

Dakota Healthy Families Practice, Performance and Outcomes



Connections Matter
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“...early experiences help to determine brain structure, thus shaping the way people learn, think, and behave for the rest of their lives.”

I Am Your Child
Reiner Foundation

Dakota Healthy Families



...Dakota County families are supported through community collaboration so that infants are nurtured and children arrive at school ready to learn.



Dakota Healthy Families Child Maltreatment Outcome Study

Child Maltreatment Outcome



Does DHF home visiting result in:

- Avoided child abuse cases
- Cost recovery in immediate term
- Current net cost savings

Child Maltreatment Outcome



Parent Survey

- Developed by Helfer and Kempe
- Used to assess family risk for child abuse
- Used to determine DHF program eligibility
- Covers 10 life domains – each scored 0, 5, 10

Murphy Study Definitions



➤ **Determined Abuse**

- Inflicted injuries
- Documented in medical record

➤ **Determined Neglect**

- More than one incident
- Hospitalization or clinic visit required

Murphy Study Finding



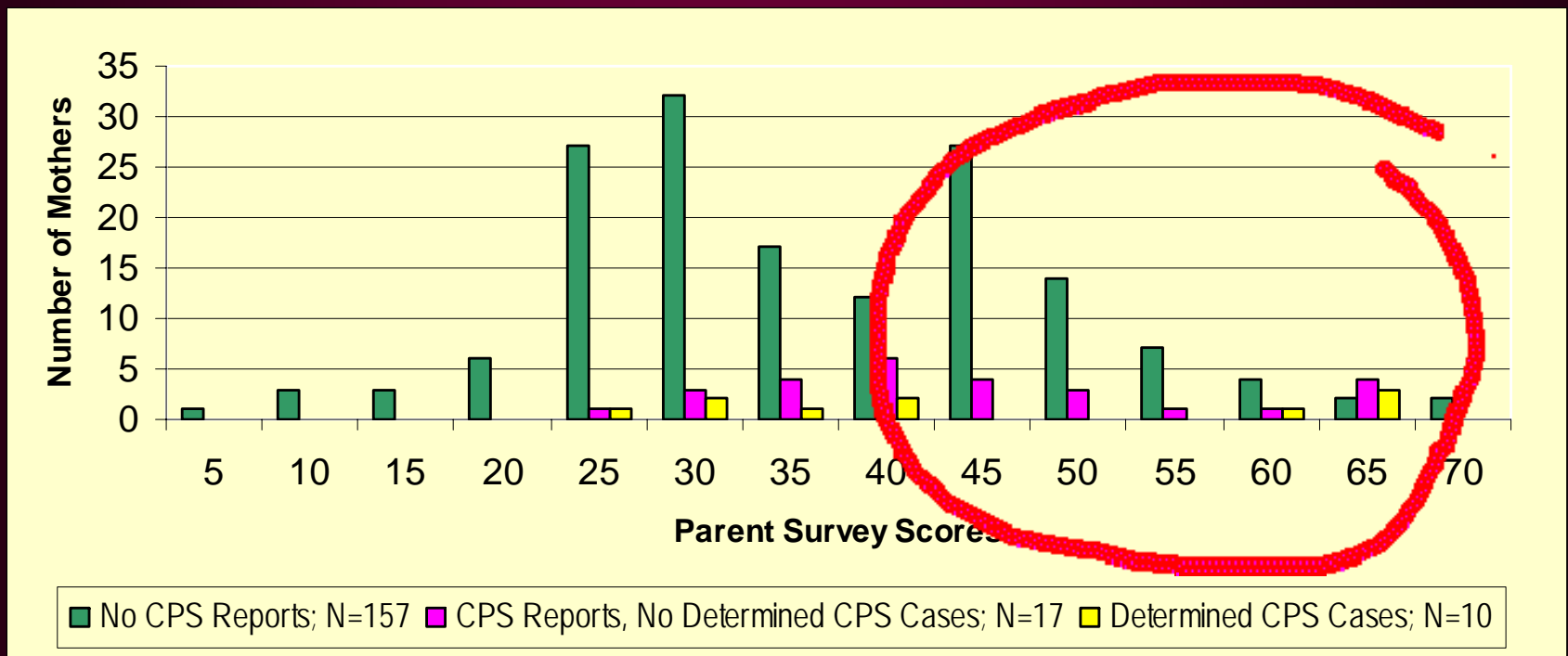
Defined high risk for child abuse

- ✦ **Parent Survey Score 40 and higher**
 - **53% of moms had determined CPS case**

