



# Minnesota Child Protection Conference: Connections Matter

## Minnesota Response Continuum

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# Goal of a Minnesota's Child Protection Response Continuum

- Implement interventions that:
  - assure child and family safety
  - are proportionate to the seriousness of the concern
  - are tailored to the needs of the child & family
- Prevention efforts are afforded equal status with intervention
- Create responses that are informed by best practice and accountable for outcomes



# Minnesota Differential Response (DR) Implementation History

- Multiple child welfare reform efforts in 1990s
- Permissive legislation to initiate DR in 1999
- 2000-2003 large scale pilot of DR including extensive research conducted by the Institute of Applied Research
- 2004 statewide application of DR called Family Assessment Response (FAR) in Minnesota
- 2005 statutory directive to make the family assessment track available in all counties
- 2005 began piloting the Parent Support Outreach Program



# Rationale for Differential Response

- Wanted to use limited resources in the most effective manner
- Wanted child maltreatment responses to be proportional to the allegation and tailored to the family's needs
- Needed to more effectively address the large volume of neglect reports
- Believed that removing fault finding from non-egregious harm reports increased the possibility of parent engagement and ultimately child safety
- Research suggested that serving at risk families early and collaboratively was less costly than waiting for serious harm to occur



# Minnesota's Differential Response Structure

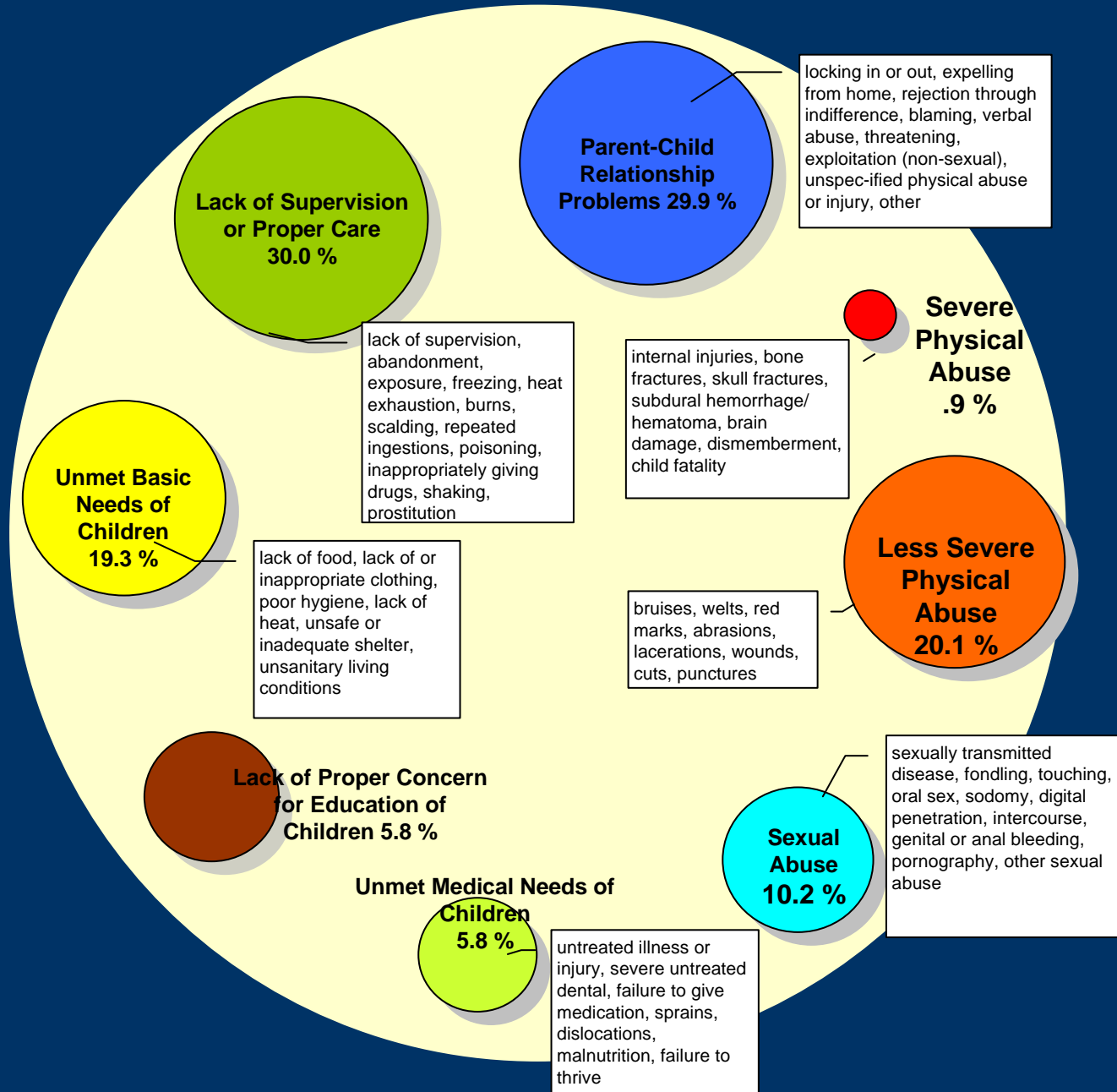
## Three response paths

- Investigations
  - Required for accepted child maltreatment reports alleging substantial child endangerment (45% of 2006 reports)
  - Conclusion made about the occurrence of child maltreatment and the need for protective services
- Family Assessments
  - Preferred response for accepted reports when substantial child endangerment is not alleged (55% of 2006 reports)
  - Sets aside fault finding
  - Focus on assessing safety, risk, strengths and needs
  - Conclusion made about the need for protective services or the provision of voluntary family support services
- Parent Support Outreach Program
  - Voluntary family support services for screened out reports as well as self reports and community referrals
  - Being piloted in 38 counties since initiated in 2005

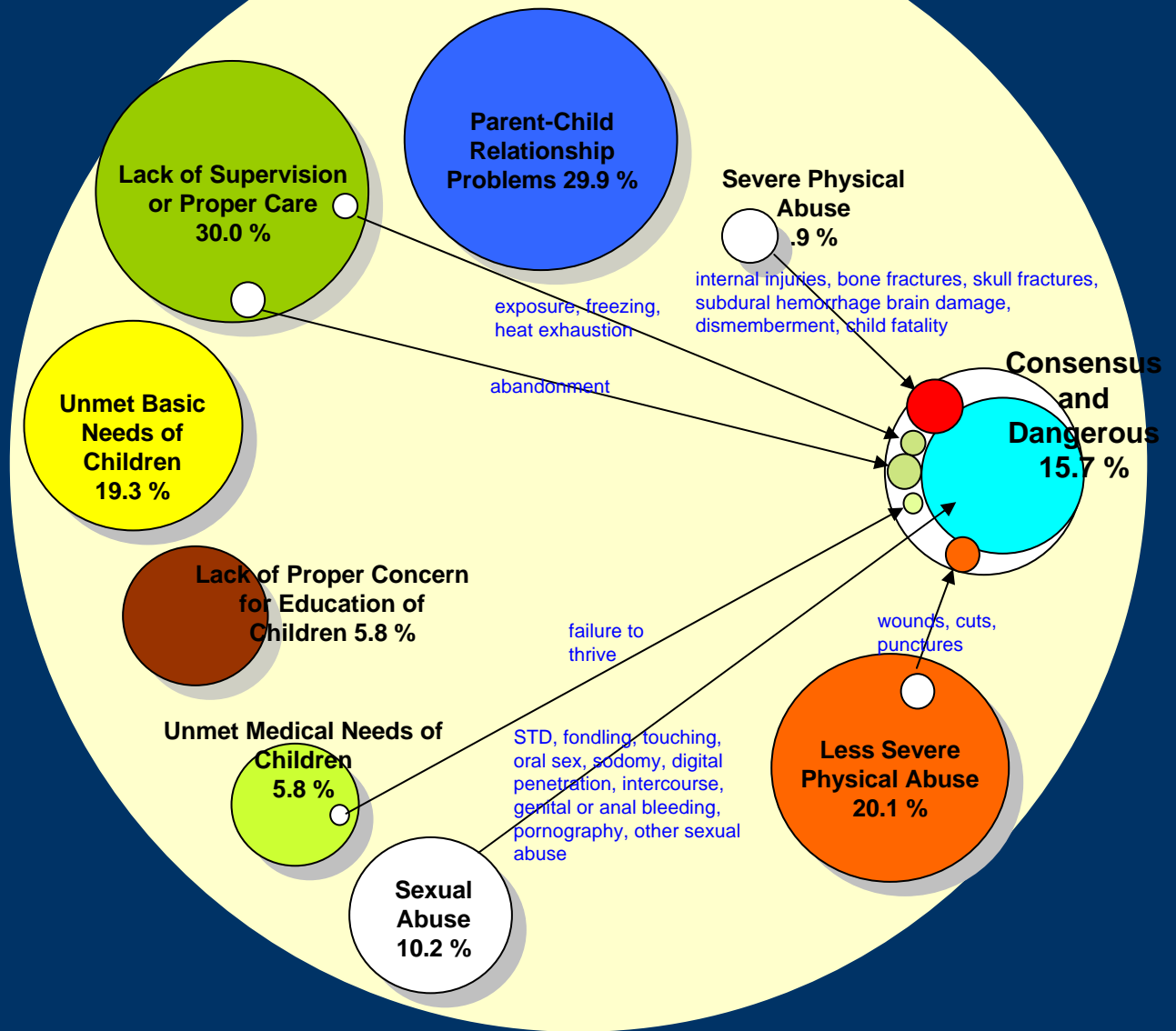


# Types of Child Abuse and Neglect in Incident Reports

51,173 reports  
(7/95-6/97)



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# Documenting the Need for a Broader and Preventive Focus on Families

- Child abuse and Neglect reports are about an incident, a moment in the life of a family.
- When families are followed over time, conditions change:
  - Types of reported child maltreatment changes.
  - Safety conditions vary.
  - Risk indicators may also change change.
- A focus on an incident or condition in a family at one moment in time, therefore, may be misplaced.
- This suggests a need to focus on underlying family needs and strengths. An approach that
  - Addresses the risky conditions that can impair parenting and may lead to child abuse and neglect...
  - Yet insures that child safety is a primary and ongoing focus.

