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*The Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative:*  
**Using Evidence to Inform Decisions**

Friday, March 09, 2018



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# The Policy Challenge

- Budget development often relies on inertia, opinions, or anecdote
- Limited data on:
  - What programs are funded
  - What each program costs
  - What programs accomplish
  - How they compare

**SOLUTION:**  
Bring evidence into the  
process



# The Results First Approach: Bring Evidence into the Process



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**1.** Inventory programs and compare to research

**2.** Conduct benefit-cost analysis

**3.** Use your results



# The Results First Approach: Bring Evidence into the Process



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## 1. Inventory programs and compare to research

- **PROGRAM** means an intervention (program or practice) implemented to achieve desired outcomes

# Program Inventory



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PROGRAM INFORMATION	BUDGET		EVIDENCE-BASED
PROGRAM NAME	PROGRAM BUDGET	% OF PROGRAM BUDGET	RATINGS
Nurse-Family Partnership	\$125,000	6%	
Parent Child Interaction Therapy	\$50,000	3%	
SafeCare	\$300,000	15%	
Family Connections	\$250,000	13%	
Healthy Families America	\$180,000	9%	
Peer-to-Peer Skill Building	\$100,000	5%	
All other programs	\$950,000	49%	

*Note: Data created by author for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to reflect any actual program budget.*

# Results First Clearinghouse Database



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## Clearinghouses Included

### Clearinghouse

Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development

California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare

Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy

CrimeSolutions.gov

National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practice

Promising Practices Network

What Works Clearinghouse

What Works in Reentry Clearinghouse

### Abbreviation Used

Blueprints

CEBC

Coalition

CrimeSolutions

NREPP

PPN

WWC

WWR

### Area of Interest

Child welfare and juvenile justice

Child welfare

Social policy

Criminal justice

Substance abuse and mental health

Child welfare, juvenile justice, and social programs

Education

Criminal justice

## Rating Colors

The clearinghouse assigned the intervention its second-highest rating. This generally requires an evaluation that used a quasi-experimental design and showed that the intervention had a positive impact.

 Highest rated

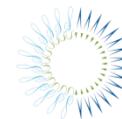
 Second-highest rated

 No evidence of effects

 Mixed effects

 Negative effects

# Results First Clearinghouse Database



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Policy area	Intervention	Blueprints	CEBC	Coalition	Crime Solutions	NREPP	PPN	WWC	WWR
Child welfare	Adolescent Parenting Program		●						
Child welfare	Adults and Children Together Raising Safe Kids Program				●				
Child welfare	All Babies Cry					●			
Child welfare	Alternatives for Families: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy		●		●	●			
Child welfare	Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-up		●			●			
Child welfare	Clearinghouse: National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practice						●		
Child welfare	Intervention: Chicago Parent Program								
Child welfare	Evidence Rating: 3.5								
Child welfare	Chicago Parent Program		●		●	●			
Child welfare	Child FIRST	●		●	●	●			
Child welfare	Child Sexual Abuse Prevention: Teacher Training Workshop						●		

Clearinghouse: National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practice  
 Intervention: Chicago Parent Program  
 Evidence Rating: 3.5

[Learn more](#) | ➔

# Assess Funding by Level of Effectiveness



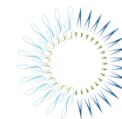
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PROGRAM INFORMATION	BUDGET		EVIDENCE-BASED	
PROGRAM NAME	PROGRAM BUDGET	% OF PROGRAM BUDGET	RATINGS	
Nurse-Family Partnership	\$125,000	6%	Highest rated	} 9%
Parent Child Interaction Therapy	\$50,000	3%	Highest rated	
SafeCare	\$300,000	15%	Second-highest rated	} 28%
Family Connections	\$250,000	13%	Second-highest rated	
Healthy Families America	\$180,000	9%	No evidence of effects	— 9%
Peer-to-Peer Skill Building	\$100,000	5%	Not rated	} 54%
All other programs	\$950,000	49%	Not rated	

Note: Data created by author for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to reflect any actual program budget.

