

# Strategies for Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect

Presentation to the  
House Committee on Children and Seniors  
February 7, 2013



Kansas Children's Service League  
February 7, 2013

# What is Child Maltreatment?

All types of abuse and neglect of a child under the age of 18 by a parent, caregiver, or another person in a custodial role that results in harm, potential for harm, or threat of harm to a child, including:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Neglect

# The Problem of Child Maltreatment

## 2012 Kansas Data:

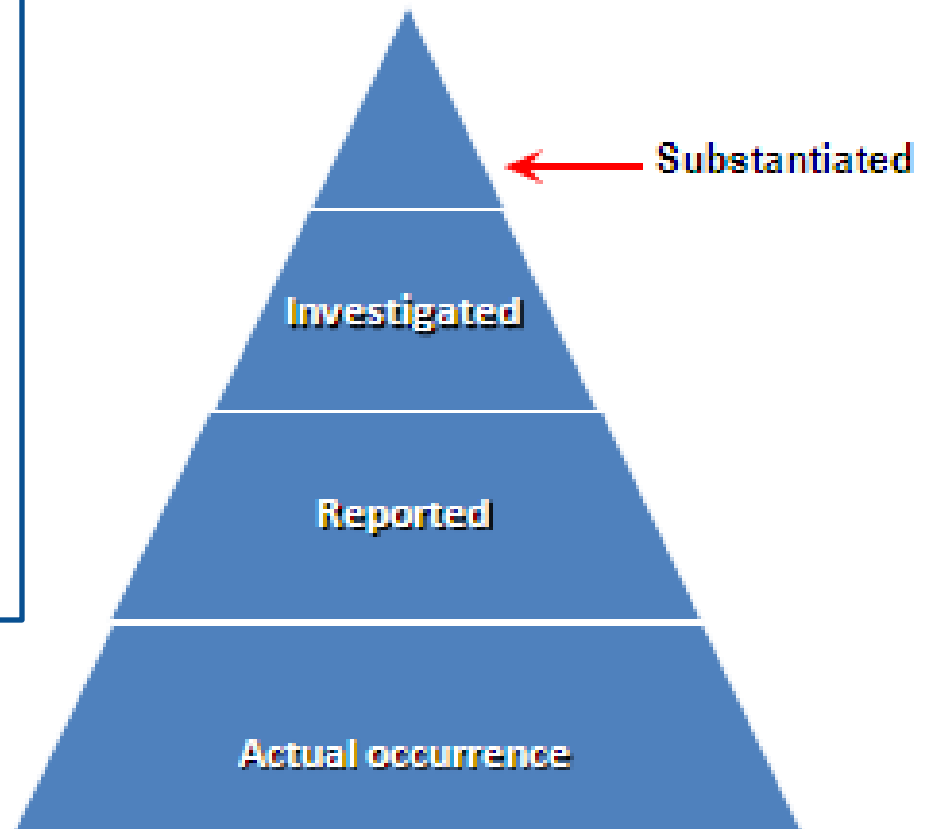
Substantiated for child abuse and neglect:

1,916 (5% increase)

Screened in for Investigation:

33,989 (10% increase)

Reports: 64,129 (6% increase)



# Adverse Childhood Experiences

- Recent research focuses on **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)**, which include abuse and neglect as well as other circumstances and events that affect children adversely.
- The childhood trauma stemming from early adversity has a profound impact on social connections, school readiness, and the increased likelihood of developing negative health behaviors that can lead to disease and early death.

# ACES QUESTIONNAIRE

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- An alcohol and/or drug abuser in the household
- An incarcerated household member
- Someone who is chronically depressed, mentally ill, institutionalized, or suicidal
- Mother is treated violently
- One or no parents
- Emotional or physical neglect

Finding Your ACE Score

While you were growing up, during your first 18 years of life:

1. Did a parent or other adult in the household **often or very often**...  
Swear at you, insult you, put you down, or humiliate you?  
or  
Act in a way that made you afraid that you might be physically hurt?  
Yes No If yes enter 1 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Did a parent or other adult in the household **often or very often**...  
Push, grab, slap, or throw something at you?  
or  
Ever hit you so hard that you had marks or were injured?  
Yes No If yes enter 1 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Did an adult or person at least 5 years older than you **ever**...  
Touch or fondle you or have you touch their body in a sexual way?  
or  
Attempt or actually have oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse with you?  
Yes No If yes enter 1 \_\_\_\_\_
4. Did you **often or very often** feel that ...  
No one in your family loved you or thought you were important or special?  
or  
Your family didn't look out for each other, feel close to each other, or support each other?  
Yes No If yes enter 1 \_\_\_\_\_
5. Did you **often or very often** feel that ...  
You didn't have enough to eat, had to wear dirty clothes, and had no one to protect you?  
or  
Your parents were too drunk or high to take care of you or take you to the doctor if you needed it?  
Yes No If yes enter 1 \_\_\_\_\_
6. Were your parents **ever** separated or divorced?  
Yes No If yes enter 1 \_\_\_\_\_
7. Was your mother or stepmother:  
**Often or very often** pushed, grabbed, slapped, or had something thrown at her?  
or  
**Sometimes, often, or very often** kicked, bitten, hit with a fist, or hit with something hard?  
or  
Ever repeatedly hit at least a few minutes or threatened with a gun or knife?  
Yes No If yes enter 1 \_\_\_\_\_
8. Did you live with anyone who was a problem drinker or alcoholic or who used street drugs?  
Yes No If yes enter 1 \_\_\_\_\_
9. Was a household member depressed or mentally ill, or did a household member attempt suicide?  
Yes No If yes enter 1 \_\_\_\_\_
10. Did a household member go to prison?  
Yes No If yes enter 1 \_\_\_\_\_

# Adverse Childhood Experiences are Common

Of the 17,000 HMO Members ~

## Household Dysfunction:

|                             |            |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| <b>Substance abuse</b>      | <b>27%</b> |
| <b>Parental sep/divorce</b> | <b>23%</b> |
| <b>Mental illness</b>       | <b>17%</b> |
| <b>Battered mother</b>      | <b>13%</b> |
| <b>Criminal behavior</b>    | <b>6%</b>  |