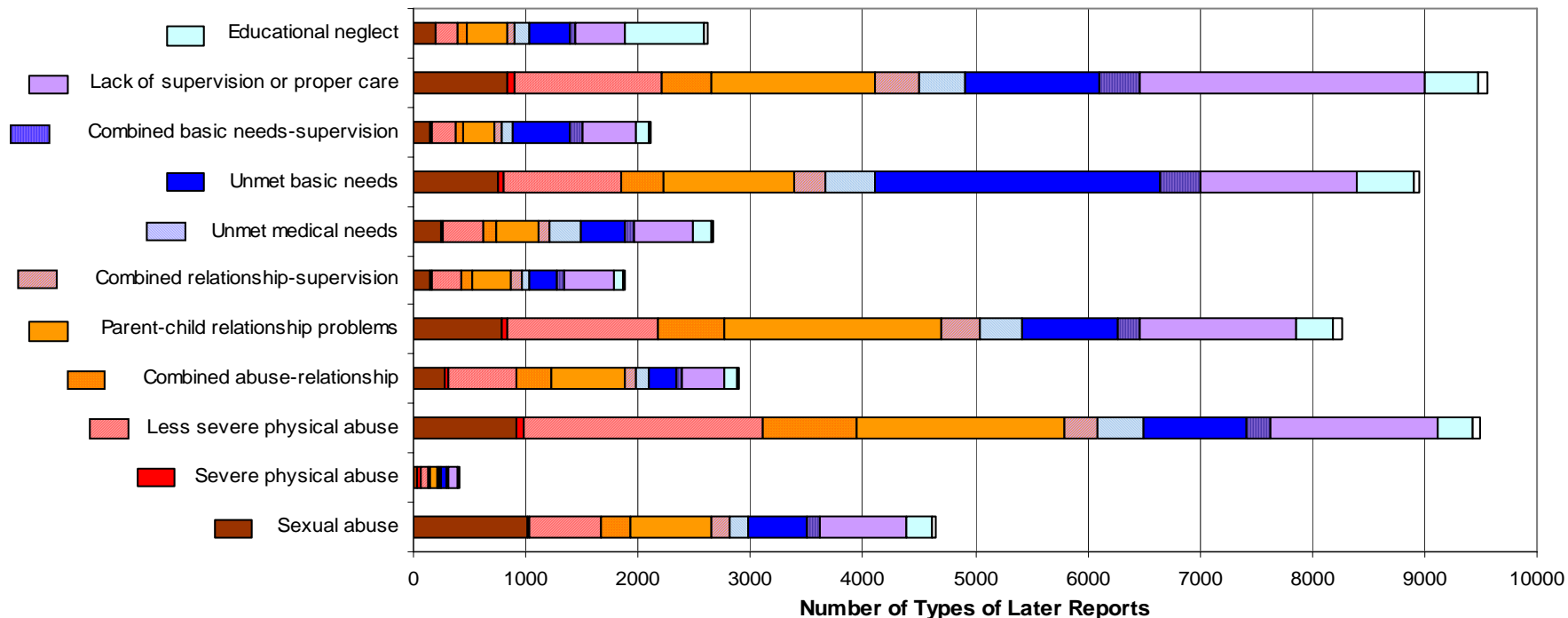




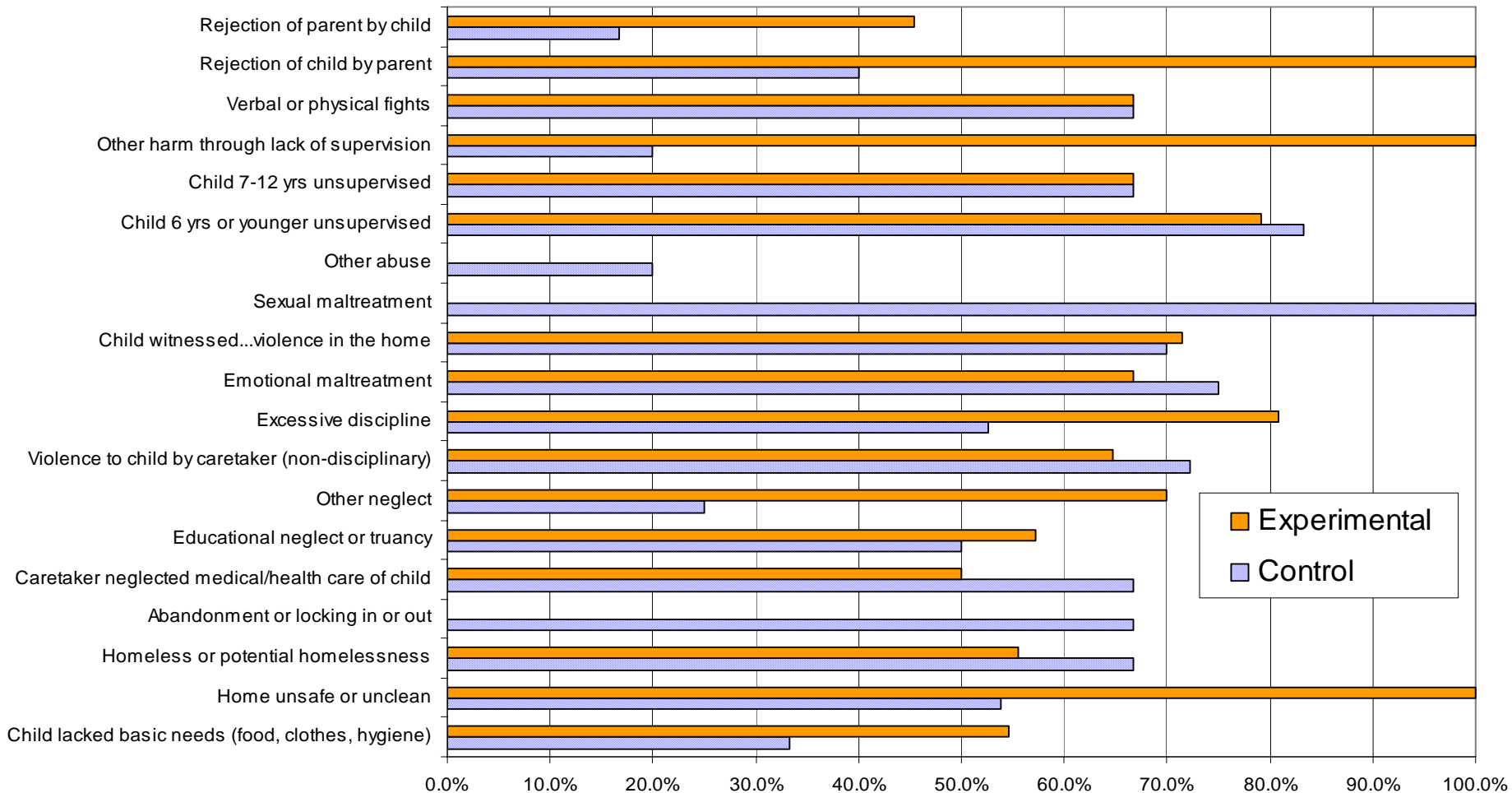
# Variation in Sequences of Reports: The Rolling Iceberg

- |                                      |                                      |                                     |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ■ Sexual abuse                       | ■ Severe physical abuse              | ■ Less severe physical abuse        |
| ■ Combined abuse-relationship        | ■ Parent-child relationship problems | ■ Combined relationship-supervision |
| ■ Unmet medical needs                | ■ Unmet basic needs                  | ■ Combined basic needs-supervision  |
| ■ Lack of supervision or proper care | ■ Educational neglect                | ■ Other combination                 |