# Program Inventory Example



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TERN		BUDGET			EVIDENCE-BASED				
ProgID	Program Name	Percent of Total Budget	Funding Source	Year of Dollars	Program Evaluated (Y/N)	Impact Evaluation or Performance Monitoring (if evaluated)	Clearinghouse	Rating from Clearinghouse	RF ACJ Program
20	Post-Secondary Academic Service	NA	Self-pay	FY'15	N		CrimeSolutions.gov	2nd Highest	Correctional education (basic or post-secondary) in prison
400	<b>Re-entry Services</b>								
21	Reentry Course/ DOL Reentry Program	1.4%	Missing cost of	FY'15	N		-	Not Rated	No Match
22	Assess, Plan, Identify and Coordinate (APIC)	1.1%	MHTA (authorize	FY'15			WWR	2nd Highest	No Match
23	Institutional Discharge Project Plus (IDP+)	0.9%	General Fund	FY'15			WWR	Highest	No Match
24	Partners Reentry Center	2.4%	FY'16	FY'16	no		WWR	2nd Highest	No Match
25	ACM Transitional Homes In	NA	ACM donations &	NA	no		-	Excluded	-

# Program Inventory Iowa Example



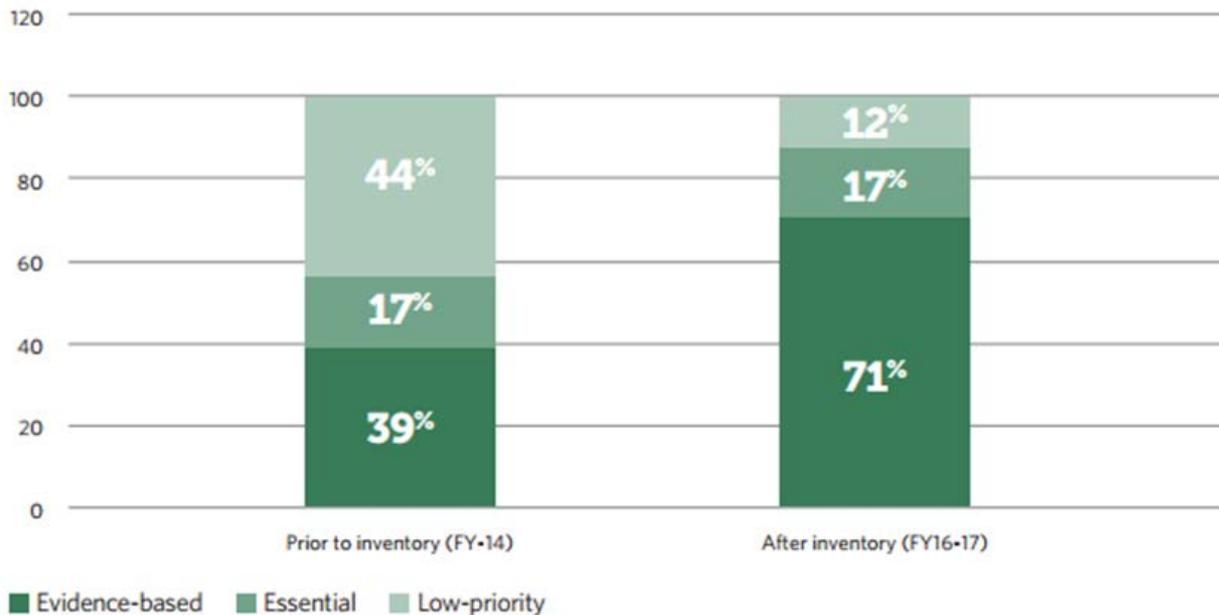
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Figure 3

## Iowa Increases the Frequency of Evidence-Based Offerings

Despite reduction in the number of programs offered, the availability of evidence-based ones rose



Source: Iowa Department of Corrections

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# The Results First Model



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**1** Use the best **research** to identify what works

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**2** Predict the **impact** in your jurisdiction

