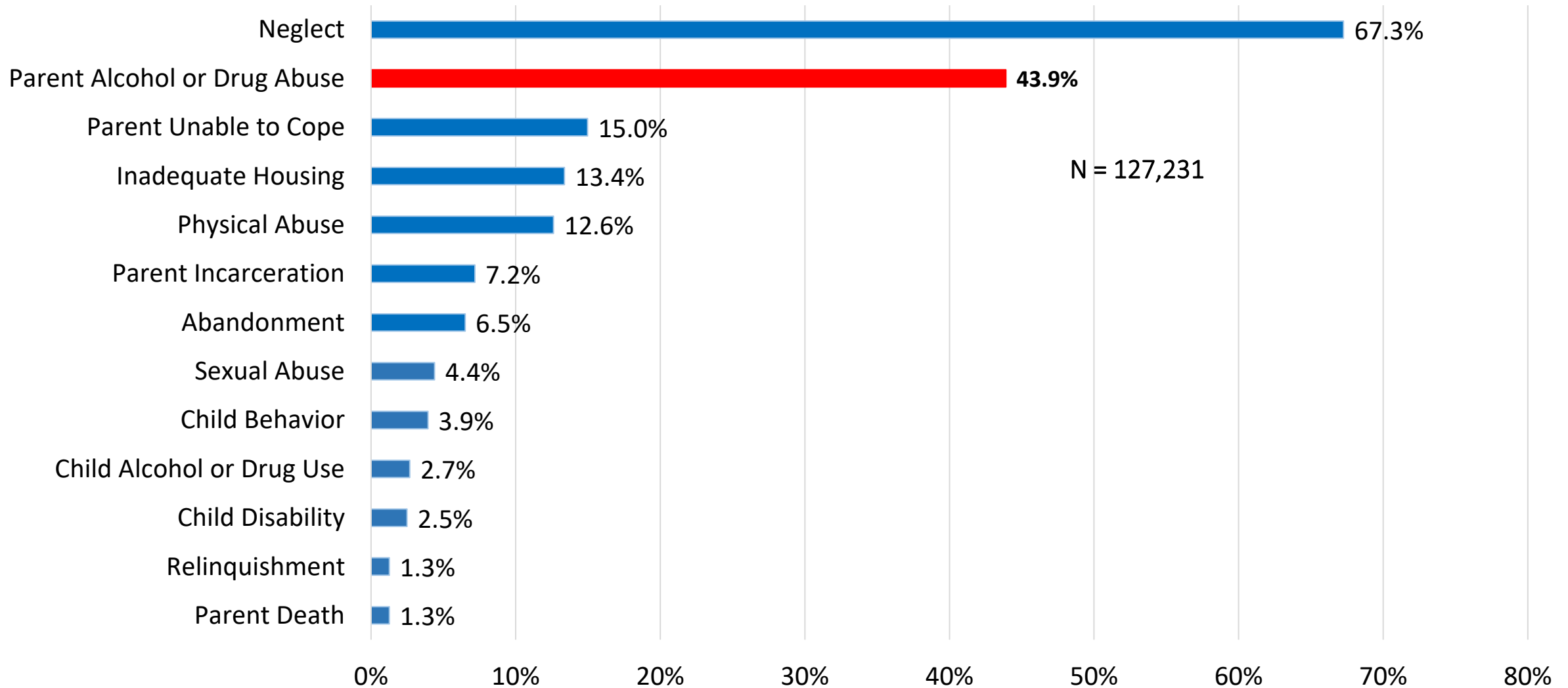
Prevalence of Parental Alcohol or Drug Abuse as an Identified Condition of Removal in the United States, 2000 to 2020



