Inspiring Outcomes: Lessons Learned from Family Drug Courts

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CWLA 2016 National Conference
Advancing Excellence in Practice & Policy: What Works For Families Affected by Substance Use

Children and Family Futures

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Acknowledgement

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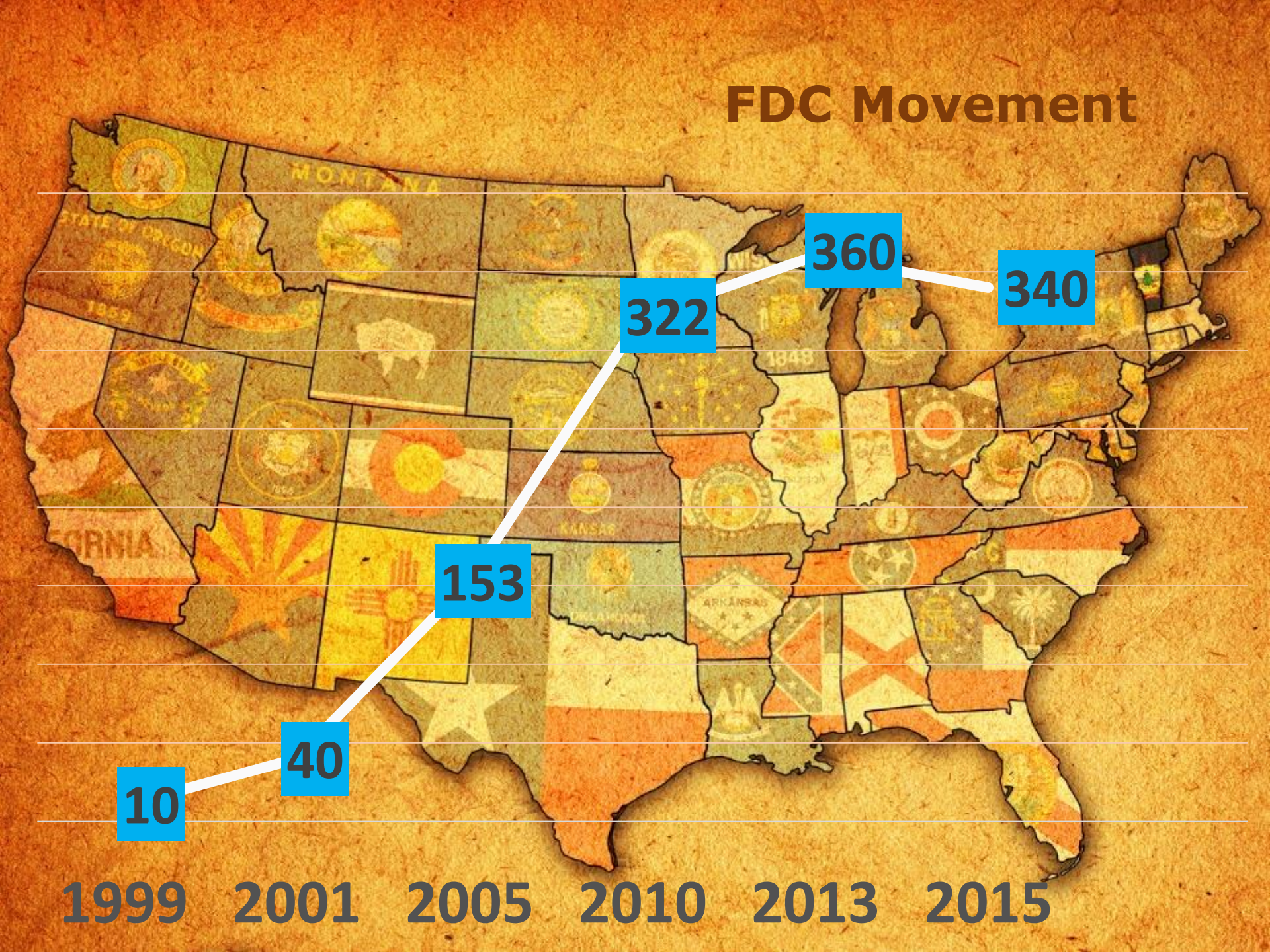
Points of view or opinions expressed in this presentation are those of the presenter(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of OJJDP or the U.S. Department of Justice.


FDC Movement
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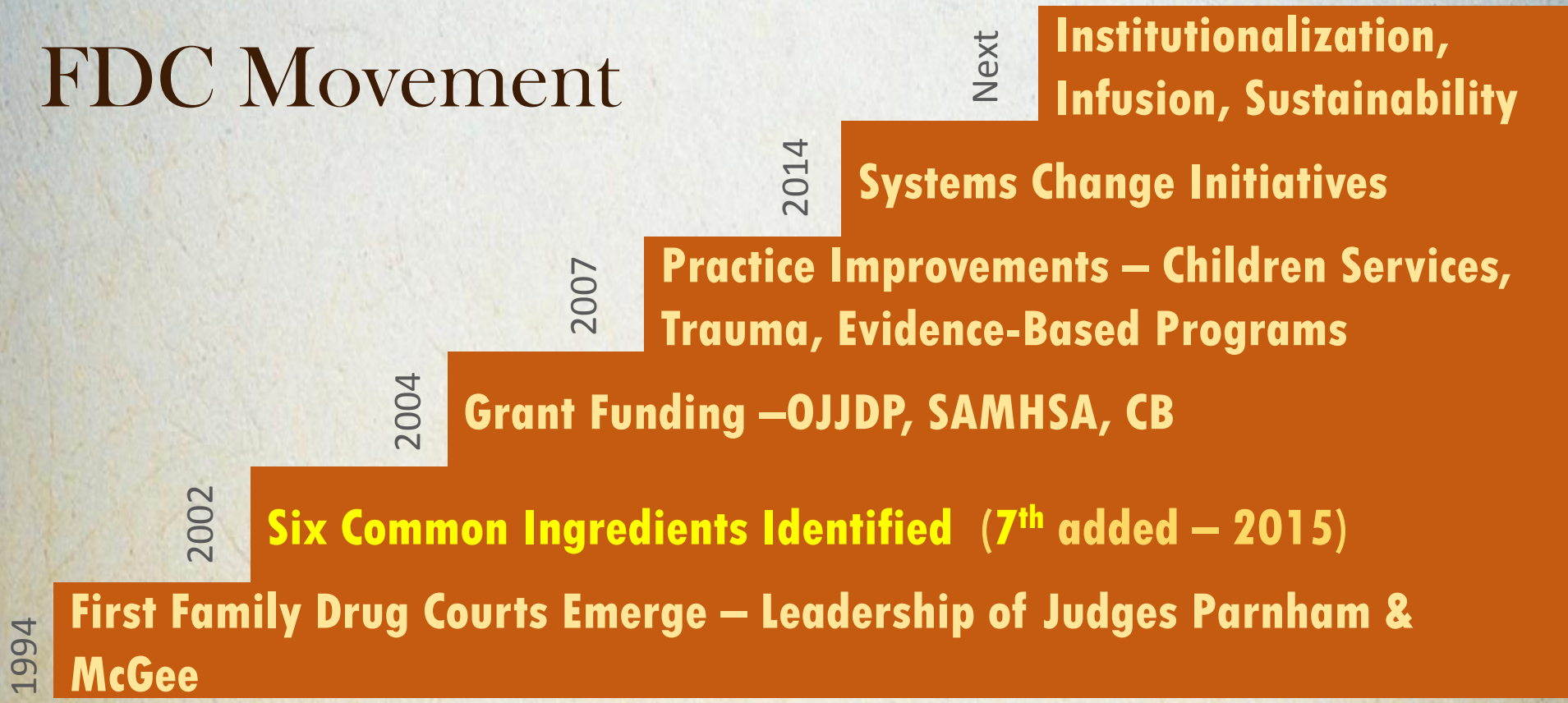
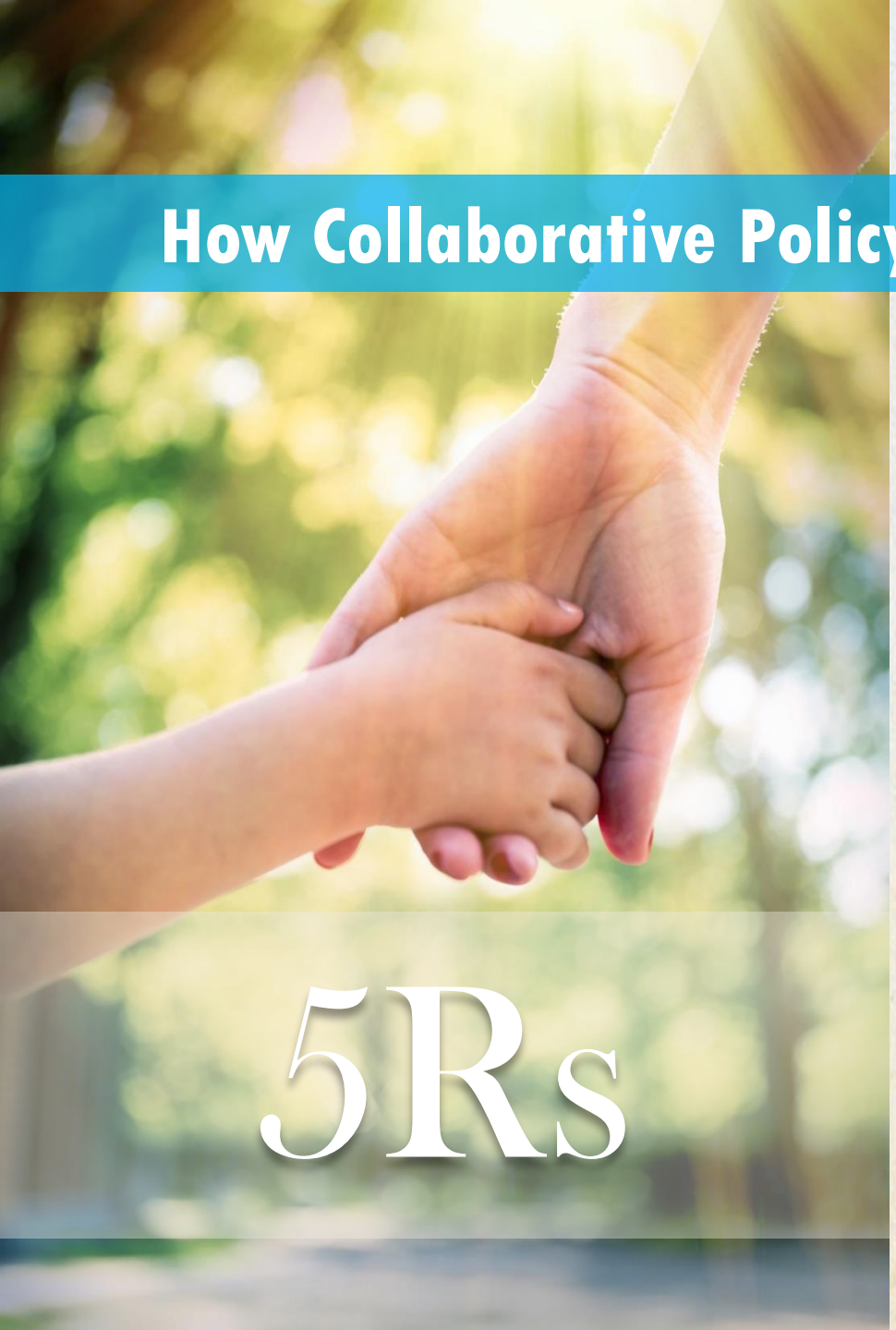
FDC Movement



What have we learned?