## Abuse:

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| <b>Psychological</b> | <b>11%</b> |
| <b>Physical</b>      | <b>28%</b> |
| <b>Sexual</b>        | <b>21%</b> |

## Neglect:

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| <b>Emotional</b> | <b>15%</b> |
| <b>Physical</b>  | <b>10%</b> |

# Consequences

## Disease, Injury & Disability

- STDs, including HIV
- Gynecological problems
- Heart disease
- Diabetes
- Stroke
- Cancer
- Suicide

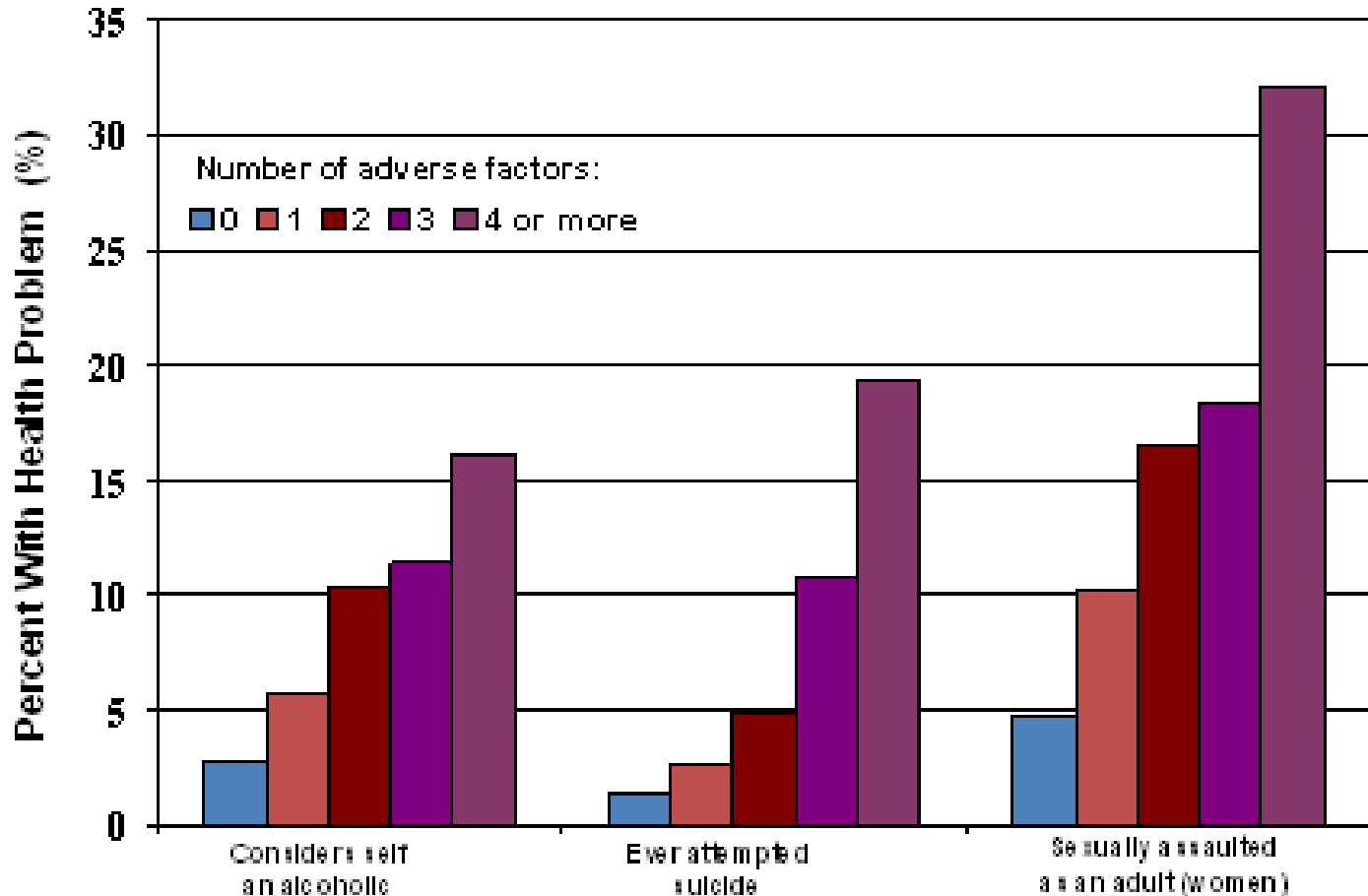
## Health-risk Behaviors

- Sexual promiscuity
- Sexual perpetration
- Alcohol abuse
- Illicit/injected-drug use
- Smoking