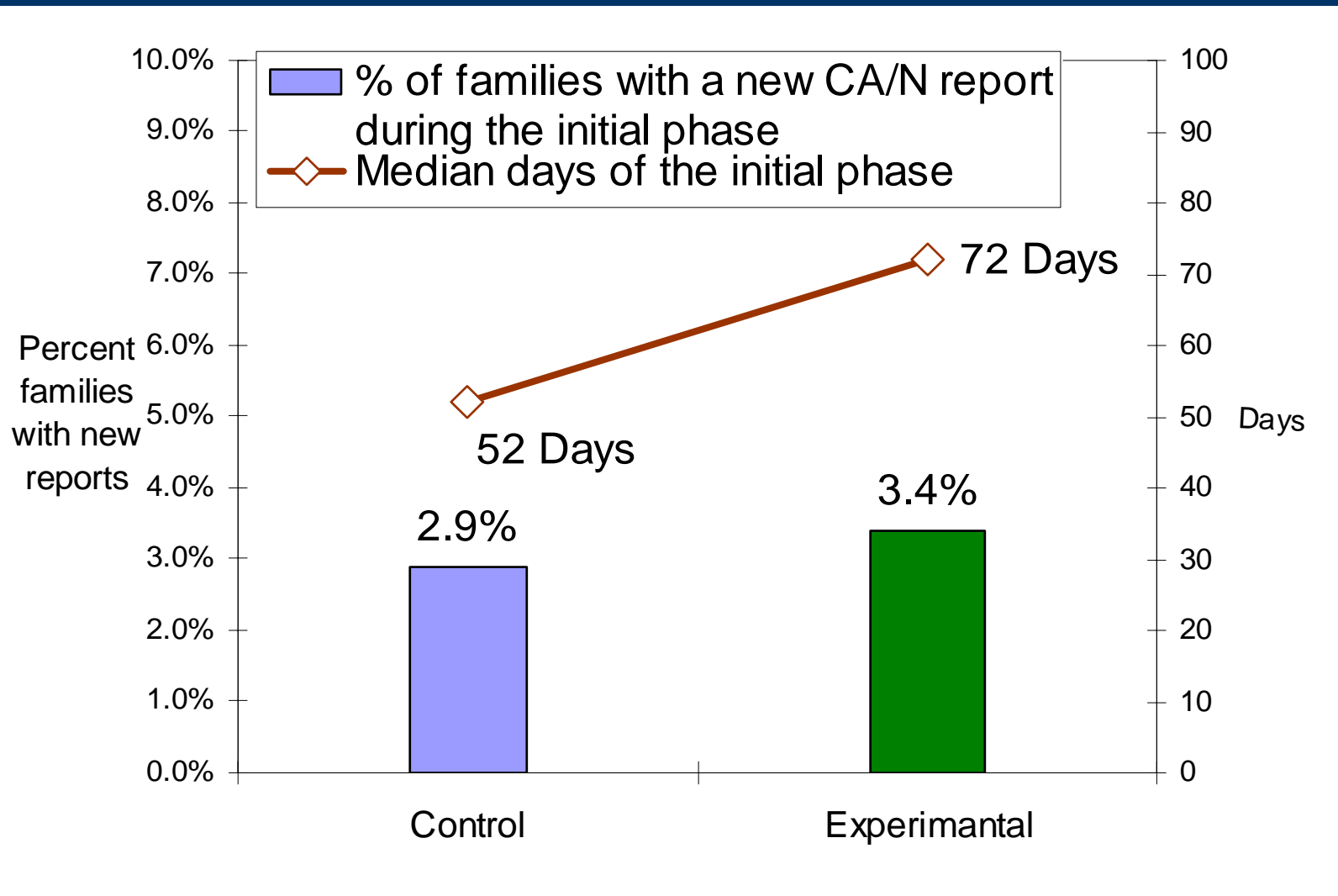
## Type of Initial Report



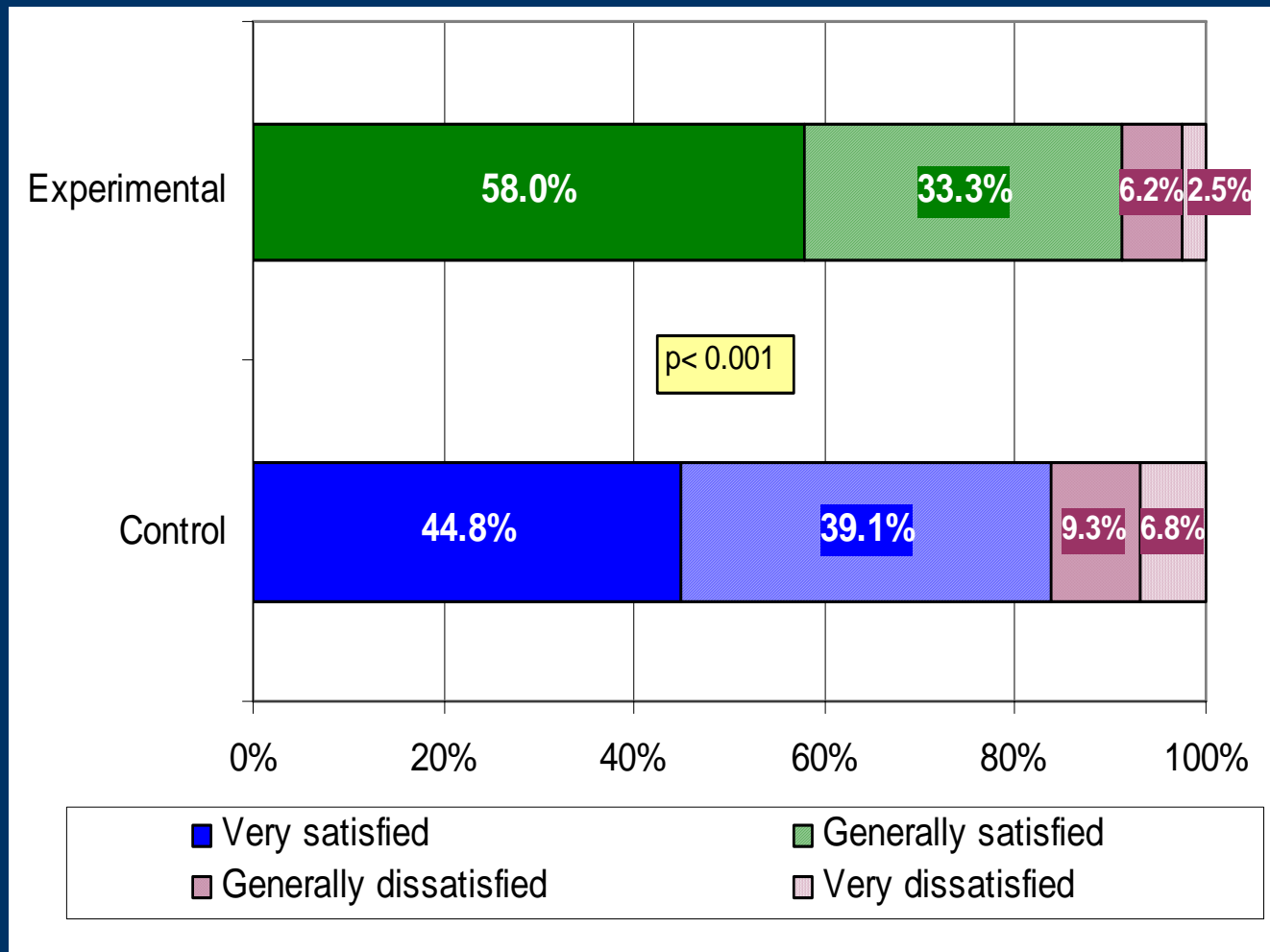
# Percent of Families with Safety Improvements according to Investigators and Assessment Workers



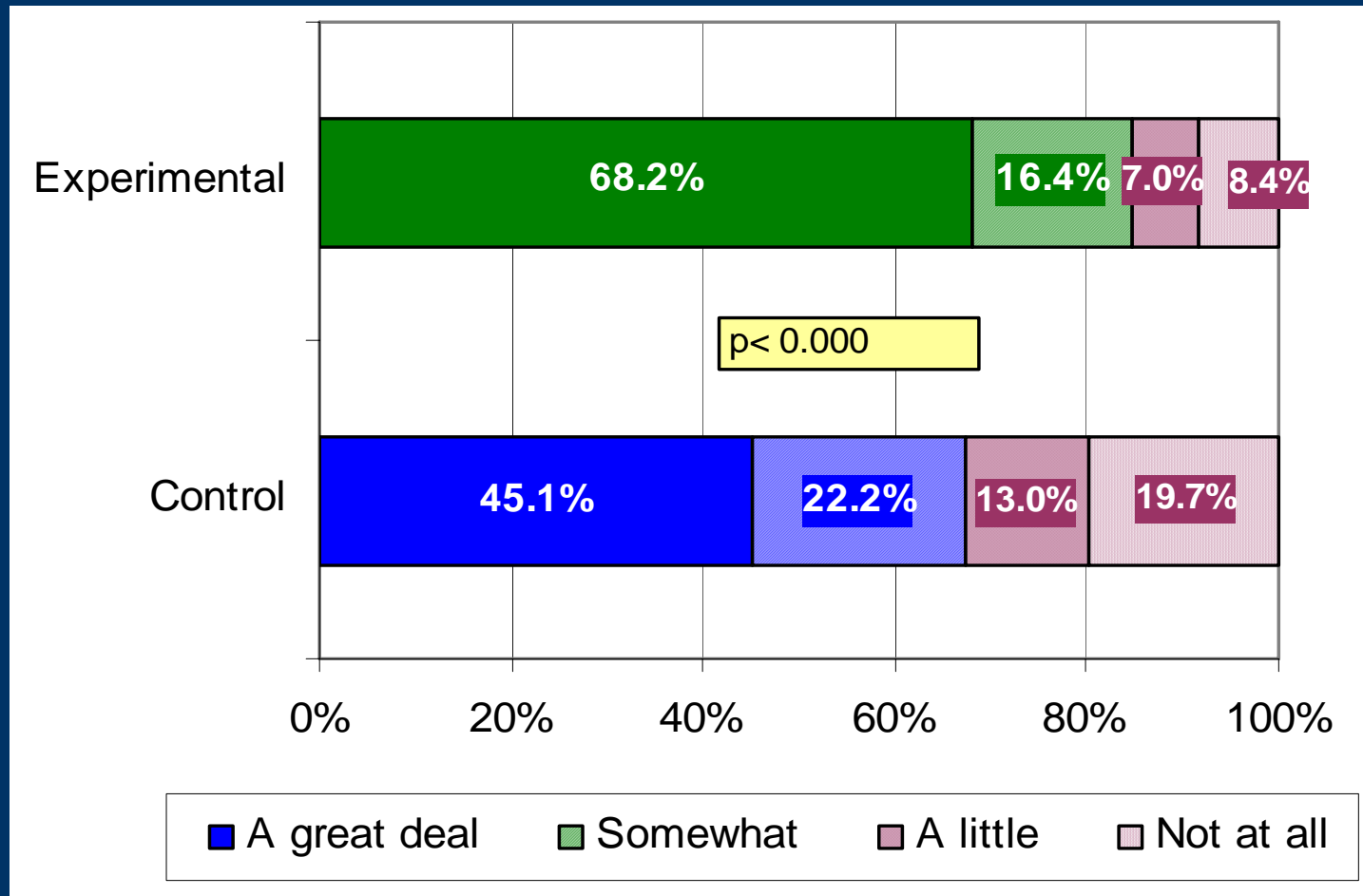
# Percent of Families with a New Child Maltreatment Report while Workers were in Contact with Families



Families who received a Family Assessment were more satisfied with the way they had been treated.