How Collaborative Policy and Practice Improves

5Rs

Recovery

Remain at home

Reunification

Re-occurrence

Re-entry

Studies Show Equivalent or Better Outcomes:

- Co-occurring mental health problems
- Unemployed
- Less than a high school education
- Criminal history
- Inadequate housing
- Risk for domestic violence
- Methamphetamine, crack cocaine, or alcohol

(e.g., Boles & Young, 2011; Carey et al. 2010a, 2010b; Worcel et al., 2007)

National FDC Outcomes

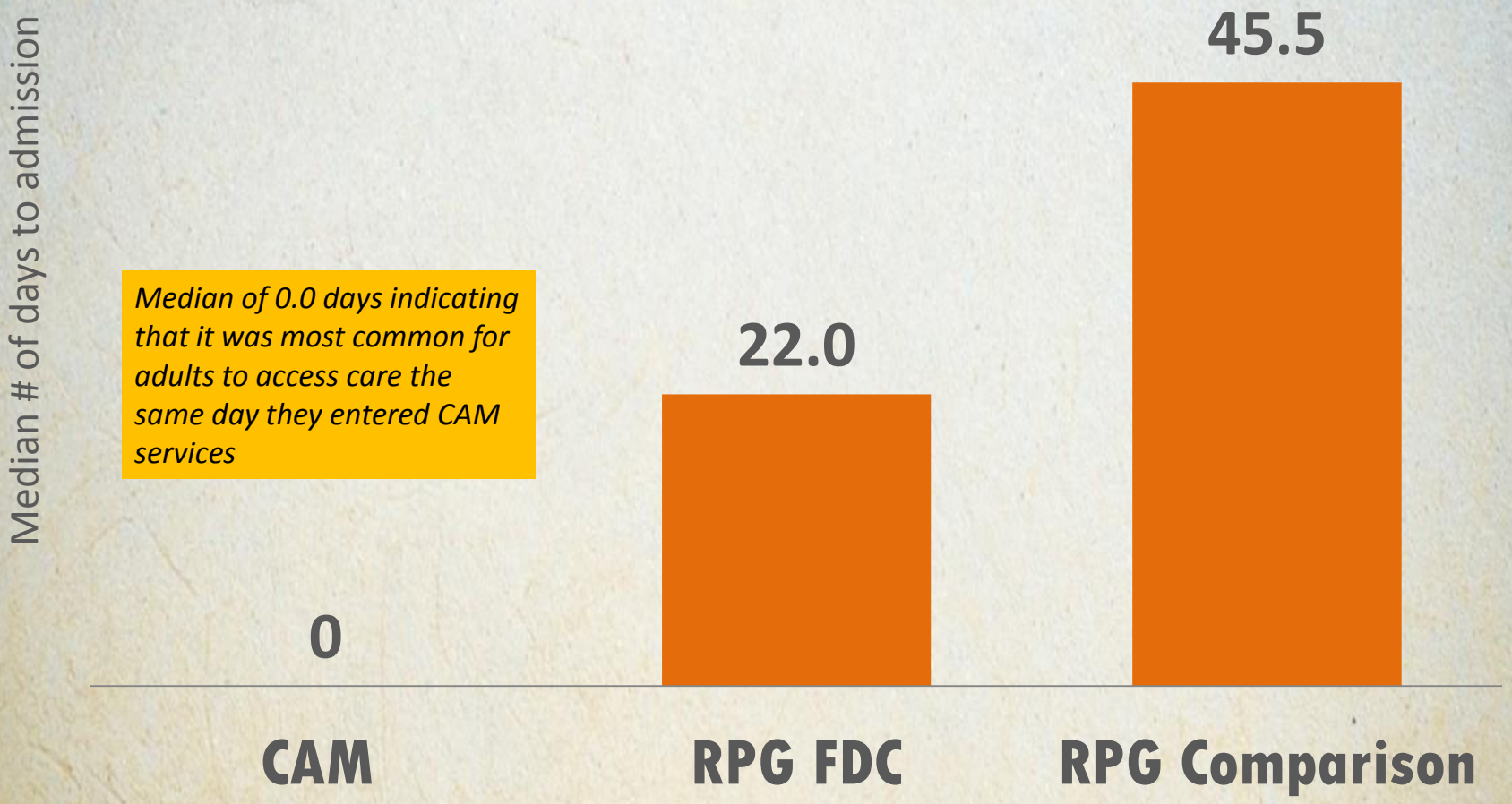
Regional Partnership Grant Program (2007 – 2012)

- 53 Grantee Awardees funded by Children's Bureau
- Focused on implementation of wide array of integrated programs and services, including 12 FDCs
- 23 Performance Measures
- Comparison groups associated with grantees that *did implement* FDCs

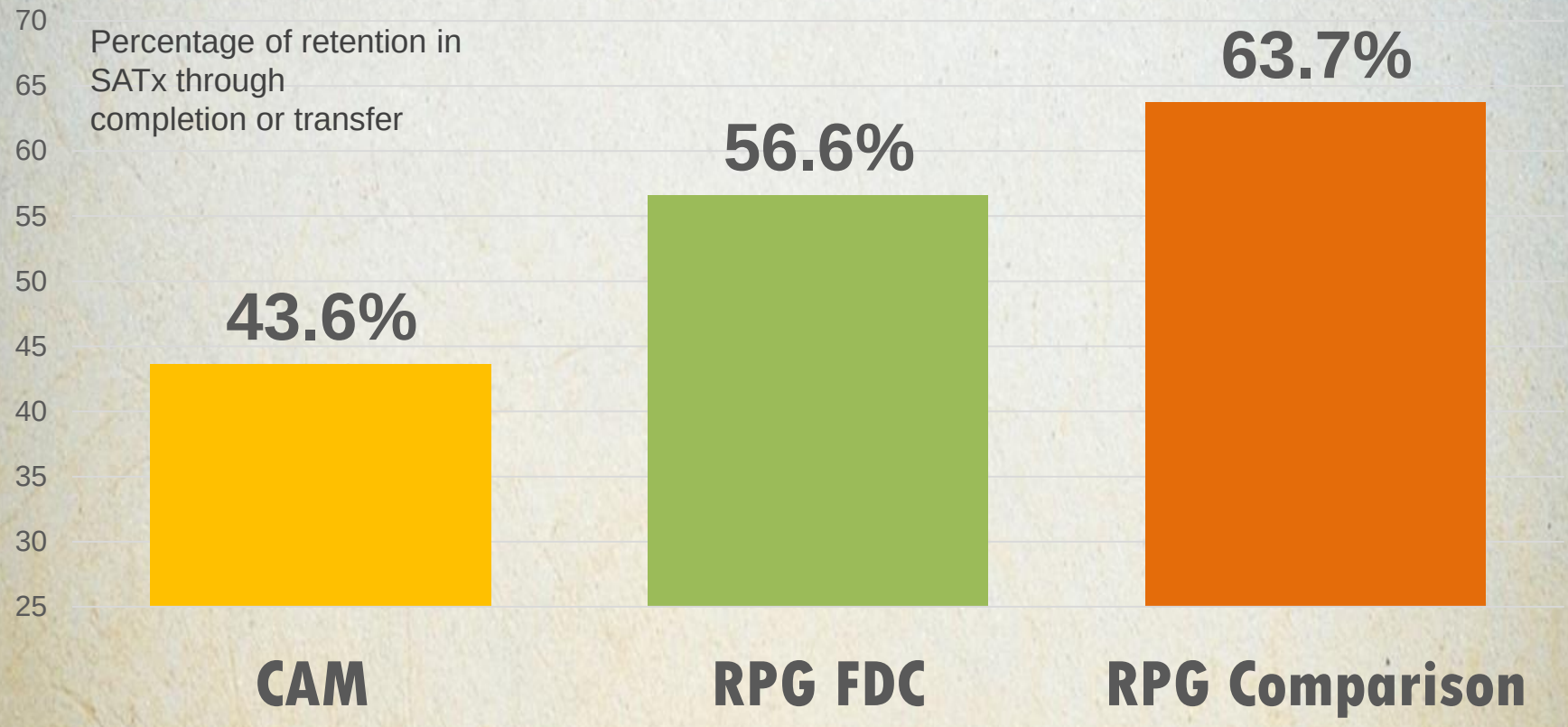
Children Affected by Methamphetamine Grant (2010 – 2014)

- 11 FDC Awardees funded by SAMHSA
- Focused on expanded/enhanced services to children and improve parent-child relationships
- 18 Performance Indicators
- Contextual Performance Information included for indicators where state or county-level measures are similar in definition and publicly available.

