



National Survey of Child
and Adolescent Well-Being

NSCAW II BASELINE REPORT

Caseworker Characteristics, Child Welfare Services, and Experiences of Children Placed in Out-of-Home Care

OPRE Report #2011-27e
September 2011

NSCAW II BASELINE REPORT: CASEWORKER
CHARACTERISTICS, CHILD WELFARE SERVICES, AND
EXPERIENCES OF CHILDREN PLACED IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE
FINAL REPORT

OPRE Report 2011-27e

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Introduction

The second National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW II) is a longitudinal study intended to answer a range of fundamental questions about the functioning, service needs, and service use of children who come in contact with the child welfare system. The study is sponsored by the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families (ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). It examines the well-being of children involved with child welfare agencies; captures information about the abuse or neglect that brought the child into the study; collects information about the child's family provides information about child welfare interventions and other services; and describes key characteristics of child development. Of particular interest to the study are children's health, mental health, and developmental risks, especially for those children who experienced the most severe abuse and exposure to violence.

The study includes 5,873 children ranging from birth to 17.5 years old at the time of sampling. Children were sampled from child welfare investigations closed between February 2008 and April 2009 in 83 counties nationwide. The cohort includes substantiated and unsubstantiated investigations of abuse or neglect, as well as children and families who were and were not receiving services. Infants and children in out-of-home placement were oversampled to ensure adequate representation of high-risk groups. Face-to-face interviews or assessments were conducted with children, parents, and nonparent adult caregivers (e.g., foster parents, kin caregivers, group home caregivers), and investigative caseworkers. Baseline data collection began March 2008 and was completed in September 2009. Additional information about the NSCAW II history, sample design and methods, instrumentation, as well as a summary of differences between the NSCAW I and NSCAW II cohorts can be found in the first Brief Report Introduction of this NSCAW II Baseline series (available at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/abuse_neglect/nscaw/).

The purpose of this sixth NSCAW II Baseline Brief Report is to describe child and family contact with investigative caseworkers and the child welfare system during the first wave of data collection (baseline). Included are descriptions of the investigative caseworkers assigned to children in the cohort, the service needs of these children and families, their reported interaction and satisfaction with the caseworker and child welfare system, and the reunification and placement experiences for the subset of children in out-of-home care.

Summary of Brief Report Findings

This Brief Report summarizes baseline experiences children and families had with investigative caseworkers and the child welfare system. NSCAW II caseworkers were managing an average monthly caseload of nearly 15 new investigations and recommended or provided at least one service to nearly two thirds of families they assisted. Families with very young children (0 to 2 years old), kin and foster caregiver-led households, and families with an indicated or substantiated investigation outcome were most likely to be candidates for service provision. The most frequently recommended services at baseline were caregiver counseling, parenting training, and caregiver substance abuse treatment. More information on caregiver services received at baseline and caregiver characteristics can be found in Brief Report V: Caregiver Health and Services.

Nearly two thirds of adolescents reported having met with a caseworker in the 6 months prior to the baseline interview. Meeting recency varied by setting, with in-home children less likely to have met with a caseworker within the past month than children in kin or foster care settings. Among in-home parents, approximately 60% reported verbal contact with a caseworker since the index investigation. Recency of contact was more likely for in-home parents of a child 0 to 2 years old and in families with a substantiated or indicated investigation outcome. The majority of adolescents (75.4%) and in-home parents (84.4%) had contact with just one or two caseworkers from the child welfare agency.

Children placed in out-of-home care post-investigation experienced different trajectories. Approximately 4 to 6 months after the index investigation, 17% of these children had already been reunified with parents. For 15% of the children placed in out-of-home care, caseworkers reported that no reunification efforts were ever made with anyone in the child's family and that no reunification plan was in place. Of those children placed, over 80% had no placement change in the 4 to 6 months between the initial out-of-home placement and the baseline interview. For those children who experienced new placements, approximately 90% experienced only one additional placement change.

Guide to the Brief Report

The Brief Report is organized into several sections:

- Child characteristics at NSCAW II baseline
- Investigative caseworker characteristics (demographic, caseload, and employment characteristics)
- Investigative caseworker reports of child/family service need, referral, and receipt (types of services, how family was connected with services)
- Child and parent contact and satisfaction with caseworkers and the child welfare system (most recent contact, number of different caseworkers, satisfaction with caseworker and child welfare system interactions for children, parents, and foster caregivers)
- Experiences of children placed in out-of-home care post-investigation (placements, reunification, contact with biological parents)

Child Characteristics at NSCAW II Baseline

Exhibit VI-1 gives an overview of some of the key characteristics of children in the NSCAW II cohort. Approximately one half of the sample was male (50.8%). One fifth (20.6%) of the children were 0 to 2 years old, 22.6% were 3 to 5 years old, 27.4% were 6 to 10 years old, and 29.5% were 11 to 17 years old. Four out of 10 children were White (41.5%), 28.3% were Hispanic, 22.4% were Black, and 7.7% described their race/ethnicity as "Other."

At the time of the baseline interview, the majority of children were living in-home with a parent (87.3%), while 8.5% were living with a kin caregiver. A kin caregiver may be a

grandparent, aunt or uncle, sibling, or other relative; 6.1% were in an informal kin care arrangement and 2.4% were in formal kin care. In formal kin care living arrangements, the caregiver receives some financial support. A smaller proportion of children lived in foster care (3.4%) and in group homes (0.5%).

Investigative Caseworkers

Caseworker Characteristics. Exhibit VI-2 describes the demographic characteristics of the 5,052 investigative caseworkers representing children in the NSCAW II cohort. The majority of caseworkers were female (79.3%). Approximately 70% (72.1%) of caseworkers were 25 to 44 years old, with fewer caseworkers younger than 25 years old (7.8%), 45 to 54 years old (14.3%), or 54 years old or older (5.8%). Over half were White (57.5%), 23.7% were Black, 14.9% were Hispanic, and 4.0% described their race/ethnicity as “Other.”

The majority of caseworkers reported attaining a bachelor’s degree (52.3%) or bachelor’s of Social Work degree (21.9%), while nearly 25% had attained a master’s-level degree. Few caseworkers reported having less than a bachelor’s degree (0.5%) or a doctorate (0.4%). Nearly three-quarters of caseworkers (74.7%) reported an annual salary between \$30,000 and \$49,999. Approximately 20% of caseworkers had salaries over \$50,000 per year.

Caseworkers were asked to describe their assigned work unit within the child welfare agency. Most caseworkers participating in the baseline interview worked in an Intake unit focused only on investigations (74.4%). Fewer caseworkers worked in an Intake unit that managed cases from investigation through dependency (17.1%) or a unit providing ongoing services (8.5%).

Caseload and Employment Characteristics. Investigative caseworkers were asked to provide information on their caseload and their employment as a child welfare worker. As shown in Exhibit VI-3, caseworkers reported an average of 14.6 new investigations per month (median=13.0) in the 3-month period before the interview. This estimate is slightly higher than the Child Welfare League of America’s (1998) practice recommendation of 12 active cases per month per investigative caseworker caseload. Caseworkers indicated that an average of 5.6 children in their caseload were receiving prevention services in their homes with the goal of preventing out-of-home placement (median=2.0). On average, caseworkers reported that two to three children in their caseload were in out-of-home placement (median=0.0).

Caseworkers representing children in the NSCAW II cohort were experienced in their positions, with an average of 5 years of tenure at their assigned agency (median=3.0) and 7.1 years of tenure in the Child Welfare System (median=5.0).

Caseworker Reports of Service Need, Referral, and Receipt

Services Referred, Arranged, or Provided at the Time of Investigation. Regardless of the outcome of the index maltreatment investigation, caseworkers were asked to indicate if services were recommended for or provided to the child or family. As shown in Exhibit VI-4, 61.0% of investigative caseworkers recommended or provided services to the child or family at the time of the index maltreatment investigation. This finding is consistent with recent data from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) indicating that more than 60%

of victims (63.3%) and 28.5% of nonvictims received post-investigation services (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2008).

