

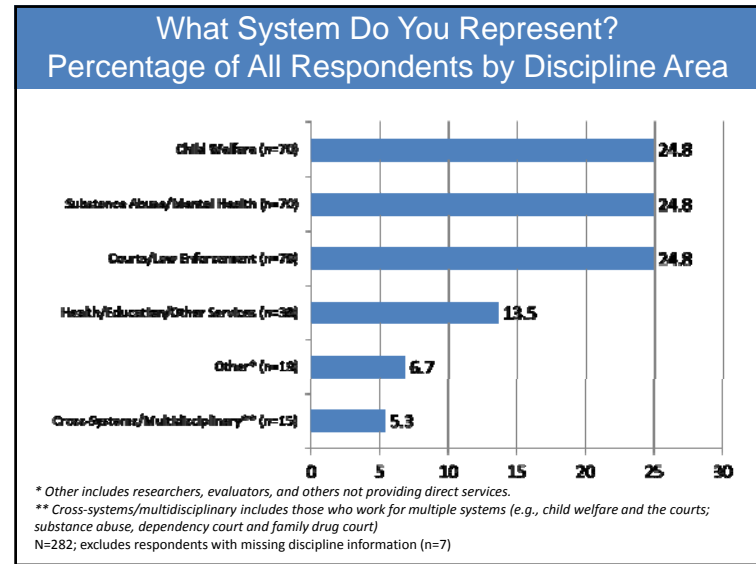


Putting the Pieces Together for Children and Families: The National Conference on Substance Abuse, Child Welfare, and the Courts

The Crisis Response: A Door to Recovery

Lori Moriarty, VP, National DEC

National Harbor, MD
September 15th, 2011




our Goal:
Healthy, Happy & Safe Children

100%

CHILDREN AT RISK

www.nationaldec.org

Children at Risk

2.1 million children
in the United States live in homes
where a **parent uses illicit drugs**

SOURCE: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration,
Office of Applied Studies, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2007.

Children at Risk

Over 8.3 million children
(11.9%) lived with **at least one
parent** who was dependent on or
abused alcohol or an illicit drug during
the past year.

SOURCE: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration,
Office of Applied Studies, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2009.

Children at Risk

More than 35 million
individuals used illicit drugs
or abused prescription
drugs in 2007

SOURCE: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration,
Office of Applied Studies, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2007.

Drugs & Children

Data Collected: January 4, 2005 – December 29, 2005

88 DEC Forms

- 137 kids identified
- 50% had DSS history
- 12% had open DSS case

North Metro Drug Task Force, Adams County, Colorado

Arrests involving Drugs & Alcohol

- Total arrests: (2009) 13.7 million
 - Arrests for drug abuse violations: 1,645,500 adults; 195,700 juvenile
 - 55-82% of prisoners tested positive for drug use in 10 ADAM (*Alcohol Drug Abuse Monitoring*) sites (2009)
 - An estimated 16% of convicted jail inmates committed their offense to get money for drugs

Arrests involving Drugs & Alcohol

- An estimated 37% of state prisoners serving time for a violent offense in 2004 said they were under the influence of alcohol at the time of the offense [382,368]
- In 2002, local jail inmates reported alcohol use at the time of the offense in 33% of all offenses

Of 13.7 million total arrests:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Drug abuse violations | 1,663,582 (12.1%) |
| • Driving under the influence | 1,440,409 (10.5%) |
| • Liquor laws | 570,333 (4%) |
| • Drunkenness | 594,300 (4.3%) |
| • Total | 4,268,624 (31.2%) |

Arrests with drugs or alcohol that involve children

- 1.5 million children have a parent who is currently in state or federal prison
- The majority of incarcerated parents used drugs one month before their offense and were in prison for violent offenses or drug trafficking

Arrests with drugs or alcohol that involve children

- Nearly half of all state and federal prisoners, or 700,000 inmates, have at least one minor child
- Between 1991 and 1999, the number of children with an incarcerated parent increased by 50 percent; this number has likely increased

