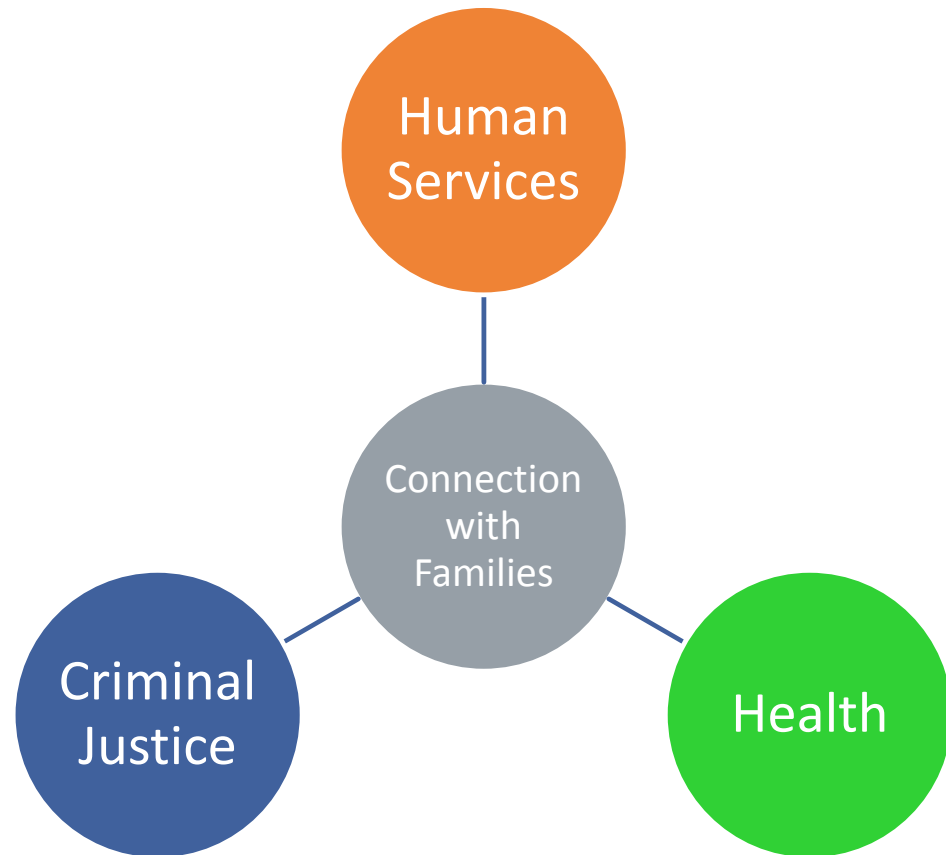

FAMILY DRUG COURTS

MEGHAN MCCANN, JD

OCTOBER 3, 2019



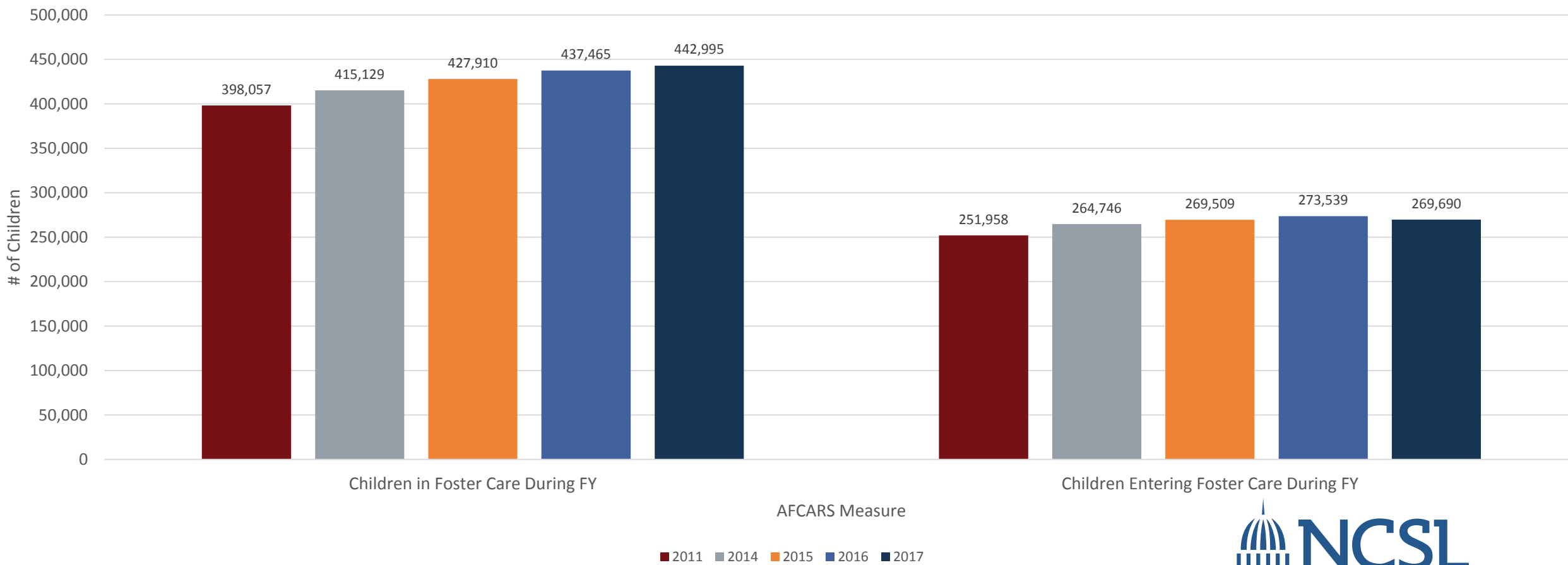
BROAD IMPACT



