Upstream Strategies
The Evolution of Child Welfare

Moderator: Jenna Bannon, NCSL
Speakers:
Cynthia Osborne, Ph.D., Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center at Vanderbilt University
Jerry Milner, DSW, Family Integrity and Justice Works at Public Knowledge
**Child Maltreatment: The Latest National Data**

- **3.9 million referrals**
- **618,000 victims**

### Substantiated Cases

- Ages of victims:
  - **Under 1: 15.2%**
  - **1 to 5 years: 31.2%**
  - **6 to 10 years: 25%**
  - **11 to 15 years: 17.7%**
  - **16 to 17 years: 6%**

### Reports

### Removals

- **22% of substantiated victims removed**

**Reasons for removal:**

- **Neglect (64%)**
- **Parental drug use (35%)**
- **Caretaker inability to cope (35%)**
- **Physical Abuse (13%)**
- **Housing (9%)**
- **Child behavioral problem (8%)**
- **Parental incarceration (6%)**
- **Sexual Abuse (4%)**

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* The AFCARS Report, published Nov. 19, 2021
Neglect and Poverty

- Neglect and poverty are closely correlated, but not the same.
  - Those in poverty often have more contact with government systems.
  - More contacts → More reports.
  - Poverty is also correlated with race and ethnicity → disproportionality.
- Most parents don’t intend to neglect their children.
- Child welfare systems were not designed to prevent poverty.
Today’s Guiding Questions

1. What do we mean by “upstream prevention strategies”?

2. What are the roots and/or driving principles of this approach?

3. What is the intended impact of a prevention approach on child welfare systems?
1. What does the prevailing body of peer-reviewed scientific research say about strategies to prevent child maltreatment?

2. What specific state policies rise to the top and why?

3. What is the role of communities in preventing child maltreatment?
August 1, 2022 — NCSL Legislative Summit
Upstream Strategies: The Evolution of Child Welfare

PRENATAL-TO-3 POLICY IMPACT CENTER

Research for Action and Outcomes

CYNTHIA OSBORNE, PH.D.
Executive Director, Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center
Professor of Early Childhood Education and Policy
Vanderbilt University, Peabody College of Education and Human Development
Eight Prenatal-to-3 Policy Goals

- Access to Needed Services
- Parents’ Ability to Work
- Sufficient Household Resources
- Healthy and Equitable Births
- Parental Health and Emotional Wellbeing
- Nurturing and Responsive Child-Parent Relationships
- Nurturing and Responsive Child Care in Safe Settings
- Optimal Child Health and Development
# The Prenatal-to-3 System of Care

## Five Effective Policies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Refundable State Earned Income Tax Credit of at least 10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reduced Administrative Burden for SNAP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paid Family Leave Program of at least 6 Weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Minimum Wage of $10.00 or Greater</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expanded Income Eligibility for Health Insurance</td>
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The Prenatal-to-3 System of Care

**Six Effective Strategies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Screening and Connection Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Care Subsidies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Prenatal Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evidence-Based Home Visiting Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early Head Start</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early Intervention Services</td>
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</tbody>
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## GOALS

To achieve a science-driven PN-3 goal:

- Access to Needed Services
- Parents’ Ability to Work
- Sufficient Household Resources
- Healthy and Equitable Births
- Parental Health and Emotional Wellbeing
- Nurturing and Responsive Child-Parent Relationships
- Nurturing and Responsive Child Care in Safe Settings
- Optimal Child Health and Development

## POLICIES

Adopt and fully implement the **effective policies** aligned with the goal:

- Expanded Income Eligibility for Health Insurance
- Reduced Administrative Burden for SNAP
- Paid Family Leave
- State Minimum Wage
- State Earned Income Tax Credit

## OUTCOMES

Measure progress toward achieving the PN-3 goal:

- Health Insurance Adequate Prenatal Care Access to SNAP Developmental Screenings
- Parental Employment
- Child Poverty Crowded Housing Food Insecurity
- Preterm Births Infant Mortality
- Maternal Mental Health Parenting Support
- Daily Reading Daily Nurturing Behaviors Parenting Stress
- Child Care Providers Participating in QRIS Access to EHS
- Breastfeeding Immunizations Child Maltreatment
## GOALS

To achieve a science-driven PN-3 goal:

- Access to Needed Services
- Parents’ Ability to Work
- Sufficient Household Resources
- Healthy and Equitable Births
- Parental Health and Emotional Wellbeing
- Nurturing and Responsive Child-Parent Relationships
- Nurturing and Responsive Child Care in Safe Settings
- Optimal Child Health and Development

## STRATEGIES

Make substantial progress relative to other states toward implementing the effective strategies aligned with the goal:

- Comprehensive Screening and Connection Programs
- Child Care Subsidies
- Group Prenatal Care
- Evidence-Based Home Visiting Programs
- Early Head Start
- Early Intervention Services

## OUTCOMES

Measure progress toward achieving the PN-3 goal:

- Health Insurance
- Adequate Prenatal Care
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- Access to EHS
- Breastfeeding
- Immunizations
- Child Maltreatment
Effective Policies to Reduce Child Maltreatment

• State Earned Income Tax Credit
  • Each 10 ppt increase in a refundable state EITC led to a 9% decline in neglect reports for children < 5

• Paid Family Leave
  • Led to a decrease in hospital admissions for pediatric head trauma:
    • Decline of 2.8 per 100,000 children under age 2
    • Decline of 5.1 per 100,000 children under age 1

• State Minimum Wage
  • A $1.00 increase in the minimum wage:
    • Reduced child neglect reports by 9.6% overall, and by 10.8% for children < 5
    • Reduced spanking of children at age 3 by 7.4% for mothers and 7.8% for fathers
Effective Policies to Reduce Child Maltreatment

• Medicaid Expansion led to:
  • .53 fewer infant deaths per 1000 births among Hispanic infants

• Early Head Start
  • EHS participants were less likely to spank their child at age 3, and had more positive parenting practices

• Healthy Families America – Home Visiting Program
  • One of the only home visiting programs with consistent results on reducing child maltreatment
2021 Prenatal-to-3 State Policy Roadmap

pn3policy.org/roadmap
YOU’RE INVITED!

prenatal-to-3 policy  |  Happy Hour Reception

Tuesday, August 2, 4-6pm (MT)

Hotel: Le Méridien Denver Downtown, 1475 California St.
Room: Kebler Pass 2
2022 NATIONAL PRENATAL-TO-3 RESEARCH TO POLICY SUMMIT

October 13, 1-4pm CT / 2-5pm ET

pn3policy.org/2022register
Connect

pn3policy.org

pn3center@vanderbilt.edu

@pn3policy and #pn3policy

1. What opportunities do you see for transformation in the next decade?

2. Where do you see state legislatures having the most impact in reforming their systems?

3. Where should a legislator start?
NCSL’s Children & Families Program

Check out our program resources on the meet app.

Reach out anytime!

Jenna Bannon

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