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**3** Calculate long-term **benefits** and **costs**

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**BENEFIT**  
**COST**

# Child Welfare Model Overview

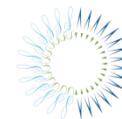


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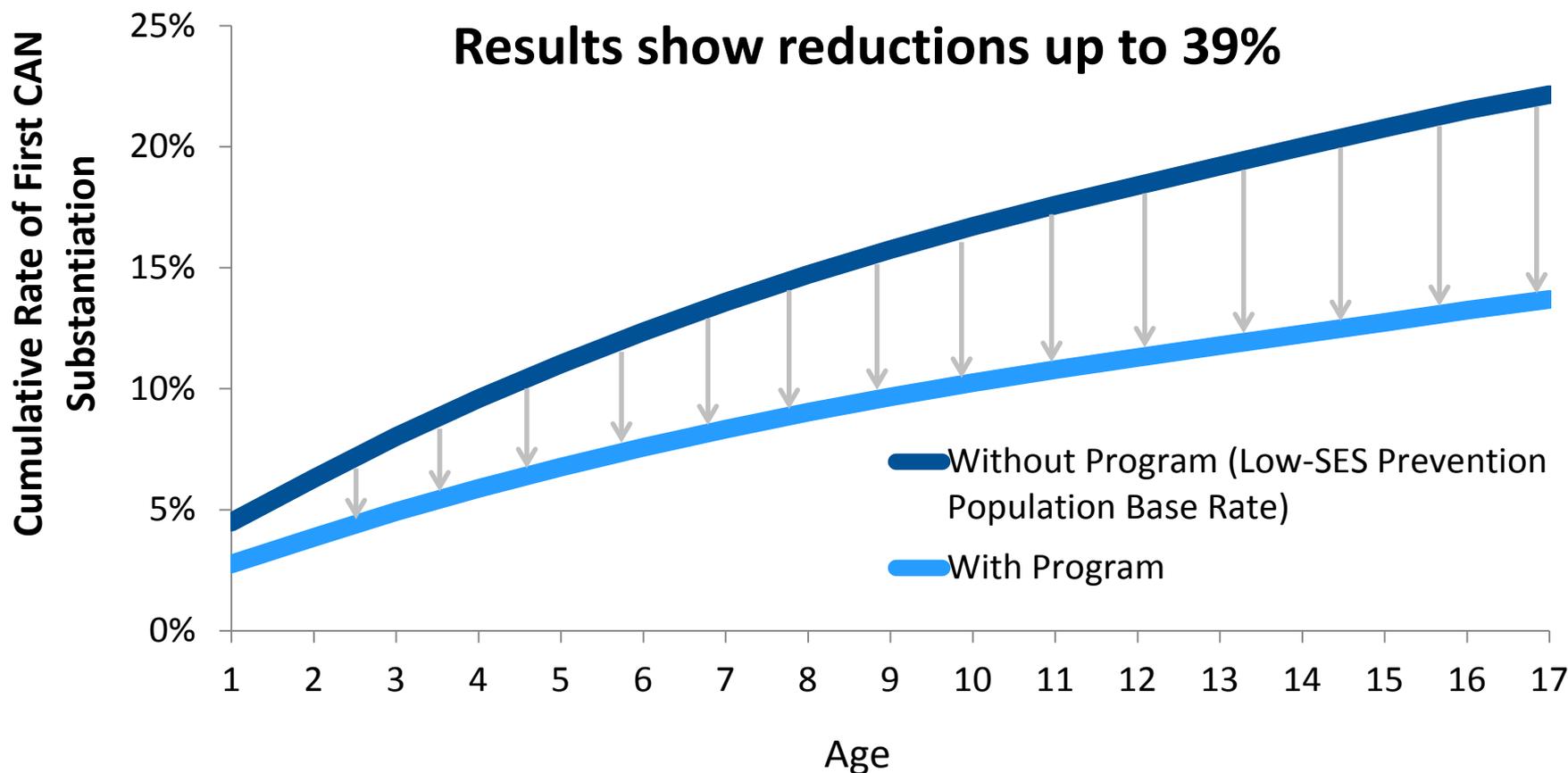
- Estimates the monetary value of changes in substantiated child abuse or neglect (CAN) cases and out-of-home placements (OOHP)
- Multiple sources of benefits:
  - Taxpayer: via change in resource use (police, courts, Child Protective Services, Child Welfare Services)
  - Society: tangible and intangible costs associated with victimization
- Impacts are estimated for primary populations (generally children) and where applicable, for secondary populations (generally parents)

