

NATIONAL SURVEY OF CHILD AND ADOLESCENT WELL-BEING

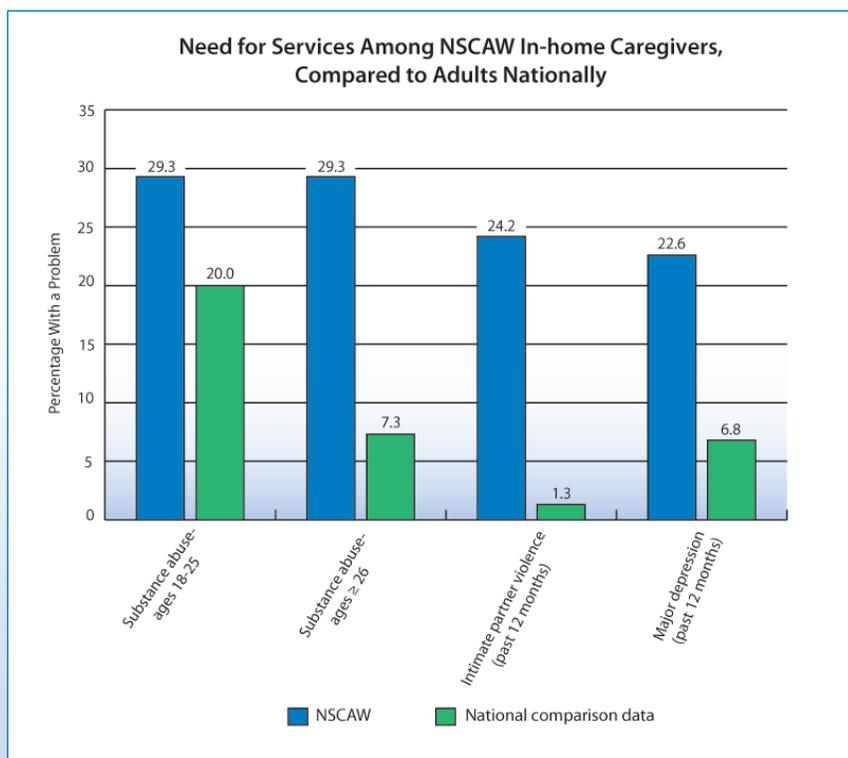
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Child Well-Being Spotlight

Caregivers of Children Who Remain In-home After a Maltreatment Investigation Need Services

Children's well-being depends on the capacity of their family to nurture and care for them. Caregivers facing multiple difficulties, including intimate partner violence, substance abuse, and poor mental health, are challenged to provide the quantity and quality of care that supports healthy child development and well-being. The vast majority (86%) of children who have received a report of child abuse or neglect remain in-home following a maltreatment investigation.¹ However, data from the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Wellbeing (NSCAW) indicate that many in-home caregivers experience a range of problems that could affect their ability to care for their children effectively.² Compared to adults nationally, in-home caregivers in NSCAW have much higher rates of substance abuse, intimate partner violence, and major depression.³⁻⁵ These data show that families may have a great need for services, even in cases where children are not removed from the home. Child protective services plays an important role as a gateway for referrals and receipt of services to caregivers of all families who come into contact with the child welfare system.

For more information on the well-being of children and their caregivers in the child welfare system, visit: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/abuse_neglect/nscaw/.



¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2011). *Child Maltreatment 2010*. Available from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats_research/index.htm#can.

² Percentages are from the baseline of the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being II (NSCAW II). Baseline data collection began in 2008–2009. The study includes 5,776 caregivers of children ranging from birth to 17.5 years old at the time of sampling, of whom 3,636 are in-home caregivers.

³ Depression in caregivers was assessed with the Composite International Diagnostic Interview Form, Short-Form (CIDI-SF). National comparison data are from the 2007 National Comorbidity Survey Replication, which used the long form of the CIDI to assess depression among U.S. adults 18 years old or older. The proportion shown is the proportion of adults who experienced major depression in the past 12 months.

⁴ Physical intimate-partner violence was reported by female caregivers using the Conflict Tactics Scale. National comparison data are from the 1995–1996 National Violence Against Women Survey.

⁵ Caregivers were determined to be "in need of alcohol or substance abuse services" when they met any one of four criteria: (1) caseworker report of a parent's alcohol or drug problem at the time of investigation, (2) AUDIT Total score >5, indicating the presence of hazardous drinking, (3) DAST-

20 Total score 2–4 or 5 or higher, or (4) the parent's self-reported need ("a lot" or "somewhat") for alcohol or substance abuse services in the past year, if she or he had not received a substance abuse service. National comparison data are from the 2009 National Survey of Drug Use and Health.

Source: The National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being II (NSCAW II) is the second nationally representative sample of children reported to child protective services sponsored by the Administration for Children, Youth and Families (ACYF). The survey collects data by administering questionnaires to a representative sample of the population through face-to-face interviews with caseworkers, children, caregivers, and teachers.

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