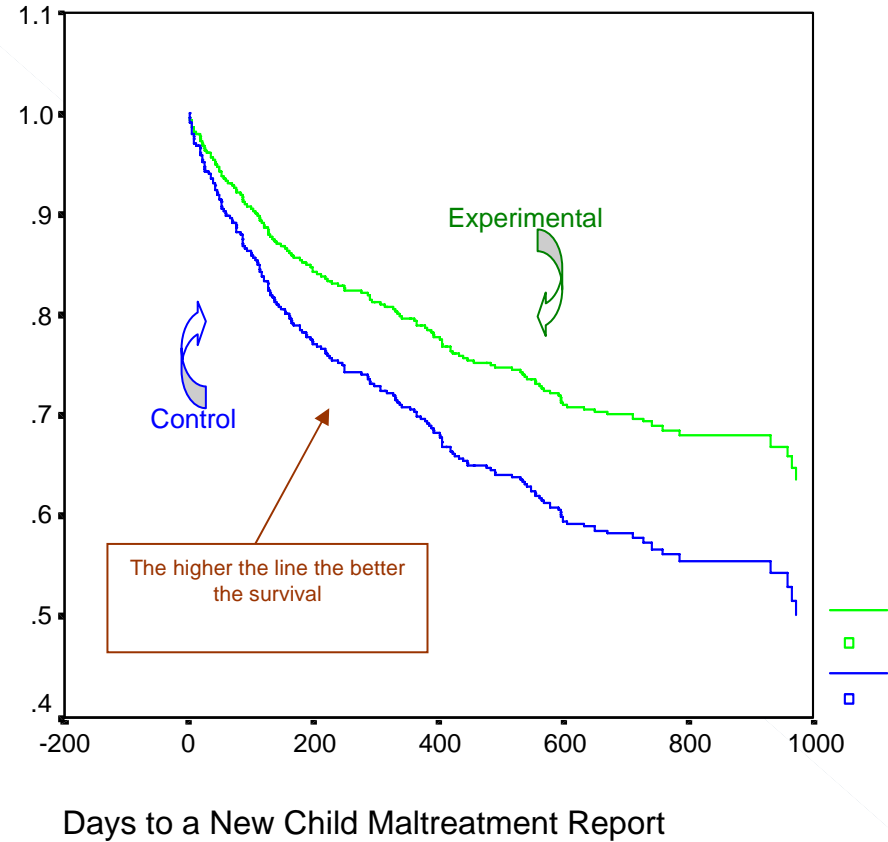
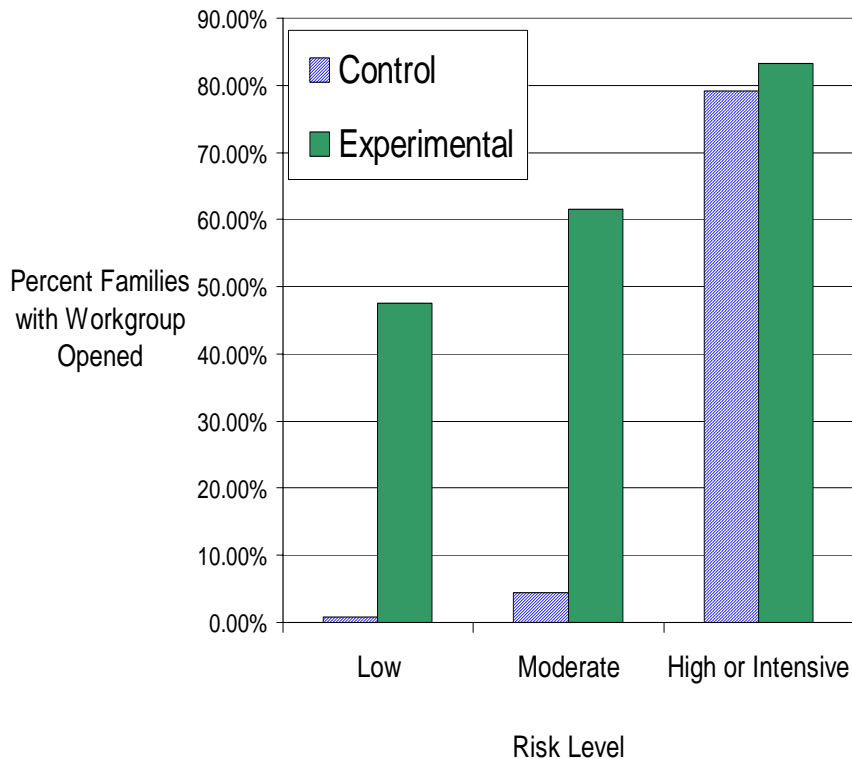


Families who received a Family Assessment felt they had greater involvement in decision making.



# Cumulative Survival of Experimental and Control Families until a New Child Maltreatment Report is Received Hennepin County

Post-Assessment Services by Risk Level of Family

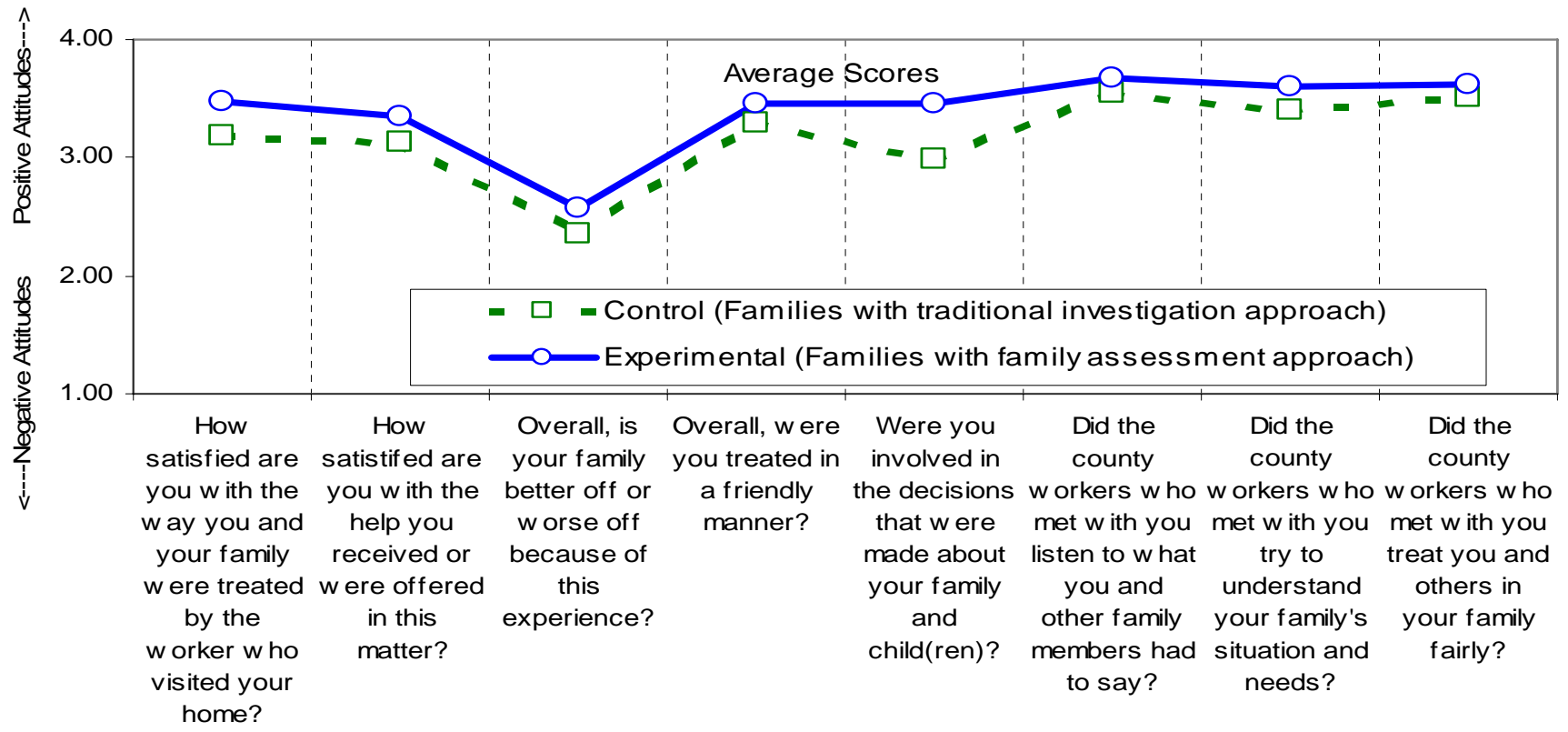


## Extended Evaluation in Minnesota: Findings Reconfirmed and Explained

- The original Experimental and Control families were tracked through December 2005 for an average of 3.6 years per family.
  - The original positive findings of reduced subsequent maltreatment reports and reduced subsequent placement of children were reconfirmed.
- A detailed analysis of sample families was possible.
- Three Summary Measures were created:
  - Overall Caregiver Satisfaction at the conclusion of the initial “case.”
  - High Financial Need Families
  - Financially-Related Services and Mental/Health Counseling Services
- These were interrelated in various ways and were related to the formal service process
- They in turn shed light on the kinds of families that were helped.



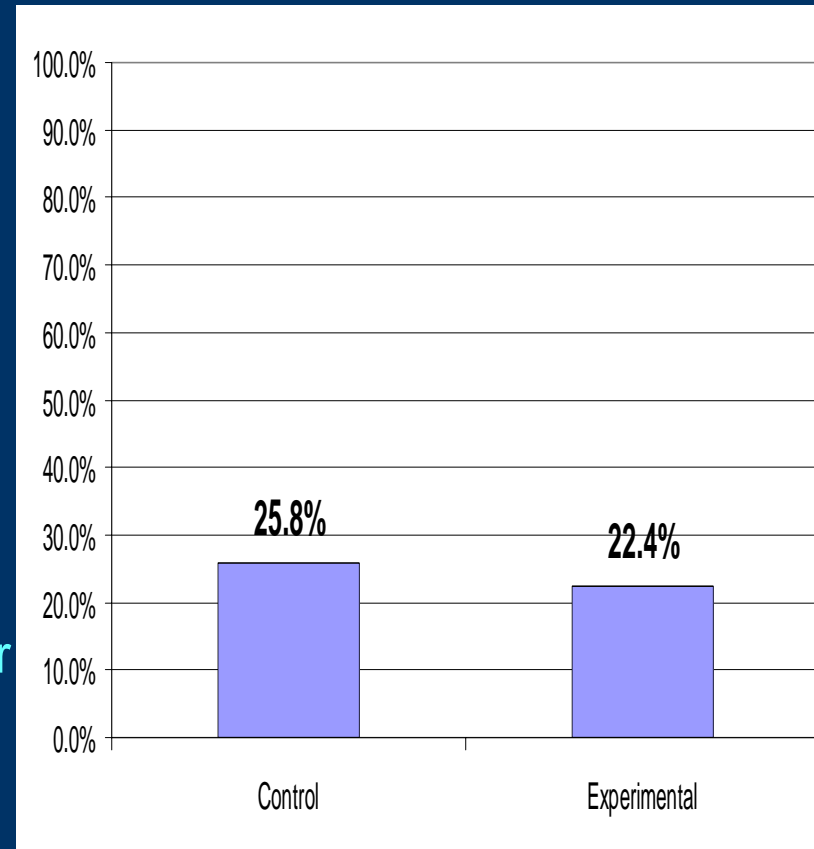
# Responses of Minnesota Caregivers Concerning their Experience with CPS after the Initial Research Case was Closed (415 Experimental and 213 Control Families)