From this data, a conclusion:

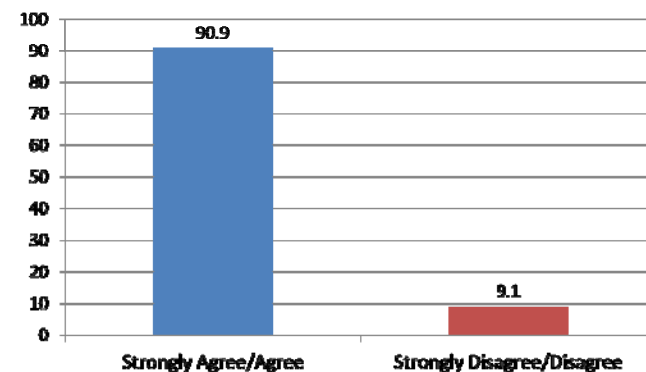
- One out of six arrests involves a child directly or indirectly affected by drug or alcohol use
- Two million-plus opportunities to recognize and respond to harm done to children

Defining Drug Endangered Children (DEC)

The National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children defines drug endangered children as children who are at risk of suffering physical or emotional harm as a result of illegal drug use, possession, manufacturing, cultivation, or distribution.

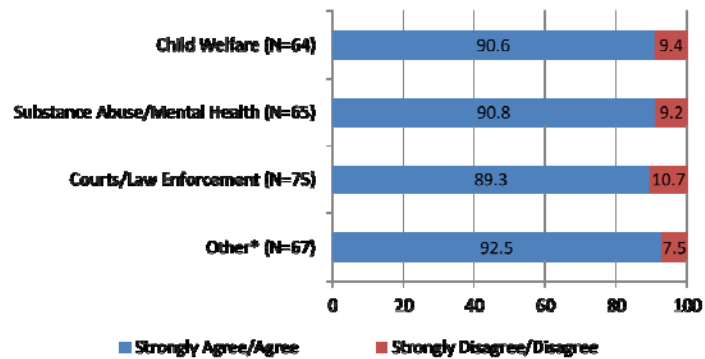
They may also be children whose caretaker's substance misuse interferes with the caretaker's ability to parent and provide a safe and nurturing environment.

Q: Definition of a "Drug Endangered Child" should include parent/caregiver's misuse of alcohol and/or prescription drugs



N=276; excludes missing data and "Don't Know" responses (n=11)

Q: Definition of a “Drug Endangered Child” should include parent/caregiver’s misuse of alcohol and/or prescription drugs, response by discipline



Excludes missing data and “Don’t Know” responses (n=11)

Understanding Risk



Risk (n.): The chance of something going wrong; the danger that injury, damage or loss will occur.

-Encarta Dictionary of North America

Defining Drug Endangered Children (DEC)



Children + Drugs = Risk

Risks to Children

Substance use disorders can significantly interfere with a parent's ability to parent effectively while they are actively using; impacting their judgment, inhibitions, protective capacity and overall mental functioning, as well as their ability to nurture and foster the healthy development of their children.

Risks to Children - Prenatal

- Difficult to isolate effects of drug exposure from other variables, such as poor prenatal care, poor nutrition, prematurity, and adverse postnatal environment
- Effects depend on substance being used, frequency of use, duration of use and quantity



Child Welfare and Substance Abuse

Most cases of child maltreatment by substance-abusing parents now involve children under age three. Infants in particular are the fastest growing population in foster care—and the most vulnerable.

Risks to Children

- Risks to children can range from:
 - Severe, inconsistent and inappropriate discipline
 - Neglect of basic needs: food, shelter, clothing, medical care, education, supervision
 - Disruption of parent/child relationship, child's sense of trust, belonging

Children at Risk

Children of parents with substance use disorders have a higher likelihood of developing substance use problems themselves.