- These families cross many different jurisdictions and issue areas
- Communication and collaboration is critical

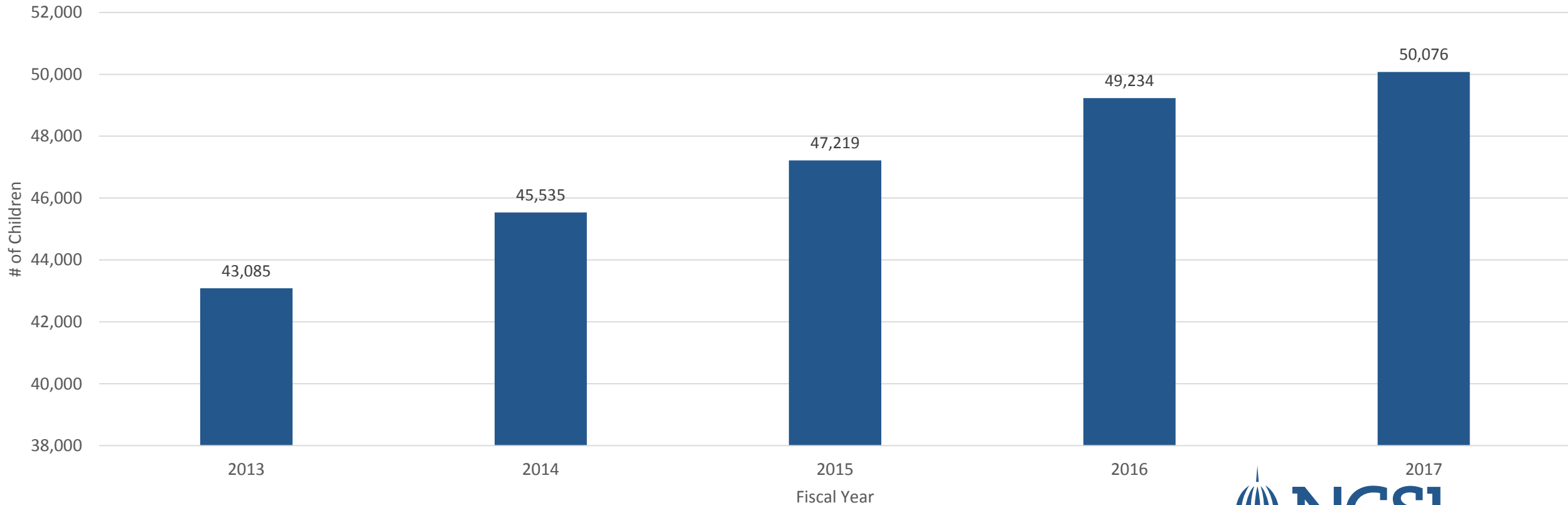
NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