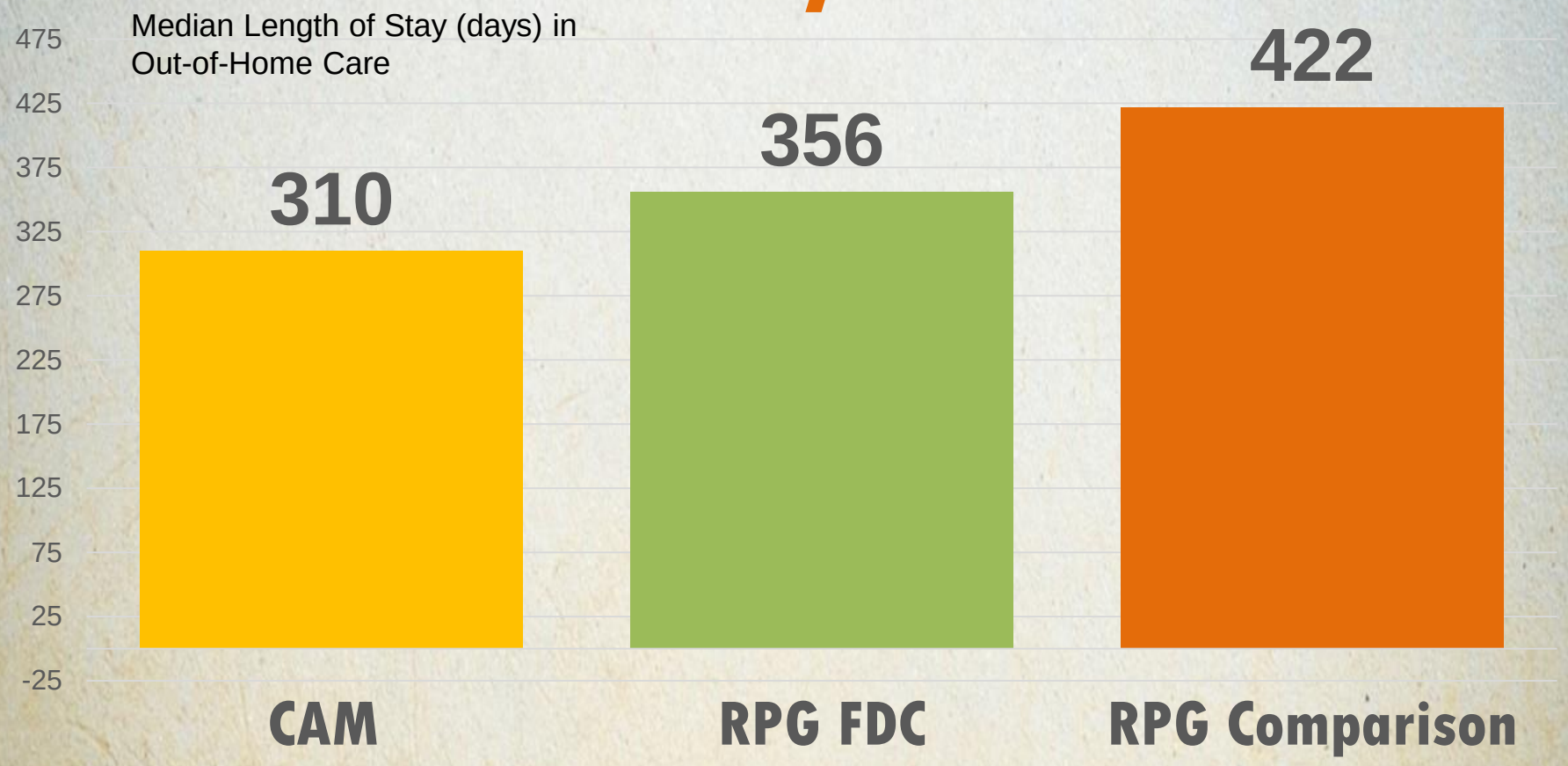
Access to Treatment



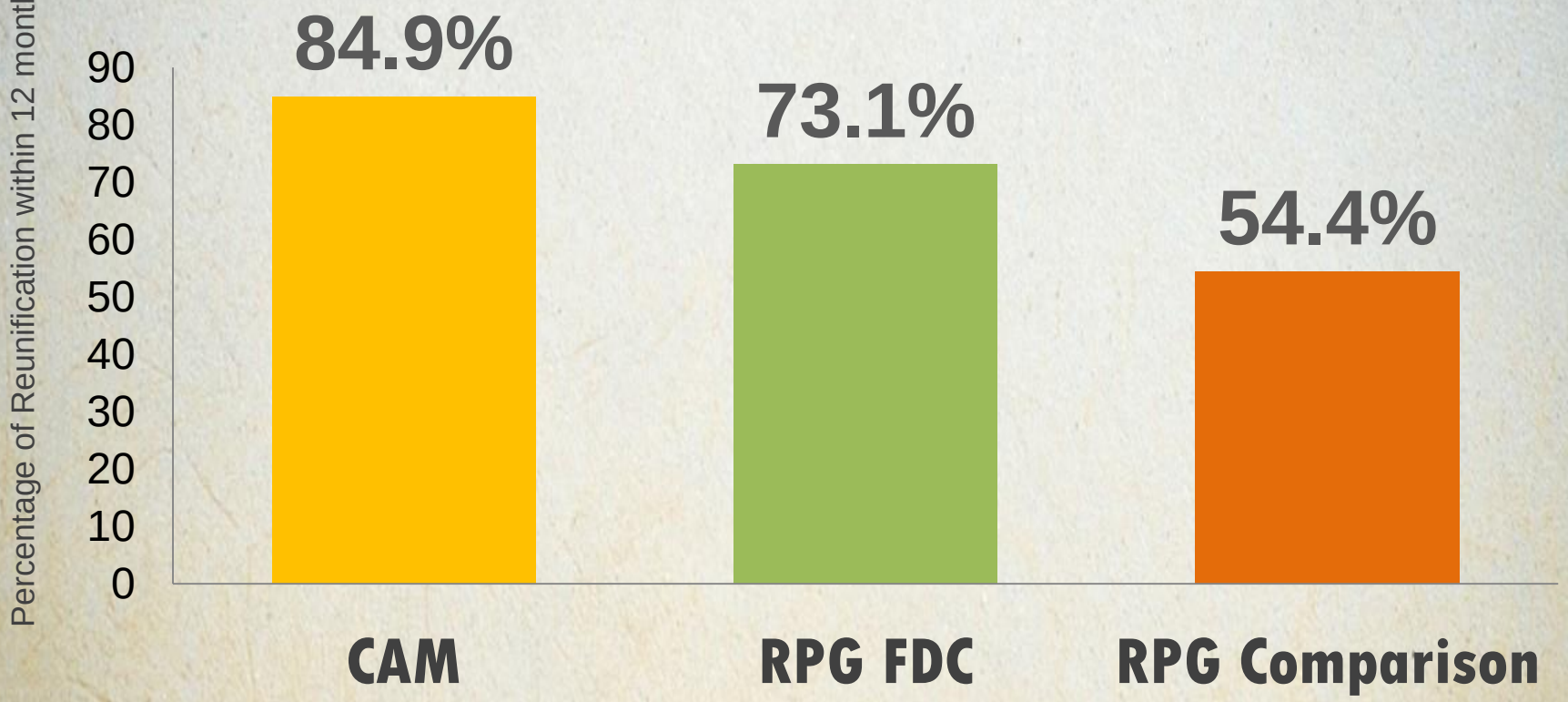
Treatment Completion Rates



Days in Foster Care

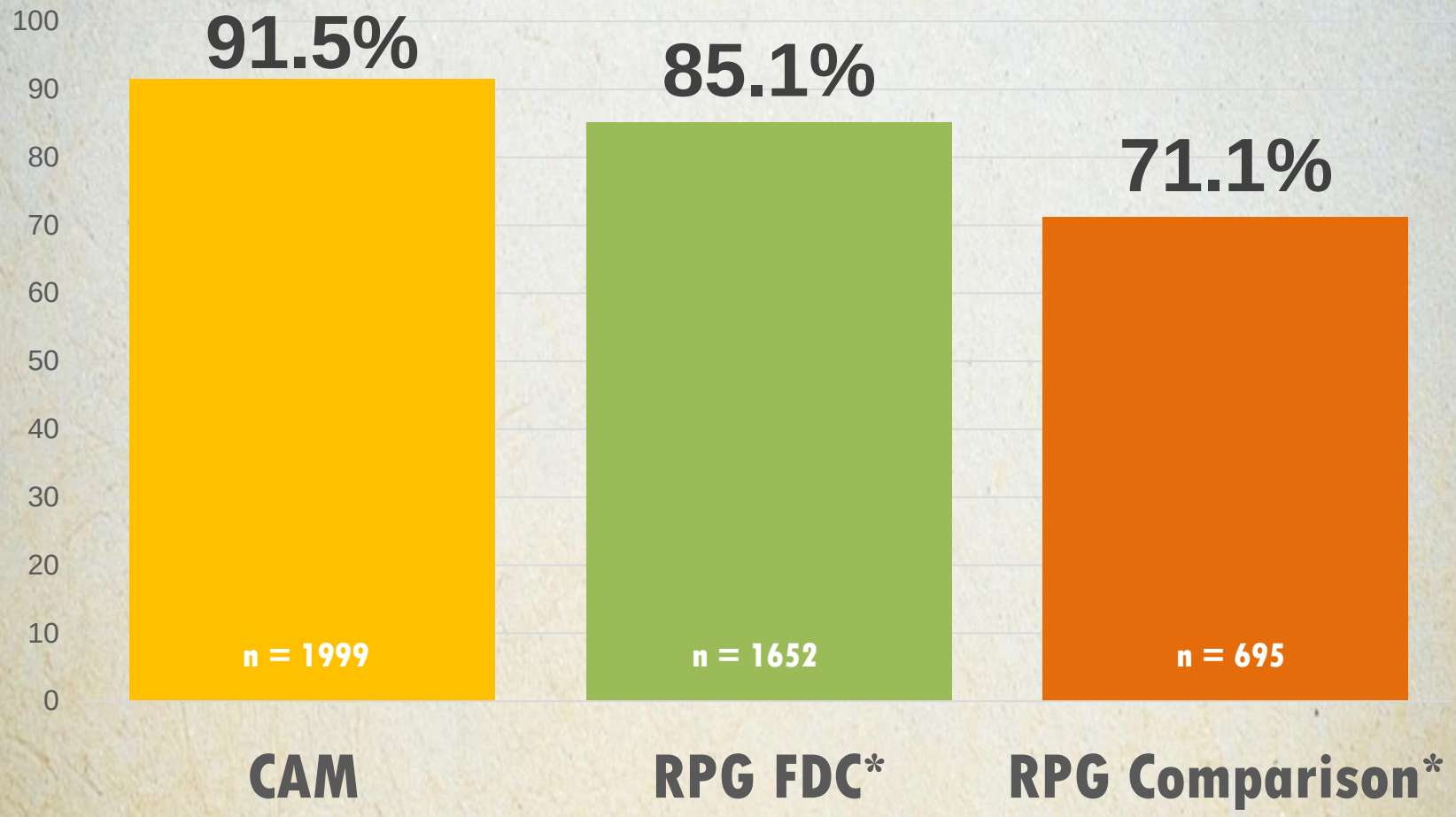


Reunification Rates within 12 Months



Remained in Home

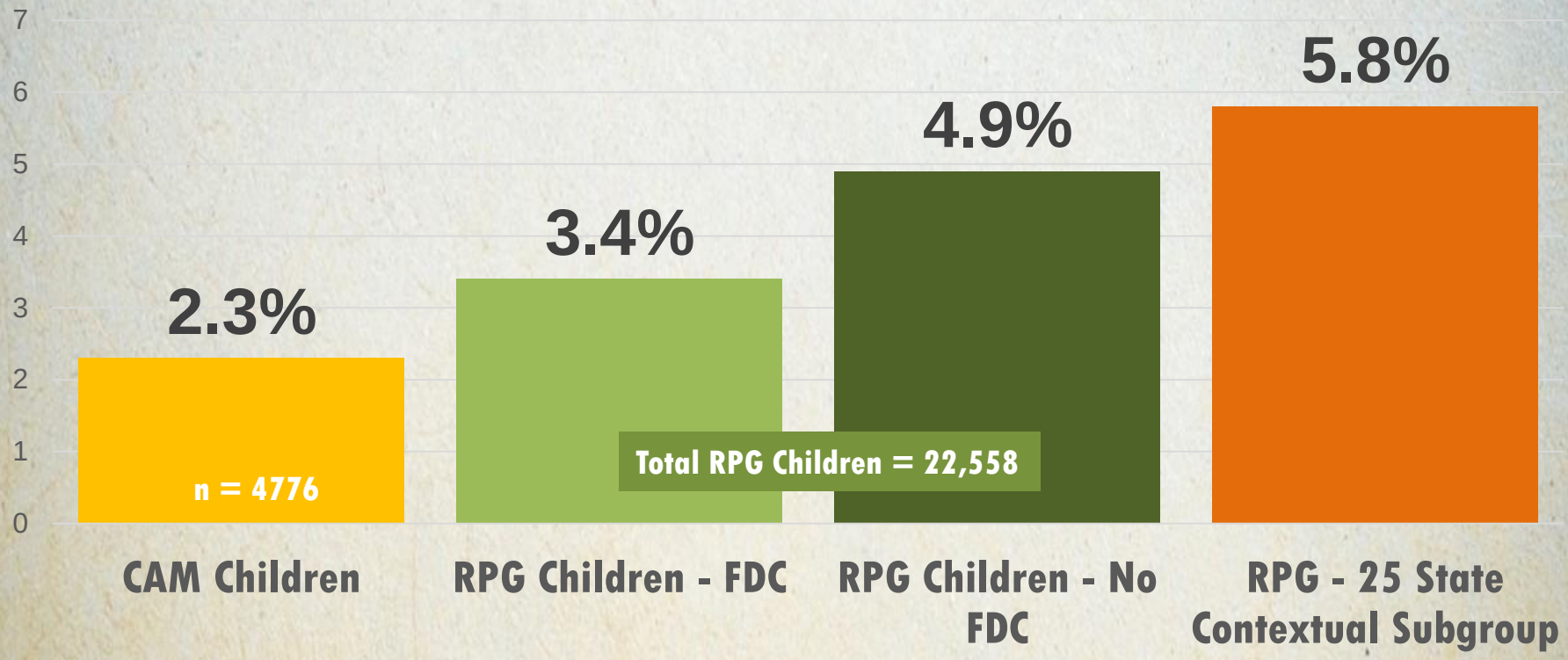
Percentage of children who remained at home throughout program participation



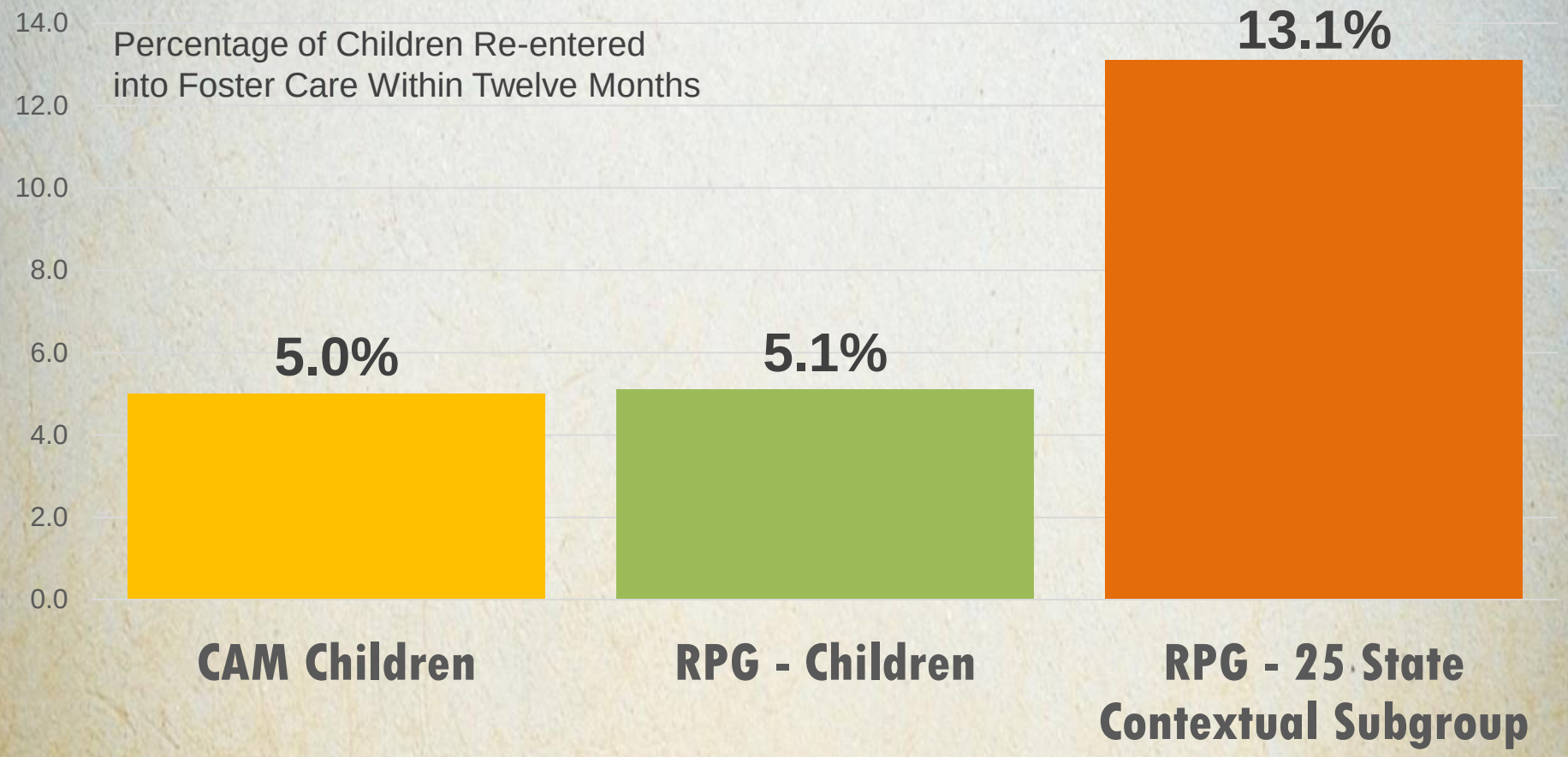
** This analysis is based on 8 RPG Grantees who implemented an FDC and submitted comparison group data*

Re-occurrence of Child Maltreatment

Percentage of children who had substantiated/indicated maltreatment within 6 months