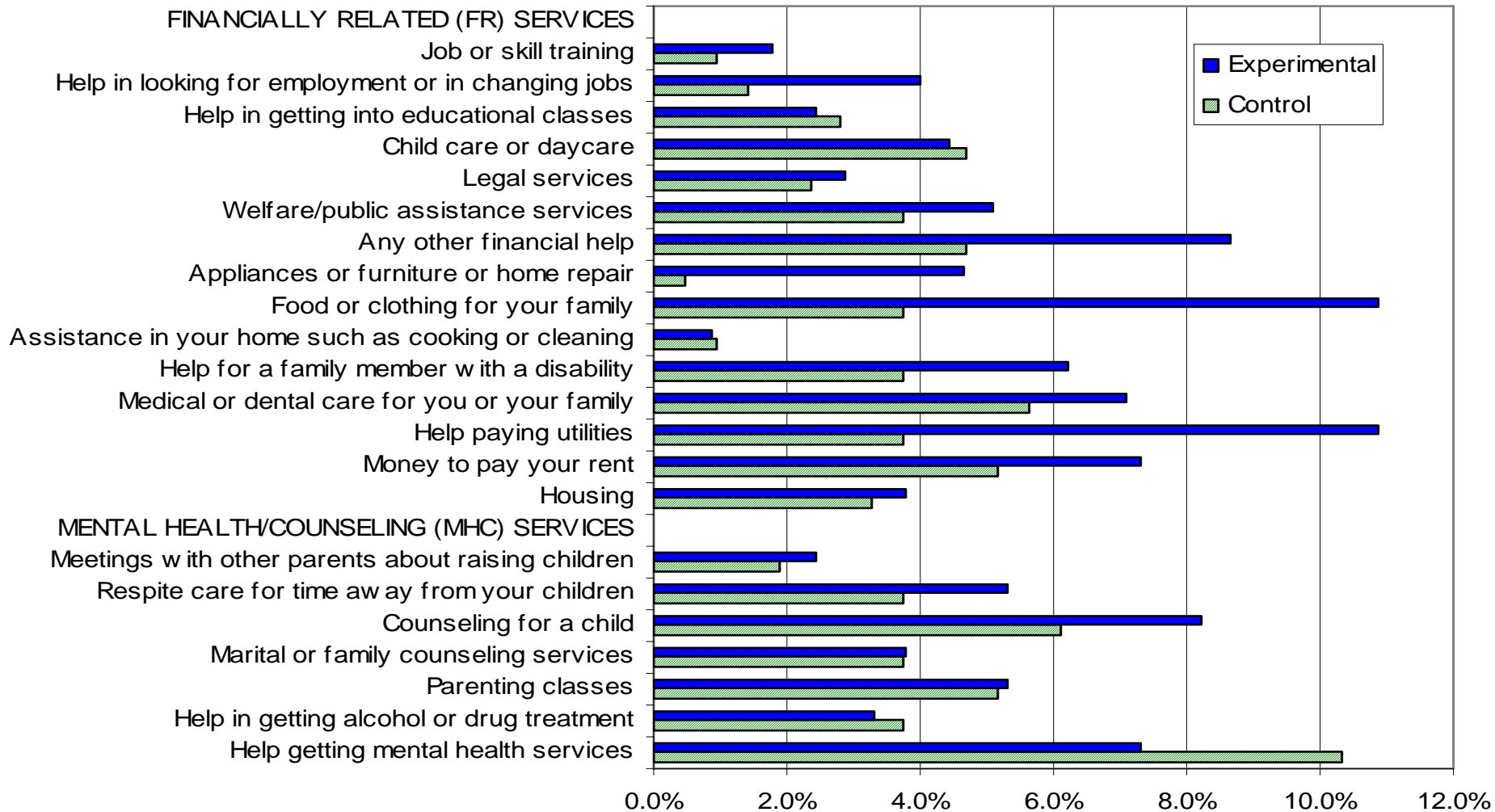


## Measure of Financial Need

- Using Income and Education:
  - High Financial Needs was defined as an education level of high school or less and a 12-month income of less than \$15,000.
  - Lower Financial Needs was defined as either greater than high school education or income of more than \$15,000.
- Comparable proportions of families were in the high needs group: 25.8 percent of control families and 22.4 percent of experimental families (difference was not statistically significant,  $p = .19$ ).
- Financial need (poverty) is a risk factor for child abuse and neglect, particularly for lack of food, inadequate clothing, health threatening hygiene, lack of medical care, unsafe or unhealthy shelter, and homelessness.



# Services that Families Reported Receiving

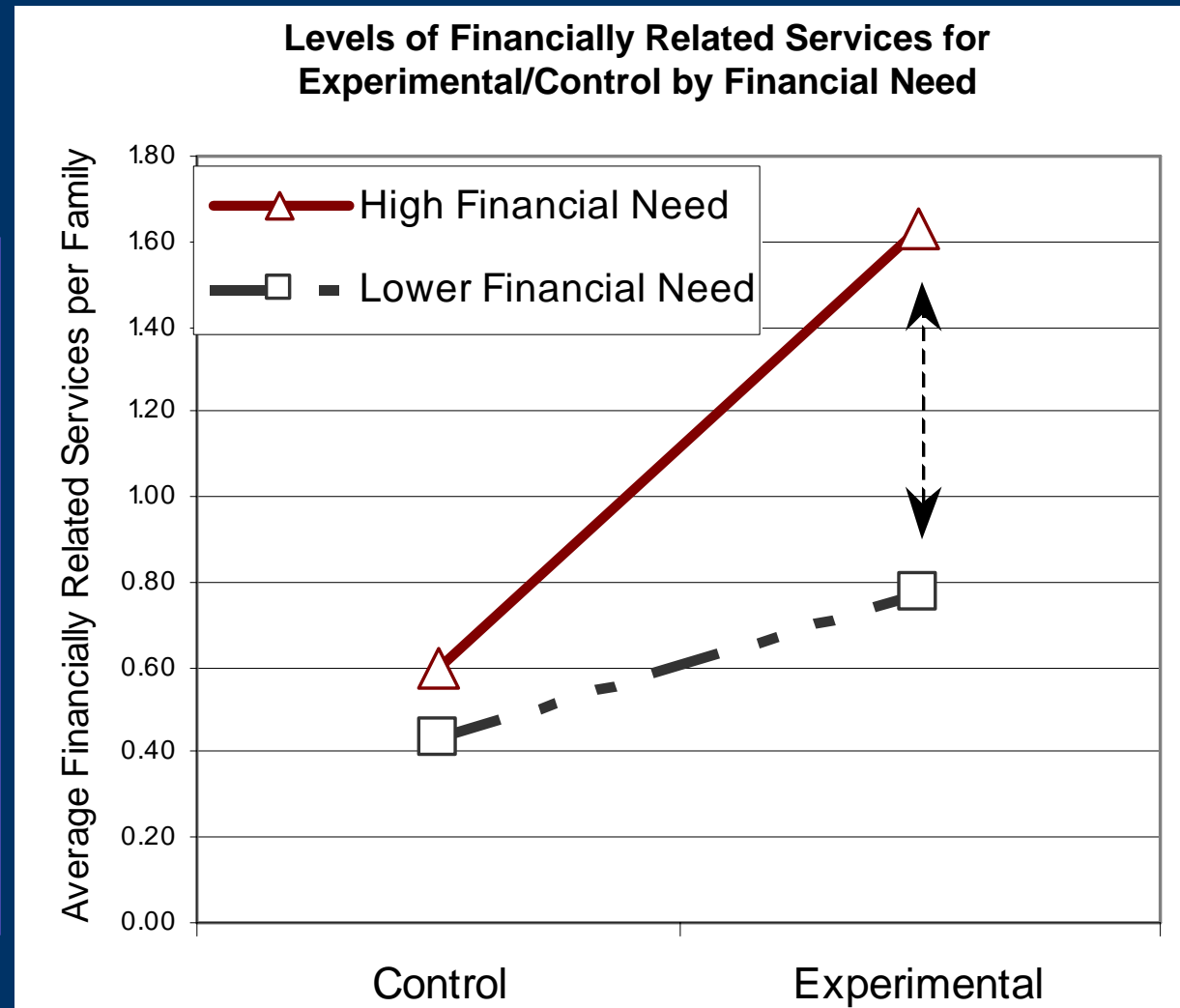


## Any Service Received by Experimental and Control Families with and without Formal Service Cases

<b>Study Group</b>	<b>Level of Concrete Services</b>	<b>No Formal Service Case</b>	<b>Formal Service Case</b>
Control Families	<i>None</i>	67.0%	51.6%
	<i>1 or 2</i>	25.8%	38.7%
	<i>3 or more</i>	7.1%	9.7%
	<b>Total</b>	182	31
Experimental Families	<i>None</i>	66.6%	20.8%
	<i>1 or 2</i>	24.5%	47.7%
	<i>3 or more</i>	8.9%	31.5%
	<b>Total</b>	302	149

## Determinants of which Families Received Financially Related Services

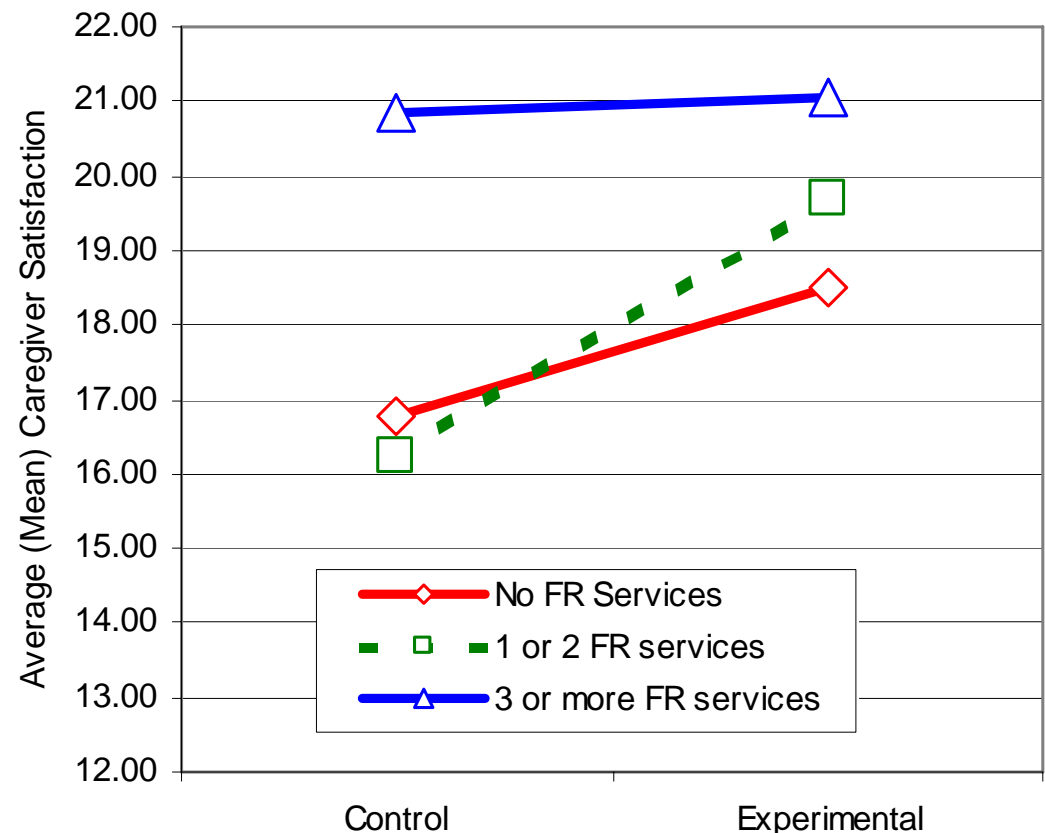
- High financial need families received more FR services
- Families for whom formal service cases were opened received more
- Families offered family assessments received more



# Determinants of Caregiver Satisfaction

- Caregivers of families offered family assessments were more satisfied overall.
- Caregivers that received financially related services were more satisfied.