Caseworkers were more likely to provide, arrange, or refer services to families of children 0 to 2 years old (73.1%) than for any other age group (3 to 5 years old, 6 to 10 years old, and 11 to 17 years old; 61.6%, 56.8%, and 56.0%, respectively). Caseworkers were less likely to recommend or provide services to White families (53.2%) than to Hispanic (69.6%) or “Other” race/ethnicity families (66.4%). Families of children living in-home with parents (59.2%) were less likely to have services provided, arranged, or referred post-investigation than families of children in informal kin care (65.5%) or foster care (84.6%). Caseworkers were less likely to recommend services for families with an unsubstantiated index maltreatment investigation outcome (49.9%), as compared to families with a substantiated (87.4%) or indicated (80.9%) investigation outcome. The most serious maltreatment type reported by caseworkers also had an impact on services. In general, caseworkers were less likely to recommend or provide services to families in cases of physical abuse (55.1%) or neglect (54.8%) than in cases of sexual abuse (68.2%), substance exposure (86.0%), or domestic violence (76.7%).

Types of Services. The 61.0% of caseworkers who indicated that they had recommended at least one service to the family at the time of the index maltreatment investigation were asked to describe the specific types of services recommended. Caseworkers who had recommended a service were provided with a card during the NSCAW II baseline interview listing the types of preventive and post-investigation services provided (shown in Exhibit VI-5). They were asked to select all services that applied to the case. For each service selected, caseworkers indicated whether that service had been provided directly by the agency, arranged by the agency, or if a referral had been made.

Exhibit VI-5 describes the services recommended by investigative caseworkers in NSCAW II. The most frequently recommended services were counseling for caregiver, parenting training, and caregiver substance abuse treatment. Exhibit VI-5 gives detailed information on the other types of services referred, arranged, or provided by caseworkers.

Contact and Satisfaction with Caseworkers and the Child Welfare System

Child Contact with Caseworker. Children 11 to 17 years old were asked about the amount of contact they had with caseworkers and perceived satisfaction with these interactions. Approximately two thirds of children 11 to 17 years old (64.5%) reported that they had met with a caseworker in the previous 6 months. Children 11 to 17 years who had at least one meeting with their caseworker in the past 6 months were asked about the timing of their most recent caseworker meeting (Exhibit VI-6). One third of children (33.4%) had met with a caseworker within the past month, while 66.6% had met with a caseworker 1 to 6 months ago. Children living in-home with parents (28.2%) were less likely to report a recent meeting with a caseworker than children in formal kin care (53.0%), informal kin care (43.7%), or foster care (71.5%).

Children 11 to 17 years old who had at least one meeting with a caseworker in the past 6 months were also asked about interactions with other caseworkers. Exhibit VI-7 describes the number of different caseworkers that 11- to 17-year-old children reported they had spoken in the

past 6 months. Over three quarters of children (75.4%) reported speaking with one or two caseworkers, while one quarter (24.7%) had spoken to three or more.

Child Satisfaction with Caseworker. To assess perceived satisfaction with caseworker(s), children 11 to 17 years old in contact with a caseworker were asked if they felt that the caseworkers listened to them, understood their situation, and explained their possible problems and services they could receive. The majority of children felt that the caseworker listened ~~–all of the time~~” (60.2%) or ~~–some of the time~~” (25.8%), while 7.9% and 6.3% of children, respectively, reported that the caseworker listened ~~–not very often~~” or ~~–never~~.” When asked if the caseworker understood their situation, less than half (45.5%) said ~~–very well~~,” 40.3% said ~~–somewhat~~,” and 14.2% said ~~–not at all~~.” Finally, nearly half of children (47.7%) perceived that the caseworker explained their possible problems and the services that could benefit them ~~–very well~~,” 35.6% thought the caseworker explained problems and services ~~–somewhat well~~,” and 16.7% felt that the caseworker explained their possible problems and service options ~~–not well at all~~.”

Parent Contact with Caseworker. In-home parents were also asked about the amount of contact they had with caseworkers, and their perceived satisfaction with these interactions. About 61% (60.5%) of parents reported having verbal contact with a caseworker since the index maltreatment investigation. Of these, 32.1% had contact with a caseworker within the past month and 67.9% had contact with a caseworker 1 to 6 months ago (Exhibit VI-8). Parents of children 0 to 2 years old (42.2%) were more likely to report a contact within the past month with a caseworker than parents of any other age group (3 to 5 years old, 6 to 10 years old, and 11 to 17 years old; 28.2%, 30.3%, and 28.8%, respectively). Parents with an unsubstantiated index maltreatment investigation (23.9%) were less likely to report a contact within the past month with caseworker than parents with a substantiated (53.5%) or indicated (39.6%) investigation outcome.

Exhibit VI-9 describes the number of different caseworkers with whom in-home parents had spoken since the index maltreatment investigation. The vast majority of parents (84.4%) reported verbal contact with only one or two caseworkers, while 15.6% reported contact with three or more. Parents with a substantiated index maltreatment investigation (26.3%) were more likely to report contact with three or more caseworkers than parents with an unsubstantiated (12.2%) or indicated (14.6%) investigation outcome.

Parent Satisfaction with Caseworker and the Child Welfare System. To assess in-home parents’ perceived satisfaction with caseworker and Child Welfare System interactions, two satisfaction indices were created. As shown in Exhibit VI-10, a Caseworker Satisfaction index was created by standardizing and summing three satisfaction items (i.e., caseworker listened, caseworker understood, caseworker explained problems/services). This index ranged from 0 to 3, with higher scores indicating higher satisfaction. A Child Welfare System Process and Service Provision satisfaction index was created by standardizing and summing six satisfaction items (i.e., satisfaction with amount of contact, being invited to meetings about child, involvement in decisionmaking, amount of time given to change, helpfulness of services, amount of services). This index ranged from 0 to 6, with higher scores indicating higher satisfaction.

Parents reported an average satisfaction with caseworker of 2.3 (scale range 0–3). The average satisfaction with Child Welfare System processes and service provision was 3.3 (scale

range 0–6). Parents with an indicated index maltreatment investigation outcome were less satisfied, on average, with both the caseworker and the Child Welfare System than were parents with a substantiated or unsubstantiated investigation.

Foster Caregiver Characteristics and Satisfaction with the Child Welfare System.

Foster caregivers were asked to describe their foster care arrangements, as well as their satisfaction with agency and Child Welfare System interactions. Over 90% of foster caregivers (93.8%) reported being licensed foster care providers. On average, foster caregivers in the NSCAW II cohort had been providers for 63.1 months ($SE=5.0$), or just over 5 years. Foster caregivers had cared for a cumulative average of 24.7 children ($SE=3.5$) over the course of their tenure. Additional detail on the demographic characteristics of foster caregivers at NSCAW II Baseline can be found in Brief Report 1: Introduction to NSCAW II.

Approximately 78% of foster caregivers indicated that the foster payments they receive cover the basic living expenses of the child, although 68.3% of this group reported sometimes supplementing foster care payments with their own funds to cover the child's expenses. The average foster care monthly payment for the NSCAW II child placed was \$679.00 ($SE=33.1$).

Exhibit VI-11 describes foster caregiver perceptions and satisfaction on five indicators of Child Welfare System interactions. Approximately 80% of foster caregivers reported feeling like a respected member of the team, 76.6% indicated that caseworkers returned their calls within 24 hours, 71.4% felt they had input into the child's service plan, 62.2% felt they were given essential information about the child at placement, and 58.6% reported receiving special training or instruction on foster parenting. Black foster caregivers (76.2%) were more likely than White (52.6%) or Hispanic (49.3%) caregivers to report receiving special training or instruction on foster parenting.

Experiences of Children Placed in Out-of-Home Care Post-Investigation

Reunification of Children Placed in Out-of-Home Care Post-Investigation. For children in out-of-home care at the time of the caseworker interview, caseworkers specified whether attempts were made or were in progress to reunify the child with biological parents or immediate kin. Exhibit VI-12 describes caseworkers' reports of reunification plans for children placed in out-of-home care post-investigation. As described in the Technical Appendix, three groups were identified: (1) already reunified, (2) reunification plan, and (3) no reunification plan. Already reunified (17.3%) includes children who were placed in out-of-home care post-investigation but were reunified with their birth parents by the time of the caseworker interview. Out-of-home care with reunification plan (67.2%) includes children for whom reunification with biological family was planned or had been attempted at the time of the interview. Out-of-home care with no reunification plan (15.5%) includes children currently living out of home for whom reunification efforts were never made with anyone in the child's family. Thus, the NSCAW II findings indicate that 17.3% were reunified within about 4 to 6 months post-investigation and that another 67.2% had the potential for reunification in subsequent months.