Re-entries into Foster Care



Cost Savings

Per Family

$ 5,022 Baltimore, MD

$ 5,593 Jackson County, OR

$ 13,104 Marion County, OR

Per Child

$ 16,340 Kansas

$ 26,833 Sacramento, CA

Key Family Drug Court Ingredients

The Big 7

Important Practices of FDCs

7

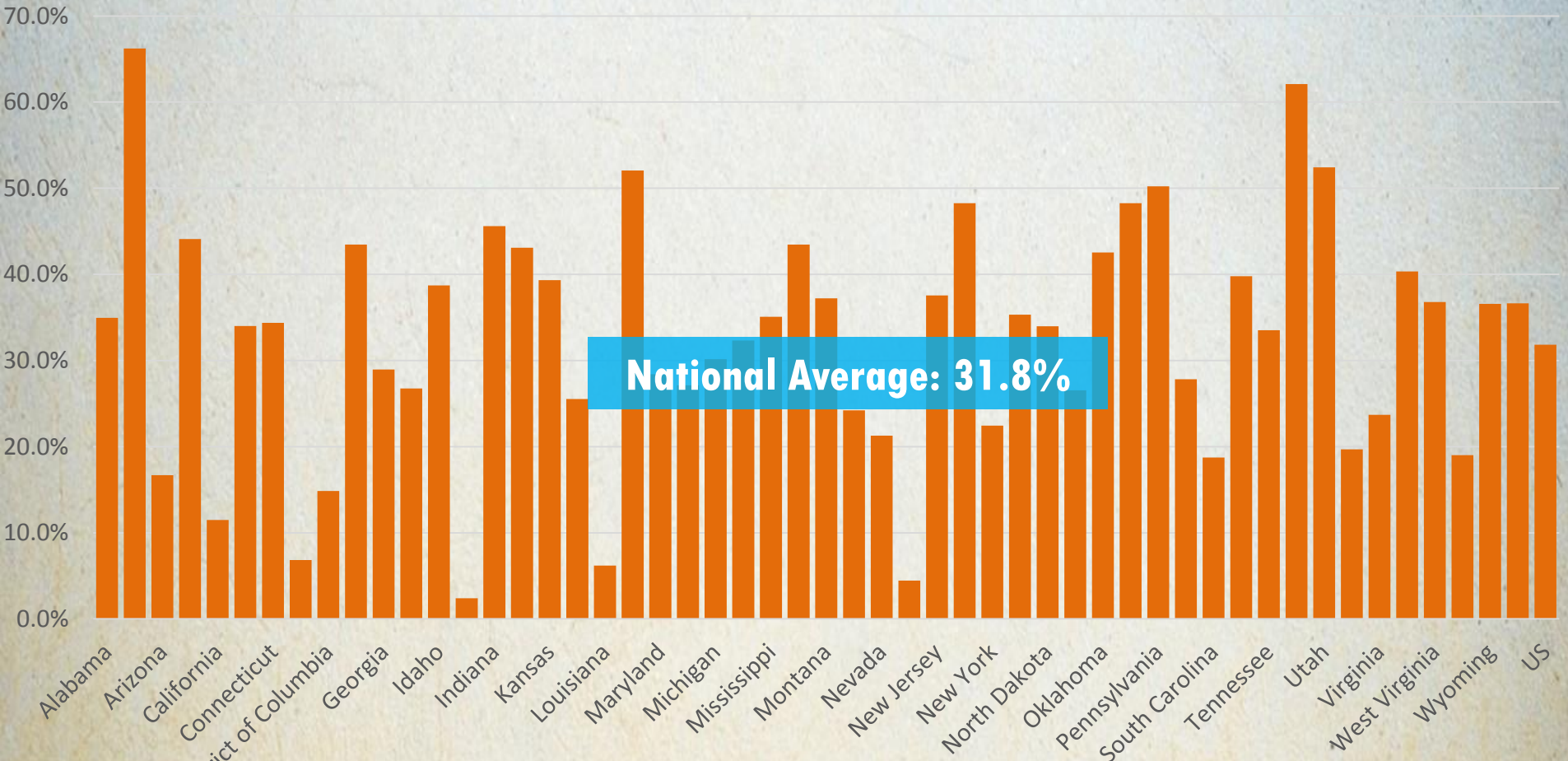
- System of identifying families
- Timely access to assessment and treatment services
- Increased management of recovery services and compliance with treatment
- Improved family-centered services and parent-child relationships
- Increased judicial oversight
- Systematic response for participants – contingency management
- Collaborative non-adversarial approach grounded in efficient communication across service systems and court

Sources: 2002 Process Evaluation and Findings from 2015 CAM Evaluation

Important Practices of FDCs

Key Family Drug Court Ingredients
1
System of identifying families

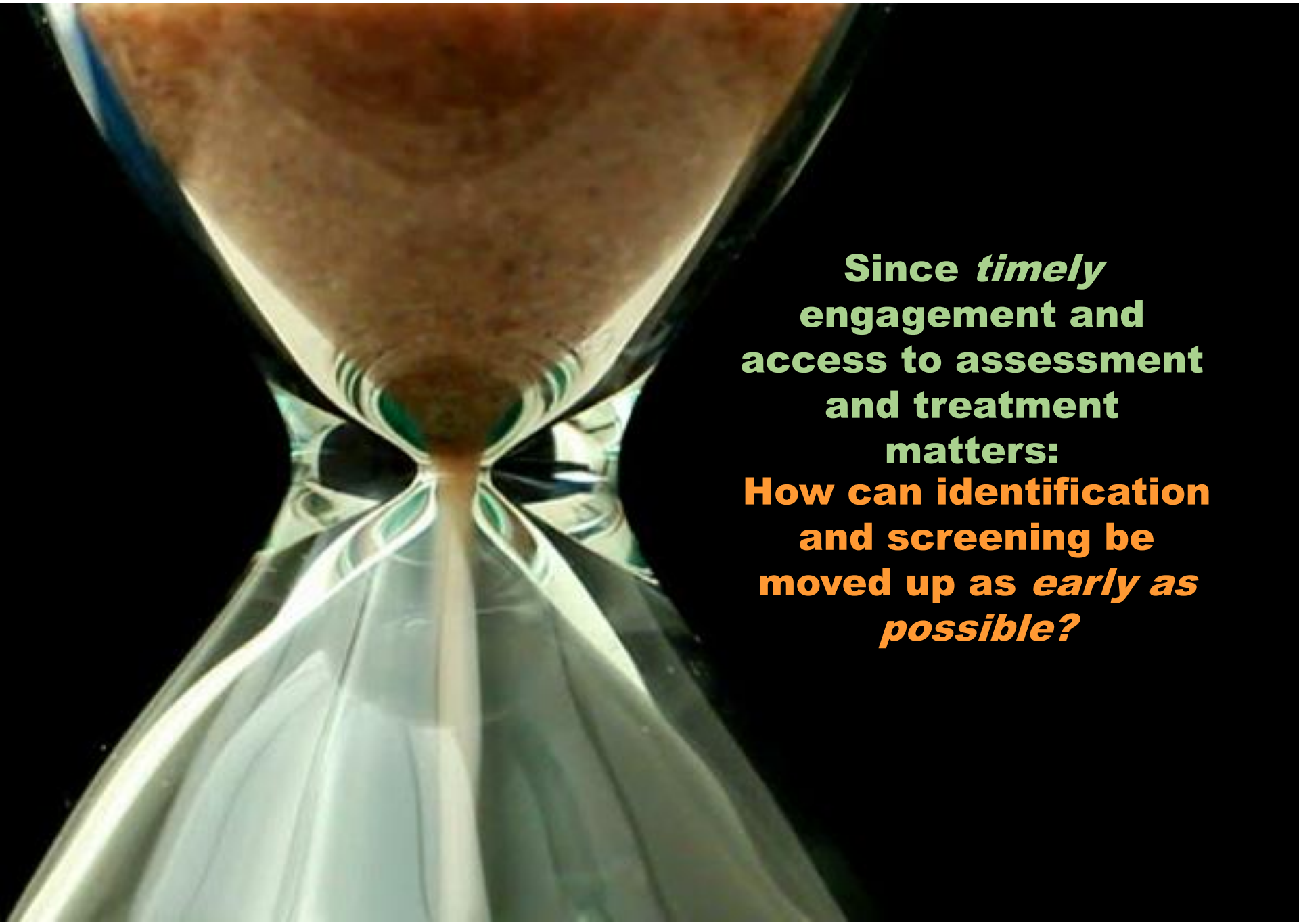
Parental AOD as Reason for Removal, 2014



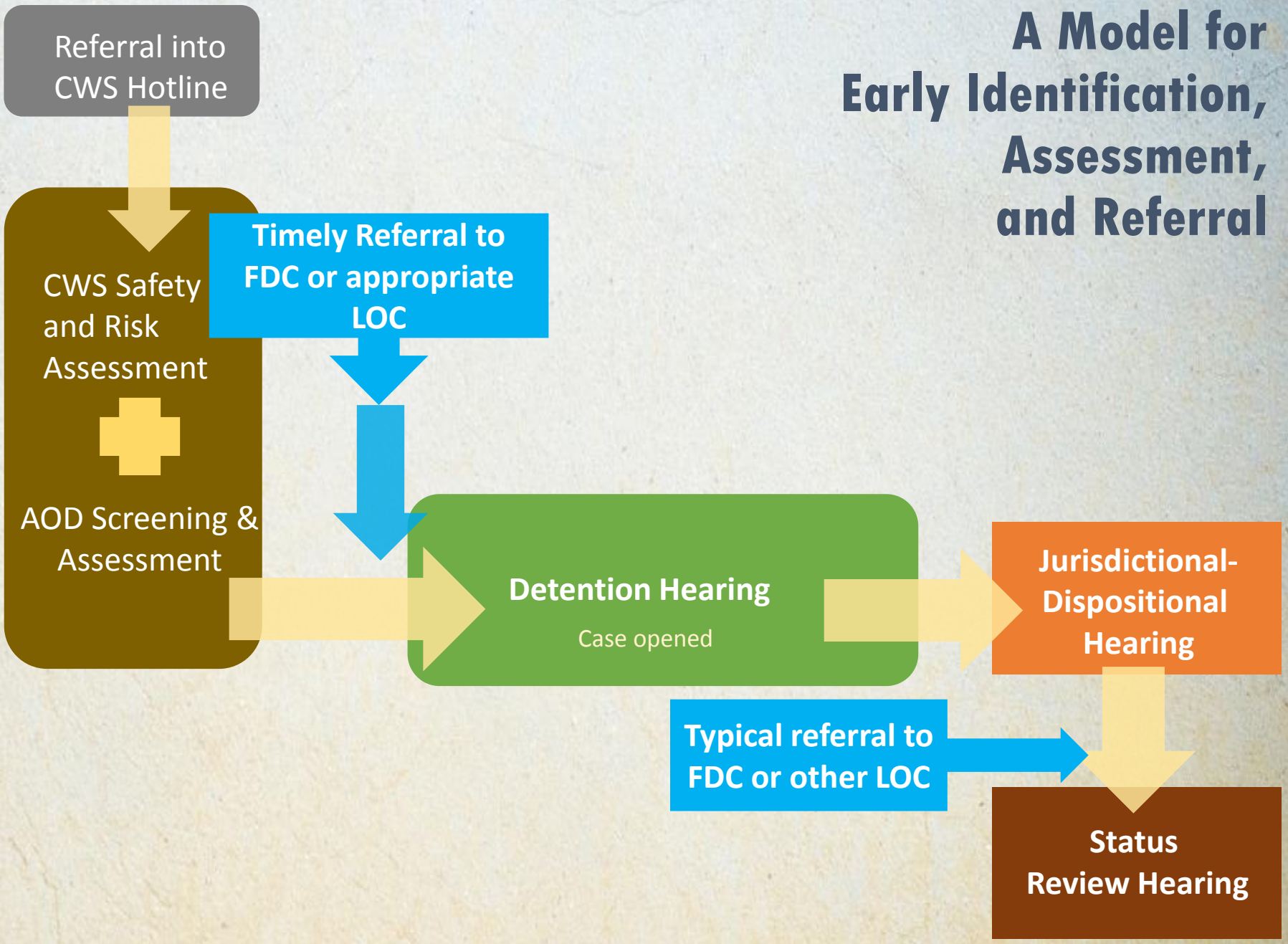
Source: AFCARS Data, 2014

Challenges & Barriers

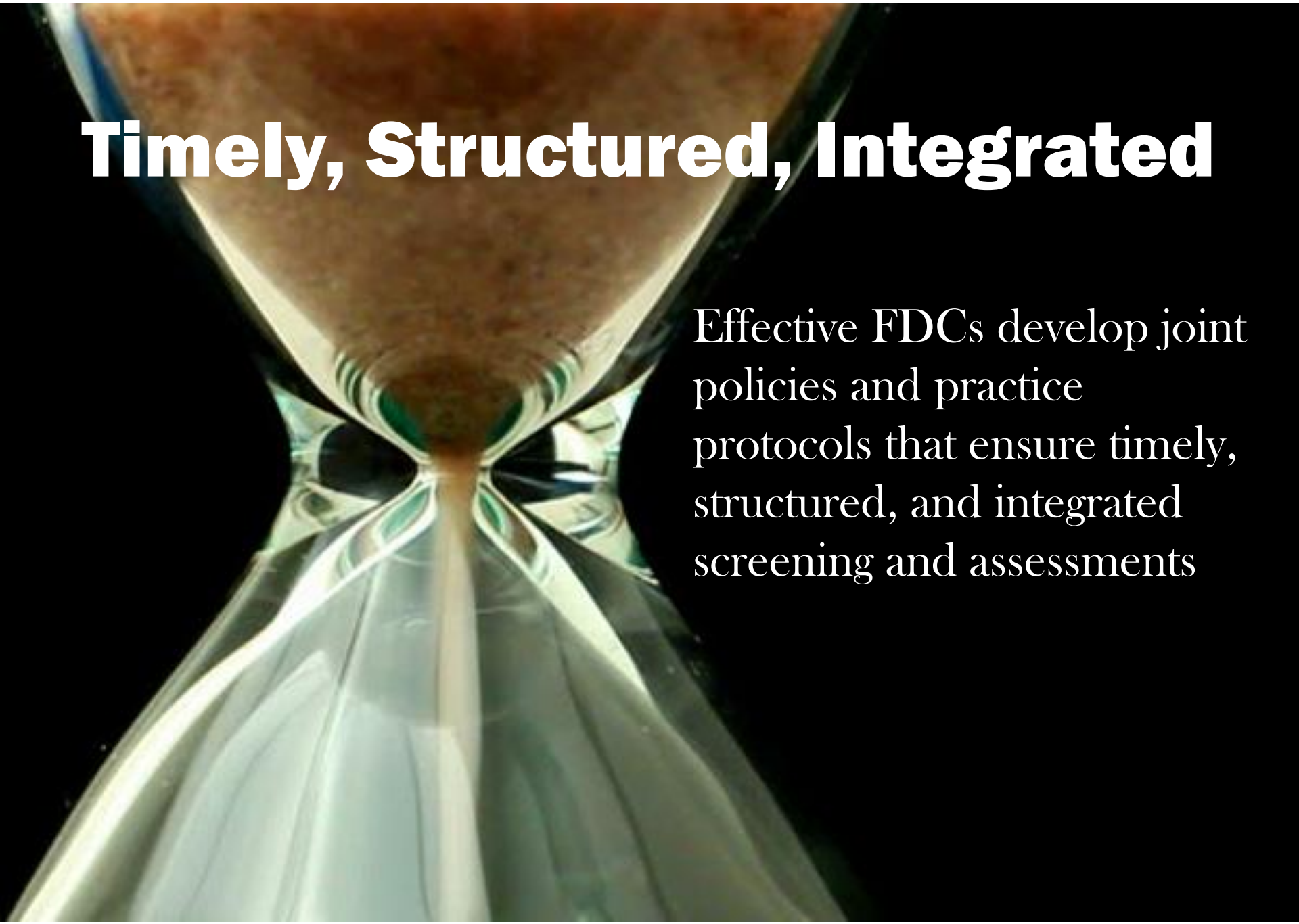
- Target population unclear
- Restrictive and/or subjective eligibility criteria
- Screening and identification conducted late
- Lack of utilization of standardized screening protocols
- Referral process with weak hand-offs, lack of tracking