## Social, Emotional, and Cognitive Impairments

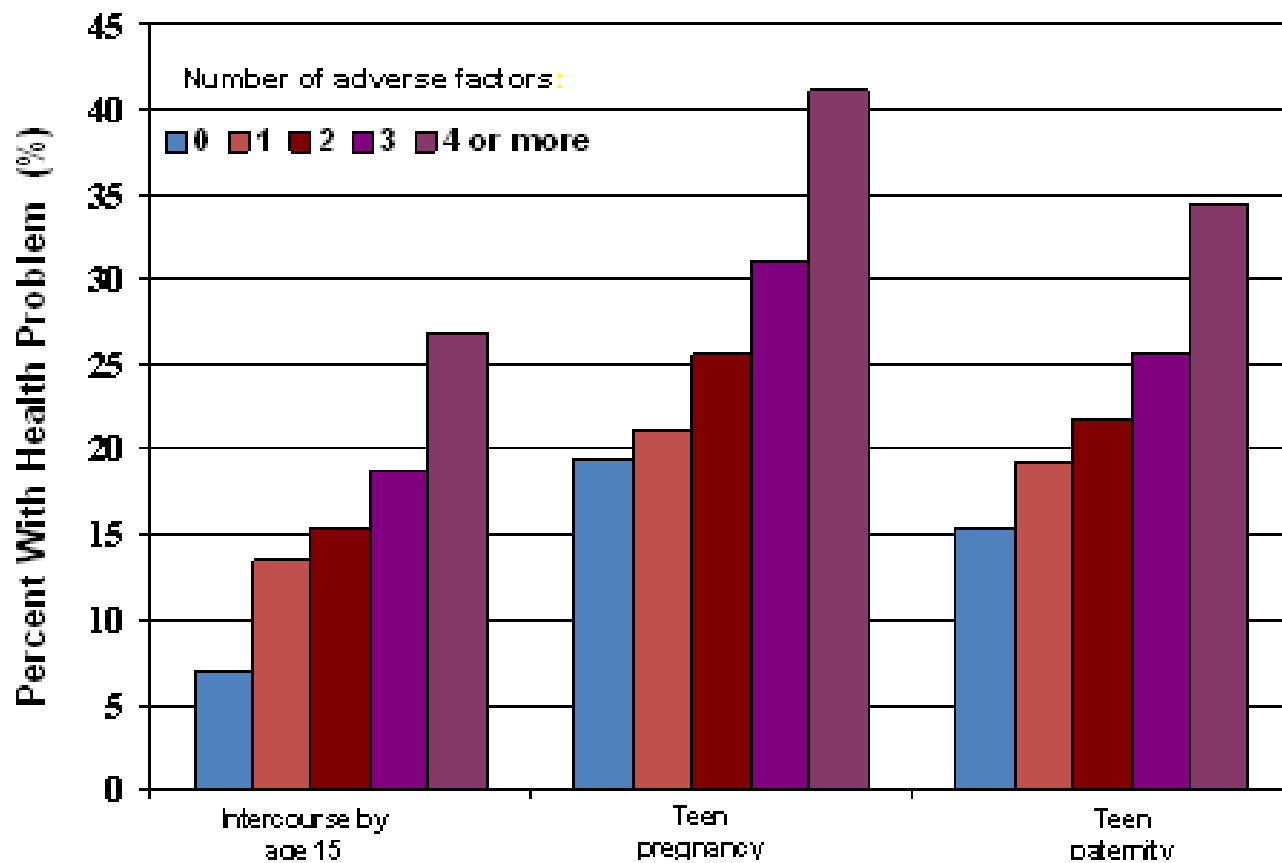
- Depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- Aggression
- Anxiety
- Somatic complaints
- Attempted suicide
- Social ostracism
- Anxiety
- Academic achievement
- Re-victimization
- Unwanted pregnancy