Children 0 to 2 years old (28.5%) were more likely to have been *already* reunified by the time of the interview than to have *no* reunification plan when compared to children 6 to 10 years old (7.6%) and 11 to 17 years old (9.8%). Reunification outcomes also varied by substantiation

and maltreatment type. Exhibit VI-12 provides further detail on the significant findings for reunification status at the time of the baseline interview.

Placement Changes. During the baseline interview, caseworkers were asked to report on any change in the child's living arrangement since the index maltreatment investigation that brought the child and family into the study. The maximum number of placement changes reported was 4; the mean number of days spent out-of-home was 23.8 days, or slightly over 3 weeks. Exhibit VI-13 describes placement changes for 1,799 children living out-of-home at the time of the interview. Over 80% (81.2%) of children experienced no placement change following the initial out-of-home placement, while 18.8% experienced one or more placement. The CFSR standard indicates that children in foster care for less than 12 months (from the time of the latest removal from home) should experience no more than two placement settings (ACF, 2006). NSCAW II caseworkers were interviewed, on average, within 4 months of the index maltreatment investigation. It is possible that additional placement changes could have occurred in a 12-month period and not been captured within the timeframe of the baseline caseworker interview.

Of the 639 children in this group that experienced one or more placement(s), the majority (90.8%) had only one additional placement change. Approximately 10% (9.2%) had two to four placement changes. Children 0 to 2 years old (29.5%) were more likely to have experienced a placement change than any other age group (3 to 5 years old, 6 to 10 years old, and 11 to 17 years old; 11.2%, 16.0%, and 18.0%, respectively).

Contact with Biological Parents. For children who were in foster care, kin care, or group homes at the time of the caregiver interview, caregivers were asked to describe the child's most recent contact with biological parents. Current caregivers reported that approximately 92% (92.2%) of children in out-of-home care had contact with their biological mother within the past 12 months. More than two thirds of children in out-of-home care (65.2%) had contact with their biological father in the same time period. In total, 92% of children had contact with at least one of their biological parents within 12 months of the baseline interview.

Current caregivers who reported that the child had no contact with the biological mother (n=120) or biological father (n=751) within the past 12 months were asked to report on recency of contact. Approximately 21% of caregivers (n=20.9%) responded "don't know" or refused to answer the question when asked about the child's most recent contact with his/her biological mother. The remaining caregivers (n=39) reported that the child had interacted with his/her biological mother 63.4 months on average, or approximately 5 years before the baseline interview. When asked about most recent contact with the child's biological father, over 65% (65.9%) of current caregivers responded with "don't know" or "refused." Caregivers who were able to report (n=101) indicated that the average amount of time since the child had interacted with his/her biological father was 79.5 months, or approximately 6.5 years prior to the baseline interview. In both instances, the majority of current caregivers unable to report on recency of contact were foster caregivers (63.5% don't know/refused responses for contact with mother; 86.2% of don't know/refused responses for contact with father).

EXHIBITS

Exhibit VI-1. Child Characteristics

	<i>N</i>	Total <i>N</i> = 5,873	
		%	<i>SE</i>
Total	5,873	100.0	0.0
Gender			
Male	3,017	50.8	1.4
Female	2,856	49.2	1.4
Age (years)			
0–2	2,937	20.6	1.0
3–5	829	22.6	1.2
6–10	1,053	27.4	0.9
11–17	1,054	29.5	1.3
Race/ethnicity			
Black	1,827	22.4	2.6
White	2,004	41.5	3.9
Hispanic	1,614	28.3	3.5
Other	407	7.7	1.0
Setting			
In-home	3,636	87.3	1.1
Formal kin care	495	2.4	0.4
Informal kin care	540	6.1	0.7
Foster care	1,105	3.4	0.3
Group home or residential treatment program	68	0.5	0.1
Other out-of-home	29	0.3	0.1
Insurance status^a			
Private	549	15.3	1.5
Public	4,834	72.0	1.8
Other	130	3.1	0.7
Uninsured	324	9.6	0.9

Note: All analyses were on weighted NSCAW II baseline data; *N*s are unweighted and, therefore, direct percentages cannot be calculated by hand. Reported *N*s vary slightly across analyses because of missing data in some variable categories.

^a “Private” includes children who had any private insurance plan at the time of interview either obtained through an employer or purchased directly. “Public” includes children who did not have private coverage at the time of interview, but who had Medicaid and/or a State Children’s Health Insurance Plan (SCHIP). “Other” includes children who did not have private insurance or Medicaid (or other public coverage) at the time of interview, but who have any other type of insurance, including coverage through a military health plan. “Uninsured” includes children not covered at the time of interview under private, public, or other insurance. “Uninsured” also includes children only covered through the Indian Health Service (n=4).

Exhibit VI-2. Caseworker Characteristics

	<i>N</i>	Total	
		%	<i>SE</i>
Total	5,052	100.0	0.0
Gender			
Male	1,034	20.7	2.4
Female	4,018	79.3	2.4
Age (years)			
< 25	278	7.8	1.7
25–34	2,075	45.2	3.4
35–44	1,300	26.9	2.4
45–54	825	14.3	2.1
> 54	366	5.8	1.5
Race/ethnicity			
Black	1,488	23.7	2.9
White	2,606	57.5	3.7
Hispanic	731	14.9	2.1
Other	190	4.0	1.2
Education			
Less than bachelor's degree	39	0.5	0.3
Bachelor's in social work	1,005	21.9	2.5
Other bachelor's degree	2,451	52.3	3.2
Master's in social work	930	14.1	2.2
Other master's degree	596	10.8	1.8
PhD or other doctoral degree	22	0.4	0.2
Salary			
Less than \$19,999 ^a	—	—	—
\$20,000–29,999	204	5.0	1.6
\$30,000–39,999	1,846	46.6	4.1
\$40,000–49,999	1,217	28.1	3.1
\$50,000–59,999	718	11.9	2.3
\$60,000–69,999	389	4.0	1.0
More than \$70,000	293	4.4	1.1
Work unit			
Intake—investigations only	3,528	74.4	3.4
Intake—investigation through dependency	754	17.1	2.7
Unit providing ongoing services	772	8.5	1.5

Note: All analyses were on weighted NSCAW II baseline data; *N*s are unweighted and, therefore, direct percentages cannot be calculated by hand. Reported *N*s vary slightly across analyses because of missing data in some variable categories.

^a Estimates specific to caseworkers who reported an annual salary less than \$19,999 were not included in this exhibit because there were less than 10 cases in this subpopulation.

Exhibit VI-3. Caseload and Employment Characteristics by Caseworker Report

	<i>N</i>	Total		
		Mean	<i>SE</i>	Median
Caseload characteristics				
Number of new investigations—past 3 months	4,991	14.6	0.8	13.0
Number of children receiving in-home prevention services	4,778	5.6	0.5	2.0
Number children in out-of-home placement	4,894	2.6	0.3	0.0
Supervision and training				
Hours of contact with supervisor per week	4,997	8.8	0.5	5.0
Hours of training on ethnic/cultural issues—past 12 months	4,804	7.3	0.6	4.0
Employment tenure				
Years in child welfare system	5,044	7.1	0.4	5.0
Years in agency	5,047	5.0	0.3	3.0

Note: All analyses were on weighted NSCAW II baseline data; *Ns* are unweighted and, therefore, direct percentages cannot be calculated by hand. Reported *Ns* vary slightly across analyses because of missing data in some variable categories.

Exhibit VI-4. Services Referred, Arranged, or Provided at Time of Investigation by Caseworker Report

Child and investigation characteristics	N	Any services referred, arranged, or provided	
		% Yes	SE
Total	4,969	61.0	3.1
Gender			
Male	2,548	60.5	3.5
Female	2,421	61.5	3.4
Age (years)		**	
0–2	2,480	73.1 ^a	4.3
3–5	723	61.6	4.5
6–10	885	56.8	3.9
11–17	881	56.0	3.8
Race/ethnicity		*	
Black	1,519	62.8	3.9
White	1,747	53.2 ^b	4.1
Hispanic	1,355	69.6	4.4
Other	345	66.4	4.8
Setting		***	
In-home	3,158	59.2 ^c	3.2
Formal kin care	343	78.3	7.2
Informal kin care	461	65.5	4.7
Foster care	886	84.6 ^d	5.6
Group home or residential treatment program	55	72.3	10.5
Investigation outcome		***	
Substantiated	2,000	87.4	1.9
Indicated	977	80.9	3.7
Unsubstantiated	1,541	49.9 ^e	4.1
Most serious type of maltreatment^f		*	
Physical abuse	822	55.1 ^g	4.2
Sexual abuse	296	68.2	4.9
Emotional abuse	148	60.2	9.5
Physical neglect	440	65.5	5.3
Neglect	962	54.8 ^h	4.5
Other	743	57.3	5.5
Substance exposure	483	86.0 ⁱ	7.1
Domestic violence	459	76.7 ^j	4.8
Substance-abusing parent	592	63.9	5.1

Note: All analyses were on weighted NSCAW II baseline data; *N*s are unweighted and, therefore, direct percentages cannot be calculated by hand. Reported *N*s vary slightly across analyses because of missing data in some variable categories. Pearson χ^2 tests for cluster samples were used for significance tests. Asterisks indicate statistical significance (* $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$).