Since *timely* engagement and access to assessment and treatment matters:
How can identification and screening be moved up as *early as possible?*

A Model for Early Identification, Assessment, and Referral



Key Family Drug Court Ingredients
#2
Timely access to assessment and treatment services



Timely, Structured, Integrated

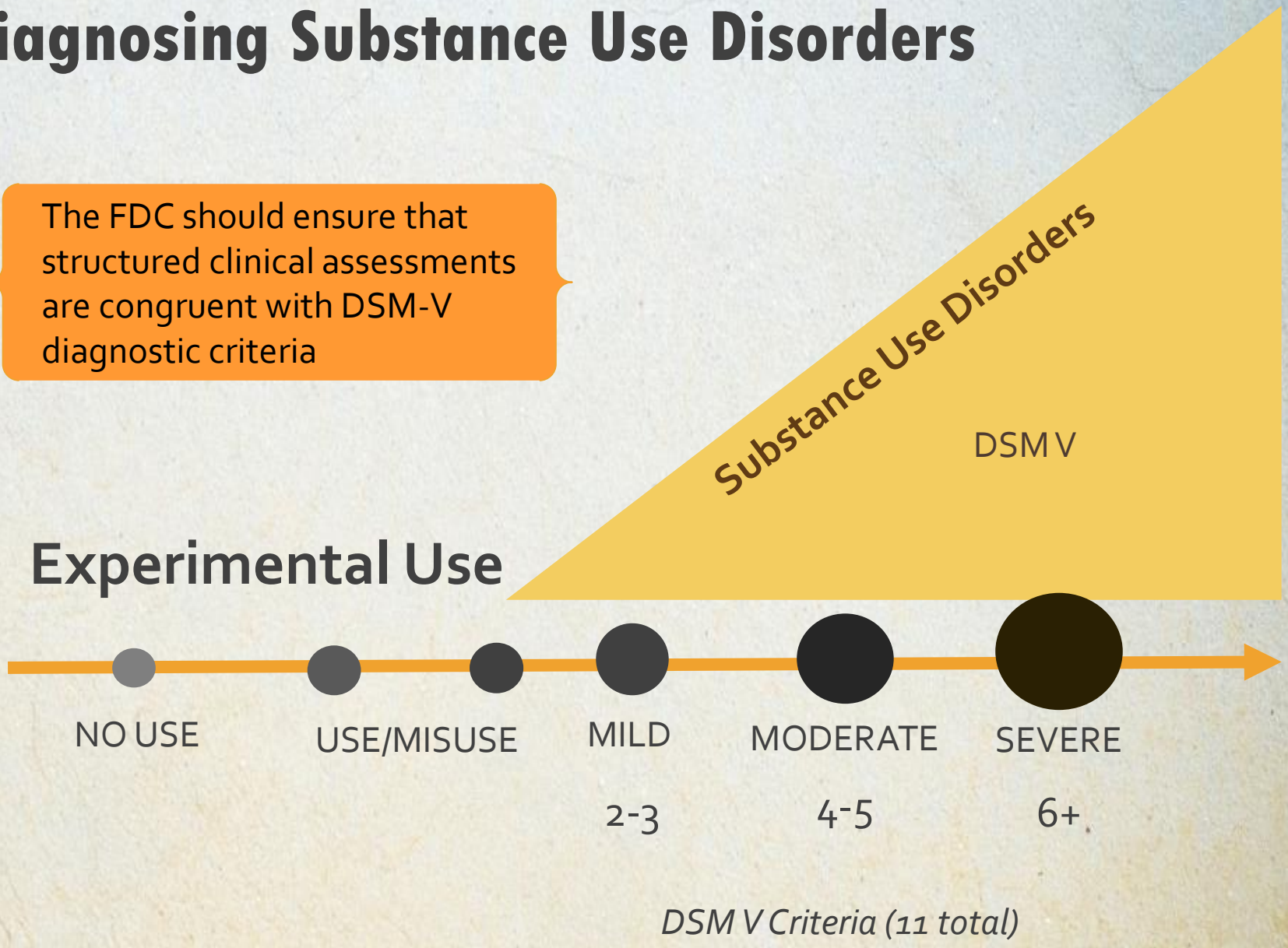
Effective FDCs develop joint policies and practice protocols that ensure timely, structured, and integrated screening and assessments

Questions to Consider with an Assessment Protocol

- How is the individual referred for assessment?
- On an average how long does it take to go from referral to assessment?
- Who conducts the assessment and what tools are used?
- What additional information from child welfare and other partners would be helpful in understanding the needs of the parent, child and family?
- How is information communicated to the parent? To the child welfare staff? To the courts? Are the appropriate consents in place and consistently signed?
- What happens if the parent doesn't show for assessment?
- What are the next steps if treatment is indicated? If treatment is not indicated?
- If the persons/systems/agencies conducting the assessments are not the same as the ones providing treatment, is there a warm hand-off?

Diagnosing Substance Use Disorders

The FDC should ensure that structured clinical assessments are congruent with DSM-V diagnostic criteria



We know more about
The Impact of Recovery Support On Successful Reunification
• Recovery Support Specialists
• Evidence Based Treatment
• Family-Centered Services
• Evidence Based Parenting
• Parenting Time
• Reunification Groups
• Ongoing Support

Key Family Drug Court Ingredients

3

Increased management of recovery services and compliance with treatment

Rethinking Treatment Readiness

Re-thinking "rock bottom"

Addiction as an elevator

"Raising the bottom"

Rethinking Engagement

If you build it, will they come?

Effective FDCs focus on effective engagement

Titles and Models

- Peer Mentor
- Peer Specialist
- Peer Providers
- Parent Partner

Experiential Knowledge, Expertise

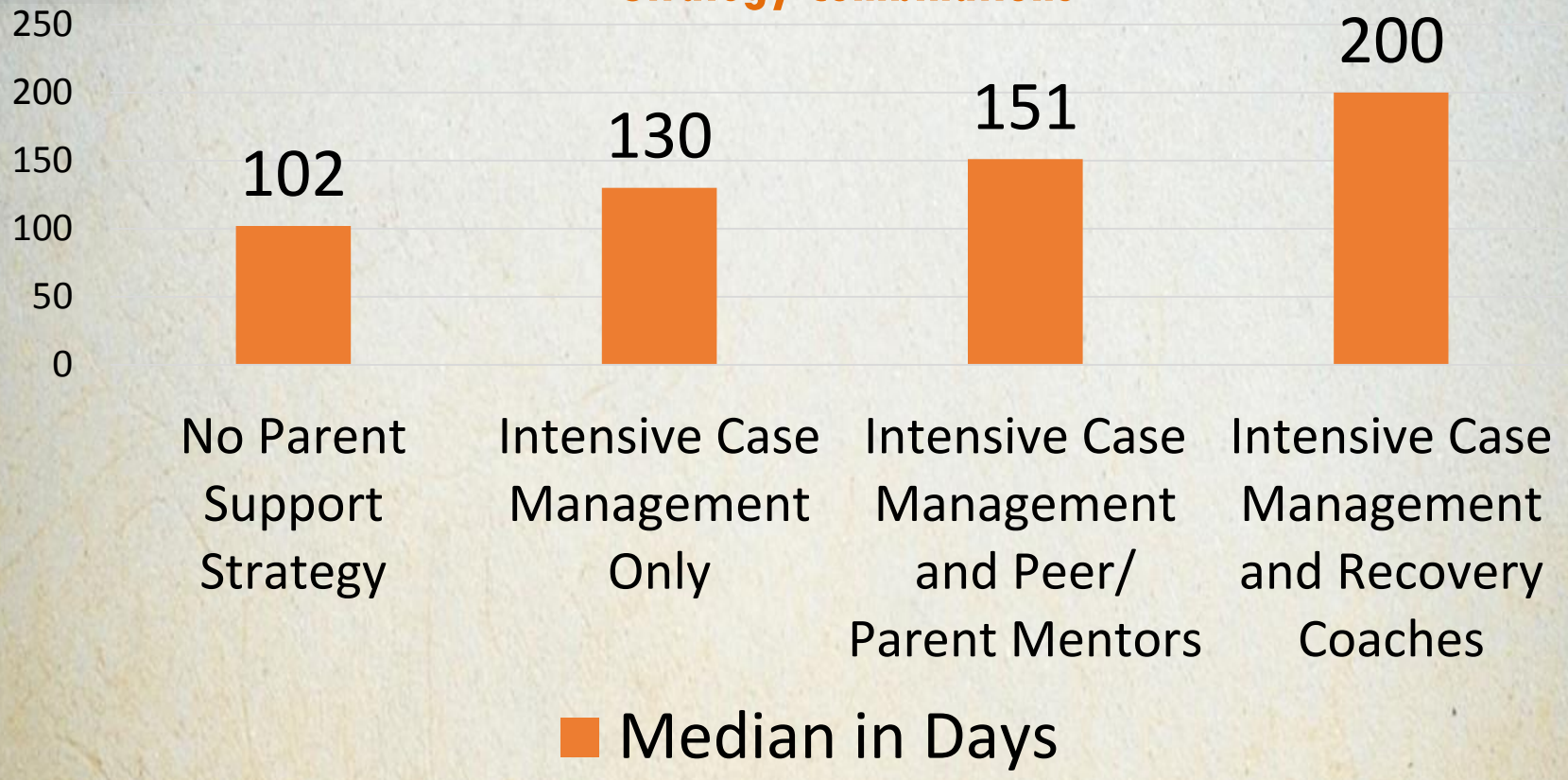
- Recovery Support Specialist
- Substance Abuse Specialist
- Recovery Coach
- Recovery Specialist
- Parent Recovery Specialist

Experiential Knowledge, Expertise + Specialized Trainings

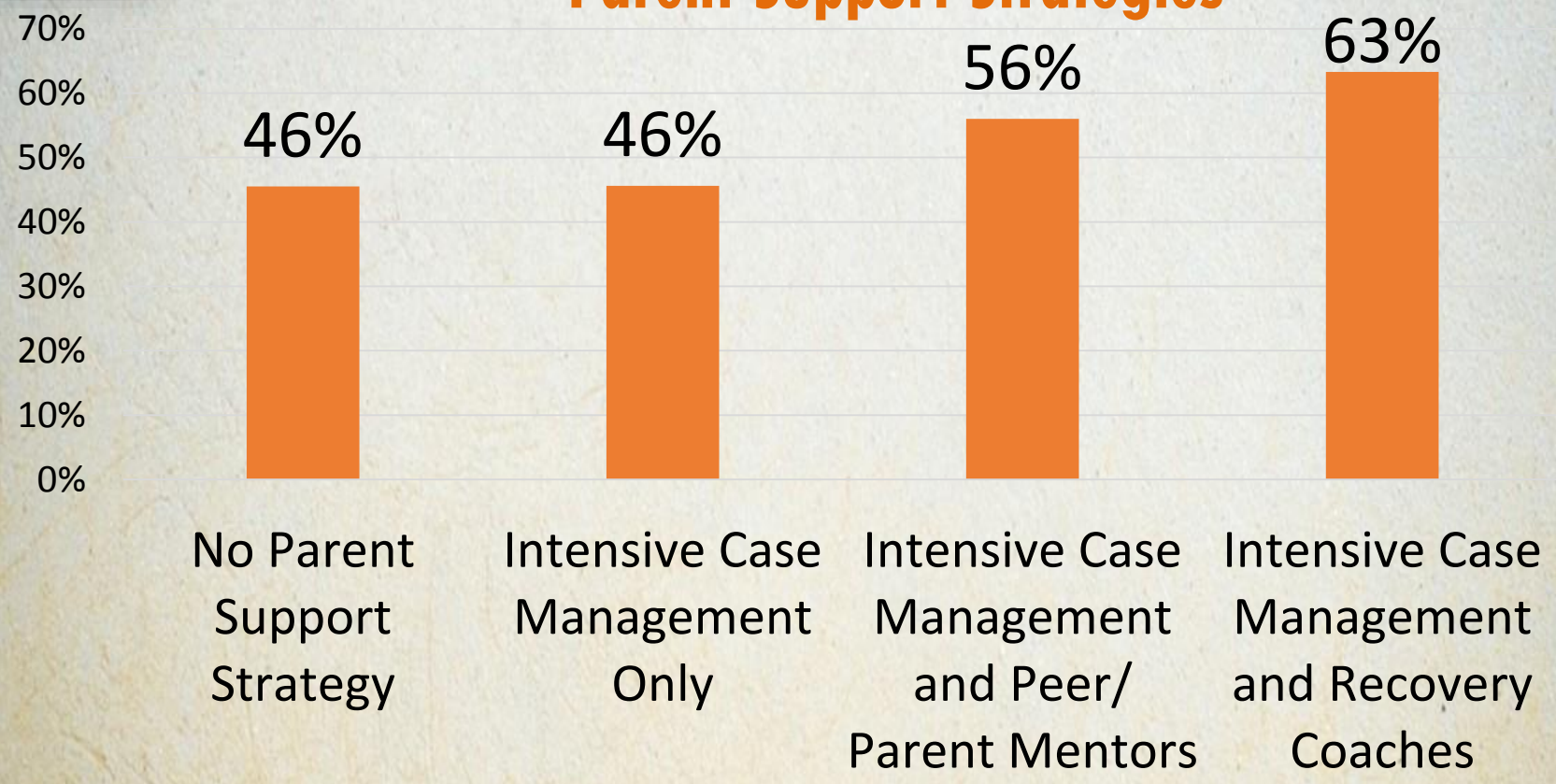
YOU NEED TO ASK:

What does our program and community need?