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

Source: AFCARS Data, 2000-2020

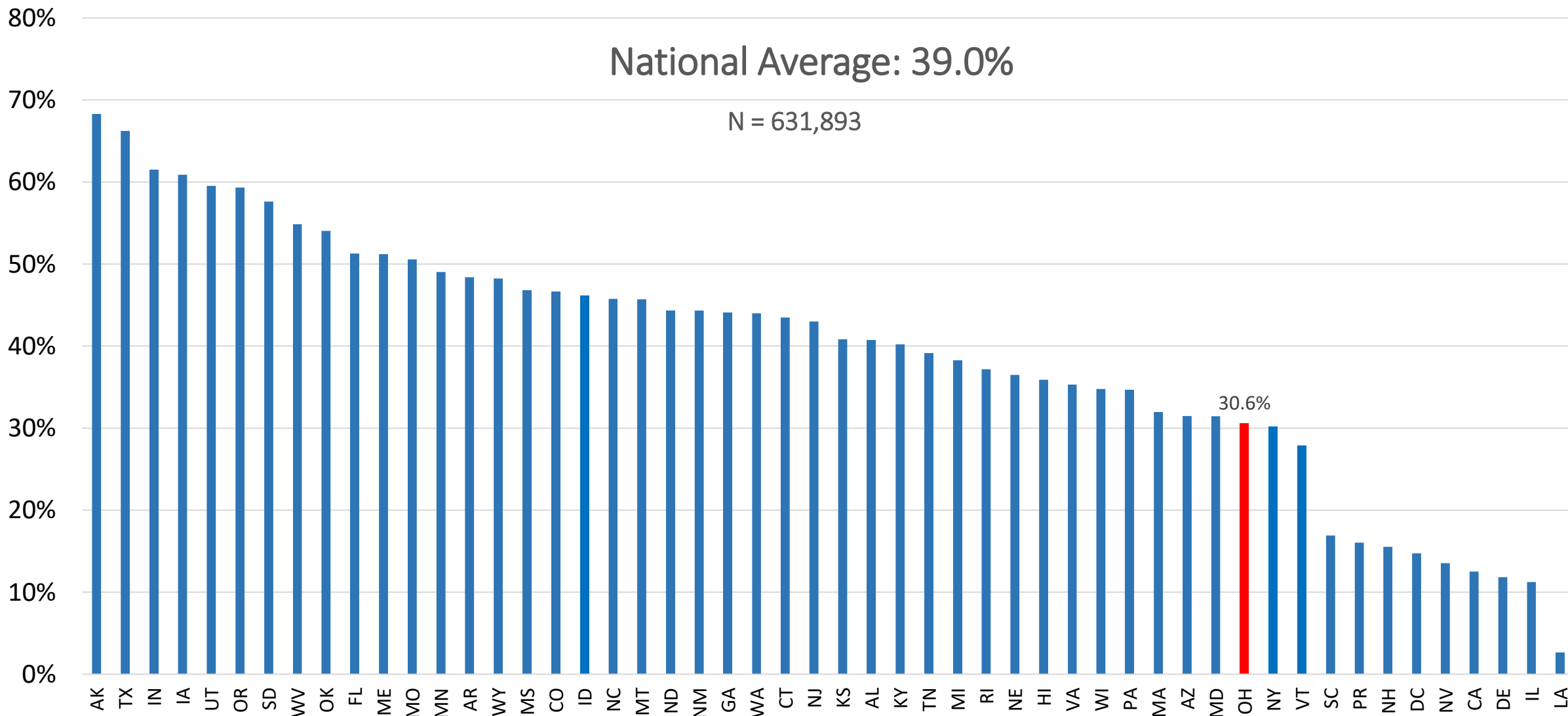
Percent of Children with Terminated Parental Rights by Identified Condition of Removal in the United States, 2020



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

Source: AFCARS Data, 2020 v1

Parental Alcohol or Drug Abuse as an Identified Condition of Removal by State, 2020



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

Source: AFCARS Data, 2020 v1

WHY USE DATA?



**Improve
Practice**



**Demonstrate
Effectiveness**



**Secure
Resources**





If you are not collecting data, how do you know:

- If children, parents, family members are benefiting from your program and family functioning is improving compared to the larger system?
- If specific groups (e.g., race, age, or gender) of families don't have access or have worse outcomes than others?
- If your program is worth sustaining given the increased resources?

Family Treatment Court Best Practice Standards

Standard 8: Monitoring and Evaluation

Provisions

A

Maintain Data
Electronically

B

Engage in
Process of
Continuous
Quality
Improvement

C

Evaluate
Adherence to
Best Practices

D

Use Rigorous
Evaluation
Methods

Maintain Data Electronically

Standard 8, Provision A

The FTC uses an **electronic database** to store information about the services provided to children, parents, and family members and to monitor participants' performance in the FTC. The FTC team **records information** about participant demographic characteristics; dependency court actions and processes; child welfare indicators; substance use disorder (SUD) and mental health treatment; other parent or caregiver, child, family, and parenting needs and services; recovery and reunification support; criminal justice involvement; and children, parent, and family well-being. To the extent possible, **data related to the long-term outcomes** of child and family well-being following participation in the FTC are also collected.