^a Caseworkers were significantly more likely to report referring, arranging, or providing services at the time of investigation to families of children 0 to 2 years old than families of children 3 to 5 years old ($p < .05$), 6 to 10 years old ($p < .001$), or 11 to 17 years old ($p < .001$).

^b Caseworkers were significantly less likely to report referring, arranging, or providing services at the time of investigation to families of White children than families of Hispanic children ($p < .01$) or children of “Other” race/ethnicity ($p < .05$).

- ^c Caseworkers were significantly less likely to report referring, arranging, or providing services at the time of investigation to families of children living in-home with parents than families of children in formal kin care ($p < .05$) or children in foster care ($p < .001$).
- ^d Caseworkers were significantly more likely to report referring, arranging, or providing services at the time of investigation to families of foster children than families of children in informal kin care ($p < .05$).
- ^e Caseworkers were significantly less likely to report referring, arranging, or providing services at the time of investigation to families with an unsubstantiated investigation than to families with a substantiated ($p < .001$) or indicated investigation outcome ($p < .001$).
- ^f Caseworkers reported all types of maltreatments related to a case, with a mean number of types of maltreatment per child of 1.4. These are the eight types of maltreatment with highest prevalence by caseworker report. Less common types of abuse (abandonment, moral/legal maltreatment, educational maltreatment, exploitation, other, prematurity or low birth weight, voluntary relinquishment, children in need of services, and investigation only way to get services) were combined into a maltreated-*other* (types of abuse) category. After reporting on all types of maltreatment recorded during the investigation, caseworkers were asked their opinion about the most serious type of maltreatment the child experienced.
- ^g Caseworkers were significantly less likely to report referring, arranging, or providing services at the time of investigation to families with a physical abuse maltreatment type than to families with a sexual abuse ($p < .05$), substance exposure ($p < .05$), or domestic violence maltreatment type ($p < .01$).
- ^h Caseworkers were significantly less likely to report referring, arranging, or providing services at the time of investigation to families with a neglect maltreatment type than to families with a sexual abuse ($p < .05$), substance exposure ($p < .01$), or domestic violence maltreatment type ($p < .001$).
- ⁱ Caseworkers were significantly more likely to report referring, arranging, or providing services at the time of investigation to families with a substance exposure maltreatment type than to families with a physical neglect ($p < .05$), ~~other~~ ($p < .05$), or substance-abusing parent maltreatment type ($p < .05$).
- ^j Caseworkers were significantly more likely to report referring, arranging, or providing services at the time of investigation to families with a domestic violence maltreatment type than to families with an ~~other~~ ($p < .05$) or substance-abusing parent maltreatment type ($p < .05$).

Exhibit VI-5. Types of Service and Whether the Service Was Referred, Arranged, or Provided at Time of Investigation by Caseworker Report

Type of service recommended by caseworker	N	Caseworker service decision					
		Referred		Arranged		Provided	
		%	SE	%	SE	%	SE
Counseling for caregiver	1,957	74.7	3.5	15.7	2.3	9.6	2.3
Parenting training	1,693	64.9	4.7	18.1	2.2	17.1	3.6
Substance abuse treatment for caregiver	1,436	76.7	2.6	17.1	2.3	6.2	1.4
Counseling for child	988	75.2	3.3	18.2	2.9	6.7	2.3
Medical exam	970	42.5	5.5	39.5	5.9	18.1	3.8
Foster or kinship care services	939	17.3	3.9	25.7	4.2	57.0	5.2
Mental health screening/assessment for caregiver	907	68.8	3.8	19.1	3.8	12.1	2.8
Family counseling	805	77.3	3.8	12.3	2.9	10.4	2.5
Domestic violence services	640	81.9	3.8	14.5	3.3	3.6	1.5
Other service to caregiver	633	56.6	4.4	22.8	4.9	20.6	2.9
Child care	564	58.1	8.4	26.4	6.5	15.6	4.3
Transportation	543	24.8	7.0	23.4	4.7	51.8	7.0
Other service to child	501	64.7	6.0	22.8	5.1	12.6	2.3
Concrete services (food, clothing, shelter)	488	54.1	4.2	10.5	2.7	35.4	4.5
Housing assistance	422	82.5	4.3	10.6	3.2	6.9	2.2
Immunizations	417	59.2	4.4	28.5	7.2	12.3	3.7
Mental health treatment for caregiver	397	75.2	4.8	18.0	4.2	6.8	3.2
Legal services	358	65.1	7.5	16.4	4.4	18.4	4.7
Dental exam	350	47.8	7.4	30.6	6.5	21.6	5.8
TANF/Medicaid application services	350	63.1	7.7	13.5	3.3	23.4	5.3
Emergency financial assistance	335	71.6	7.0	11.0	2.9	17.4	5.2
Mental health screening/assessment for child	324	57.8	5.3	26.9	6.0	15.4	4.0
Organized support groups	279	92.1	3.0	3.8	1.5	4.1	2.6
Employment services	232	86.8	4.7	4.9	1.5	8.3	4.4
Hearing or vision screening	188	45.9	13.3	25.9	8.1	28.2	11.7
Mental health treatment for child	187	61.0	6.2	22.6	5.2	16.4	6.6
Advocacy services	161	57.0	8.8	21.2	6.5	21.8	7.3
Homemaker/chore services	131	56.4	14.0	16.8	5.5	26.8	10.6
Marital counseling	122	75.0	8.1	8.4	3.6	16.6	6.5
Financial planning	110	69.8	8.8	8.3	3.4	22.0	7.5

(continued)

Exhibit VI-5. Types of Service and Whether the Service was Referred, Arranged, or Provided at Time of Investigation by Caseworker Report (continued)

Type of service recommended by caseworker	N	Caseworker service decision					
		Referred		Arranged		Provided	
		%	SE	%	SE	%	SE
IFSP	108	15.4	8.3	6.9	3.2	77.7	9.6
Special education classes or services	96	61.5	10.0	25.9	7.7	12.6	8.2
Respite care	89	37.7	7.7	46.0	9.2	16.3	7.0
IEP	85	64.5	8.2	30.1	7.6	5.5	2.5
Substance abuse treatment for child	46	53.4	17.4	16.8	9.8	29.8	17.5
Therapeutic foster care	46	39.7	19.7	17.2	6.7	43.2	20.4
Tutoring	40	69.6	13.9	26.1	13.8	4.4	2.7
Therapeutic nursery care	15	23.0	18.0	66.0	23.9	11.1	8.6

Note: All analyses were on weighted NSCAW II baseline data; *Ns* are unweighted and, therefore, direct percentages cannot be calculated by hand. IFSP = Individualized Family Service Plan; IEP = Individualized Education Plan. As shown in Exhibit VI-3, 61% of caseworkers indicated that they had recommended at least one type of service to the family at the time of investigation. This exhibit includes responses only for those services that caseworkers recommended. Each caseworker who responded “yes” to having recommended a service was then asked to look at a list of possible services and to select the specific services they had recommended for the child/family. For each service selected, caseworkers were then asked to indicate if that service was: (1) provided by the agency, (2) arranged, or (3) referred. Referring the family for services includes suggesting to the client that services may be needed, or giving the client provider contact information. Arranging services for the family includes contacting a provider, completing the necessary paperwork, and/or making an appointment. Providing services for the family involves direct service provision by CWS.