Median Length of Stay in Most Recent Episode of Substance Use Disorder Treatment after RPG Entry by Grantee Parent Support Strategy Combinations



Substance Use Disorder Treatment Completion Rate by Parent Support Strategies



Key Family Drug Court Ingredients

Improved family-centered services and parent-child relationships

Scope of Services

FDCs should provide the scope of services needed to address the effects of parental substance use on family relationships – family based and family – strengthening approaches towards recovery.

Family is the Focus

Challenges & Barriers

- Services not integrated
- Implementation of evidence-based programming
- Funding of family-based services
- Lack of partnerships
- Information flow and tracking

FDC Practice Improvements

Approaches to child well-being in FDCs need to change

Sacramento County Family Drug Court Programming

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- Dependency Drug Court (DDC)
  - Post-File
- Early Intervention Family Drug Court (EIFDC)
  - Pre-File

Parent-child parenting intervention

Connections to community supports

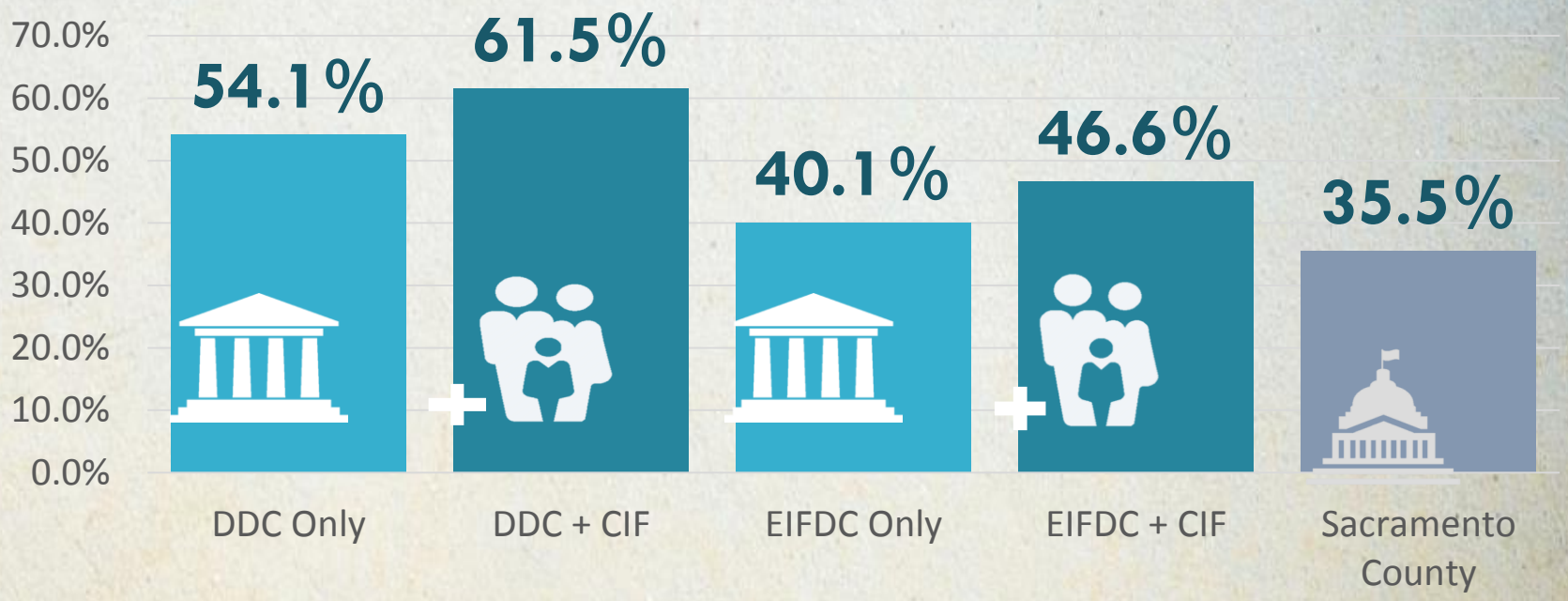
Improved outcomes

DDC has served over 4,200 parents & 6,300 children
EIFDC has served over 1,140 parents & 2,042 children
CIF has served over 540 parents and 860 children

Recovery

Treatment Completion Rates

Note: All treatment episodes represented here

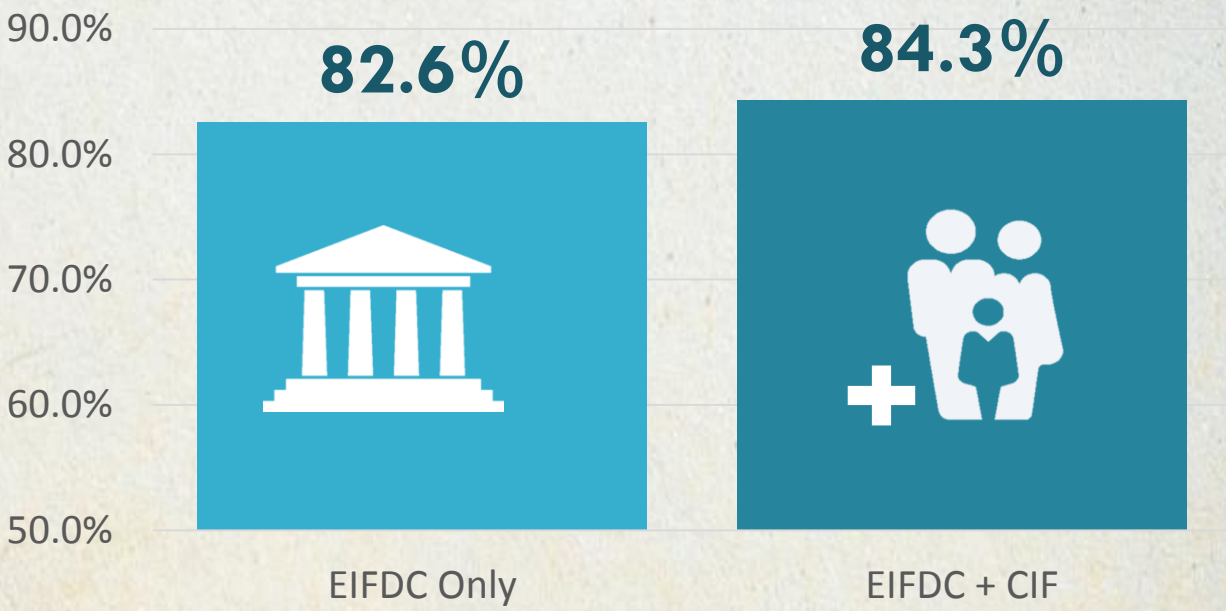


DDC and EIFDC: $p < 0.05$

Treatment completion rates were higher for parents in DDC and EIFDC than the overall County rate. Parents provided CIF Enhancement were significantly more likely to successfully completed treatment.

Remain at Home

Percent of Children Remaining at Home

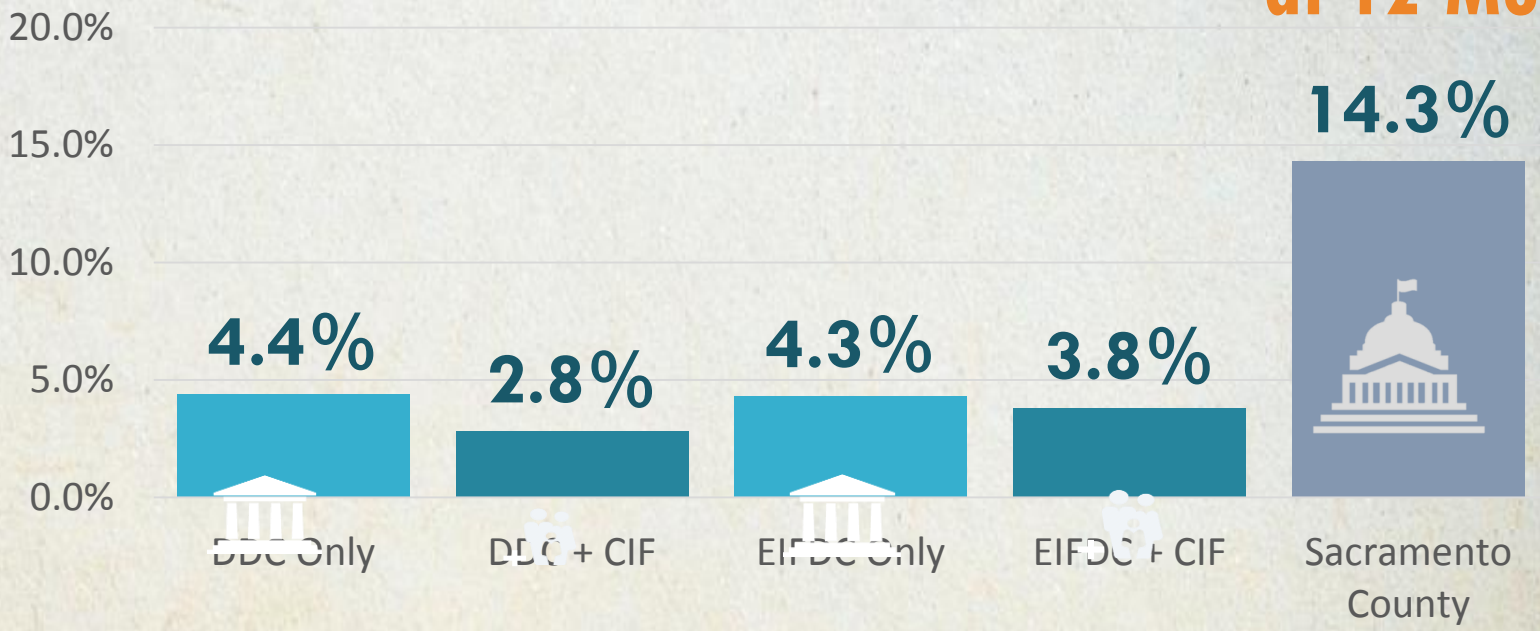


EIFDC: n.s. $p > 0.05$

Almost all children in EIFDC were able to stay in their parents care. Families provided the CIF Enhancement were on average more likely to have children stay home.

Re-occurrence

Re-occurrence of Maltreatment at 12 Months

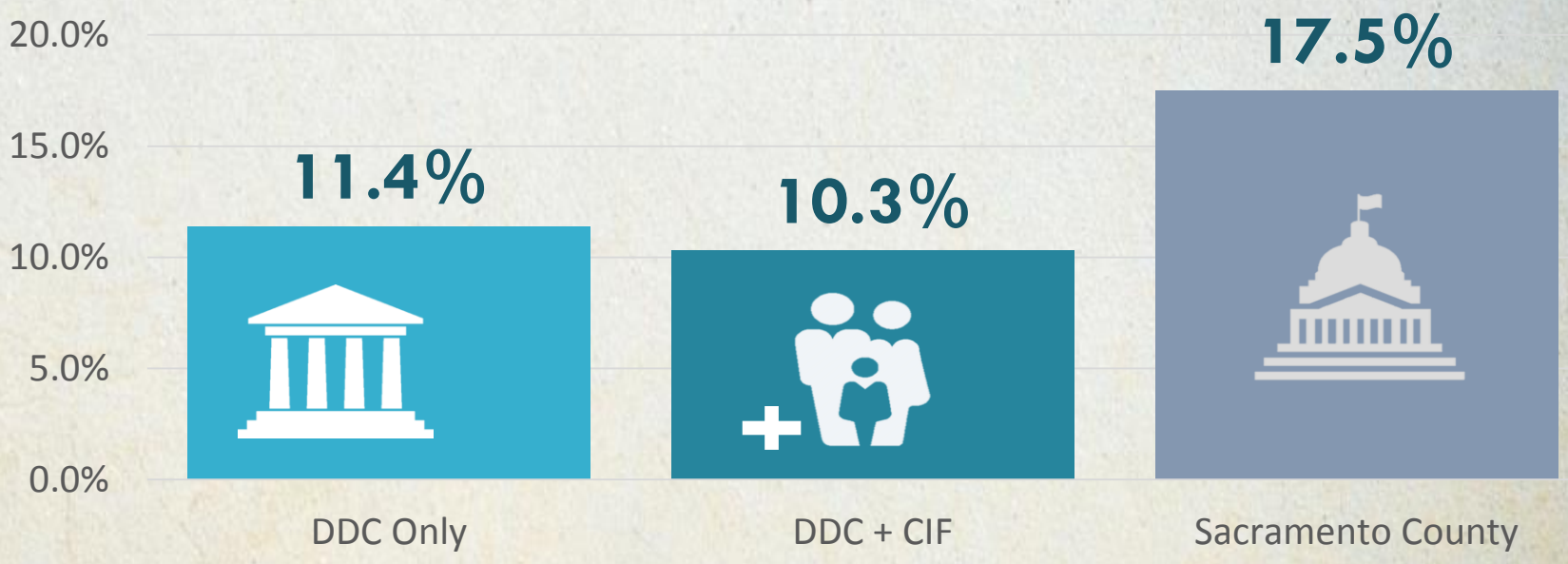


DDC and EIFDC: n.s. $p > 0.05$

Families in DDC or EIFDC were less likely than the larger Sacrament County population to experience reoccurrence of child abuse and/or neglect.