SOURCE: (CSAT 2005, Price & Simmel, 2002, Young, Gardner & Dennis, CSAT, 2004)

Children at Risk

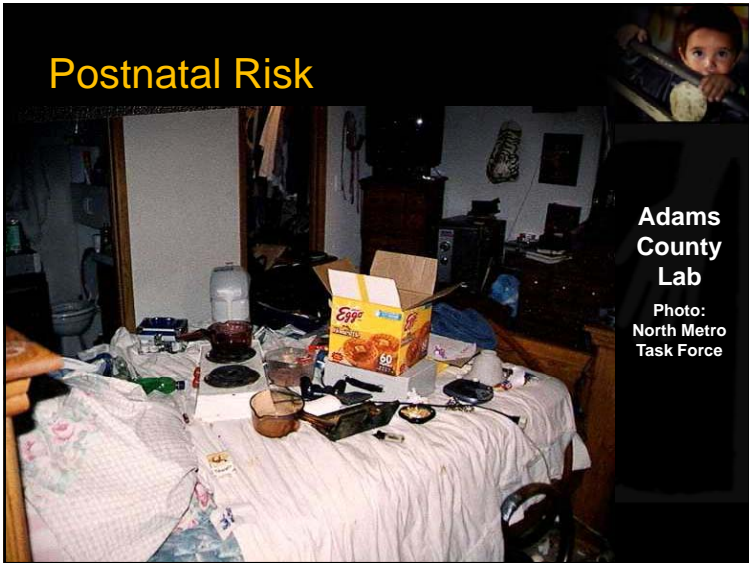


Children at Risk

- In addition, children whose parents abuse alcohol or drugs are:
 - 3 times more likely to be verbally, physically or sexually abused
 - 4 times more likely than other children to be neglected

SOURCE: A Guide for Caring Adults Working with Young People Experiencing Addiction in the Family, CSAT, SAMHSA

Postnatal Risk



Adams
County
Lab
Photo:
North Metro
Task Force

True Stories

www.nationaldec.org

Evidence of Harm

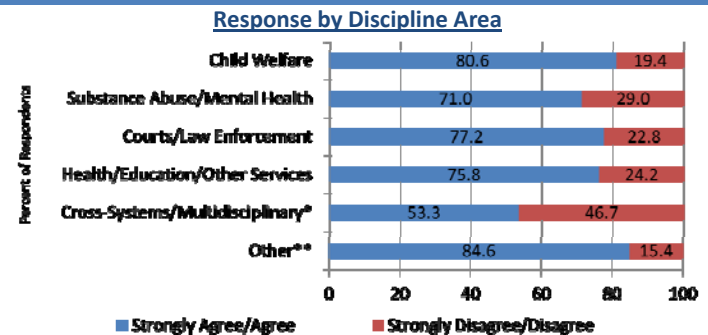
- When do we take action to protect children?
- Do we consider illicit drug activity, prescription drug abuse or the misuse of alcohol alone justification to intervene?
- Do we wait until additional maltreatment circumstances arise?
- What if we wait too long?

Our Goal:
Healthy, Happy & Safe Children
100%

How do we get to 100%?

- Understand the long-term needs of drug endangered children
- Implement appropriate and efficient intervention strategies

Q: Child welfare agencies in our community do a good job identifying those environments that place children in danger as a result of illegal drug use, possession, manufacturing, cultivation, or distribution.

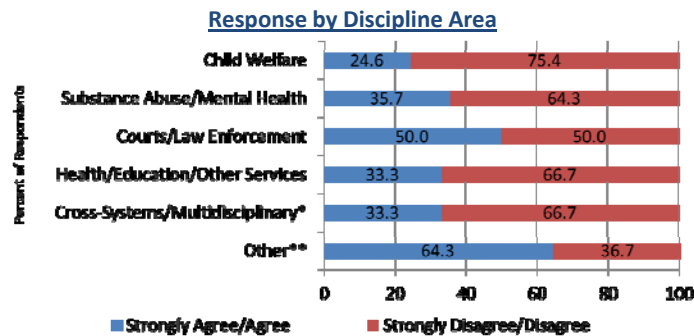


* Includes those who work for multiple systems (e.g., child welfare and a family drug court)