Experimental and Control Differences, Financially Related Services and Caregiver Satisfaction



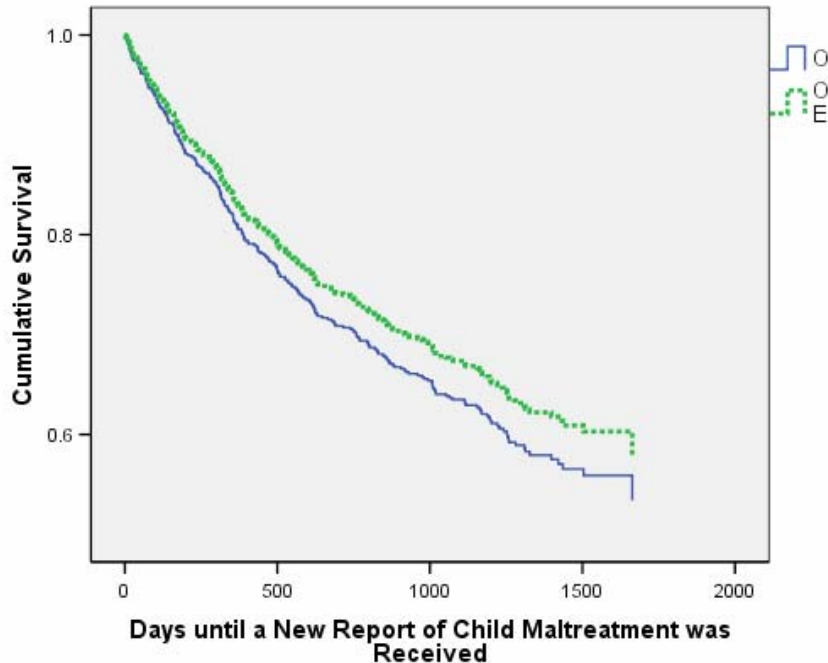
## Factors determining Subsequent Reductions in Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect

- Taking reduced report recurrence as a measure improvement...
  - Caregiver satisfaction was a weak direct predictor of **reduced** reports.
  - Financial Need was a strong direct predictor of **increased** reports.
  - The family assessment approach independently **reduced** future reports.
  - Formal Services cases with no services was not a statistically significant predictor of reduced future reports.
  - Concrete Services with no formal service case was not a statistically significant predictor of reduced future reports.
  - A combination of concrete services and formal service cases appeared to produce the most positive effects on families.

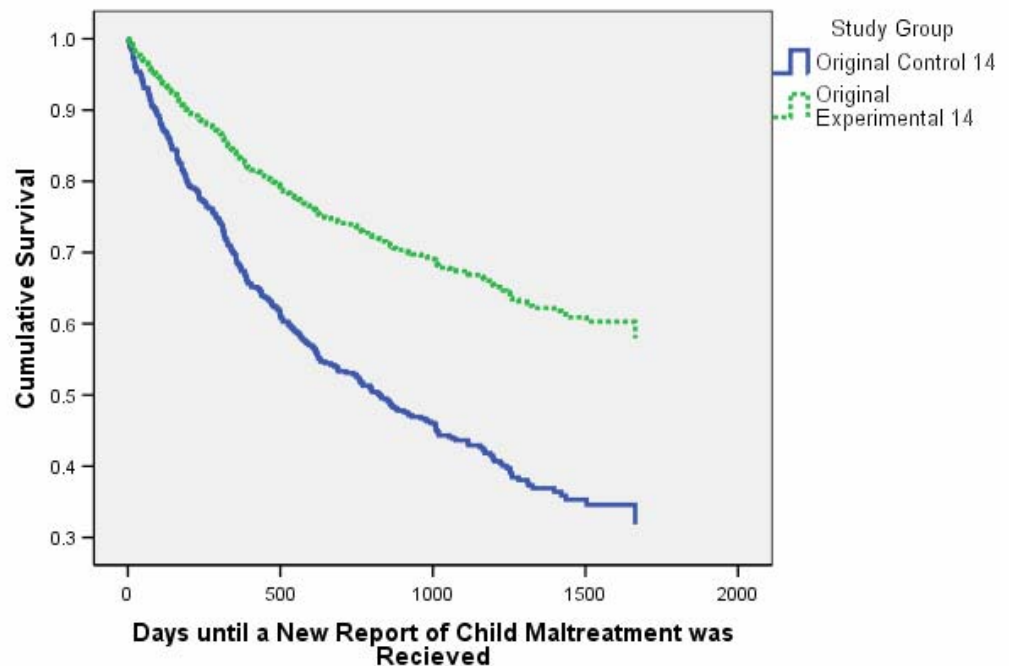


# Survival Analysis: Days until a New Report was Received

Survival Function for Experimental (Family Assessment) versus Control (Traditional Investigation)



Survival Function for Experimental (Family Assessment) versus Control (Traditional Investigation) including only Families that Received Post Assessment Services



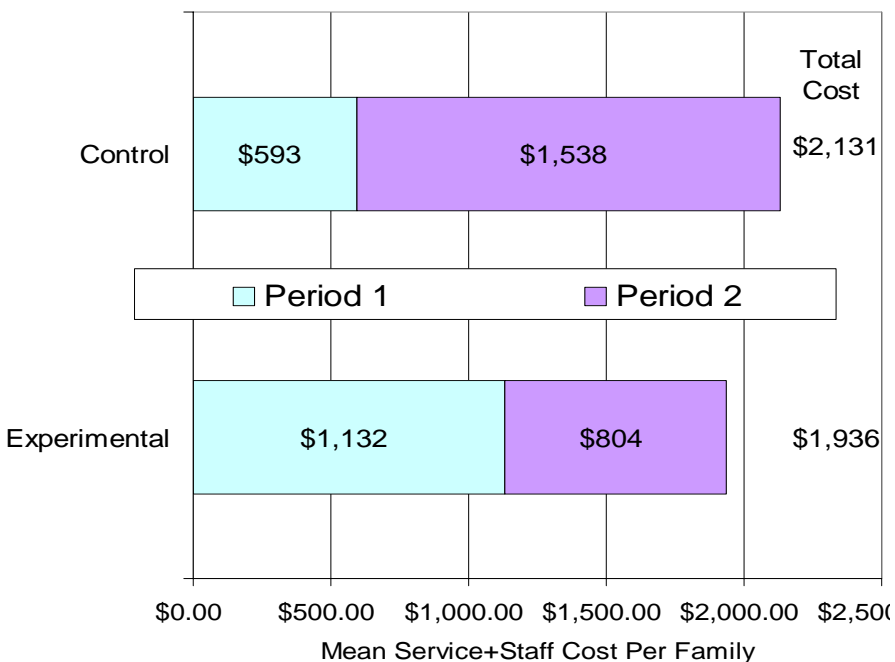
## Factors determining Subsequent Reductions in Removals and Placement of Children

- The analysis of the 2004 evaluation was repeated for the longer period of follow-up (through 12/05):
  - As of December 2005, 18.7 percent of control families had at least one child removed and placed out of home compared to 16.9 percent of experimental families.
  - Controlling for previous placements of children (before the demonstration), experimental families with fewer family assessments had fewer children removed.
  - In addition, controlling from previous placements as well as the approach to families, families that had had formal service cases opened had fewer children removed.
    - (As noted, experimental families received significantly and substantially more services—especially financially related ones—than control families.)