Exhibit VI-6. Most Recent Meeting with Caseworker Among Children 11 to 17 Years Old by Child Report

Child and investigation characteristics	N	Child's most recent meeting with caseworker			
		1 month or less		More than 1 month	
		%	SE	%	SE
Total	677	33.4	3.7	66.6	3.7
Age (years)					
11–13	291	26.6	4.1	73.4	4.1
14–17	386	39.7	5.5	60.3	5.5
Race/ethnicity					
Black	185	29.0	6.0	71.0	6.0
White	251	27.4	5.1	72.6	5.1
Hispanic	162	38.6	9.1	61.4	9.1
Other	76	51.1	11.5	48.9	11.5
Setting		***			
In-home	403	28.2 ^a	4.4	71.8	4.4
Formal kin care	55	53.0	9.3	47.0	9.3
Informal kin care	50	43.7	11.0	56.3	11.0
Foster care	118	71.5	9.2	28.5	9.2
Group home or residential treatment program	45	73.6	7.8	26.4	7.8
Investigation outcome					
Substantiated	226	45.8	5.2	54.2	5.2
Indicated	92	36.3	5.9	63.7	5.9
Unsubstantiated	202	32.5	5.5	67.5	5.5
Most serious type of maltreatment^b					
Physical abuse	140	34.3	6.9	65.7	6.9
Sexual abuse	73	35.6	10.2	64.4	10.2
Emotional abuse	38	47.7	10.9	52.4	10.9
Physical neglect	46	21.6	8.6	78.4	8.6
Neglect	95	33.2	5.6	66.8	5.6
Other	97	33.0	8.2	67.0	8.2
Substance exposure ^c	—	—	—	—	—
Domestic violence	31	12.5	4.2	87.6	4.2
Substance-abusing parent	52	45.2	17.6	54.8	17.6

Note: All analyses were on weighted NSCAW II baseline data; *N*s are unweighted and, therefore, direct percentages cannot be calculated by hand. Reported *N*s vary slightly across analyses because of missing data in some variable categories. Pearson χ^2 tests for cluster samples were used for significance tests. Asterisks indicate statistical significance (***) $p < .001$. An asterisk in a column applies to the subsequent results for the covariate. This exhibit includes only the subgroup of children 11 to 17 years old who indicated that they had met with a caseworker within the past 6 months.

^a Children living in-home with parents were significantly less likely to report meeting with a caseworker within the past month than children in formal kin care ($p < .05$), foster care ($p < .001$), or group home or residential treatment program ($p < .05$).

^b Caseworkers reported all types of maltreatments related to a case, with a mean number of types of maltreatment per child of 1.4. These are the eight types of maltreatment with highest prevalence by caseworker report. Less common types of abuse (abandonment, moral/legal maltreatment, educational maltreatment, exploitation, other, prematurity or low birth weight, voluntary relinquishment, children in need of services, and investigation only way to get services) were combined into a maltreated-*other* (types of abuse) category. After reporting on all types of maltreatment recorded during the investigation, caseworkers were asked their opinion about the most serious type of maltreatment the child experienced.

^c Estimates specific to investigations with a substance exposure maltreatment type were not included in this exhibit because there were less than 10 cases in this subpopulation.

Exhibit VI-7. Number of Different Caseworkers Since Investigation Date Among Children 11 to 17 Years Old by Child Report

Child and investigation characteristics	N	Number of caseworkers spoken with since investigation			
		1 or 2		3 or more	
		%	SE	%	SE
Total	726	75.4	3.3	24.7	3.3
Age (years)					
11–13	308	75.5	5.3	24.5	5.3
14–17	418	75.2	4.7	24.8	4.7
Race/ethnicity					
Black	192	82.0	4.8	18.0	4.8
White	275	79.9	4.1	20.1	4.1
Hispanic	174	63.4	7.6	36.6	7.6
Other	82	76.1	7.8	23.9	7.8
Setting					
In-home	447	77.0	3.5	23.0	3.5
Formal kin care	53	70.6	6.5	29.4	6.5
Informal kin care	55	70.5	12.0	29.5	12.0
Foster care	117	54.8	8.5	45.2	8.5
Group home or residential treatment program	48	80.5	8.4	19.5	8.4
Investigation outcome					
Substantiated	242	73.0	4.3	27.0	4.3
Indicated	97	78.1	7.8	21.9	7.8
Unsubstantiated	218	74.8	5.2	25.3	5.2
Most serious type of maltreatment ^a					
Physical abuse	149	80.6	4.3	19.4	4.3
Sexual abuse	79	63.4	7.4	36.6	7.4
Emotional abuse	39	68.2	14.0	31.8	14.0
Physical neglect	48	92.4	2.9	7.6	2.9
Neglect	95	78.3	5.3	21.7	5.3
Other	112	78.5	6.9	21.5	6.9
Substance exposure ^b	—	—	—	—	—
Domestic violence	33	93.8	3.4	6.2	3.4
Substance-abusing parent	55	59.8	18.5	40.2	18.5

Note: All analyses were on weighted NSCAW II baseline data; *Ns* are unweighted and, therefore, direct percentages cannot be calculated by hand. Reported *Ns* vary slightly across analyses because of missing data in some variable categories. Pearson χ^2 tests for cluster samples were used for significance tests. This exhibit includes only the subgroup of children 11 to 17 years old who indicated that they had met with a caseworker within the past 6 months.

^a Caseworkers reported all types of maltreatments related to a case, with a mean number of types of maltreatment per child of 1.4. These are the eight types of maltreatment with highest prevalence by caseworker report. Less common types of abuse (abandonment, moral/legal maltreatment, educational maltreatment, exploitation, other, prematurity or low birth weight, voluntary relinquishment, children in need of services, and investigation only way to get services) were combined into a maltreated-*other* (types of abuse) category. After reporting on all types of maltreatment recorded during the investigation, caseworkers were asked their opinion about the most serious type of maltreatment the child experienced.

^b Estimates specific to investigations with a substance exposure maltreatment type were not included in this exhibit because there were less than 10 cases in this subpopulation.

Exhibit VI-8. Most Recent Verbal Contact with Caseworker by In-Home Parent Report

	N	Most recent verbal contact with caseworker			
		1 month or less		More than 1 month	
		%	SE	%	SE
Total	2,496	32.1	2.1	67.9	2.1
Child age (years)		**			
0–2	1,198	42.2 ^a	3.5	57.8	3.5
3–5	379	28.2	3.8	71.9	3.8
6–10	485	30.3	2.9	69.7	2.9
11–17	434	28.8	4.1	71.2	4.1
Child race/ethnicity					
Black	682	31.6	3.7	68.4	3.7
White	934	29.9	3.0	70.1	3.0
Hispanic	692	34.8	3.8	65.2	3.8
Other	184	37.2	10.5	62.8	10.5
Parent gender					
Male	210	37.9	7.8	62.1	7.8
Female	2,286	31.5	2.0	68.5	2.0
Parent age (years)					
19 and under	134	37.5	8.7	62.5	8.7
20–29	1,169	34.8	2.8	65.2	2.8
30–49	1,136	30.6	2.9	69.4	2.9
50–59	37	14.7	6.5	85.3	6.5
60 and older ^b	—	—	—	—	—
Parent race/ethnicity					
Black	622	30.1	4.1	69.9	4.1
White	1,120	31.6	2.7	68.4	2.7
Hispanic	590	32.7	4.7	67.3	4.7
Other	160	41.5	7.8	58.5	7.8
Investigation outcome		***			
Substantiated	726	53.5	4.4	46.5	4.4
Indicated	450	39.6	6.0	60.4	6.0
Unsubstantiated	806	23.9 ^c	2.3	76.2	2.3
Most serious type of maltreatment^d					
Physical abuse	399	22.5	4.0	77.5	4.0
Sexual abuse	138	22.9	6.2	77.1	6.2
Emotional abuse	71	43.6	9.6	56.4	9.6
Physical neglect	174	35.5	5.7	64.5	5.7
Neglect	451	29.5	3.4	70.5	3.4
Other	294	37.3	5.6	62.7	5.6
Substance exposure	190	66.2	8.6	33.8	8.6
Domestic violence	236	35.4	5.2	64.6	5.2
Substance-abusing parent	238	28.6	5.1	71.4	5.1

Note: All analyses were on weighted NSCAW II baseline data; *N*s are unweighted and, therefore, direct percentages cannot be calculated by hand. Reported *N*s vary slightly across analyses because of missing data in some variable categories. Pearson χ^2 tests for cluster samples were used for significance tests. Asterisks indicate statistical significance (** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$). An asterisk in a column applies to the subsequent results for the covariate. The parent that the child was living with at the time of the baseline interview was asked about last verbal contact with a caseworker. This exhibit includes only the subgroup of parents who indicated that they had talked with a caseworker since the investigation.