# ACE Score and Alcoholism, Suicide Attempts, or Sexual Assault

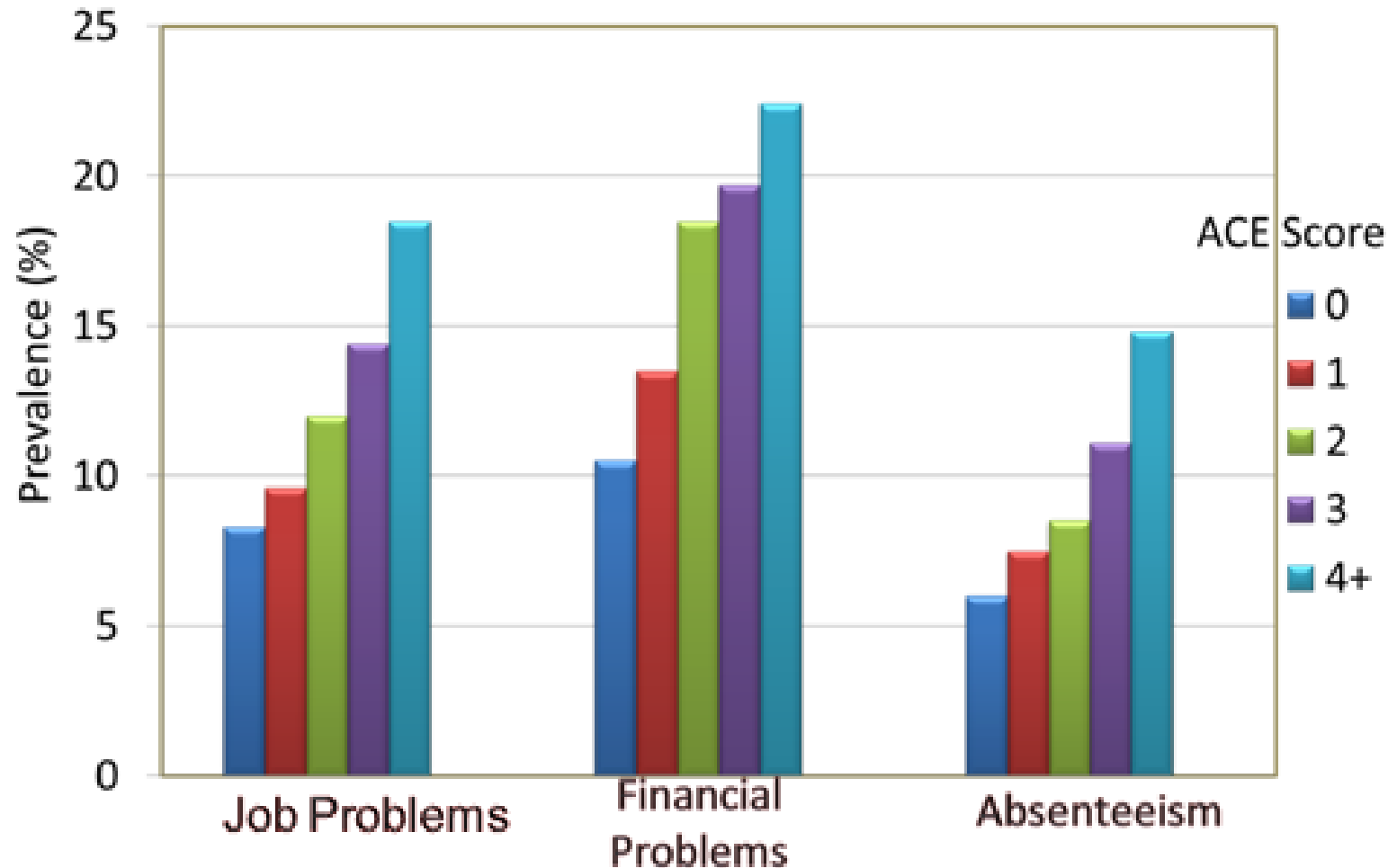




# Number of Adverse Childhood Experiences and Teen Pregnancy/Paternity



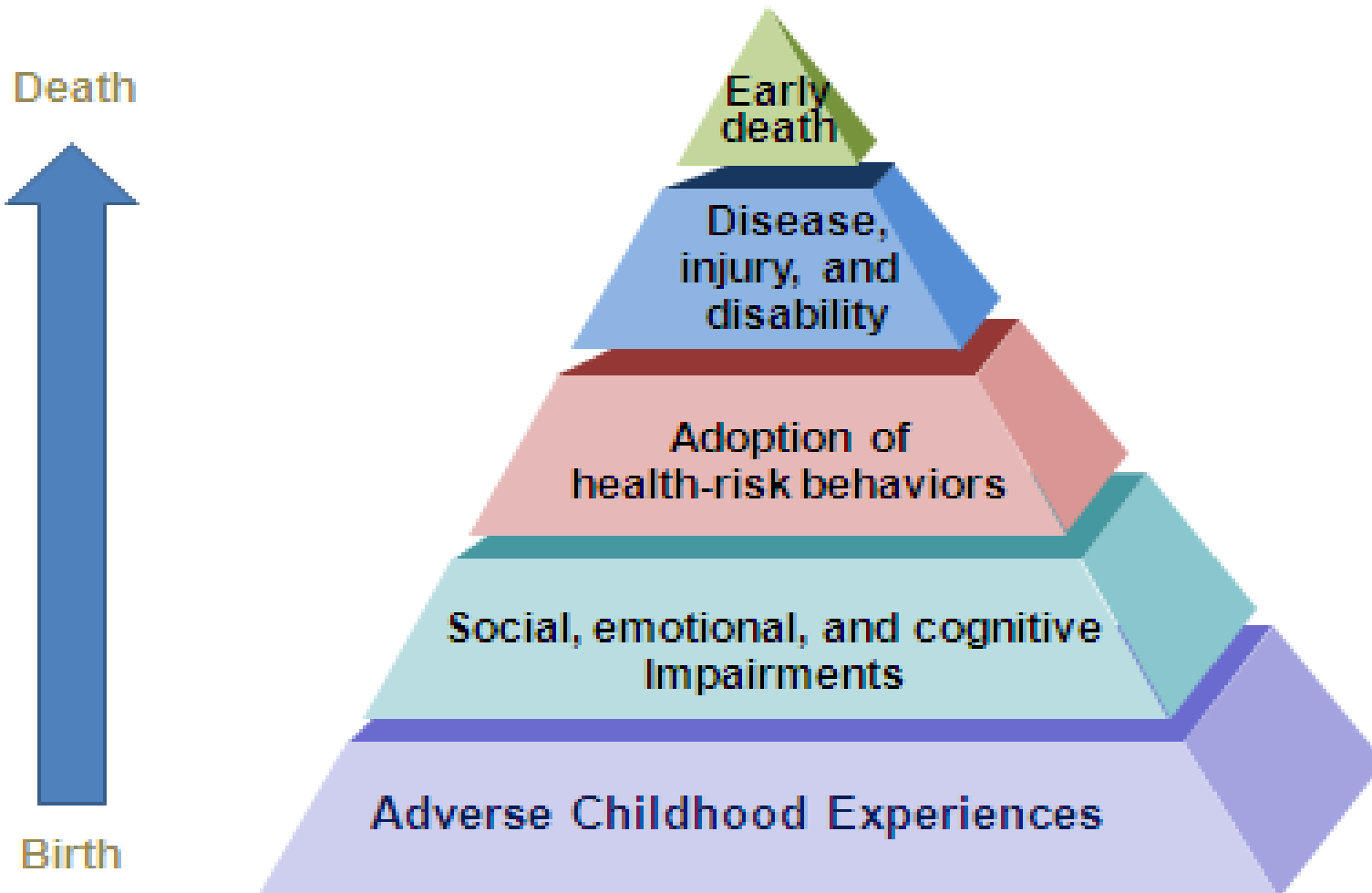
# ACE Score and Work Problems



# Reduction in Annual Earnings From Selected Health Events (2009 Dollars)

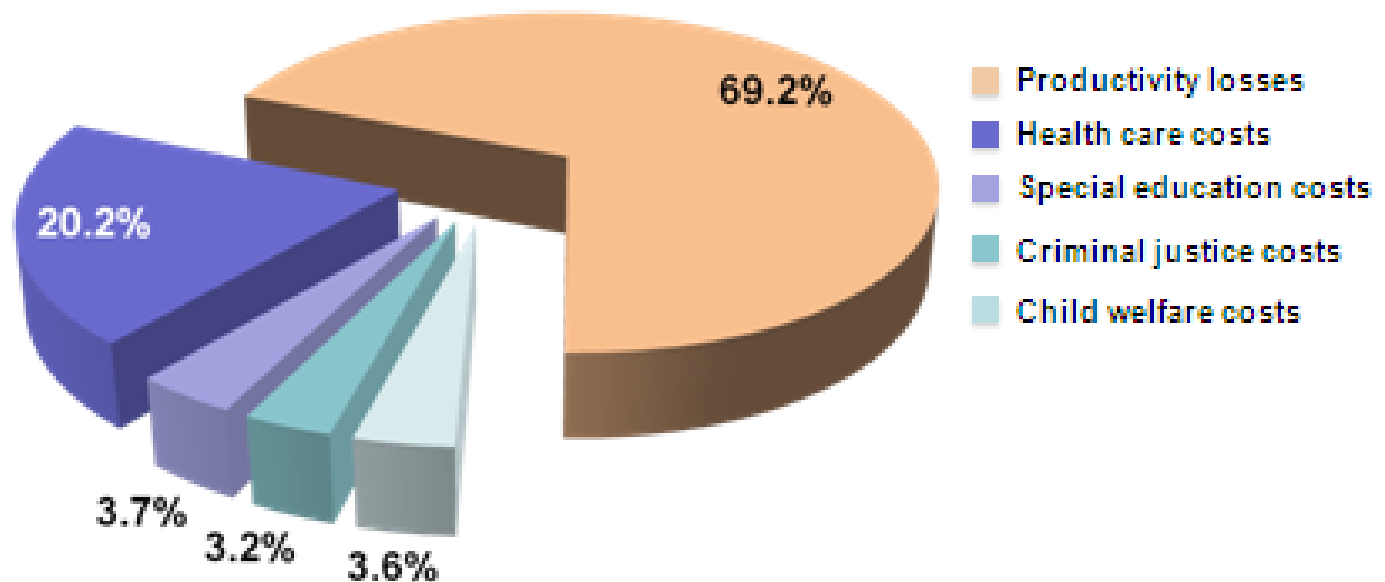


(Fang X, et al. *Child Abuse Negl* (2012))