# Nurse-Family Partnership programs can reduce child abuse, neglect occurrence rates



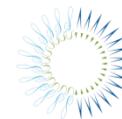
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Source: Based on Washington data

# Compare Return on Investment



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Child Welfare Programs	Costs	Benefits	Benefit-Cost Ratio
<b>Prevention Population</b>			
Triple P Positive Parenting Program (All levels)	\$149	\$803	<b>\$5.39</b>
Nurse-Family Partnership	\$9,994	\$30,441	<b>\$3.05</b>
Parents as Teachers	\$2,671	\$4,907	<b>\$1.84</b>
<b>Indicated Population</b>			
Parent Child Interaction Therapy	\$1,614	\$30,134	<b>\$18.67</b>
Intensive Family Preservation Services (Homebuilders(c))	\$3,429	\$20,636	<b>\$6.02</b>
Other family preservation services (non-Homebuilders®)	\$3,145	<b>-\$3,774</b>	<b>-\$1.20</b>

Source: Based on Washington data

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A report from the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative

| Jan 2017



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# How States Engage in Evidence-Based Policymaking

A national assessment

# How States Engage in Evidence-Based Policymaking



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# How States Engage in Evidence-Based Policymaking



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assessed in four policy areas

**Behavioral Health**

Programs to improve mental health and decrease substance abuse

**Child Welfare**

Programs to reduce the incidence of child maltreatment

**Criminal Justice**

Programs to reduce recidivism of convicted offenders

**Juvenile Justice**

Programs to reduce recidivism of adjudicated youth



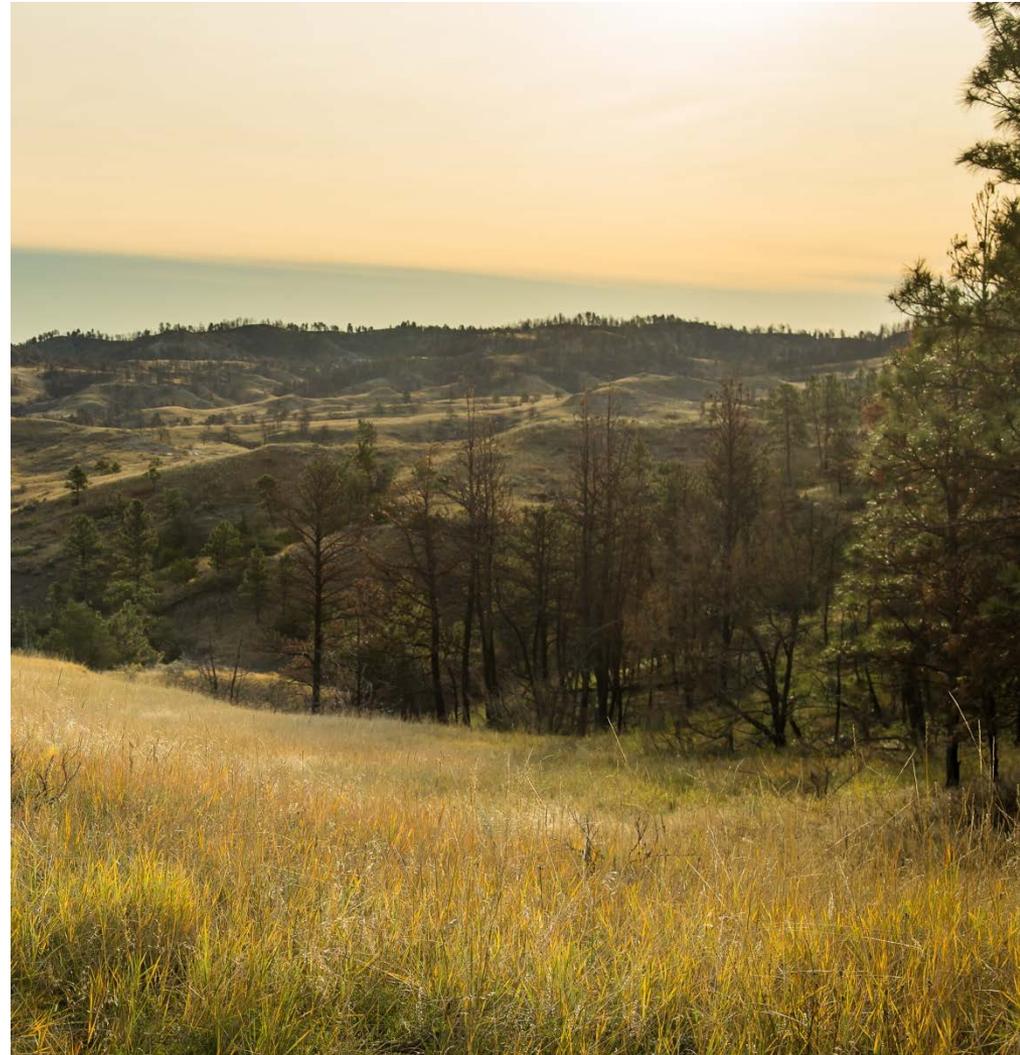
# Results First in Montana



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- Invited by the Montana Legislative Finance Committee
- Results First work started September 2017
- Child Welfare policy area and model of specific interest
- Targeted completion: Summer 2018