^a Parents of children 0 to 2 years old were significantly more likely to report verbal contact with a caseworker within the past month than parents of children 3 to 5 years old ($p < .05$), 6 to 10 years old ($p < .05$), or 11 to 17 years old ($p < .01$).

^b Estimates specific to caregivers 60 years and older were not included in this exhibit since there were less than 10 cases in this subpopulation.

^c Parents with a unsubstantiated investigation outcome were significantly less likely to report verbal contact with a caseworker within the past month than parents with substantiated ($p < .001$) or indicated investigation outcome ($p < .01$).

^d Caseworkers reported all types of maltreatments related to a case, with a mean number of types of maltreatment per child of 1.4. These are the eight types of maltreatment with highest prevalence by caseworker report. Less common types of abuse (abandonment, moral/legal maltreatment, educational maltreatment, exploitation, other, prematurity or low birth weight, voluntary relinquishment, children in need of services, and investigation only way to get services) were combined into a maltreated-*other* (types of abuse) category. After reporting on all types of maltreatment recorded during the investigation, caseworkers were asked their opinion about the most serious type of maltreatment the child experienced.

Exhibit VI-9. Number of Different Caseworkers Since Investigation Date by In-Home Parent Report

	<i>N</i>	Number of caseworkers spoken with since investigation			
		1 or 2		3 or more	
		%	<i>SE</i>	%	<i>SE</i>
Total	2,608	84.4	1.4	15.6	1.4
Child age (years)					
0–2	1,234	80.5	2.4	19.5	2.4
3–5	396	85.8	2.6	14.2	2.6
6–10	512	86.6	2.3	13.5	2.3
11–17	466	84.1	3.0	15.9	3.0
Child race/ethnicity					
Black	715	87.8	1.8	12.2	1.8
White	974	83.7	2.2	16.3	2.2
Hispanic	724	81.8	2.3	18.2	2.3
Other	191	86.7	5.4	13.3	5.4
Parent gender					
Male	225	82.1	4.1	17.9	4.1
Female	2,383	84.7	1.5	15.4	1.5
Parent age (years)					
19 and under	139	76.3	8.1	23.7	8.1
20–29	1,210	83.1	1.9	16.9	1.9
30–49	1,198	85.8	1.8	14.2	1.8
50–59	42	84.0	8.9	16.1	8.9
60 and older ^a	—	—	—	—	—
Parent race/ethnicity					
Black	648	89.0	2.3	11.0	2.3
White	1,169	83.2	2.0	16.8	2.0
Hispanic	615	81.7	2.4	18.3	2.4
Other	170	87.8	2.7	12.2	2.7
Investigation outcome				**	
Substantiated	742	73.7	3.5	26.3 ^b	3.5
Indicated	466	85.4	3.2	14.6	3.2
Unsubstantiated	858	87.8	1.8	12.2	1.8
Most serious type of maltreatment ^c					
Physical abuse	416	87.7	2.4	12.3	2.4
Sexual abuse	145	77.7	6.0	22.4	6.0
Emotional abuse	73	83.1	6.4	16.9	6.4
Physical neglect	184	88.8	2.7	11.2	2.7
Neglect	470	87.6	2.0	12.4	2.0
Other	306	87.5	3.1	12.5	3.1
Substance exposure	196	53.3	10.1	46.7	10.1
Domestic violence	248	83.0	4.8	17.0	4.8
Substance-abusing parent	246	87.0	3.9	13.0	3.9

Note: All analyses were on weighted NSCAW II baseline data; *Ns* are unweighted and, therefore, direct percentages cannot be calculated by hand. Reported *Ns* vary slightly across analyses because of missing data in some variable categories. Pearson χ^2 tests for cluster samples were used for significance tests. Asterisks indicate statistical significance (** $p < .01$). An asterisk in a column applies to the subsequent results for the covariate. The parent with whom the child was living at the time of the baseline interview was asked about the number of different caseworkers. This exhibit includes only the subgroup of parents who indicated that they had talked with a caseworker since the investigation.

^a Estimates specific to caregivers 60 years and older were not included in this exhibit because there were less than 10 cases in this subpopulation.

^b Parents with a substantiated investigation outcome were significantly more likely to report contact with three or more different caseworkers than parents with an indicated ($p < .01$) or unsubstantiated investigation outcome ($p < .001$).

^c Caseworkers reported all types of maltreatments related to a case, with a mean number of types of maltreatment per child of 1.4. These are the eight types of maltreatment with highest prevalence by caseworker report. Less common types of abuse (abandonment, moral/legal maltreatment, educational maltreatment, exploitation, other, prematurity or low birth weight, voluntary relinquishment, children in need of services, and investigation only way to get services) were combined into a maltreated-*other* (types of abuse) category. After reporting on all types of maltreatment recorded during the investigation, caseworkers were asked their opinion about the most serious type of maltreatment the child experienced.

Exhibit VI-10. Satisfaction with Caseworker and Child Welfare System by In-Home Parent Report

	Satisfaction with caseworker ^a			Satisfaction with CWS process and service provision ^b		
	<i>N</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SE</i>
Total	2,577	2.3	0.0	2,448	3.3	0.0
Parent gender						
Male	223	2.4	0.1	206	3.3	0.1
Female	2,354	2.3	0.0	2,242	3.3	0.0
Parent age (years)						
19 and under	137	2.3	0.2	134	3.5	0.2
20–29	1,201	2.2	0.1	1,143	3.3	0.1
30–49	1,181	2.3	0.0	1,118	3.4	0.3
50–59	38	2.6	0.1	36	3.4	0.3
60 and older ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—
Parent race/ethnicity						
Black	639	2.4	0.1	617	3.2	0.1
White	1,154	2.3	0.1	1,090	3.3	0.1
Hispanic	612	2.3	0.1	580	3.3	0.1
Other	166	2.3	0.1	156	3.5	0.2
Investigation outcome		*			***	
Substantiated	737	2.3	0.0	707	3.4	0.1
Indicated	466	2.1 ^d	0.1	446	3.0 ^c	0.1
Unsubstantiated	837	2.3	0.0	790	3.3	0.1
Most serious type of maltreatment^f						
Physical abuse	407	2.3	0.0	383	3.3	0.1
Sexual abuse	145	2.1	0.1	140	3.2	0.2
Emotional abuse	73	2.4	0.2	67	3.1	0.2
Physical neglect	181	2.5	0.1	172	3.5	0.2
Neglect	464	2.3	0.1	442	3.3	0.1
Other	300	2.2	0.1	286	3.3	0.1
Substance exposure	196	2.2	0.2	189	3.5	0.1
Domestic violence	246	2.2	0.1	234	3.3	0.2
Substance-abusing parent	246	2.3	0.1	236	3.3	0.1

Note: All analyses were on weighted NSCAW II baseline data; *Ns* are unweighted and, therefore, direct percentages cannot be calculated by hand. Reported *Ns* vary slightly across analyses because of missing data in some variable categories. Wald’s F-test was used for significance tests. Asterisks indicate statistical significance (* $p < .05$, *** $p < .001$). An asterisk in a column applies to the subsequent results for the covariate. The parent with whom the child was living at the time of the baseline interview was asked about satisfaction with caseworker. CWS = Child Welfare System.

^a An index of satisfaction with caseworker was created by standardizing and summing three items. The index ranges from 0–3, with higher scores indicating higher satisfaction.

^b An index of satisfaction with CWS process and service provision was created by standardizing and summing six items. The index ranges from 0–6, with higher scores indicating higher satisfaction.

^c Estimates specific to caregivers 60 years and older were not included in this exhibit because there were less than 10 cases in this subpopulation.

^d Parents with an indicated investigation outcome were significantly more likely to report lower satisfaction with caseworker than parents with a substantiated ($p < .05$) or unsubstantiated investigation outcome ($p < .001$).

^e Parents with an indicated investigation outcome were significantly more likely to report lower satisfaction with the CWS process and service provision than parents with a substantiated or unsubstantiated investigation outcome ($p < .001$).