### **Lifetime Influence of ACEs**

# Lifetime Economic Burden Of Child Maltreatment: \$124 Billion in 2008



(Fang X, et al. *Child Abuse Negl* (2012))



## What does Abuse Cost us?

Non-Fatal Child Maltreatment has an average lifetime cost of **\$210,012** per victim (per CDC 2012)

\$32,648 Childhood Health Care

\$10,530 Adult Health Care

\$144,360 Work Productivity Losses

\$7,728 Child Welfare

\$6,747 Criminal Justice

\$7,999 Special Education

Compare to the lifetime costs of Type II Diabetes @ \$181,000

# Prevention is a Cost Effective Solution

- In SFY 2011 – Kansans spent \$139 million on Foster Care (5,015 children/month) or \$27,000/year/child or \$74/day/child
- KCSL's Healthy Families America costs \$6,000 per year/family or \$15/day
- **ROI: Every \$1 spent on prevention saves \$7 on more costly services later (Perry Preschool Study)**



# Three Ways to Think About Prevention

- **WHEN**
- **WHO**
- **WHAT**





# When

## PRIMARY & SECONDARY:

### BEFORE ABUSE OCCURS

- Change conditions that support abuse
- Promote conditions that inhibit abuse
- Encourage awareness & develop skills for behaviors you want adopted
- Keep from happening

## TERTIARY:

### AFTER ABUSE OCCURS

- Encourage awareness of extent of the problem and where to receive services
- Respond to abuse
- Provide services to victims & survivors
- Keep from happening again

# The Earlier, the Better

- Before problems emerge
- Before age 3 for the best results

# Building Brain Architecture

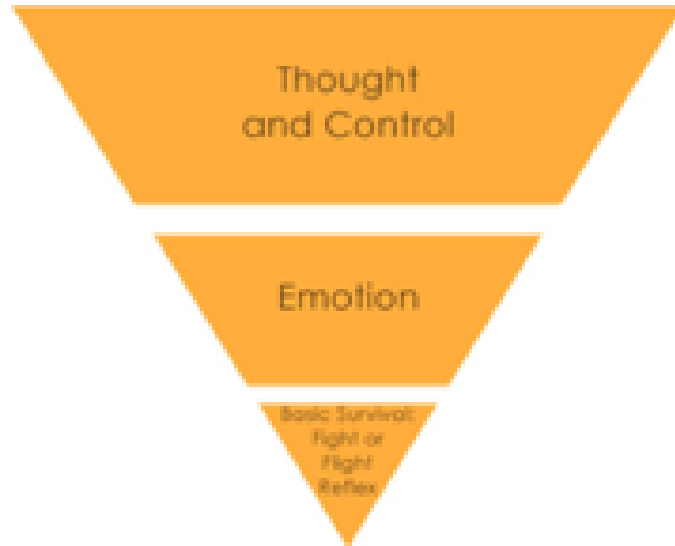


The early years of life matter because early experiences affect the architecture of the maturing brain. As it emerges, the quality of that architecture establishes either a sturdy or a fragile foundation for all of the development and behavior that follows.



© FrameWorks Institute 2009

# Healthy Brain



Healthy development derailed....



# Traumatized Brain

# Early investments that support quality early childhood development have lifelong benefits



Connect the dots...

If families and caregivers can provide quality early childhood development, then children will start school ready to learn



If children start school ready to learn, they are more likely to read at grade level by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade



If children read at grade level by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade they are more likely to graduate from high school



If children graduate from high school, they are more likely to go on to higher education and/or enter the job market as a tax paying citizen



Employable, tax-paying citizens are critical to a vital economy

# Who is the Focus

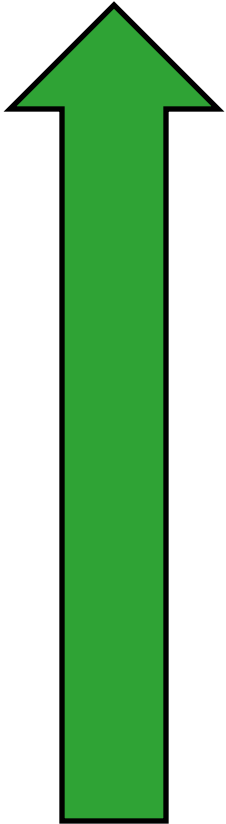
- ❑ **Universal** – Everyone in the population or everyone in a particular group or area
- ❑ **Selected** – Those most at risk
- ❑ **Indicated** – Those who have experienced **abuse**



# Risk and Protective Factors

When risk factors accumulate and outweigh protective factors, negative outcomes, such as child maltreatment are more likely to occur.