** Other includes researchers, evaluators and others not providing direct services

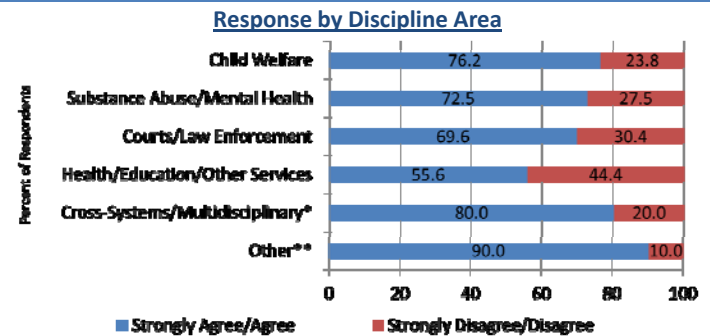
Excludes missing data and "Don't Know" responses (n=11)

Q: Child welfare agencies in our community do a good job linking children to substance abuse prevention services.



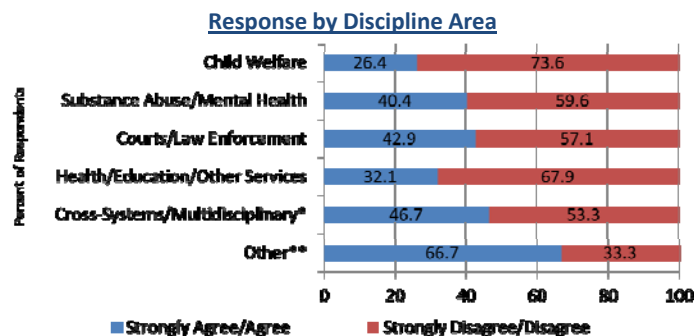
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Q: Law enforcement in our community do a good job of identifying those environments that place children in danger as a result of illegal drug use, possession, manufacturing, cultivation, or distribution.



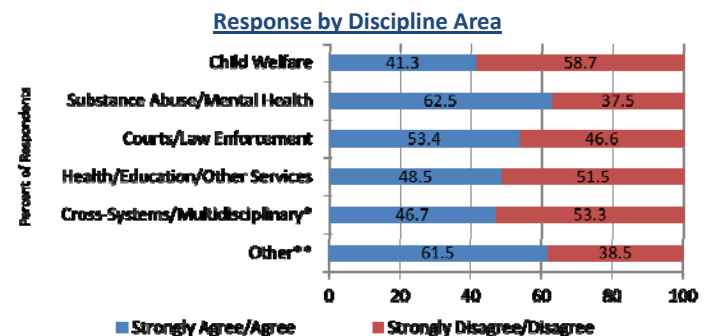
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Q: Law enforcement in our community do a good job of linking children and families affected by substance abuse to needed services.



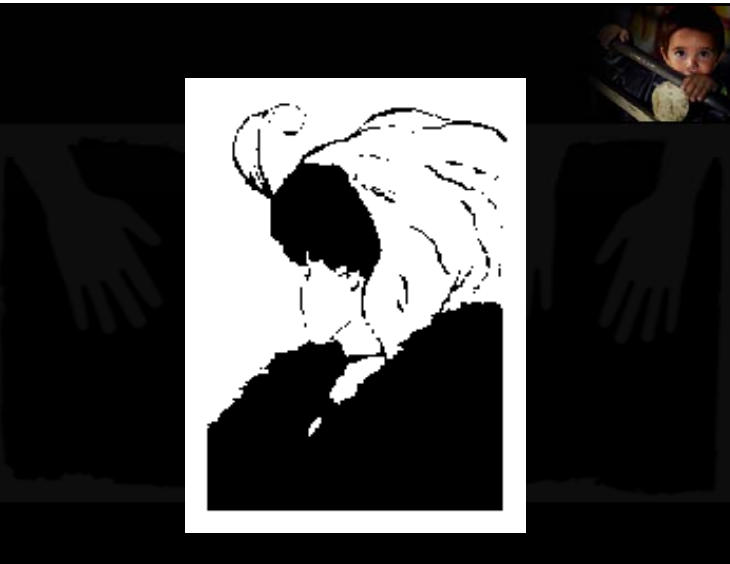
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Q: Drug and alcohol treatment agencies in the community in which I work do a good job responding to the needs of children of the parents they serve.