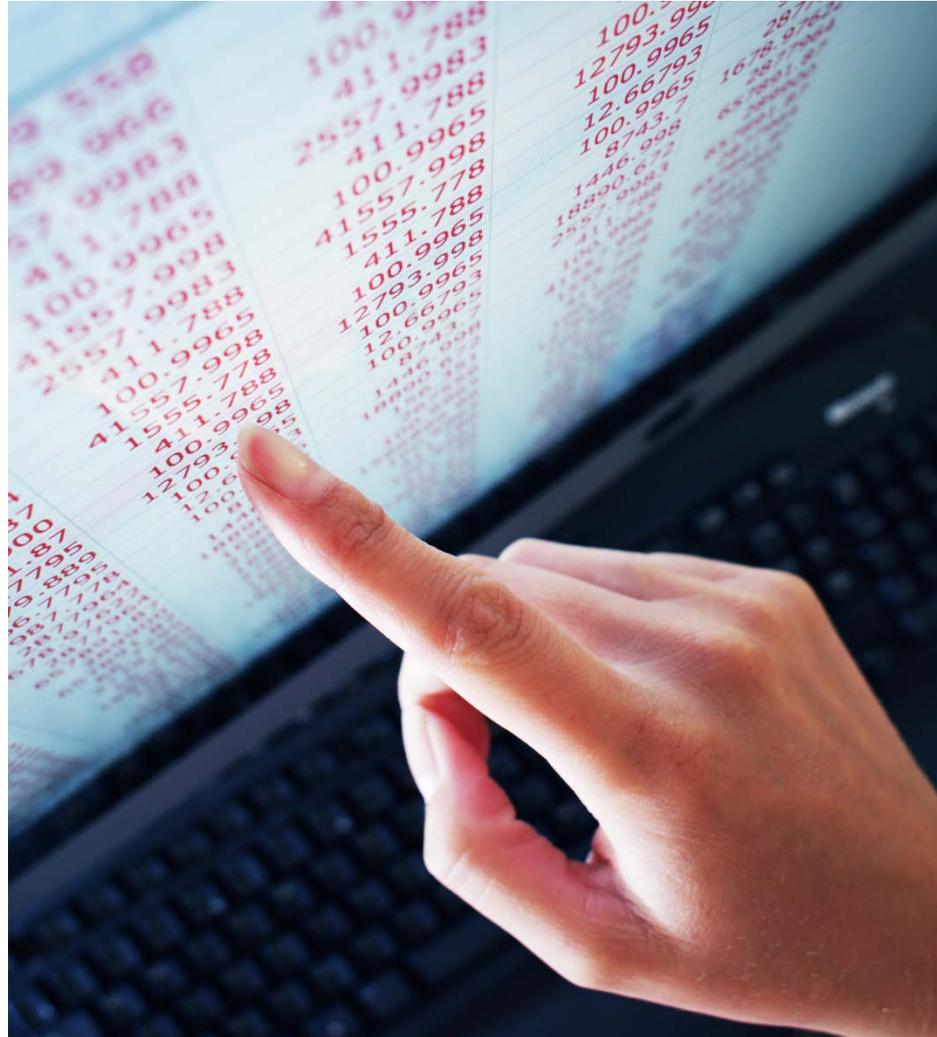
# Program Inventory Progress



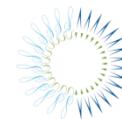
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- Inventoried in-home programs supported by Child and Family Services (IV-B)
- Programs included 11 providers, ~40 programs or interventions
- Evidence-matching for programs currently underway



# Child Welfare Montana Model



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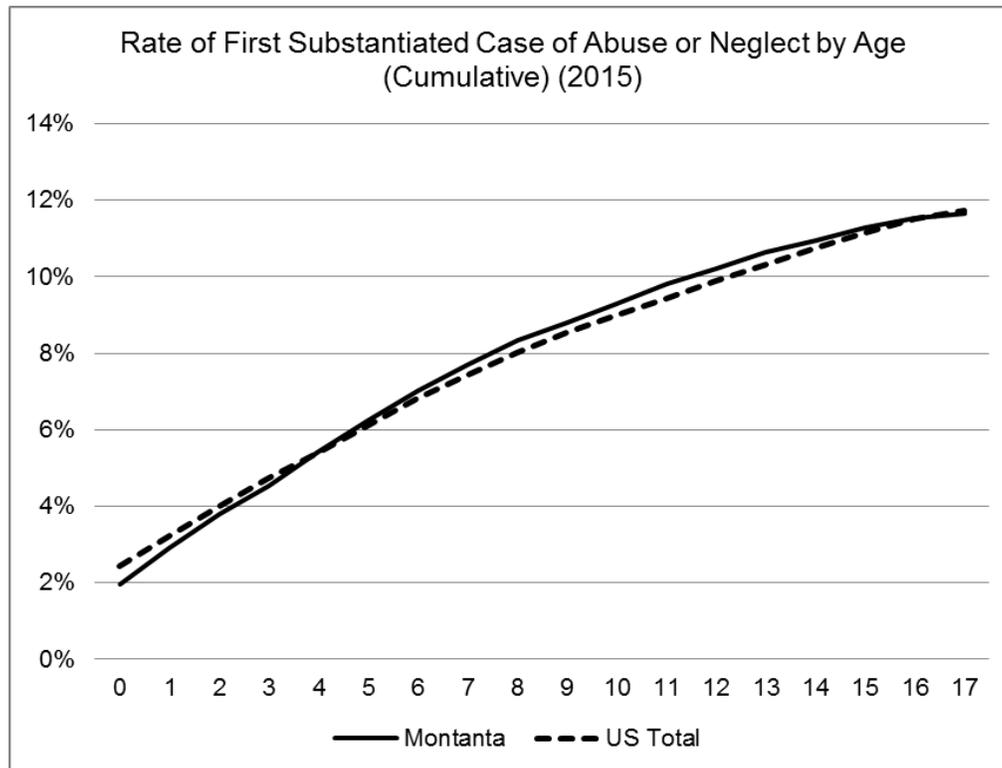
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- Model update from LFD



## USING PREVALENCE RATES TO UNDERSTAND CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES

The Results First Initiative uses a benefit-cost model to estimate the monetary value of changing outcomes due to policy choices. The primary outcome of interest in the child welfare policy area is the 'prevalence rate' of child abuse or neglect. This rate gives the average percent chance that a child at a given age will have been a victim of abuse or neglect. The line graph below presents data from Montana (2015) and an average of 27 other states.