Number of Children in Foster Care and Number of Children Entering Foster Care



NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 1 IN FOSTER CARE

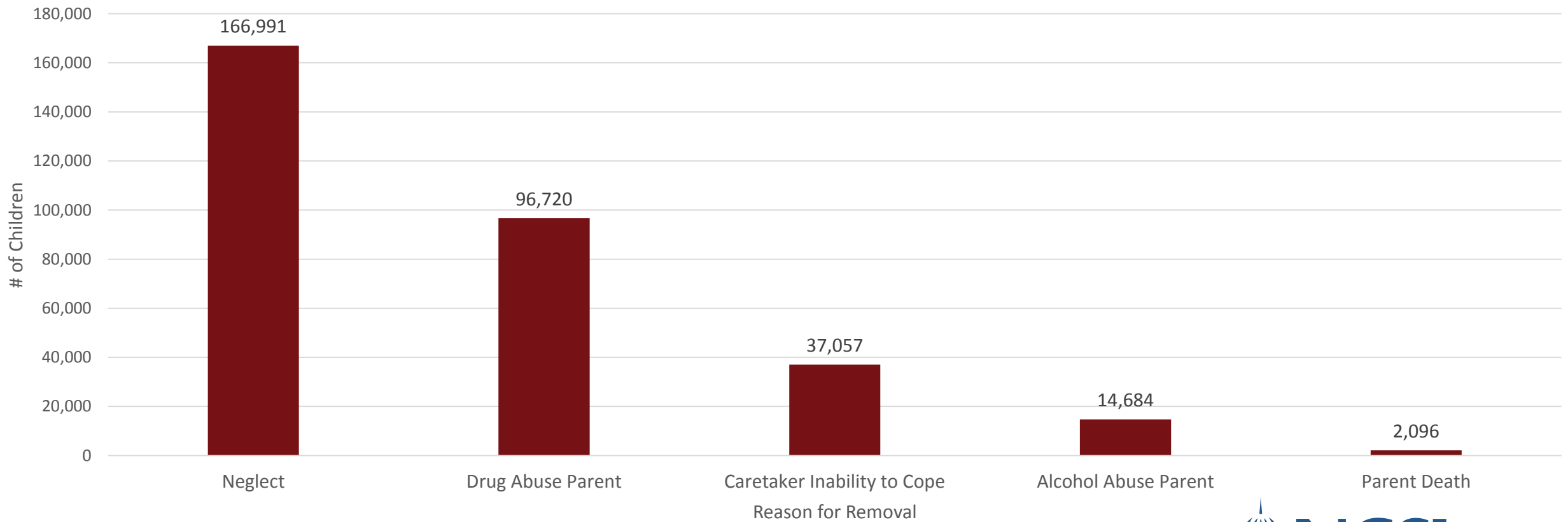
of Children Under Age 1 Entering Foster Care during FY
Represents 19% of all Entries