Re-Entry

Re-Entry into Foster Care 12 Months after Reunification



Families in DDC were less likely than the larger Sacrament County population to experience removals of children following reunification.

DDC : n.s. $p > 0.05$

Key Family Drug Court Ingredients
5
Increased judicial oversight

Front-line Level (micro)
Client
• Case management
• Reporting
• Tracking
Program
Administrative Level (macro)
• Baselines and Dashboards
• Outcomes
• Sustainability
Two Levels of Information Sharing

Therapeutic Jurisprudence

- Engage directly with parents vs. through attorneys
- Create collaborative and respectful environments
- Convene team members and parents together vs. reinforcing adversarial nature of relationship
- Rely on empathy and support (vs. sanctions and threats) to motivate

Lens, V. Against the Grain: Therapeutic Judging in a Traditional Court. Law & Social Inquiry. American Bar Association. 2015

The Judge Effect

- The judge was the single biggest influence on the outcome, with judicial praise, support and other positive attributes translating into fewer crimes and less use of drugs by participants (Rossman et al, 2011)
- Positive supportive comments by judge were correlated with few failed drug tests, while negative comments led to the opposite (Senjo and Leip, 2001)
- The ritual of appearing before a judge and receiving support and accolades, and “tough love” when warranted and reasonable, helped them stick with court-ordered treatment (Farole and Cissner, 2005, see also Satel 1998)

Key Family Drug Court Ingredients

6

Systematic response for participants – contingency management

Three Essential Elements of Responses to Behavior

1. Addiction is a brain disorder.
2. Length of time in treatment is the key. The longer we keep someone in treatment, the greater probability of a successful outcome.
3. Purpose of sanctions and incentives is to keep participants engaged in treatment.

ASFA Clock

- FDC's goal is safe and stable permanent reunification with a parent in recovery within time frames established by ASFA
- Responses aim to enhance likelihood that family can be reunited before ASFA clock requires an alternative permanent plan for the child

Key Family Drug Court Ingredients

7

Collaborative non-adversarial approach grounded in *efficient communication* across service systems and court

Effective Family Drug Courts

Effective, timely and efficient communication is required to monitor cases, gauge FDC effectiveness, ensure joint accountability, promote child safety and engage and retain parents in recovery

WHO needs to know
WHAT, WHEN?

Front-line Level (micro)
• Case management
• Reporting
• Tracking
Administrative Level (macro)
• Baselines and Dashboards
• Outcomes
• Sustainability
Two Levels of Information Sharing

Monitoring Cases

- *Case Staffings*
- *Family Team Meetings*
- *Judicial Oversight*
- *More frequent review hearings*
- *Responses to behavior*

Monitoring Outcomes

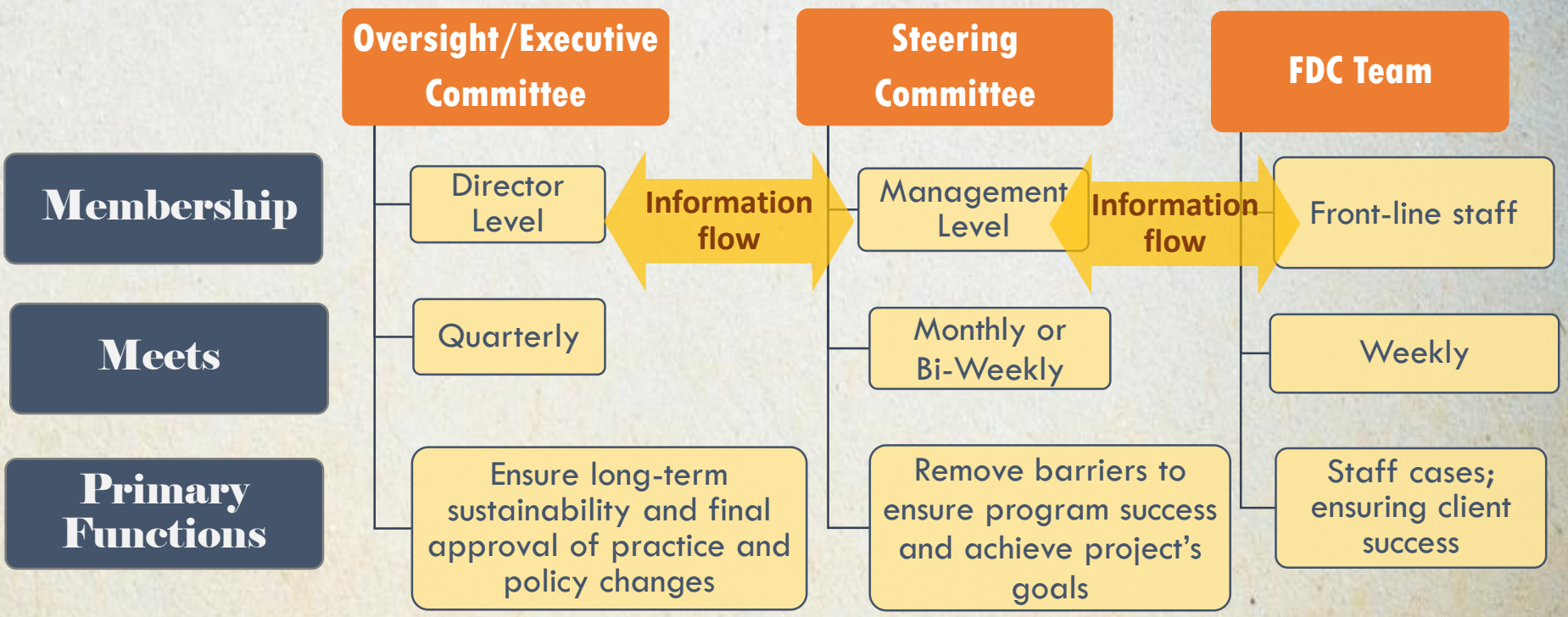
System Walk-Through

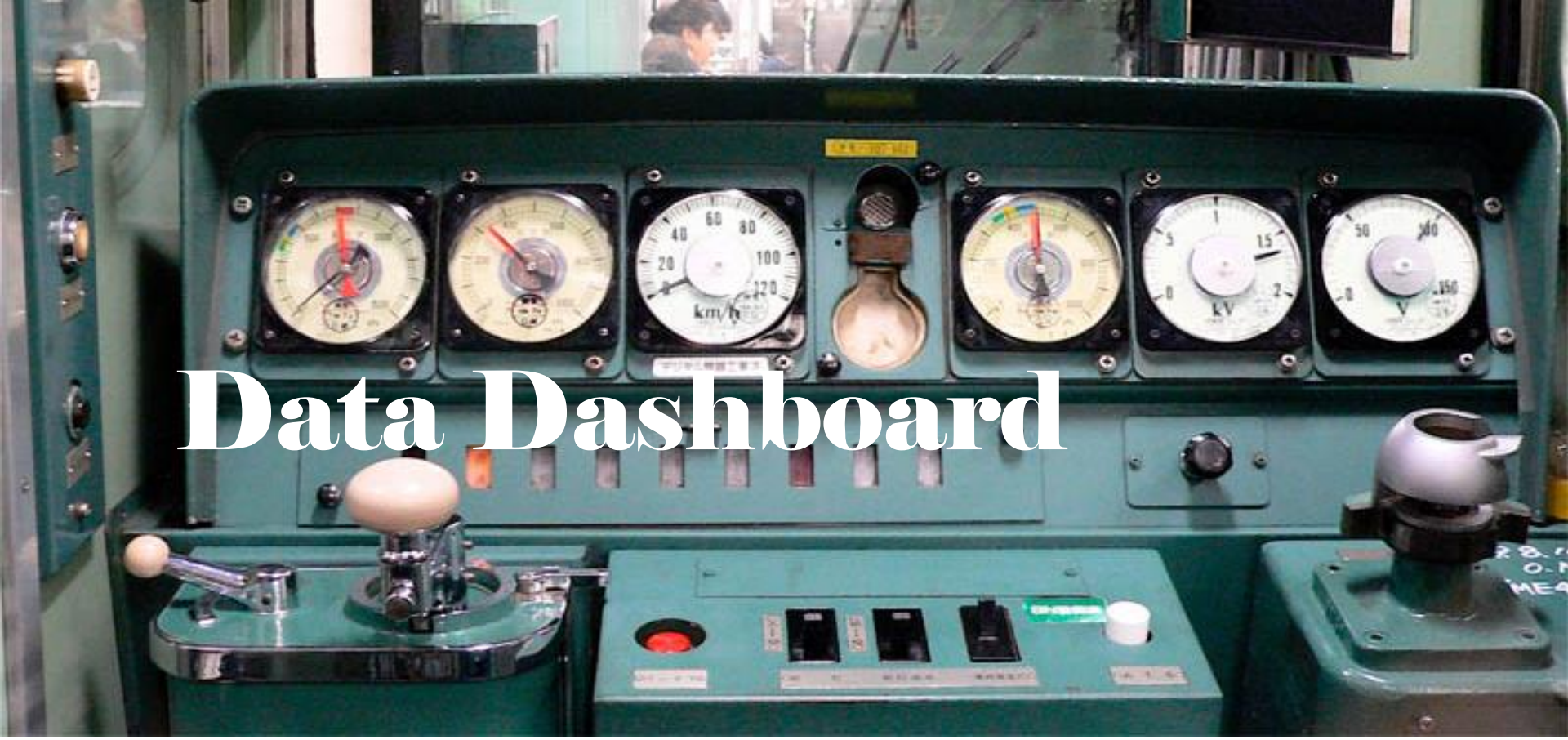
Assess effectiveness of system in achieving its desired results or outcomes

Data and Info Walk-Through

Who collects data, where is it stored, who uses it, who "owns" the data, levels of access

The Collaborative Structure for Leading Change

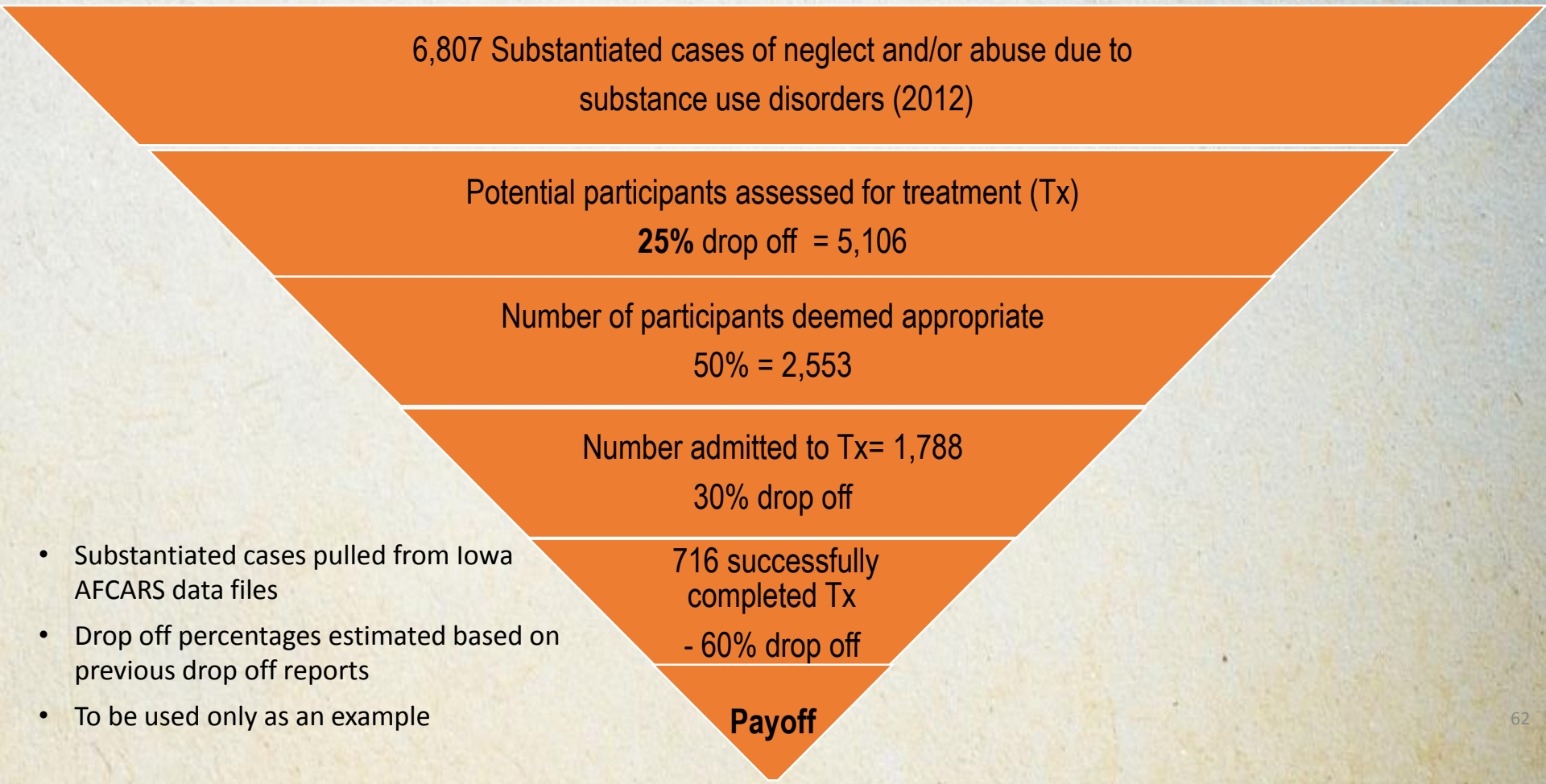




Data Dashboard

- What needles are you trying move?
- What outcomes are the most important?
- Is there shared accountability for “moving the needle” in a measurable way, in FDC and larger systems?
- Who are we comparing to?