Engage in a Process of Continuous Quality Improvement

Standard 8, Provision B

The FTC promotes practices and supports an environment in which **all partners collaborate** to continuously **improve processes and outcomes**. Data entry occurs within 48 hours of each activity or event and is routinely monitored for quality assurance. Data summaries give the FTC operational team **real-time information** on participant, process, and outcome measures from which the FTC can engage in **continuous quality improvement**. Data summaries are also **provided to the steering committee and oversight committee** to assist in policy setting and sustainability efforts. The FTC engages in an **annual evaluation** of its policies, procedures, and outcomes and **develops an action plan** to address challenges, incorporate best practices, and improve outcomes.

Evaluate Adherence to Best Practices

Standard 8, Provision C

The FTC **adheres to best practice standards** as defined by research on FTCs and in the related areas of child welfare; dependency court; the treatment court model; SUD and mental health treatment; children's developmental service and related health, educational, and social services for children, parents, and family well-being. The FTC uses a **standardized approach to monitor provider outcomes and services** as well as the quality of support programs, including their **fidelity to evidence-based programs and practices**.

Use of Rigorous Evaluation Methods

Standard 8, Provision D

The FTC ensures evaluations are conducted **using the most rigorous methodology available** that is both feasible and appropriate to address the pertinent evaluation questions. Whenever feasible, comparison groups are used to increase the credibility of the evaluation results and interpretation of findings.

One of the most important issues to consider when choosing to engage in an evaluation is whether the report will **provide recommendations that the FTC can use** to enhance its adherence to best practices and improve its outcomes. As a community-based collaborative intervention, the FTC **involves partner agencies** in the formation of research questions and methods to access data.

5 Foundational Steps

Define

Define success (e.g., shared outcomes or performance measures)

Decide

Decide on methods and level of investment

Develop

Develop data infrastructure and governance

Create

Create a Continuous Feedback Loop

Develop

Develop Data-Driven Messaging

Important Considerations

- ▶ Institutionalizing monitoring and evaluation
- ▶ Engaging individuals with lived experience

Foundational Step 1

▶ Define Success

- ▶ Consensus among all partners across all levels of governance
- ▶ Outcomes and performance measures that align with FTC mission and vision
- ▶ Identify family-focused performance measures
- ▶ Measure equitable program access and outcomes

Short Term/Process Outputs - What is Success?

Scale

Of all families in child welfare with parental substance use, the percentage that entered the FTC

Engagement in FTC

Of eligible families, the percentage who enter the FTC

Timely Access to FTC

- Average number of days from child welfare case open to FTC entry
- Average number of days from FTC referral to FTC entry

Retention and Discharge

- Average number of days in FTC for participants
- Percentage of participants discharged successfully

Long Term Outcomes - What is Success?

E and 5 Rs

Equitable Outcomes in:	All outcomes should be disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, and other key demographic information
Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Parents access treatment more quickly•stay in treatment longer•decrease substance use
Remain at Home	More children remain at home throughout program participation
Reunification	Children stay fewer days in foster care and reunify within 12 months at a higher rate
Repeat Maltreatment	Fewer children experience subsequent maltreatment
Re-entry	Fewer children re-enter foster case after reunification

Foundational Step 2

- ▶ **Decide on Methods and Level of Investment**
 - ▶ Purpose of monitoring and evaluation activities
 - ▶ Buy-in from leadership/executive oversight group
 - ▶ Shift in resources
 - ▶ Formal agreements

Foundational Step 3

- ▶ Develop Data Infrastructure and Governance
 - ▶ Availability and access
 - ▶ Location
 - ▶ Reliability
 - ▶ Disaggregate data
 - ▶ Data collection

Communicate Your FTC's Story

Collect	essential data elements
Use	your data
Examine	disproportionality and disparity

Collect Essential Data Elements

- ▶ What type of information does the collaborative team need?
 - ▶ Basic FTC participant information
 - ▶ Additional data elements
- ▶ Tips for Team Members on collecting data elements

Using Your Data

- ▶ Implement a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Process
- ▶ Engage in Performance Measurement/Performance Monitoring
- ▶ Conduct an evaluation of your FTC