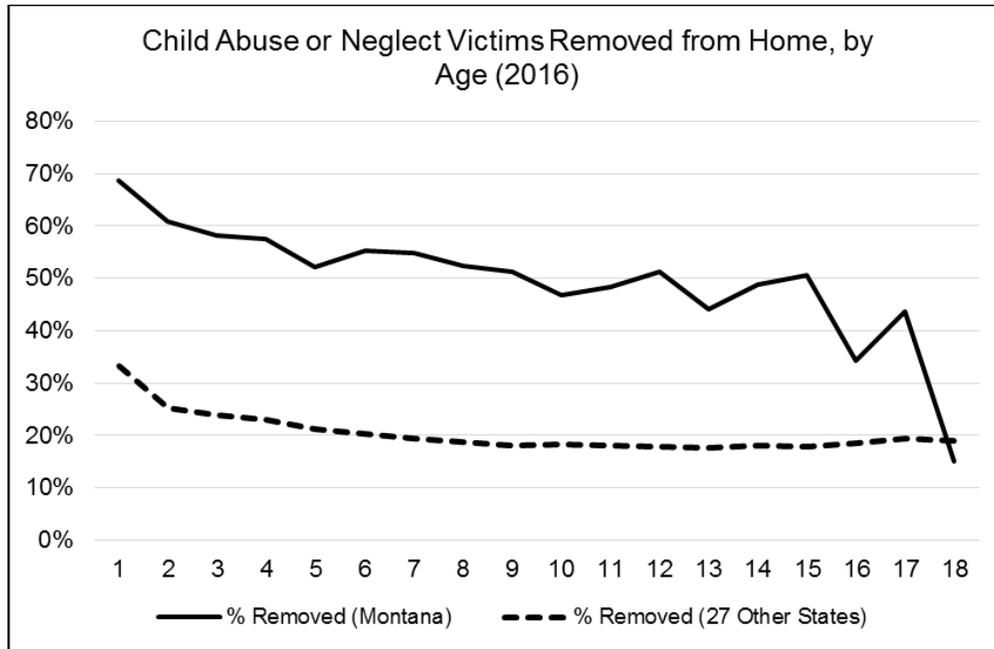


The data in this graph indicate the average 3 year old in Montana has a 4.5% chance of having experienced their first case of abuse or neglect. The average 16 year old has an 11.5% chance of having experienced their first case of abuse or neglect, and so on.

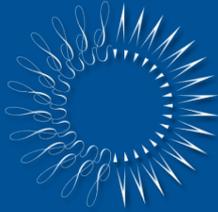
Lowering the prevalence rate of abuse and neglect has a number of positive outcomes, some in the short-term and some that are long-term: preventing the abuse or neglect of a child has positive impacts over that individual's life cycle. Preventing abuse and neglect also has fiscal benefits for states – again, in both the short and long-term.

The Results First Initiative benefit-cost model includes costs related to police involvement, court involvement, adoption costs, and the lifetime costs of abuse or neglect for victims.

An additional child welfare outcome of interest is the out-of-home placement rate for those children who have been victims of abuse or neglect. Montana removed 54% of abuse or neglect victims from the home in 2016; a higher removal rate than most other states. The line graph below presents data for Montana and 27 other states in 2016. The benefit-cost model is able to calculate the monetary value of reducing the probability that a victim of abuse or neglect is removed from the home.



Reducing out-of-home placement rates has two positive impacts. First, out-of-home placements are associated with a higher likelihood of negative long-run impacts on the child. Second, out-of-home placements have large per-child costs: keeping children in the home (when possible) is a more cost-beneficial outcome.



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## Questions?

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