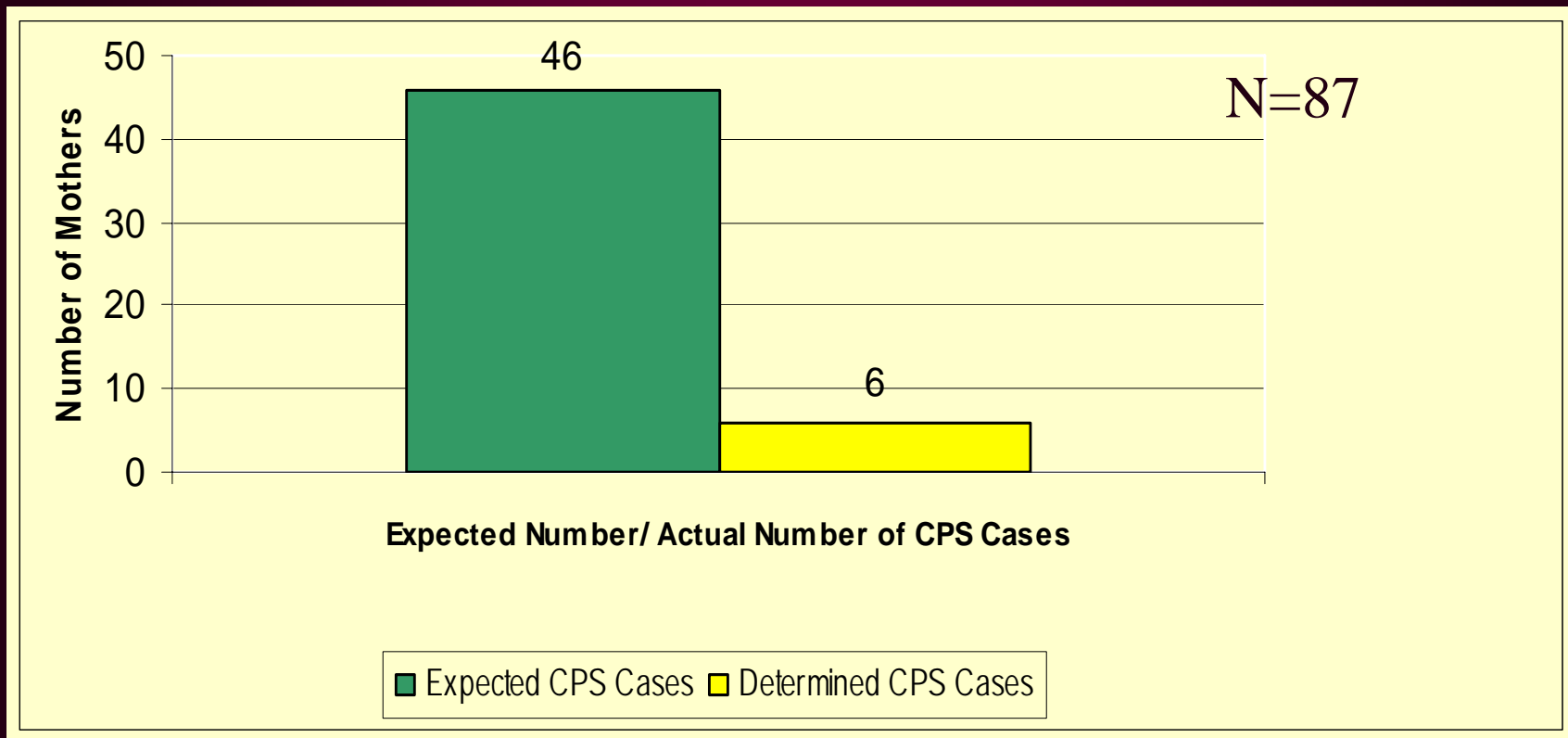


Parent Survey Score Distribution for DHF Mothers

N=184



Expected and Determined Number of Child Maltreatment Cases



Only 7% of the most at-risk DHF families had determined case of child abuse, compared with an expected 53%

Avoided CPS Cases Calculation

# of Cases	Calculation
87	Moms w/ PS scores of 40 & above
46	Expected cases (53% of 87)
4	Cases due to recurrence rate (8.2% x 46)
50	Total expected cases (46+4=50)
6	Actual cases of maltreatment
44	Avoided cases due to DHF (50-6=44)

CPS Cost Calculations



- **Intake and screening**
- **Investigation**
- **Purchase of service**
- **Out-of-home placement**
- **Case management**
- **County attorney**
- **City law enforcement and state courts**



Cost/Benefit Methods Per Case



\$23,258 = Dakota County CPS cost (.5 yrs)

\$25,792 = Total CPS Cost (State, county, city)

\$6,150 = Average per DHF family cost (1.6 yrs)



Cost/Benefit Methods

Total Cost



CPS Avoided Costs

- \$1.02 M – County only (44 families X \$23,258)
- \$1.13 M – State, County, City (44 families X \$25,792)