# Risk and Protective Factors

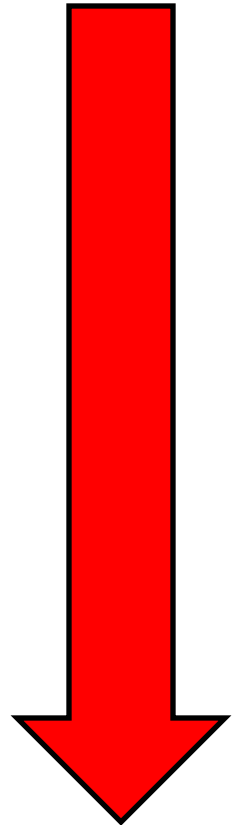


## Protective factors

- Increase likelihood of positive outcomes occurring

## Risk Factors

- Decrease likelihood of positive outcomes occurring





# Risk Factors

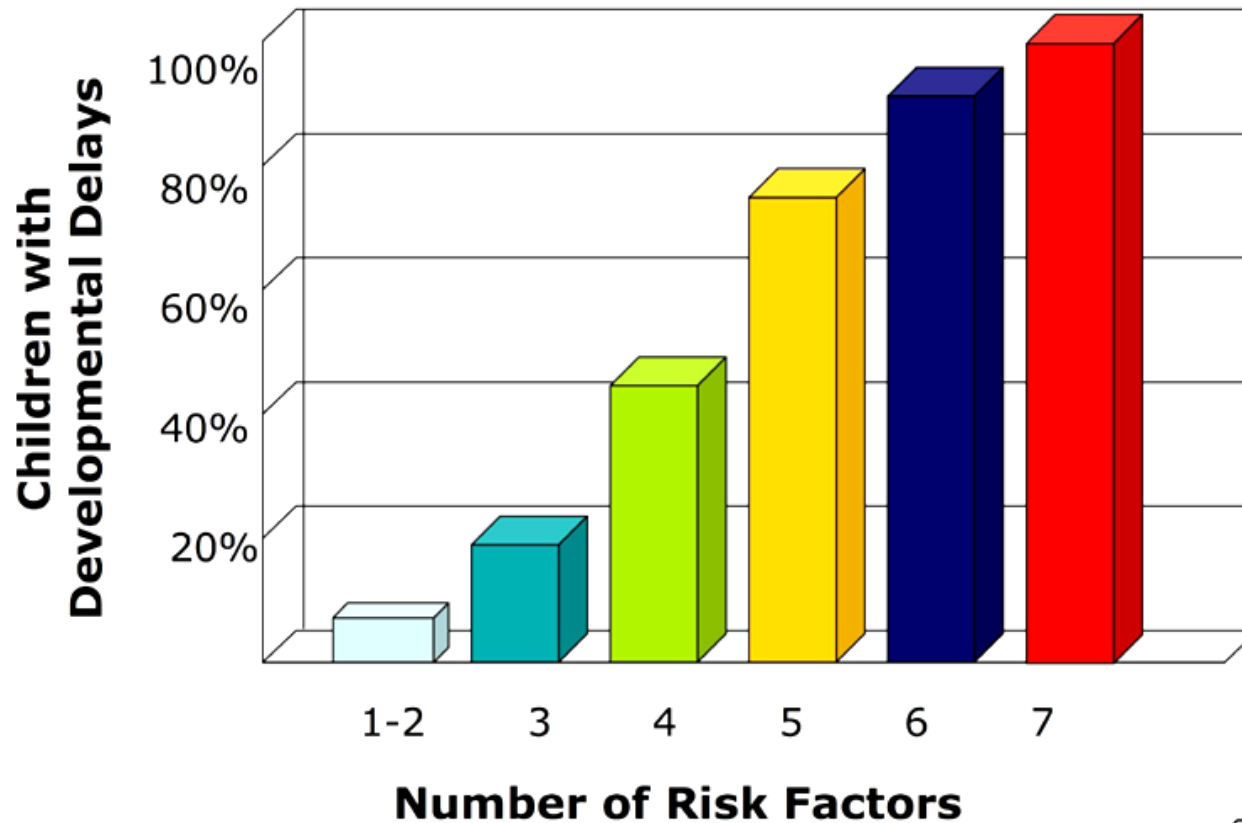
**Child abuse and neglect occur in all segments of our society, but the risk factors are greater in families where parents:**

- Seem to be having economic, housing or personal problems
- Are isolated from their family or community
- Have difficulty controlling anger or stress
- Are dealing with physical or mental health issues
- Abuse alcohol or drugs
- Appear uninterested in the care, nourishment or safety of their children

# Protective Factors

- Parental Resilience
- Social Connections
- Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development
- Concrete Support in Times of Need
- Nurturing and Attachment

# Significant Adversity Impairs Development in the First Three Years



Source: Barth et al. (2008)



# What can we do to prevent child abuse and neglect?

Provide families with the supports and services they need to develop safe, secure, nurturing relationships, be self-sufficient, and parent their children well at home.

# Essentials for Childhood

## Safe, Stable, Nurturing Relationships (SSNRs)

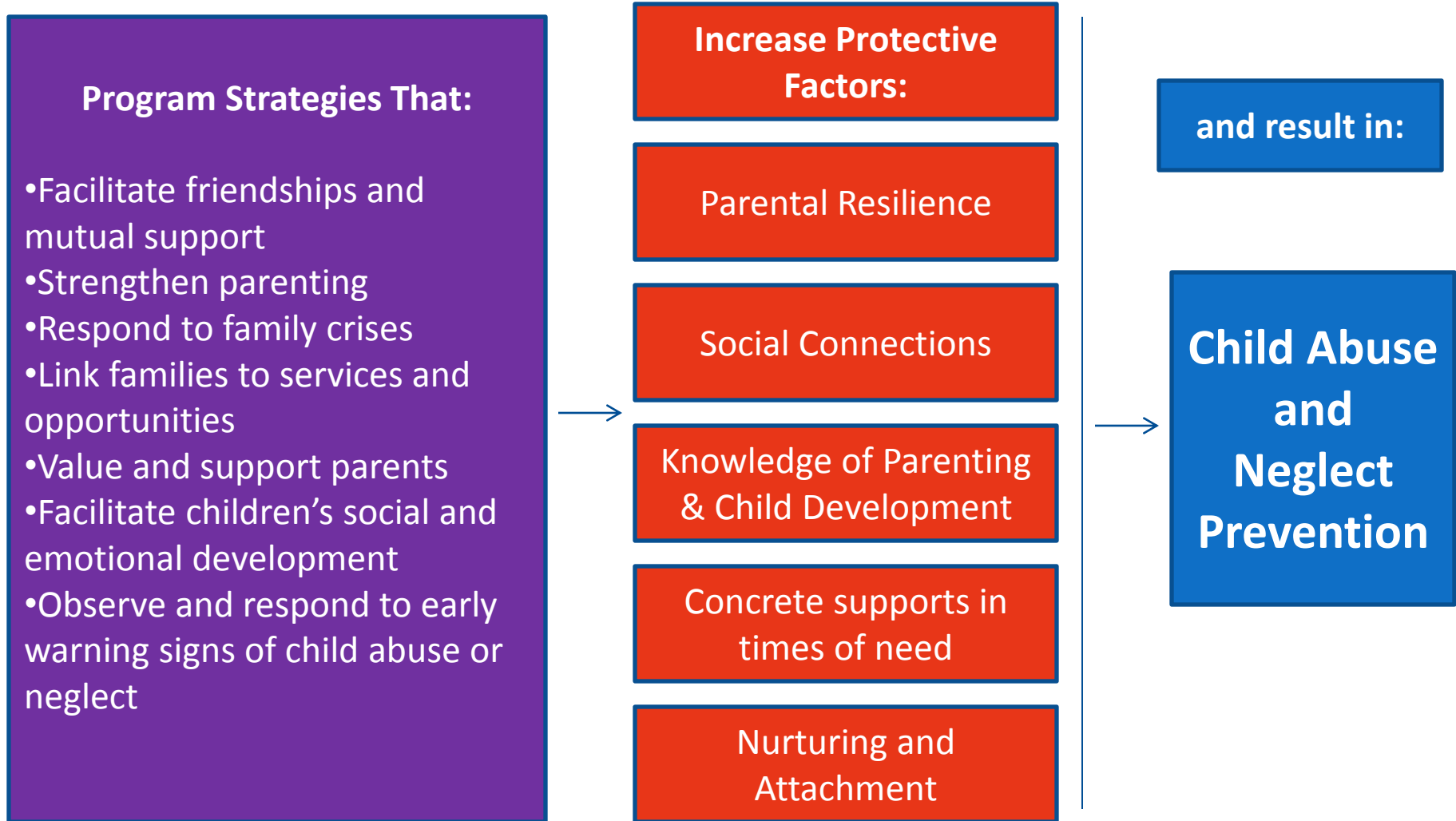
<http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childmaltreatment/essentials>