Evaluation

Answers specific questions about process and effectiveness

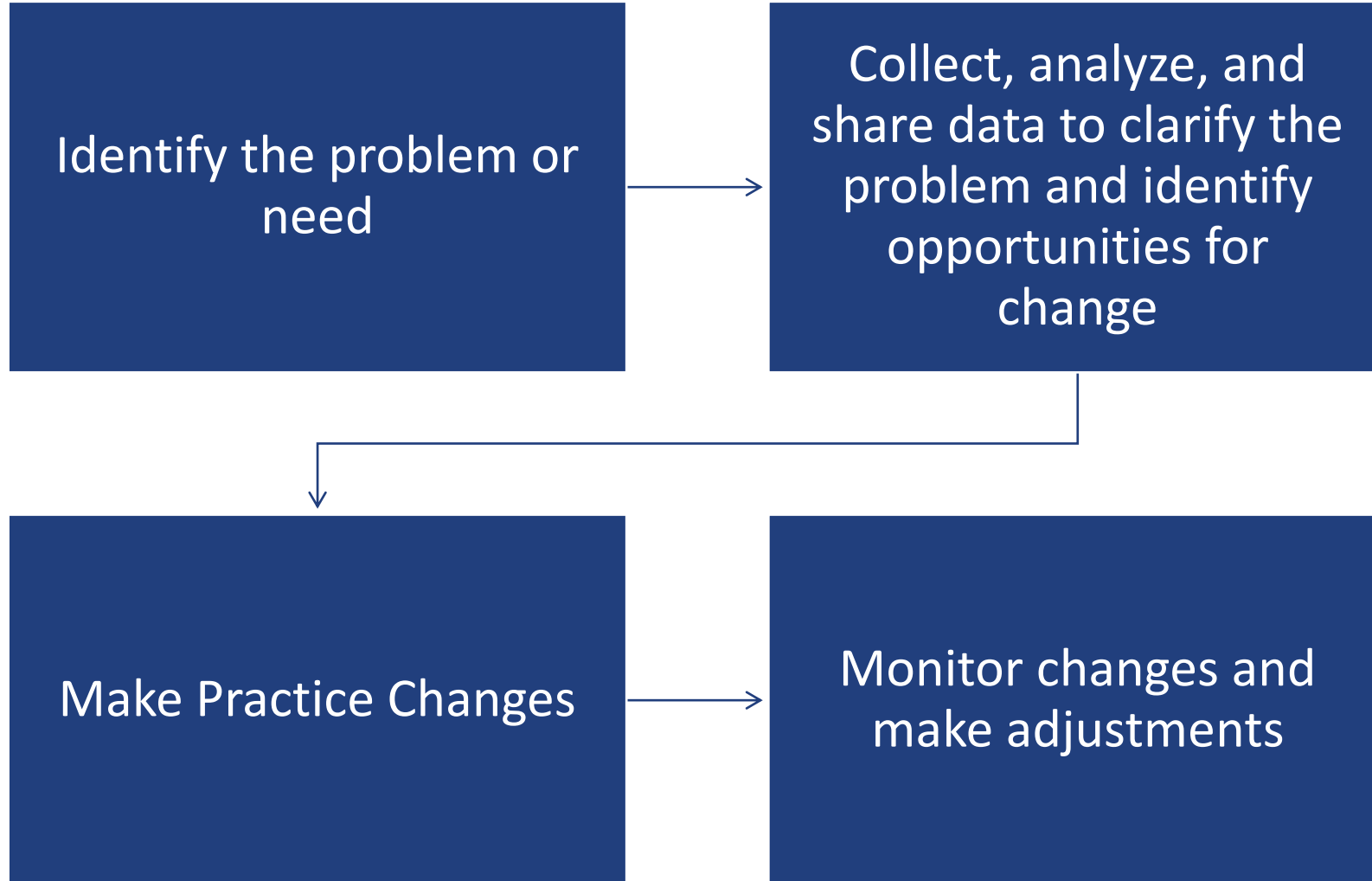
Performance Measurement

Determines if you are meeting performance standards or benchmarks

Data-Driven Management

A cyclical process of identifying strengths, needs, or concerns, making program adjustments, and testing changes over time

DATA-DRIVEN MANAGEMENT AND CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT



Foundational Step 4

- ▶ Create a Continuous Feedback Loop
 - ▶ Routine sharing and discussion
 - ▶ Informing leadership, decision-making, systems improvement, sustainability
 - ▶ Baseline data to measure progress
 - ▶ Disaggregated data



Data Dashboard

The FTC selects a set of critical data indicators that help the operational team and steering committee members monitor critical FTC operations such as referrals, admissions, completions, and terminations.*

- **Determine your audience**
- **Select Measures** - What outcomes are the most important? What needles are you trying move?
- **Tell a Story** – Make sure visualizations are clear and intuitive
- **Baselines and Targets** – What are we trying to achieve and compared to what?