^f Caseworkers reported all types of maltreatments related to a case, with a mean number of types of maltreatment per child of 1.4. These are the eight types of maltreatment with highest prevalence by caseworker report. Less common types of abuse (abandonment, moral/legal maltreatment, educational maltreatment, exploitation, other, prematurity or low birth weight, voluntary relinquishment, children in need of services, and investigation only way to get services) were combined into a maltreated-*other* (types of abuse) category. After reporting on all types of maltreatment recorded during the investigation, caseworkers were asked their opinion about the most serious type of maltreatment the child experienced.

Exhibit VI-11. Satisfaction with Child Welfare System by Foster Caregiver Report

	Foster CG was given essential information about child at placement			Foster CG had input into service plan			CW returned calls within 24 hrs			Foster CG felt like respected member of team			Foster CG received special training or instruction		
	<i>N</i>	% Yes	<i>SE</i>	<i>N</i>	% Yes	<i>SE</i>	<i>N</i>	% Yes	<i>SE</i>	<i>N</i>	% Yes	<i>SE</i>	<i>N</i>	% Yes	<i>SE</i>
Total	1,097	62.2	4.9	1,073	71.4	2.8	1,095	76.6	5.2	1,096	80.3	3.7	1,097	58.6	4.0
Foster caregiver gender															
Male	58	57.1	9.7	56	77.5	10.1	58	68.3	12.7	58	83.7	10.2	58	68.4	10.3
Female	1,039	62.6	5.0	1,017	70.9	3.0	1,037	77.3	5.4	1,038	80.0	3.9	1,039	57.8	4.1
Foster caregiver age (years)															
20–29	72	84.7	9.1	72	79.6	10.1	72	86.9	7.4	72	94.0	4.1	72	37.4	17.4
30–49	655	60.7	6.1	637	67.4	3.5	654	72.9	6.6	654	82.5	3.5	654	56.5	5.4
50–59	245	64.4	4.6	241	75.8	4.6	244	75.7	8.3	245	77.7	7.1	245	60.2	7.7
60 and older	119	49.9	12.2	118	73.2	9.4	119	89.4	6.4	119	66.3	15.6	120	79.3	6.7
Foster caregiver race/ethnicity															
Black	354	52.6	9.6	354	70.7	5.9	356	81.3	5.0	356	73.8	8.2	355	76.2 ^a	3.5
White	505	67.9	4.5	492	72.0	4.3	502	80.8	4.4	503	85.2	4.0	504	52.6	6.3
Hispanic	188	61.0	7.7	179	69.3	7.9	187	57.7	13.8	187	74.5	11.8	188	49.3	8.2
Other	49	60.5	11.2	47	77.7	7.6	49	83.8	9.2	49	86.2	8.7	49	65.8	12.1

Note: All analyses were on weighted NSCAW II baseline data; *Ns* are unweighted and, therefore, direct percentages cannot be calculated by hand. Reported *Ns* vary slightly across analyses because of missing data in some variable categories. Pearson χ^2 tests for cluster samples were used for significance tests. Asterisks indicate statistical significance ($*p < .05$). An asterisk in a column applies to the subsequent results for the covariate. CG = caregiver; CW = caseworker.

^a Black foster caregivers were significantly more likely to report receiving special training or instruction on foster parenting than White ($p < .01$) or Hispanic foster caregivers ($p < .05$).

Exhibit VI-12. Placement Changes for Children in Out-of-Home Care by Caseworker Report

Child and investigation characteristics	N	Child's status at the time of interview ^a					
		Already reunified		Reunification plan		No reunification plan	
		%	SE	%	SE	%	SE
Total	1,718	17.3	3.4	67.2	4.1	15.5	2.7
Gender							
Male	875	17.5	5.9	66.2	6.8	16.3	3.9
Female	843	17.0	3.3	68.3	4.1	14.7	3.7
Age (years)		*					
0–2	1,081	28.5 ^b	7.7	62.7	7.0	8.8	2.7
3–5	84	16.5	7.4	72.6	9.3	11.0	5.9
6–10	215	7.6	2.0	73.1	6.4	19.3	6.0
11–17	238	9.8	3.2	64.6	6.6	25.6	6.0
Race/ethnicity							
Black	580	16.2	9.8	65.1	8.6	18.7	4.9
White	560	21.6	4.2	64.1	4.4	14.4	3.9
Hispanic	449	12.0	5.2	72.9	8.8	15.2	6.0
Other	127	18.3	4.9	70.3	8.1	11.4	7.0
Investigation outcome							
Substantiated	1,087	12.3	2.6	78.5 ^c	4.2	9.2	2.6
Indicated	291	14.8	9.2	73.2	9.5	12.0	5.3
Unsubstantiated	221	23.8	8.5	49.3	10.1	26.9	7.1
Most serious types of maltreatment ^d		**		**			
Physical abuse	232	12.7	4.1	61.9	8.3	25.4	7.7
Sexual abuse	88	32.0	9.6	48.7	7.0	19.4	9.5
Emotional abuse	35	6.2	2.8	61.0	22.1	32.8	20.3
Physical neglect	181	33.3	10.5	58.7	8.4	8.1	7.0
Neglect	295	15.8	5.8	68.4	8.4	15.8	5.6
Other	272	7.4	3.0	84.5	4.7	8.2	2.8
Substance exposure	265	45.0 ^c	14.3	48.8	13.1	6.2	2.8
Domestic violence	96	19.6 ^f	8.8	78.0 ^g	9.0	2.5	1.7
Substance-abusing parent	250	5.4	1.6	72.4	7.9	22.3	8.0

Note: All analyses were on weighted NSCAW II baseline data; Ns are unweighted and, therefore, direct percentages cannot be calculated by hand. Reported Ns vary slightly across analyses because of missing data in some variable categories. Pearson χ^2 tests for cluster samples were used for significance tests. Asterisks indicate statistical significance (* $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$). An asterisk in a column applies to the subsequent results for the covariate.

^aThis exhibit includes data on all children who were in out-of-home care at some point following the investigation, even if for a brief time. Already reunified includes children who were placed in out-of-home care post-investigation but were reunified with their birth parents by the time of the caseworker interview. Out-of-home with reunification plan includes children for whom reunification was planned or had been attempted at the time of interview. Out-of-home without reunification plan includes children for whom reunification efforts were never made with anyone in the child's family. Out of home children without a reunification plan served as the reference group in this analysis.

^bChildren 0 to 2 years old were significantly more likely to have *already* been reunified than to have *no* reunification plan when compared to children 6 to 10 years old ($p < .05$) and children 11 to 17 years old ($p < .05$).

- ^c Children with a substantiated investigation outcome were significantly more likely to *have* a reunification plan than to have *no* reunification plan when compared to children with an unsubstantiated investigation outcome ($p < .01$).
- ^d Caseworkers reported all types of maltreatments related to a case, with a mean number of types of maltreatment per child of 1.4. These are the eight types of maltreatment with highest prevalence by caseworker report. Less common types of abuse (abandonment, moral/legal maltreatment, educational maltreatment, exploitation, other, prematurity or low birth weight, voluntary relinquishment, children in need of services, and investigation only way to get services) were combined into a maltreated-*other* (types of abuse) category. After reporting on all types of maltreatment recorded during the investigation, caseworkers were asked their opinion about the most serious type of maltreatment the child experienced.
- ^e Children with a substance exposure maltreatment type were significantly more likely to have *already* been reunified than to have *no* reunification plan when compared to children with a substance-abusing parent ($p < .05$) or ~~other~~ maltreatment type ($p < .05$).
- ^f Children with a domestic violence maltreatment type were significantly more likely to have *already* been reunified than to have *no* reunification plan when compared to children with a physical abuse ($p < .05$), substance-abusing parent ($p < .05$), or ~~other~~ maltreatment type ($p < .05$).
- ^g Children with a domestic violence maltreatment type were significantly more likely to *have* a reunification plan than to have *no* reunification plan when compared to children with a physical abuse ($p < .05$) and neglect maltreatment type ($p < .01$).