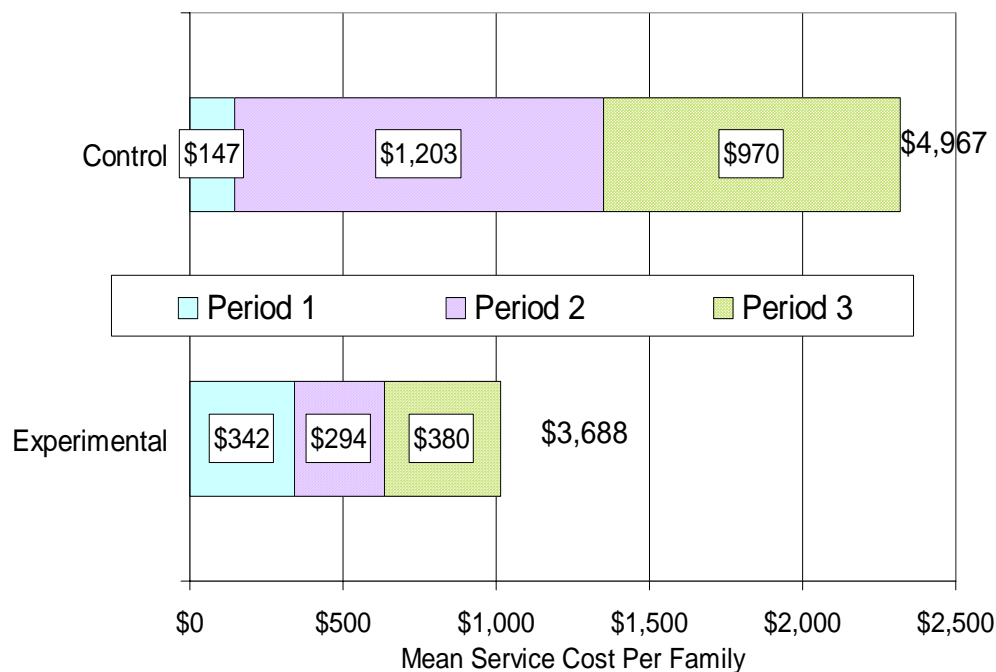




## Reduced Costs Associated with CPS



2004 Evaluation Report: Service and Staff Costs for Experimental and Control Families 7/1/01 to 9/30/2003

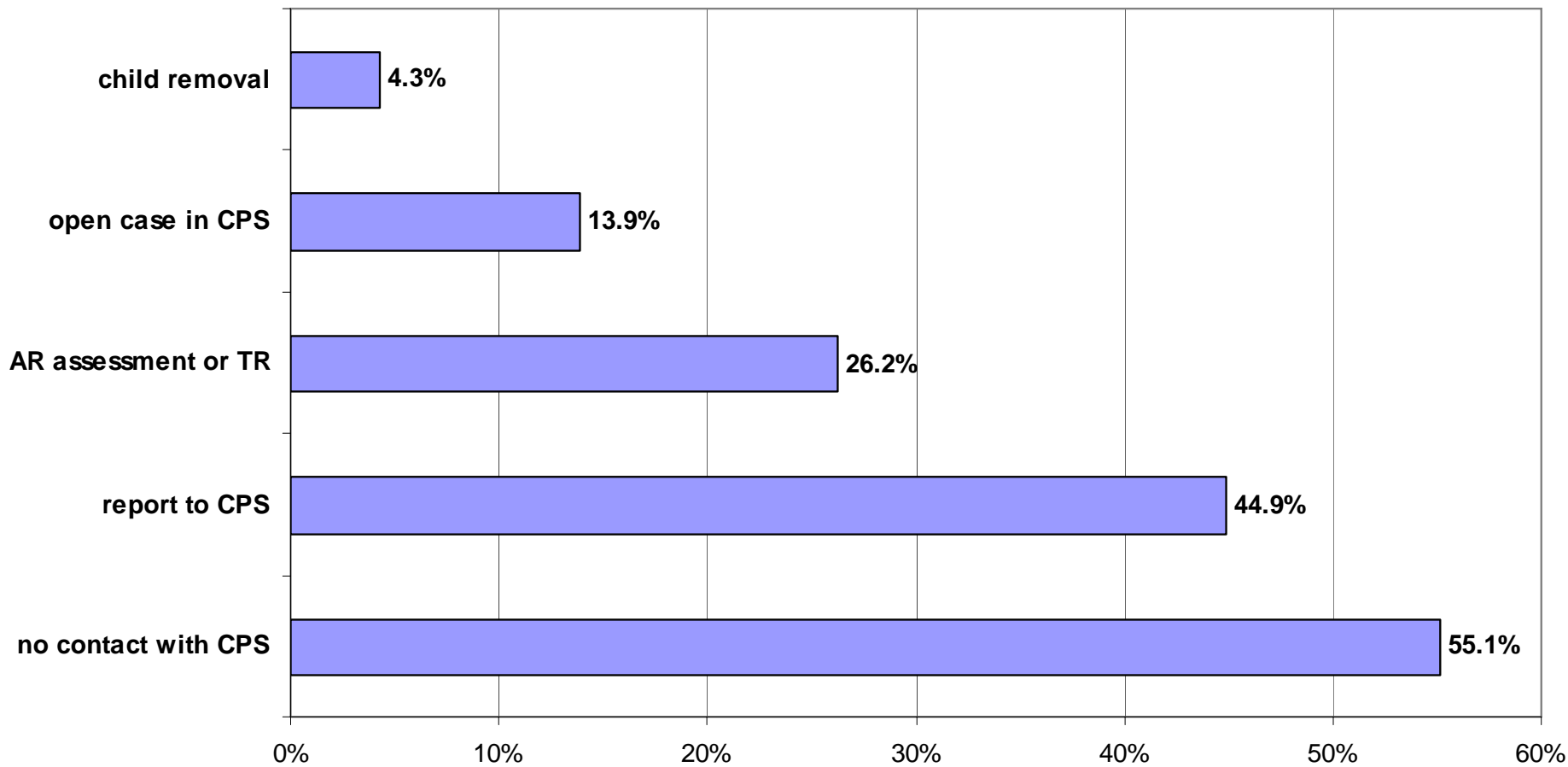


2006 Evaluation Report: Service Costs Only for Experimental and Control Families 7/1/01 to 3/31/2006

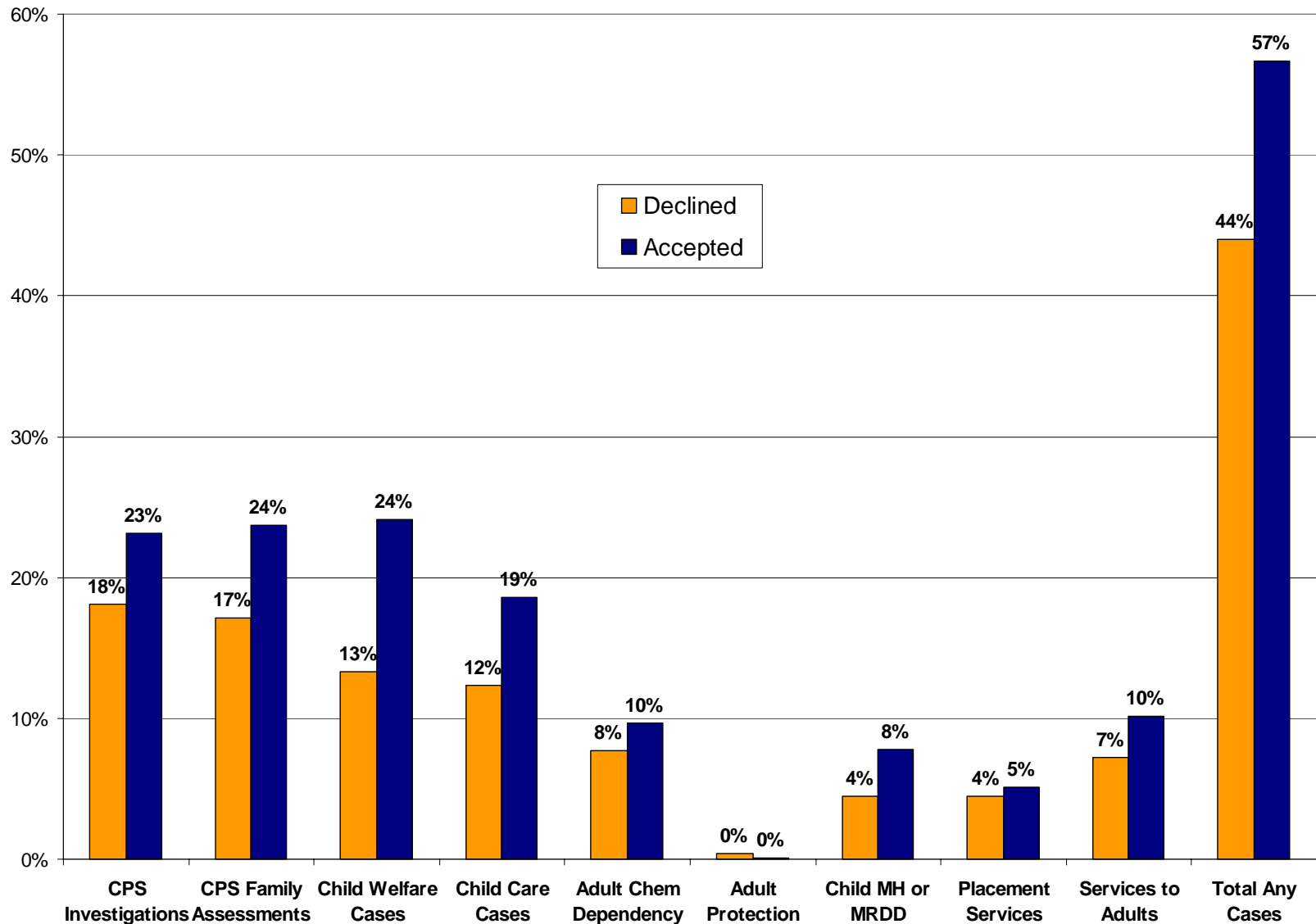
(Excludes Ramsey County)