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REASON FOR REMOVAL

Reason for Removal Related to Parental Substance Use in FY 2017



SPECIALTY COURTS FOR FAMILIES

Types

- Family Drug Treatment Courts
- Infant-Toddler Courts

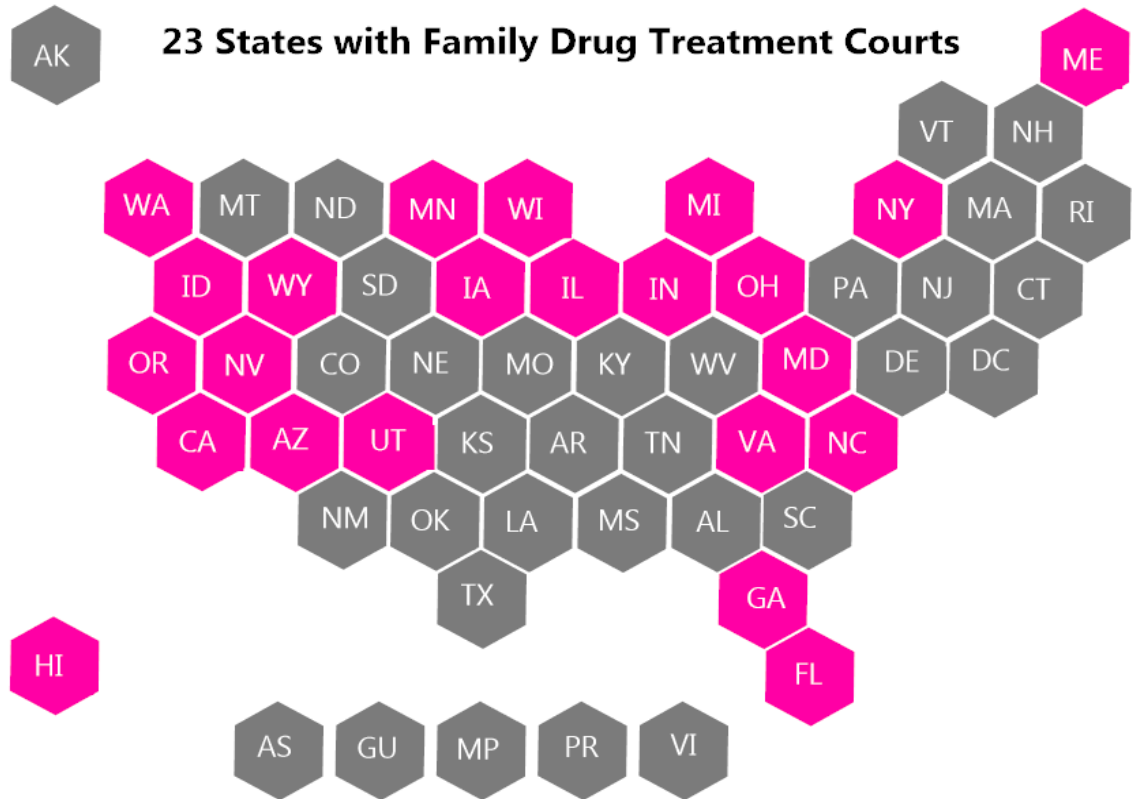
Common Elements

- Child welfare involvement.
- Parental substance use as a factor in child welfare involvement.
- Multi-sector collaboration to support the family.



FAMILY DRUG TREATMENT COURTS

- Goal: reduce child maltreatment by treating parents' underlying substance use disorders through a coordinated and collaborative approach.
- Typical Stakeholders:
 - Substance use disorder treatment
 - Child welfare services
 - Mental health
 - Social services agencies
- Non-adversarial approach



STATE EXAMPLE: IOWA

Elements and Activities

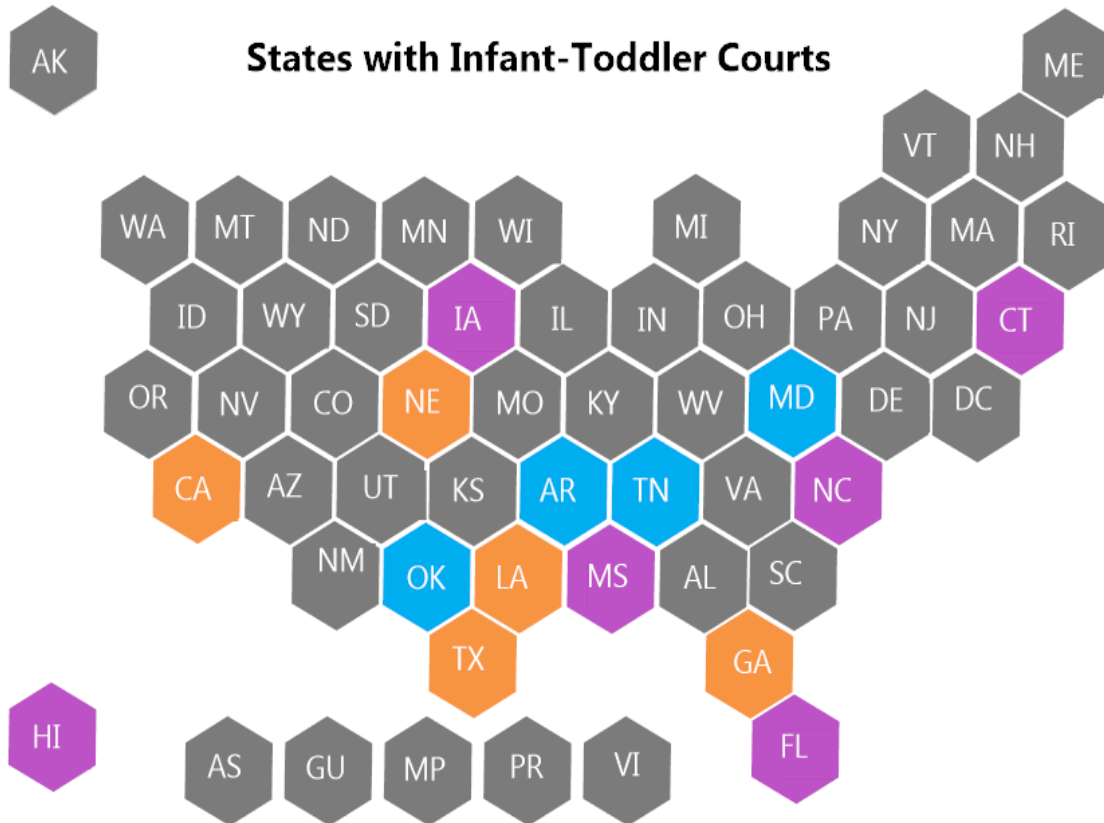
- Elements:
 - Early substance use assessments and entry into treatment for parents
 - Regular, frequent judge-led court hearings
 - Recovery support services for families
 - Team approach to joint case planning
 - Coordinated delivery of services for families
 - Common vision and training on substance use and child welfare
- Current Activities
 - Identifying what families can benefit from family treatment court
 - Increasing capacity of current family treatment courts
 - Prenatal screening to prevent substance exposure and early identification to remediate the impact of the substance exposure on the children