Exhibit VI-13. Placement Changes for Children Currently Living in Foster Care, Kin Care, or Group Homes by Caseworker Report

Child characteristics	N	Number of placement changes since the initial out-of-home placement			
		None		1 or more ^a	
		%	SE	%	SE
Total	1,799	81.2	2.2	18.8	2.2
Gender					
Male	926	81.2	2.6	18.8	2.6
Female	873	81.2	2.9	18.8	2.9
Age (years)				**	
0–2	1,101	70.5	3.7	29.5 ^b	3.7
3–5	189	88.8	2.9	11.2	2.9
6–10	246	84.0	4.2	16.0	4.2
11–17	263	82.0	3.2	18.0	3.2
Race/ethnicity					
Black	645	80.6	4.3	19.4	4.3
White	571	80.7	3.8	19.3	3.8
Hispanic	470	82.3	2.2	17.7	2.2
Other	112	82.6	5.4	17.4	5.4
Risk of behavioral/emotional problem^c					
Yes	406	82.2	3.2	17.8	3.2
No	468	85.9	3.2	14.1	3.2

Note: All analyses were on weighted NSCAW II baseline data; *N*s are unweighted and, therefore, direct percentages cannot be calculated by hand. Reported *N*s vary slightly across analyses because of missing data in some variable categories. Pearson χ^2 tests for cluster samples were used for significance tests. Asterisks indicate statistical significance (** $p < .01$). An asterisk in a column applies to the subsequent results for the covariate.

^a Of the 639 children who experienced a placement change after the initial out-of-home placement, the majority (90.8%) had one additional placement change; 9.2% had two to four changes.

^b Children 0 to 2 years old were significantly more likely to have experienced a placement change since the initial out-of-home placement than children 3 to 5 years old ($p < .01$), 6 to 10 years old ($p < .01$), or 11 to 17 years old ($p < .05$).

^c Risk of behavioral/emotional problem was defined as scores in the clinical range on any of the following standardized measures: Internalizing, Externalizing, or Total Problems scales of the Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL; administered for children 1.5 to 18 years old), Youth Self Report (YSR; administered to children 11 years old or older), or the Teacher Report Form (TRF; administered for children 6 to 18 years old); the Child Depression Inventory (CDI; administered to children 7 years old or older); or the PTSD section Intrusive Experiences and Dissociation subscales of the Trauma Symptoms Checklist (administered to children 8 years old or older).

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APPENDIX

Scales. Following is a list of the scales used in the NSCAW II Caseworker Characteristics, Child Welfare Services, and Disruptions in Children's Living Environments Brief Report VI.

Type of Maltreatment. NSCAW II used the Limited Maltreatment Classification System (L-MCS; Barnett, Manly, & Cicchetti, 1993) to capture information about the reported maltreatment. Caseworkers were provided with a card listing types of maltreatment. The request to caseworkers was: Please look at Card 9 and tell me the type or types of abuse or neglect reported on (Report Date)?

- 1 = ~~Physical~~ Maltreatment"
- 2 = ~~Sexual~~ Maltreatment"
- 3 = ~~Emotional~~ Maltreatment"
- 4 = ~~Physical Neglect (Failure to Provide)~~"
- 5 = ~~Neglect (Lack of Supervision)~~"
- 6 = ~~Abandonment~~"
- 7 = ~~Moral/legal~~ Maltreatment"
- 8 = ~~Educational~~ Maltreatment"
- 9 = ~~Exploitation~~"
- 10 = ~~Other~~"
- 11 = ~~Prematurity or Low Birth Weight~~"
- 12 = ~~Substance Exposure (e.g., born with drugs in system)~~"
- 13 = ~~Domestic Violence~~"
- 14 = ~~Substance-abusing Parent~~"
- 15 = ~~Voluntary Relinquishment~~"
- 16 = ~~Children in Need of Services (CHINS)~~"
- 17 = ~~Investigation Only Way to Get Services~~"

The card listing types of maltreatment did not include a definition of each category. NSCAW II included several new categories, added with the goal of obtaining more information from caseworkers about specific types of maltreatment. The new categories were: prematurity or

low birth weight, substance exposure, domestic violence, substance-abusing parent, voluntary relinquishment, children in need of services, and investigation only way to get services. The most serious type of maltreatment was assessed by asking the caseworkers in the baseline interview, “Of the types of abuse or neglect that were reported, please look at Card 9 and tell me the type that you felt was the most serious.”

Derived Variables. Following is a descriptive list of the variables derived for the NSCAW II Caseworker Characteristics, Child Welfare Services, and Disruptions in Children’s Living Environments Brief Report VI.

- *Setting.* The setting variable includes six levels: in-home, formal kin care, informal kin care, foster care, group home/residential program, or other out of home. *In-home* caregivers include living situations where the primary caregiver is either a biological, adoptive, or stepmother/father. *Formal kin care* includes situations where the primary caregiver has a kin relationship to the child and where the caregiver is receiving payments from the Child Welfare System. Informal kin care is where the primary caregiver has a kin relationship to the child, but is not receiving payments from the Child Welfare System. Foster care indicates that the child primary caregiver was identified as a foster parent. Group home/residential program indicates that a child was currently living in a group home or residential facility. *Other out of home* includes situations where the primary caregiver was identified as “other nonrelative” and where the primary caregiver was not receiving foster parent payments.
- *Child Insurance Status.* Child insurance status includes four types: *private*, *public*, *other*, and *uninsured*. *Private* includes children who have any private insurance plan obtained through an employer or purchased directly. *Public* includes children covered by Medicaid or any other state-sponsored programs. *Other* includes children who do not have private insurance or Medicaid (or other public coverage), but who have any other type of insurance, including coverage through a military health plan. *Uninsured* includes children who were not covered at the time of interview under private, public, or other insurance. Consistent with the National Health Interview Survey insurance status categories, *uninsured* also includes children only covered through the Indian Health Service (n=4).
- *Caseworker Salary:* Investigative caseworkers were asked to report their annual income or to select from a list of income categories. For the purpose of this report, salary values less than \$12,000 and more than \$300,000 annually were coded as missing. Additionally, caseworkers who did not provide their salary amount, but who indicated that their salary was in the range of \$50,000 or more were placed in the \$50,000 to \$59,999 category.
- *Caseworker Hours of Contact with Supervisor:* Investigative caseworkers were asked to report the number of hours spent with a supervisor weekly or monthly. For the purpose of this report, values of over 60 hours per week were coded as missing.
- *“Other” maltreatment:* Because of the limited number of cases in some maltreatment categories, a variable was created to represent “Other” with the following categories:

abandonment, moral/legal maltreatment, educational maltreatment, exploitation, other, prematurity or low birth weight, voluntary relinquishment, children in need of services, and investigation only way to get services.

- *Satisfaction with Caseworker.* An index of satisfaction with caseworker was created by standardizing and summing three Likert-scale items (i.e., caseworker listened, caseworker treated with respect, caseworker explained problems/services). The index ranges from 0–3, with higher scores indicating higher satisfaction.
- *Satisfaction with Child Welfare System Processes and Service Provision.* An index of satisfaction with Child Welfare System processes and service provision was created by standardizing and summing six Likert-scale items (i.e., how satisfied with contact, how satisfied with being invited to meetings about child, how satisfied with involvement in decision-making, needed more time to change, services could have been more helpful, should have been offered more services). Three items were reversed scored (needed more time to change, services could have been more helpful, should have been offered more services). The index ranges from 0–6, with higher scores indicating higher satisfaction.
- *Reunification Status:* This variable contains data on all children who were in out-of-home care post-investigation, even if for a brief time. Three categories were created: (1) already reunified includes children who were placed in out-of-home care post-investigation but were reunified with their birth parents by the time of the caregiver interview; (2) reunification plan includes children in out-of-home care for whom reunification was planned or had been attempted at the time of interview; and (3) no reunification plan includes children in out-of-home care for whom reunification efforts were never made with anyone in the child’s family.
- *Risk of Behavioral/Emotional Problem.* Children 1.5 to 17 years old were considered to be at risk for a behavioral/emotional problems if either (1) a caregiver reported an elevated score (>1.5 standard deviations above the mean) on the Total Problems, Internalizing, or Externalizing scales of the CBCL (Achenbach & Rescorla, 2001); (2) an adolescent reported an elevated score (>1.5 standard deviations above the mean) on the Total Problems, Internalizing, or Externalizing scales of the YSR (Achenbach & Rescorla, 2001); (3) a teacher reported an elevated score (>1.5 standard deviations above the mean) on the Total Problems, Internalizing, or Externalizing scales of the TRF (Achenbach & Rescorla, 2001); (4) a clinically significant score was obtained on the CDI (Kovacs, 1992), or (5) a clinically significant score was obtained on the PTSD scale of the Trauma Symptoms Checklist (Briere, 1996).