* Includes those who work for multiple systems (e.g., child welfare and a family drug court)
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Collaborative Mindset

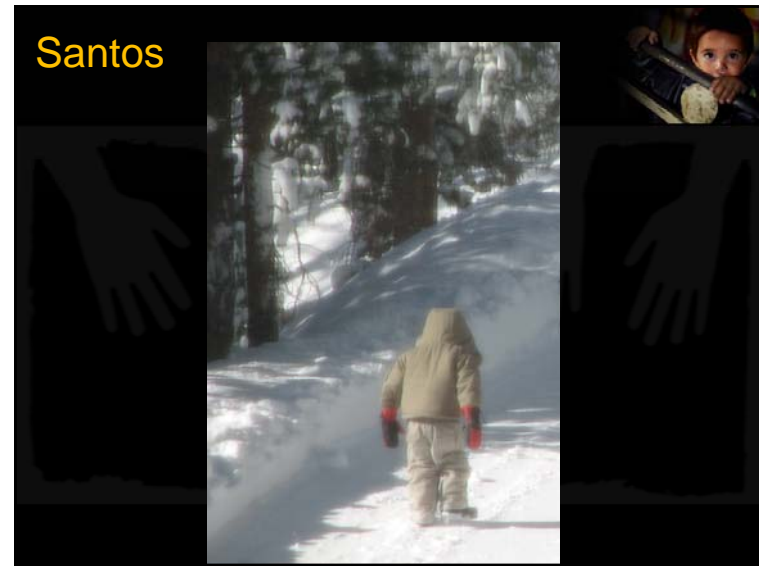


Collaborative Mindset



The Trigger and the Follow-up

- The first response: an investigation, followed by an arrest
 - That should be the trigger for a systemic response, rather than a simple referral
- Then—a good handoff, followed by lasting efforts to track and reduce potential harm to children
 - Law enforcement and the judicial system as the front door and the monitors of accountability



Brothers



Brothers



Our Family

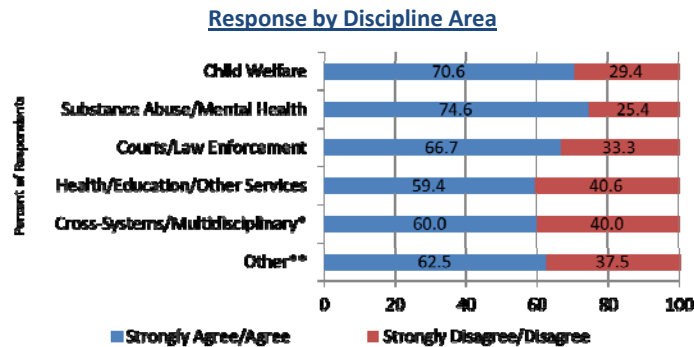


Thank You



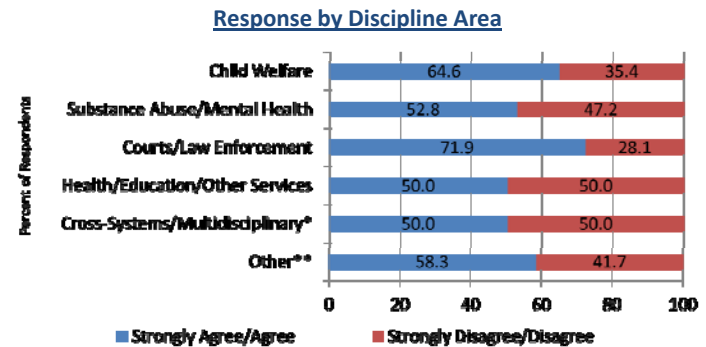
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Q: Child welfare agencies in our community do a good job of identifying parents/caretakers with substance abuse problems.