Outcomes

- Parents
 - 94% were admitted to substance use treatment
 - Average stay in substance use treatment was 2 times longer than other parents in the child welfare system
- Children
 - 77% were able to remain with parents
 - 76% of children in care returned home within 12 months
 - 96% did not suffer repeat maltreatment within 6 months of entry into the family treatment court
- State
 - Estimated \$14.5 million cost avoidance since 2007; an average of approximately \$12,000 per family



INFANT-TODDLER COURTS



- States with Active Safe Baby Court Team Site
- States with Legacy Safe Baby Court Team Site
- States with a QIC-CT Demonstration Site

- Focus on early childhood brain development and child welfare.
- Strengths-based approach focused on promoting protective factors for children and families.
- Mental health referrals are made for children and their parents, separately, and together.

INFANT-TODDLER COURTS: DEMOGRAPHICS AND COMPONENTS

Demographics

- In the caseload, reason for child's removal:
 - 72.3% Neglect
 - 69.4% parental alcohol/drugs
 - 24.4% parent's mental illness
- Child health indicators:
 - Exposure to parental substance abuse (57.7%)
 - Parental use of drugs (52.4%)
 - Parental smoking (25.0%)
 - Parental use of alcohol (14.9%)
- Parental risk factors
 - History of alcohol or drug abuse (82.4%)
 - History of mental health issues (50.8%)
 - Incarcerated during adulthood (48.1%)

Components

- Monthly case reviews
- Family team meetings
- Referral to child-focused services
- Child-parent psychotherapy
- Frequent family contact
- Concurrent planning from day 1
- Technical assistance from ZERO TO THREE
- Parents receive comprehensive medical and mental health assessments including evaluation for childhood trauma, prenatal alcohol exposure, substance abuse, and domestic violence.



INFANT-TODDLER COURTS: OUTCOMES

For the Child

- Repeat Maltreatment Rate:
 - National Average: 9.1%
 - SBCT Approach: 0.7%
- Exit From Foster Care:
 - Reunify 8 months faster
 - To adoption 10 months faster
 - Placed with relative custodian 3-4 months faster