Cost of Providing Services to DHF Participants

- \$1.34 M (218 families X \$6150)

DHF Program Cost Recovery

- 76% – County only
- 84% – State, County, City



Child Protection Expenditures



Operations	2002	2003	2004
CPS Referrals	777	653	622
In Home Expenditures	\$956,408	\$775,390	\$597,624
Placement Expenditures	\$4,874,751	\$3,563,078	\$3,080,507

Essential ingredients for a high return



- **For the highest public return on investment**
 - 1. Target resources to the most at-risk families**
 - 2. Start early**
 - 3. Quality is key**

DHF Participant Profile



Is a poor, single, young mom facing --

- **Domestic abuse,**
- **Mental illness,**
- **Limited education,**
- **Isolation and**
- **Substance abuse.**

Community Outreach and Family Identification



Practice

- Partner network to identify families
- Risk based screening (Parent Survey)
- In-home assessment to engage families

Accountability

- Partner referral counts
- Participant demographics
- Voluntary participation rate

Performance Measurement



Practice

- Creative outreach
- Weighted caseloads
- Growing Great Kids, Inc. curriculum
- Supervision and case consultation

Accountability

- Elapsed time
- Home visit percent of standard
- Family retention rates
- Quality assurance

Outcome Measurement



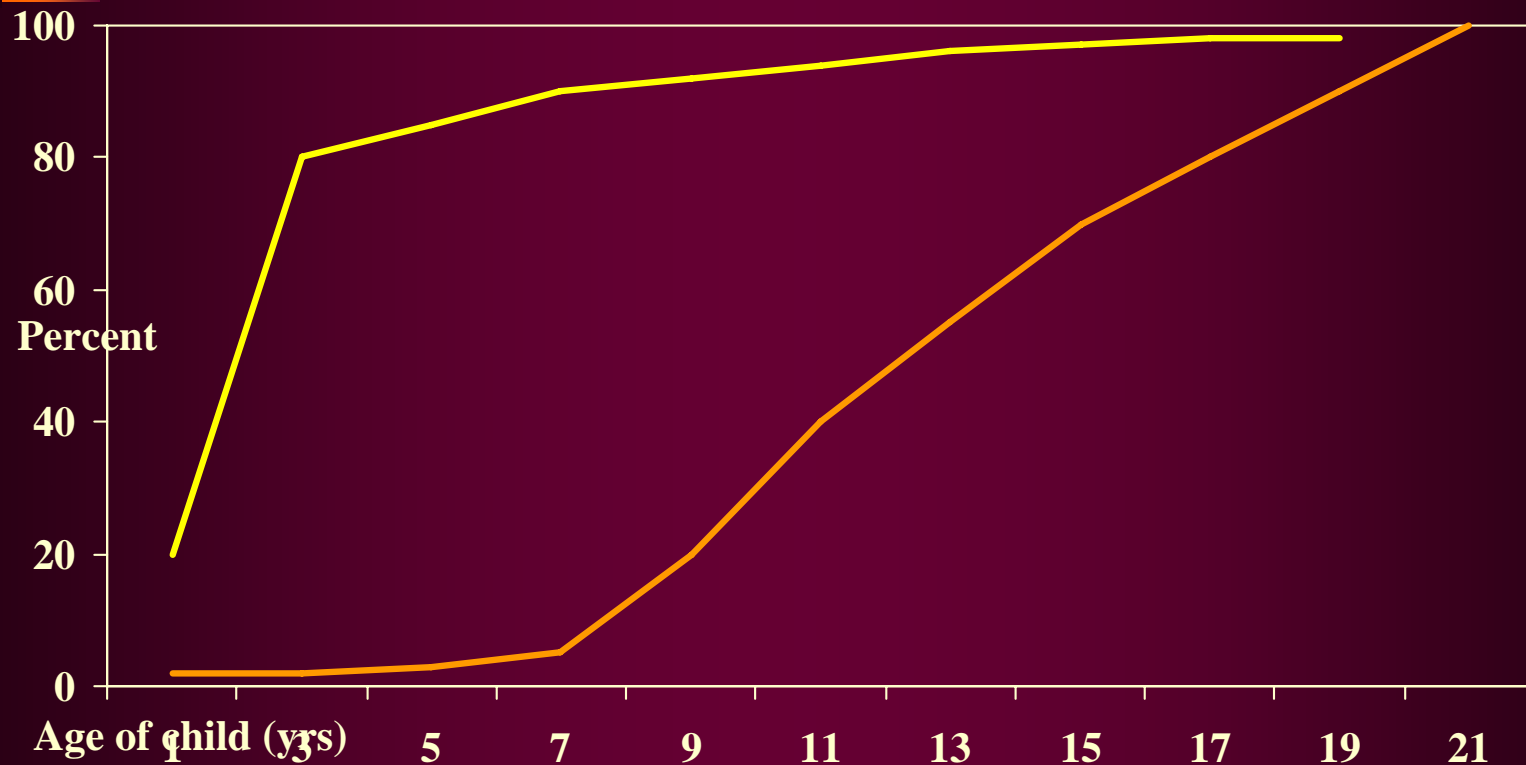
Practice

- Tool schedule
- Child development
- Family health
- Home environment

Accountability

- Ages and Stages
- Early Communication Indicator
- Well child check and immunization rates
- Child maltreatment determinations rates
- Home safety checklist