- **Safety:** The extent to which a child is free from fear and secure from physical or psychological harm within their social and physical environment
- **Stability:** The degree of predictability and consistency in a child's social, emotional, and physical environment
- **Nurturing:** The extent to which a parent or caregiver is available and able to sensitively respond to and meet the needs of their child



**CDC'S STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOR CM PREVENTION**

# How programs contribute to prevention of child abuse and neglect



# Program Services - Prevention Strategy Matrix

| Primary (Universal) Prevention Strategy                                     | Secondary (Targeted) Prevention Strategy        | Tertiary (Selected) Prevention Strategy                           |
|---|---|---|
| Parent Help Line  | Head Start                                      | Adoption Search   |
| Community Resource Library<br>(Includes Parent Tip Cards)                   | Early Head Start                                | Adopt Kansas Kids/Klicks for Kids                                 |
| Period of PURPLE Crying<br>(Shaken Baby Syndrome Education)                 | Healthy Families America<br>Home Visitation     | From Heart to Home<br>Infant Adoption                             |
| Governor's Conference<br>on the<br>Prevention of Child Abuse<br>And Neglect | Supporting School Attendance<br>Case Management | Juvenile Intake<br>and<br>CINC Intake<br>Assessment               |
| e-Learning<br>Training Opportunities<br>(Human Service Professionals)       | Parents Helping Parents<br>Support Groups       | Compass Resource<br>Families<br>and MAPP (Foster Parent) Training |
| Child Abuse Prevention<br>Month Activities                                  | Fatherhood Groups                               | Drug Endangered Child<br>Case Management                          |
| Parent Leadership Conference  | Healthy Relationship Groups                     | Center for Restorative Education                                  |
| Bullying Prevention Hotline   | Clinical (Mental Health)                        | OASIS Runaway Youth<br>Case Management                            |
| Fatherhood Summits  | Pre-K   |   |
| Healthy Relationship Summits  | Kinship Navigation                              |   |
| BullySafe   | Parent Training                                 |   |

■ Statewide  
 ■ Multiple KCSL Regions  
 ■ West Region Only  
 ■ Wichita Only  
 ■ Topeka Only

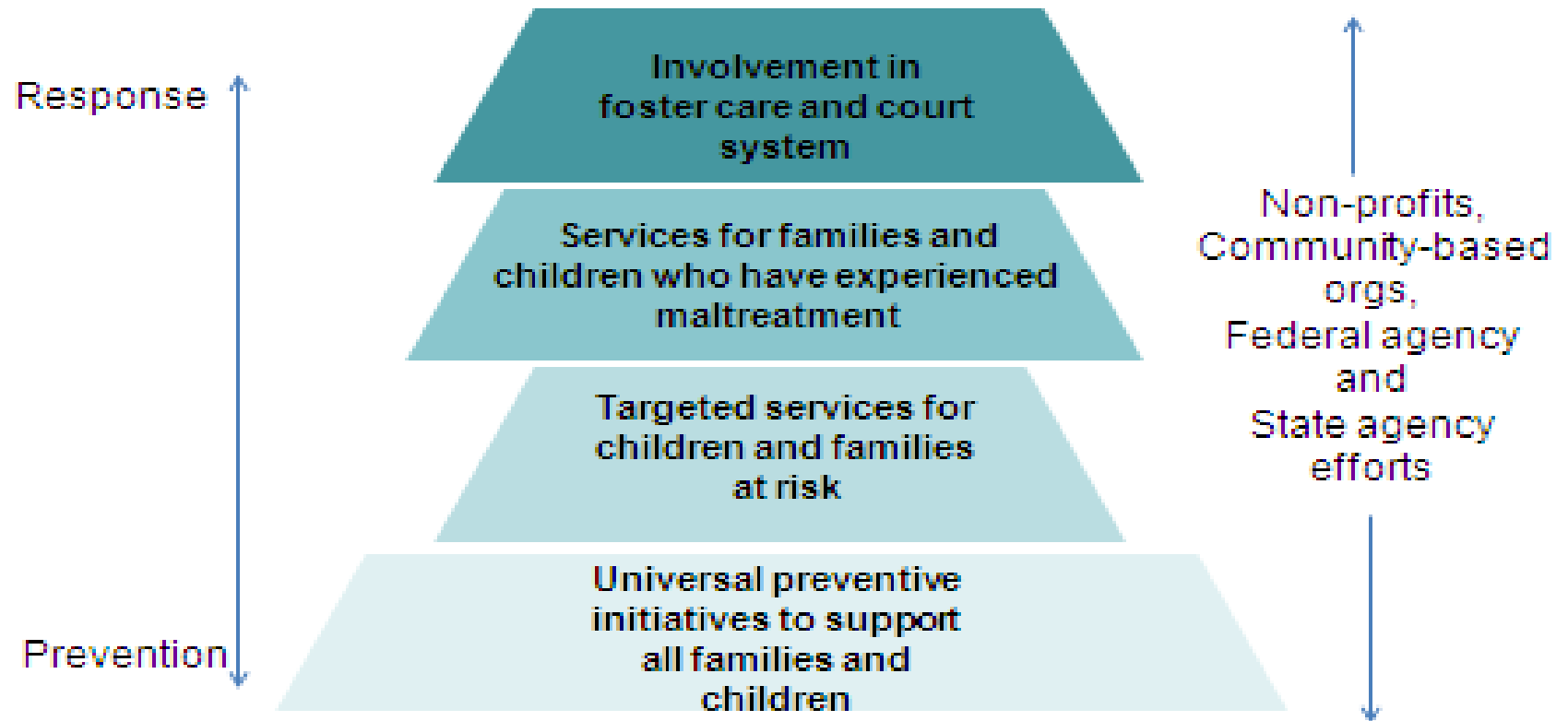
### Brief definition of strategy type:

Universal – All parents and caregivers can benefit from the service or information

Targeted – Services and supports focused on increasing the protective skills of at-risk groups of parents/children

Selected – Service intervention designed to prevent abuse/neglect from happening again

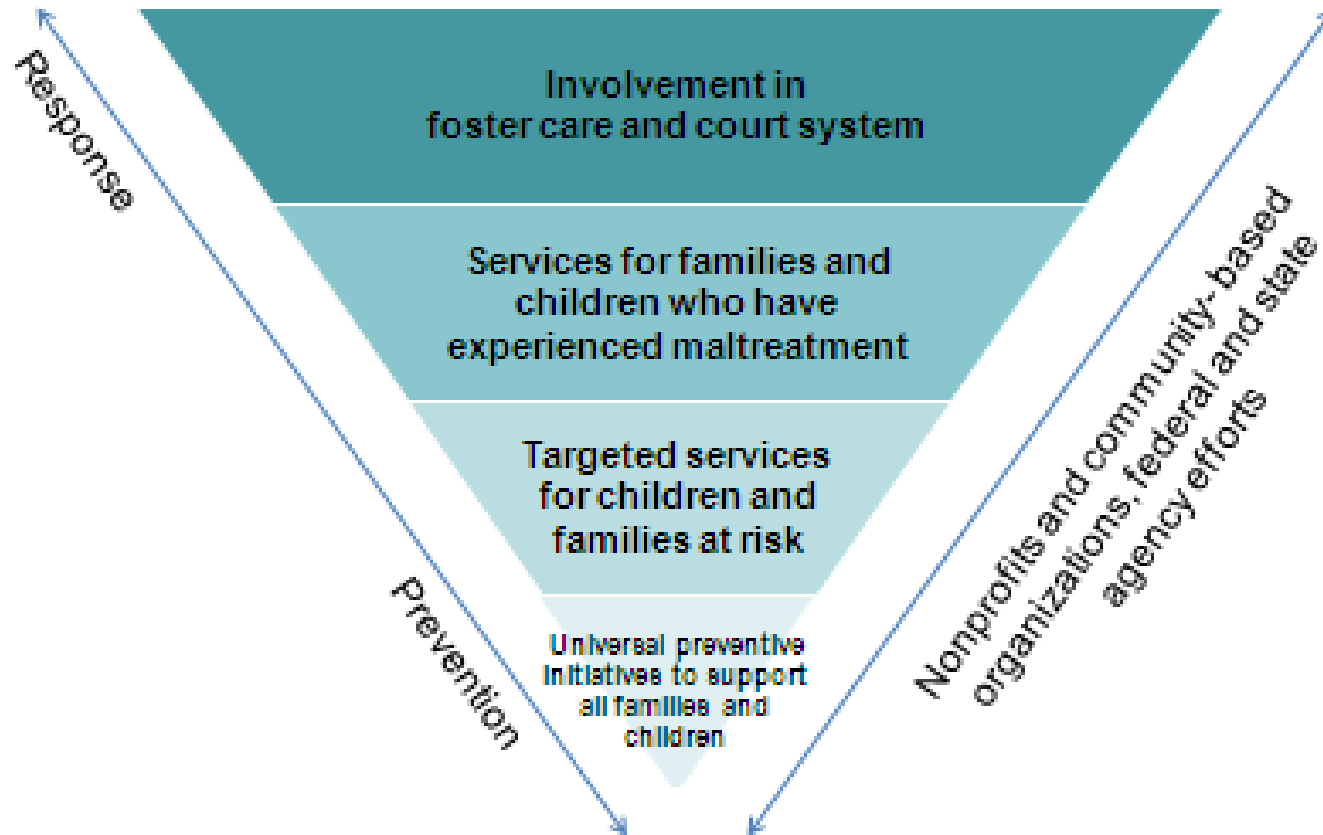
# Addressing Child Maltreatment in the United States Ideal System





# Addressing Child Maltreatment in the United States

## Current System



# Policy Choices to Reduce Child Abuse and Neglect

- Raise awareness and commitment to support safe, secure, nurturing relationships and prevent child maltreatment
- Use data to inform actions

# Policy Choices to Reduce Child Abuse and Neglect

Create a context for healthy children and families through

- norms of shared responsibility for children,
- support for the availability of parenting programs and acceptable parenting behaviors, and
- implementation of evidence-based programs for parents and caregivers

# Policy Choices to Reduce Child Abuse and Neglect

Create a context for healthy children and families by

- identifying policies that positively impact the lives of children and families in your community
- providing decision-makers and community leaders with information on the benefits of evidence-based strategies and rigorous evaluation

# Resources to Learn More

- <http://www.preventchildabuse.org/index.shtml>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/prc/>
- <http://www.cestudy.org>
- <http://www.preventioninstitute.org/about-us.html>

## For More Information, please contact:

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