Using Your Data

▶ Tips for Team Members

- ▶ Which monitoring and evaluation activities do we implement?
- ▶ Graduated step approach

Examining Disproportionality and Disparity

- ▶ Approach data with an equity lens
- ▶ Tips for Team Members

Foundational Step 5

▶ Develop Data-Driven Messaging

- ▶ Target Audience
- ▶ Purpose or Goal
- ▶ Best method of communication

▶ Tips for Team Members

- ▶ How do FTCs let the community and stakeholders know about their accomplishments and where support and assistance is needed?

RESOURCES



*Family Treatment Court
Best Practice Standards*



Center for Children and Family Futures
Strengthening Partnerships. Improving Family Outcomes



NADCP
National Association of
Drug Court Professionals

Family Treatment Court Best Practice Standards

8 *Standards* and Key Provisions

<https://www.cffutures.org/home-page/ftc-best-practice-standards-2019/>

Family Treatment Court Practice Academy 2022

{Beyond Collaboration to Results}

Beyond Counting: Strategies to Collect and (Actually) Use Your FTC Data

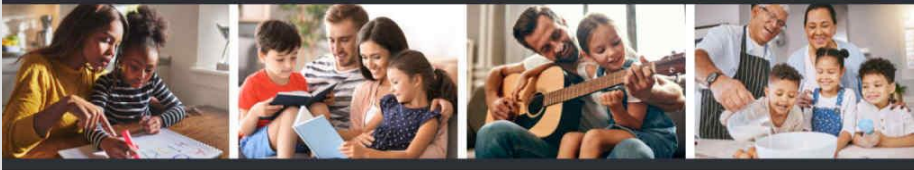
Live Conversation: Tuesday, August 30, 2022
11-12:30 PT | 12-1:30 MT | 1-2:30 CT | 2-3:30 ET



HARNESSING THE POWER OF FAMILY TREATMENT COURTS: USING DATA AS A TOOL FOR CHANGE

National Family Drug Court TTA Program

Harnessing the Power of Family Treatment Courts: Using Data as a Tool for Change



INTRODUCTION

Family treatment court (FTC) is a juvenile or family court docket for cases of child abuse or neglect in which parental substance use and often co-occurring mental health disorders are contributing factors. FTC teams provide parents, children, and family members with timely and equitable access to comprehensive care, increased case management, and intensive judicial oversight. The goals are to ensure children have safe, nurturing, and permanent homes, avoiding out-of-home placement whenever possible; parents and family members receive services and supports to meet their individual needs; and parents achieve stable recovery from their substance use and mental health disorders. FTCs can secure funding for and create long-term sustainability of the necessary services and supports for the families they serve as well as all families in the systems they represent.

It is important to recognize the numerous meanings of “family” and the differing roles of family members. This series of briefs defines family as parents, children, nuclear family members, extended family members, and families of choice (unrelated by blood or marriage but whose members regard one another as family).

Integrating performance monitoring and evaluation as core program operations—both essential activities for determining whether the FTC team is achieving its desired results and overall mission—increases the team’s ability to effectively meet the needs of families.

This brief... is part of a series focused on helping collaborative teams fund (*Brief 1*) and evaluate (*Brief 2*) FTCs while identifying and meeting the needs of their community (*Brief 3*). The briefs combine existing collaborative practices to present an overview of pertinent strategies for FTC teams. The series is intended as three interrelated briefs but each resource can be viewed individually. Links to tools and resources are provided throughout the briefs for more in-depth information on each topic.

The series of briefs includes:

- *Brief 1: Harnessing the Power of Family Treatment Courts: Funding and Sustaining Crucial Services for Families*
- ***Brief 2: Harnessing the Power of Family Treatment Courts: Using Data as a Tool for Change***
- *Brief 3: Harnessing the Power of Family Treatment Courts: Considerations for Meeting the Needs of Families Based on Community Population Density*

Brief 2 examines: 1) opportunities to use data, 2) strategies for FTC teams to integrate monitoring and evaluation activities as core program operations, and 3) practical considerations with a focus on equity and inclusion.

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Prevention and Family Recovery



Data Capacity: What Is It and Does Our Family Treatment Court Team Have It?



PUTTING IDEAS INTO ACTION – KNOWLEDGE APPLICATION SERIES | OCTOBER 2021

Data Capacity: What Is It and Does our Family Treatment Court Team Have It?

Click the Data Capacity: What Is It and Does Our Family Treatment Court Team Have It? image to access the document



Advancing the capacity of family treatment court teams to provide a comprehensive family-centered approach that improves child, parent, and family outcomes

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