Foster Care & Parent Problems

- Drug & Alcohol Abuse in 85% parents
- Half all babies have drug exposure
- AIDS
- Domestic Violence
- Poverty, Lack of
- Mental Illness

(Source: Steven D. Blatt, MD., Children's Hospital, Upstate Medical School, Syracuse, NY, 2008)

Do these parental problems all go away prior to child-parent reunification????

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Babies & Cocaine

- Half of very young children placed in foster care had been prenatally exposed to cocaine
- Children born to substance-abusing women have a rate of physical abuse 2-5 times higher than matched children

(Source: Steven D. Blatt, MD., Children's Hospital, Upstate Medical School, Syracuse, NY, 2008)
Health Status of Children Entering Foster Care: Infants

- Drug Exposure 50%
- HIV Exposure 30-50 times community
- Growth Failure 20-40%
- Immunization Delay in 75% at 7 months
- Behavioral Problems: 40% vs. 3-6%
- Developmental Delay-50% vs. 4-10% in general population

(Source: Steven D. Blatt, MD., Children's Hospital, Upstate Medical School, Syracuse, NY, 2008)
Prevalence of Mental Health Conditions

- 50-95% children entering foster care have significant mental health problems
- Range of common clinical problems include:
  - Relational & coping difficulties (attachment)
  - School failure
  - Externalizing disorders: conduct disorder, attention deficit disorder, aggressive behavior
  - Internalizing disorders: depression

(Source: Steven D. Blatt, MD., Children's Hospital, Upstate Medical School, Syracuse, NY, 2008)
Sexually abused children are at significant risk of developing:

- anxiety disorders (2.0 times the average),
- major depressive disorders (3.4 times average),
- alcohol abuse (2.5 times average),
- drug abuse (3.8 times average), and
- antisocial behavior (4.3 times average) (MacMillian, 2001).
CPS cases open to Service: 25,543
- In-home care 18,035
- Family Substitute 7,418

# Children Removed from Home as a result of completed CPS investigation:
- 15,920

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28,904 children in DFPS care 8/31/08
- 18,462 in Foster Care (64%)
- 10,442 in other care (36%)
  - 8,801 Kinship Care
  - 855 Adoptive Homes
  - 786 Other (independent, AWOL, etc)
18,462 in Foster Care

- 0 – 2 21%
- 3 – 5 16%
- 6 – 9 18%
- 10+ 45%
CPS Outcomes

- Family reunification 36%
  - 2.2 placements
  - 9.6 months avg LOS
  - Reunification < 12 mo 65%

- Adoption 25%
  - 3.4 placements
  - 13 months avg LOS
  - Adopted <24 mon 49%

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CPS Outcomes

Relative Care 26%

- 2.4 placements
- 13 months avg LOS
Length of Time in Care for Children who were granted permanency status

- 0 – 12 months 63%
- 13 – 24 months 24%
- 24+ months 13%