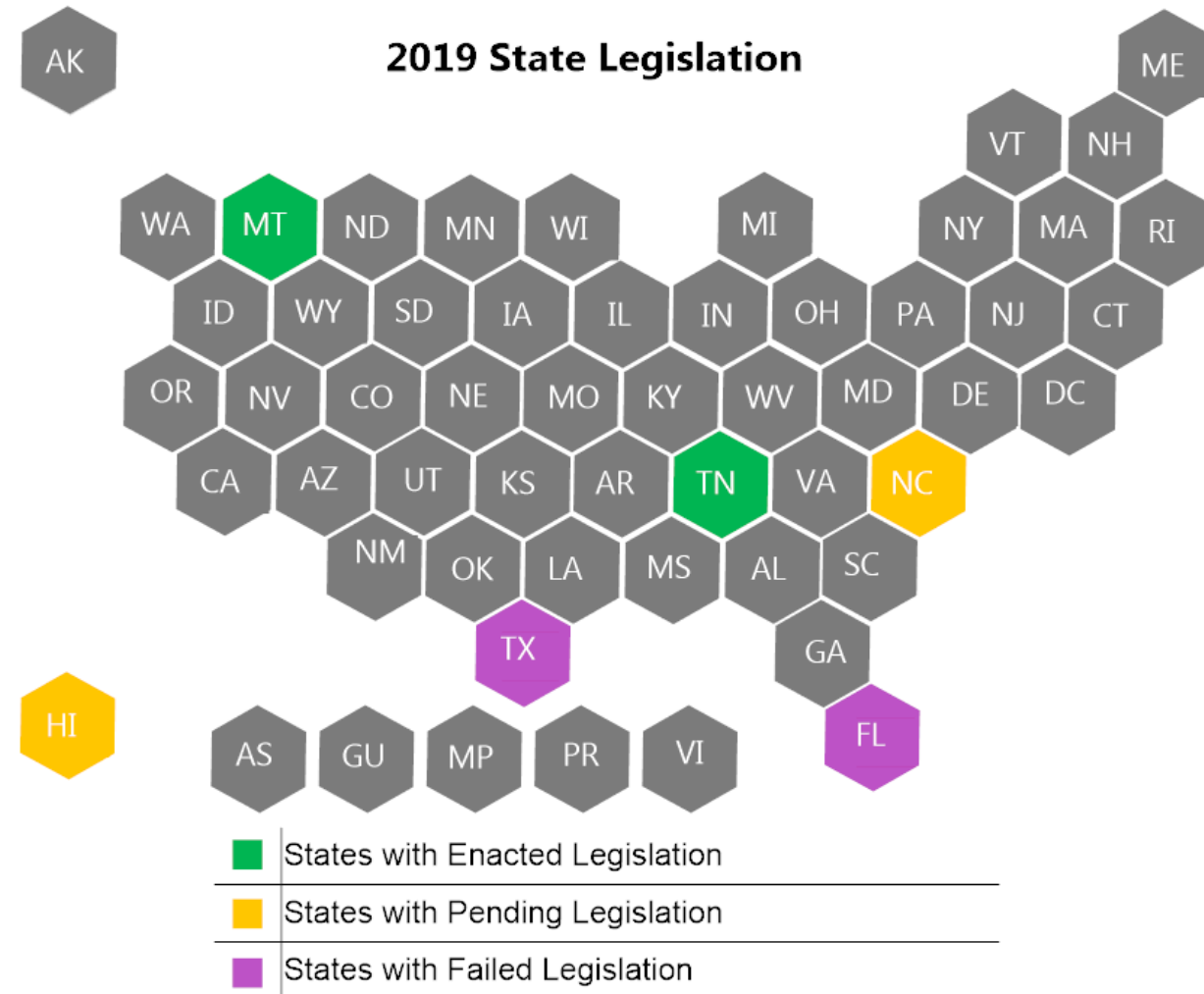
Economic

- Cost of ZERO TO THREE Safe Baby Court Team Approach: \$10,000/child
- Cost Savings:
 - Earlier exit from foster care = \$7,300/child



2019 STATE LEGISLATION

- Legislation is typically to authorize, establish, or fund these problem-solving courts
- At least 6 states (Florida, Hawaii, Montana, North Carolina, Tennessee and Texas) have enacted legislation in 2019 to fund or establish zero-to-three, infant-toddler, early childhood or family treatment courts.
- Tennessee enacted legislation (SB 649) to add additional Zero-to-Three courts in the state and establish a Safe Baby Court Advisory Committee.
- Montana appropriated \$600,000 for the continuation of various problem-solving courts, including the Flathead Family Treatment Court, through 2021.



QUESTIONS?



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