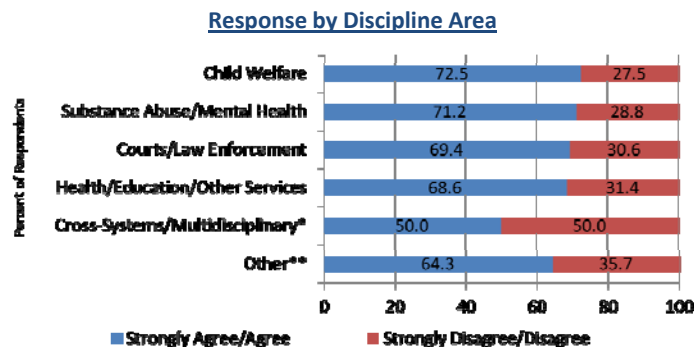
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Q: Child welfare agencies in our community do a good job minimizing trauma during removals and/or investigations.



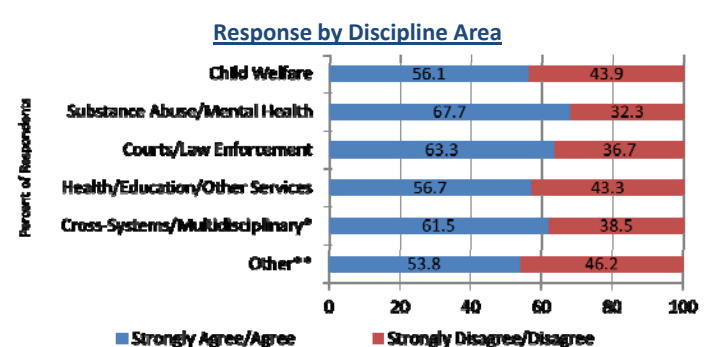
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Q: Child welfare agencies in our community do a good job linking family members affected by substance abuse to needed treatment services.



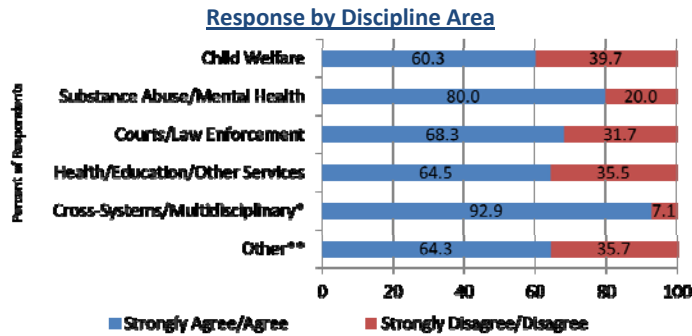
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Q: Drug and alcohol treatment agencies in the community in which I work do a good job recognizing and responding to parents' trauma histories.



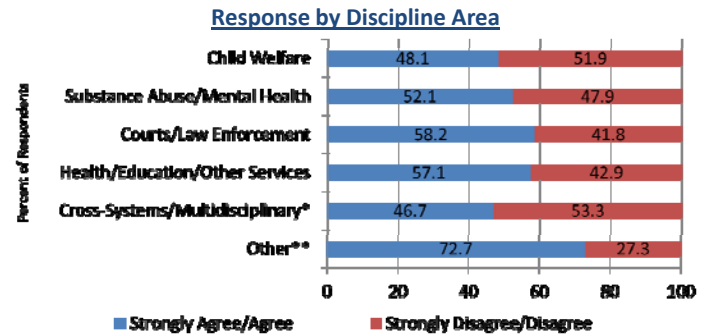
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Q: Drug and alcohol treatment agencies in the community in which I work do a good job responding to basic safety issues during relapse.



* Includes those who work for multiple systems (e.g., child welfare and a family drug court)
 ** Other includes researchers, evaluators and others not providing direct services
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Q: Law enforcement in our community does a good job of minimizing trauma to children during search and/or arrest procedures.



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