Brain Growth Compared with Public Expenditures on Children



— % brain growth — Cumulative % public \$ spent on children

Source: Public Expenditures: RAND analysis of Table 1 in R. Haveman and B. Wolfe. "The Determinants of Children's Attainments: A review of Methods and Findings," Journal of Economic Literature, Vol. 33, 12/1995, Brain Growth: Figure 2-0 in Purves, Body and Brain, Harvard University, 1998.

DHF -- The Right Work!



Ready for School?



MINNESOTA SCHOOL READINESS BUSINESS ADVISORY
COUNCIL: POLICY TASK FORCE REPORT
December 9, 2004

The choice is ours!



“What we do to
children, they will
do to society.”

- Karl Menninger



Leave No Infant Behind

Next Steps

- \$1 M County Board appropriation
- 320 families by 2010
- Congressional appropriation
- Metro Alliance for Healthy Families

Swimming with the Sharks

Shark Bait . . .  ***Shark Proof . . .***

Supervision & quality assurance

In-kind supervision;
no quality assurance



Rigorous supervision,
case consultation,
quality assurance

Funding and program support

Revenue slated to
decline by 75%



Funding continued by
County Board through
2008

Early Communication Outcome

Early Communication Indicator (ECI):

- Begins at age 6 months; repeated 4 month intervals
- Videotaping of a toy-play setting
- 6-minute assessment
- Independent scoring of videotapes (gestures, sounds, words, or sentences to convey wants and express meaning)
- Graphed and compared to normed group
- Know when change is needed and effectiveness of interventions



Early Communication Indicator

N=65

Age	On Target	Slightly Below Benchmark	Below Benchmark
6-11 mos.	16 (94.1%)	(0%)	1 (5.3%)
12-23 mos.	14 (73.7%)	4 (21.1%)	1 (5.3%)
24-35 mos.	15 (100%)	(0%)	(0%)
36-47 mos.	14 (100%)	(0%)	(0%)
Total	59 (90.8%)	4 (6.2%)	2 (3.1%)

Needs Overview



Minnesota

- 7,800 maltreated children
- Most victims < 6 years old; hospitalized < 3 years old
- \$3.1 M for 500 hospitalized children; only 15% reported to CPS
- 73% of all offenders were victims' birth parents
- 50% of kindergartners unprepared

Dakota County

- 550 newborns at risk each year (10% of births)
- 660 kindergartners unprepared

Swimming with the Sharks

Shark Bait . . .  ***Shark Proof . . .***

Intensity of effort

Dabble in DHF

- 40 home visitors
- 1 to 3 cases each
- 10 agencies



Focus on DHF

- 8 home visitors
- 10-20 cases each
- 3 agencies

Performance Measures

No performance
measures



Clear performance
measures

DHF -- The Right Work!



Science of early childhood development:

- **85% of brain development occurs by the age of 5**
- **Vocabulary at age 3 is highly correlated with reading comprehension at age 9 and 12**

DHF -- The Right Work!



Compelling economic case:

- **Total Benefit-Cost Ratio = \$17.07 to \$1**
- **Estimated Total Annual Rate of Return = 18%**
- **Public Rate of Return = 16%**

Overview of DHF



DHF families:

- Are identified **prenatally** or within the **first three months** of the birth of their **first** child
- **Choose** to participate
- Are **at risk** for parenting difficulties

Overview of DHF



Focus is on:

- The parent-infant relationship
- Child development
- Family health and growth
- Connection to informal and formal community resources

DHF Target Population



- 2,150 births to Dakota County for first-time parents each year
- 214 - 321 infants each year face threats to health and development (10-15% of all births)
- 104 - 160 families likely to want services (50% participation rate)

DHF Program Model

Steering Team

12 members

Outreach to Parents

2 hospitals, 10 clinics,
WIC, school districts

Screening & Assessment

Public Health .75 FTE

Home Visiting to Parents

3 partner agencies,
7.5 FTEs

Clinical Supervision Program Support

Public Health 2.0 FTE

Coordination Fiscal Agent

.75 FTE in-kind