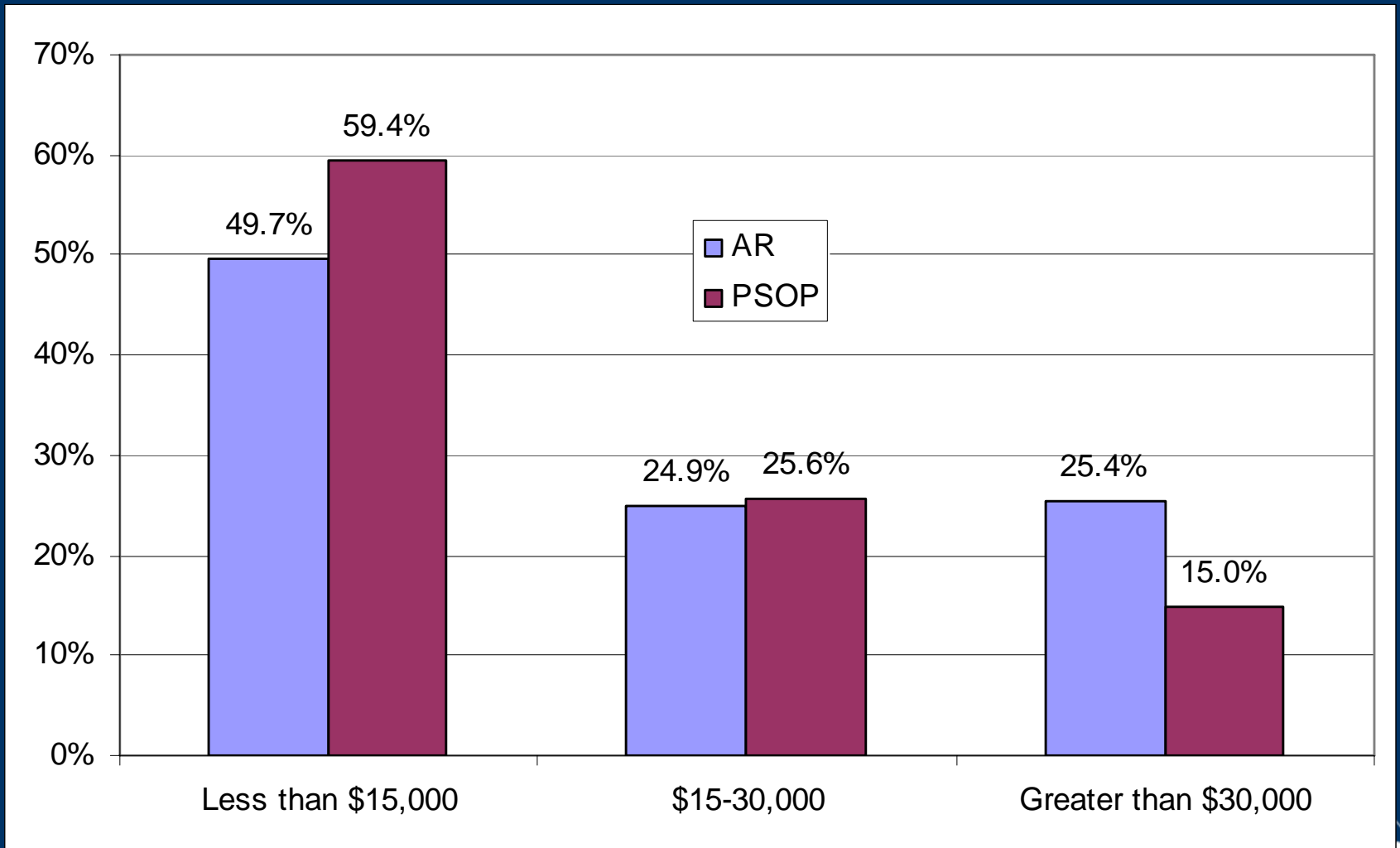
# PSOP Families Prior CPS Contact (EFA)



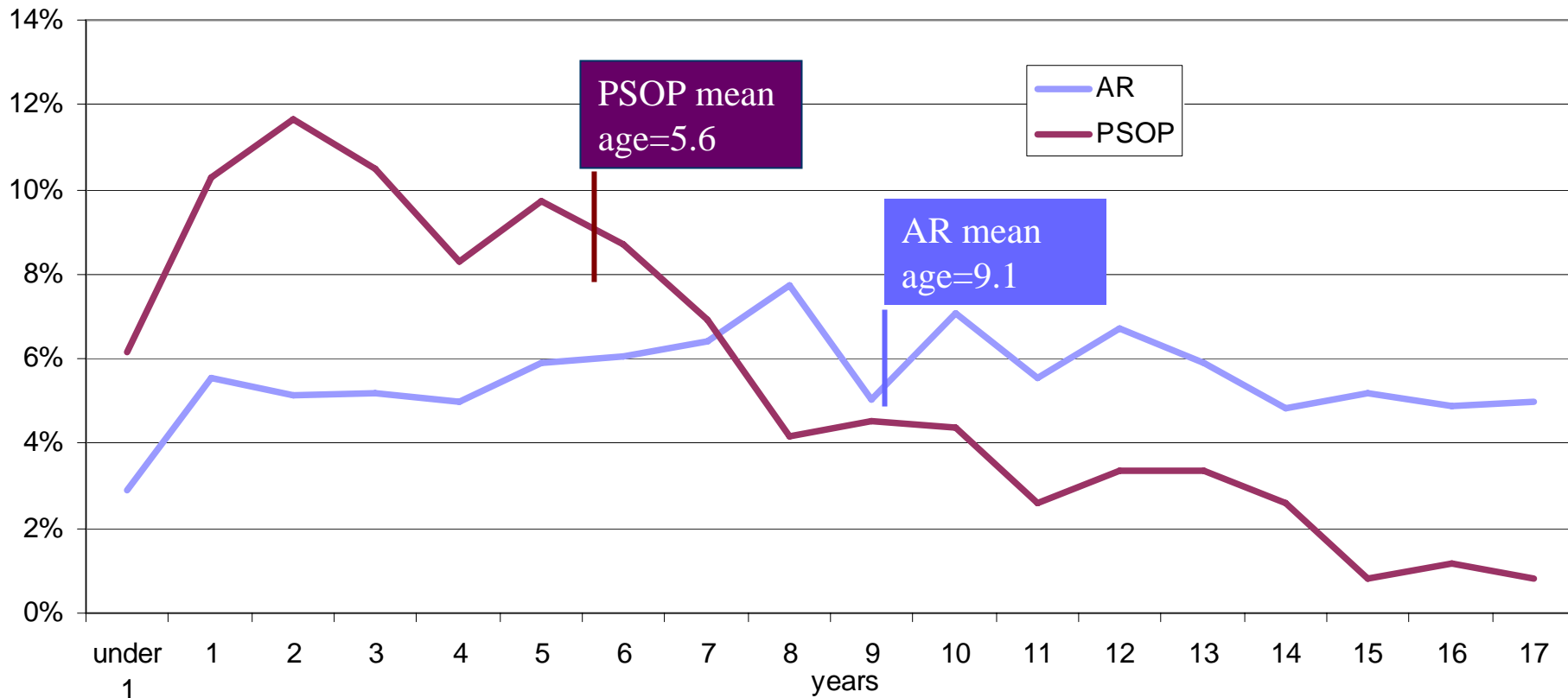
# Prior CPS & Service Contacts among Families Accepting & Declining PSOP



# PSO families vs FAR families Annual Income



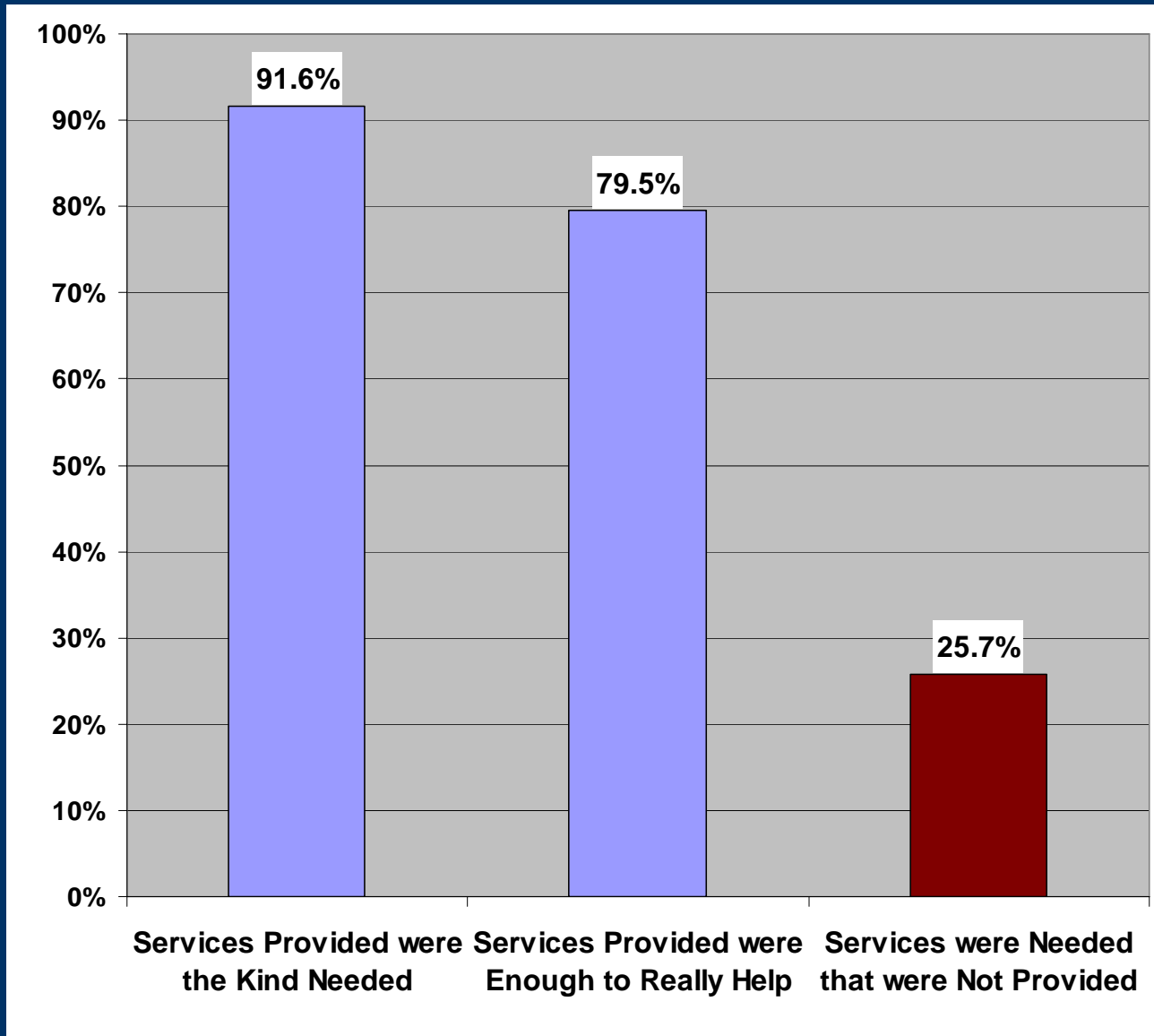
# Age of PSOP and AR Children



Mean number of children under 18: AR=2.2 PSOP=2.3



# PSOP Families' Assessment of Services



# Lessons Learned

- The most important change we made was what we believed about families
- The way families are approached can determine the level of:
  - engagement
  - cooperation
  - safety
- Social worker training in strength based interventions was important in maintaining the integrity and efficacy of the model



# Information Sources

- Minnesota DHS Web site  
[www.dhs.state.mn.us](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us)
- Institute of Applied Research  
[www.iarstl.org](http://www.iarstl.org)
- Tony Loman: [lalomana@www.iarstl.org](mailto:lalomana@www.iarstl.org)
- Gary Siegel: [gary.siegel@iarstl.org](mailto:gary.siegel@iarstl.org)
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