Defining Your Drop off Points (Example)



- Substantiated cases pulled from Iowa AFCARS data files
- Drop off percentages estimated based on previous drop off reports
- To be used only as an example

Q&A
Discussion

Resources

FDC Learning Academy

FAMILY DRUG COURT TTA Program

FAMILY DRUG COURT

LEARNING ACADEMY

WEBINAR SERIES

The Family Drug Court (FDC) Learning Academy offers web-based training events to assess the needs, implement program improvements, evaluate performance and sustain FDC programs.

Launched in June 2010 by Children and Family Futures (CFF), the Learning Academy consists of six learning "Learning Communities" to address the developmental needs of FDC programs. Webinars are offered to FDC teams and professionals at no cost. Many FDCs have viewed these web-based trainings as a team and then discussed implications for their respective programs.

For a complete listing of the FDC Webinars, please see the back of this flyer.

To view the webinar recordings and download webinar materials, please visit: www.cffutures.org

Visit the FDC Blog: www.familydrugcourts.blogspot.com

If you have any questions, including how you can use these webinars to train your FDC team, please contact us: fdc@cffutures.org

Children and Family Futures

OJJDP

*This Project is supported by Award 2013-DCBX-K-002 awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency, Office of Justice Programs

FDC Learning Academy Webinars

Planning Community

June 2010	Mission and Values
July 2010	Principles of Collaboration
August 2010	Screening and Assessment
September 2010	Engagement and Retention
October 2010	Information Sharing and Data Systems
November 2010	Engaging Defense Attorneys

Early Implementation & Enhanced Community

February 2011	Engaging Fathers in Family Drug Courts
March 2011	Services to Children
April 2011	Trauma-Informed Services
May 2011	Engaging the Community & Marketing to Stakeholders
June 2011	Responding to Participant Behavior
July 2011	Critical Issues in Running a FDC
August 2011	Joint Accountability and Shared Outcomes
October 2011	Budget & Sustainability: Conducting a Cost Analysis
November 2011	Moving Toward System-Wide Change

Advanced Practice Community

February 2012	Use of Jail as a Sanction in FDCs
March 2012	Family Drug Court Models - Parallel vs. Integrated
April 2012	What You Need to Know in Becoming a Trauma-Informed Family Drug Court
May 2012	Role of Judicial Leadership and Ethical Considerations in FDCs
July 2012	What You Need to Know About Child Well-Being and Serving Children in FDCs
August 2012	Ensuring Effective and Quality Substance Abuse Treatment in FDCs
October 2012	Implementing Evidence-Based Parenting in FDCs

Knowledge Sharing

March 2013	Responding to Domestic Violence in FDCs
April 2013	Passing the Baton - Why Judicial Succession Matters in FDCs
May 2013	Reaching the Tipping Point – FDCs as a National Child Welfare Reform Strategy
June 2013	FDC Peer Learning Courts - Highlighting Effective FDC Practices
August 2013	So Who Are You Really Serving? Challenges of Serving Special Populations in FDCs
September 2013	Raising the Bar in FDCS – A Look at FDC Guidelines

Leading Change - This Changes Everything

March 2014	Utilizing Recovery Support Specialists as a Key Engagement and Retention Strategy
April 2014	Our Grant is Over - Now What? Re-Financing and Re-Directing as Real Sustainability Planning
June 2014	Closed Doors or Welcome Mat? Opening the Way for Medication-Assisted Treatment
July 2014	How Do You Know They Are Ready? Key Considerations for Assessing Reunification
August 2014	Exploring Solutions Together – The Issue of Racial and Ethnic Disproportionality and Disparity
October 2014	Matching Services to Need - Exploring What "High-Risk," "High-Need" Means for FDCs

Leading Change 2015

March 2015	Are You Building Your FDC by Default or Design?
April 2015	So Who Wants to Be an FDC Coordinator?
May 2015	Leading from the Front-Line: Case Managers in Your FDC and Why You Need Them
June 2015	Leading Change in Serving Families in FDCs – Prevention & Family Recovery Project
August 2015	Leading the Way to Best Practice – Ideas Worth Sharing from FDC Peer Learning Courts
October 2015	Leading Change – State Systems Reform Program
November 2015	Identifying Substance Use as a Risk Factor in CWS Cases and Understanding How to Respond

For more information please visit:
http://www.cffutures.org/projects/family-drug-court-learning-academy

Family Drug Court Learning Academy

2016 *Virtual Classroom Series*

Watch Pre-Recorded Webinar + **Register and Join Live Virtual Classroom** = **Convenient & Effective Learning**

Virtual Classroom	Webinar Available	Classroom Schedule
Screening & Assessment	April 1	April 14, May 12, May 26
Governance & Leadership	April 5	April 19, May 3, May 17
Parent-Child Relationships	July 1	July 14, July 28, August 18
Data & Info Systems	July 5	July 21, August 11, August 25

- Real-time networking and knowledge sharing
- Coaching & mentoring
- Applied learning through homework or project assignments
- 24/7 access to classroom
- Technical assistance and resources

Register Now!
Space Limited

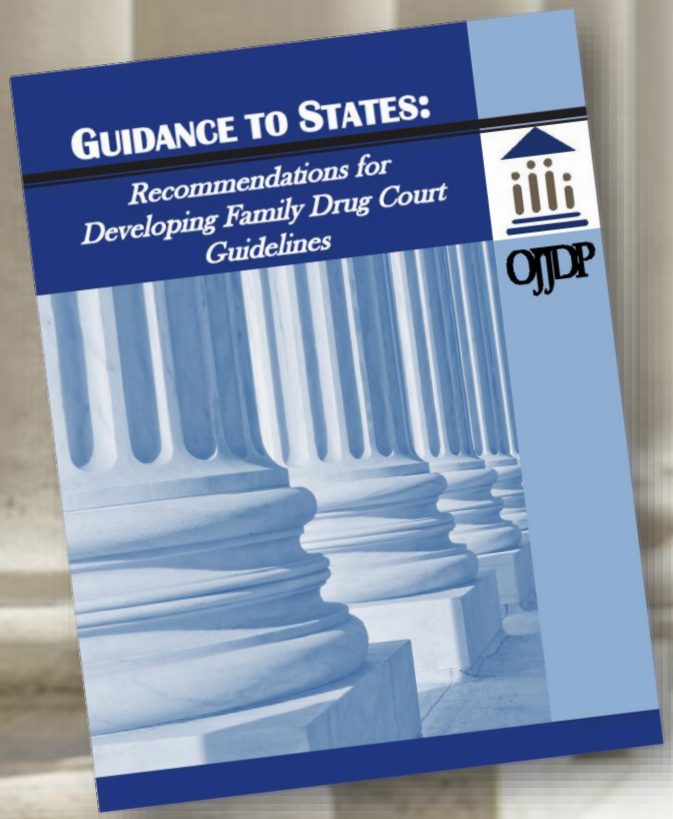
FDC Learning Academy Blog

- Webinar Recordings
- FDC Resources
- FDC Video features
- FDC Podcasts & Interviews
- Virtual Classroom registration

www.familydrugcourts.blogspot.com

2nd Edition – Research Update – Just Released

FDC Guidelines



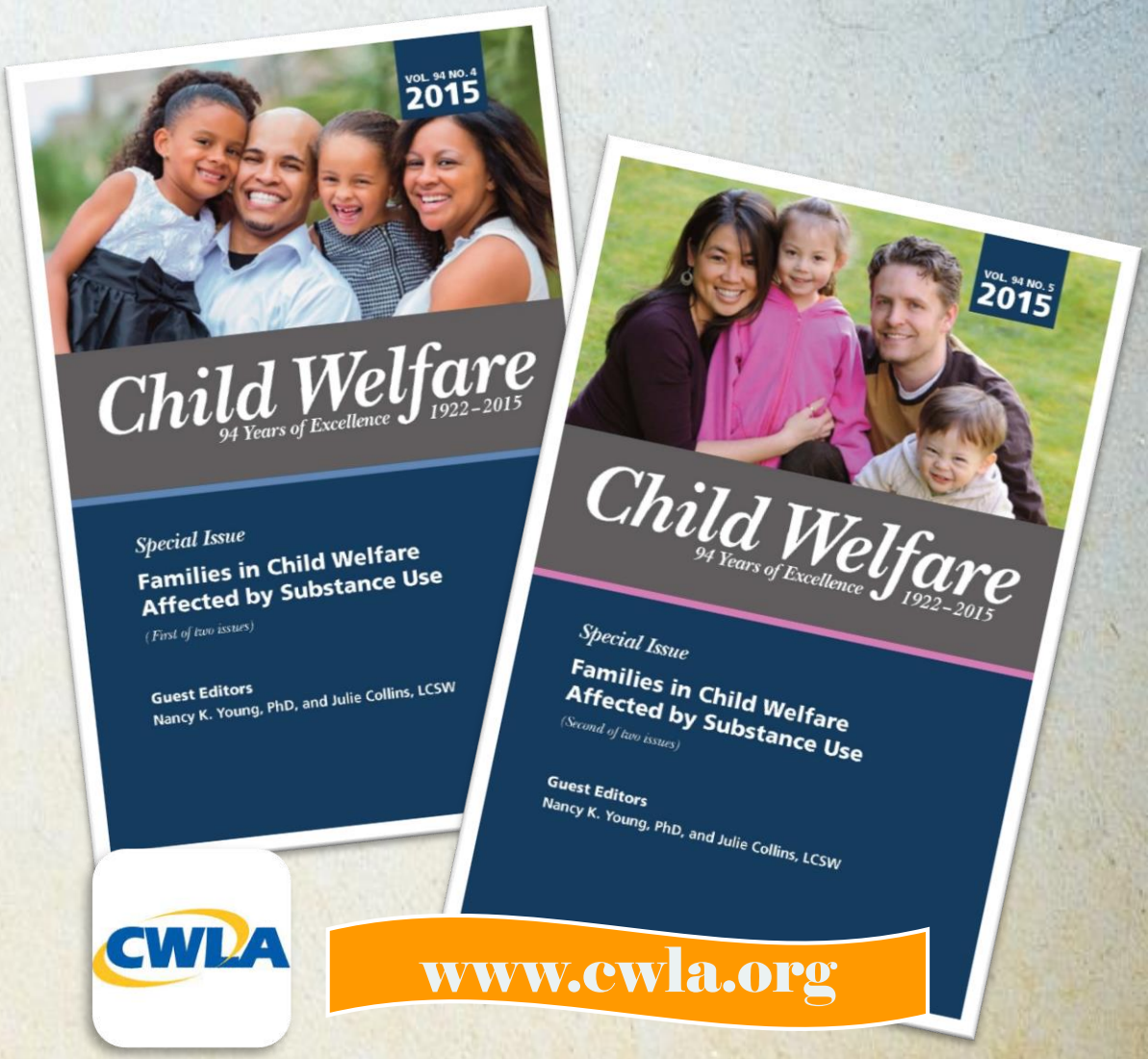
To download a copy today visit our website:

http://www.cffutures.org/files/publications/FDC-Guidelines.pdf

2015 Special Issue

Includes four Family Drug Court specific articles presenting findings on:

- Findings from the Children Affected by Methamphetamine (CAM) FDC grant program
- FDC program compliance and child welfare outcomes
- Changes in adult, child and family functioning amongst FDC participants
- Issues pertaining to rural FDCs



Coming in 2016!

Family Drug Court Online Tutorial

NATIONAL FAMILY DRUG COURT TTA Program

FDC 101 – Will cover basic knowledge of the FDC model and operations

FAMILY DRUG COURT PEER LEARNING COURT PROGRAM

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION: fdc@cffutures.org

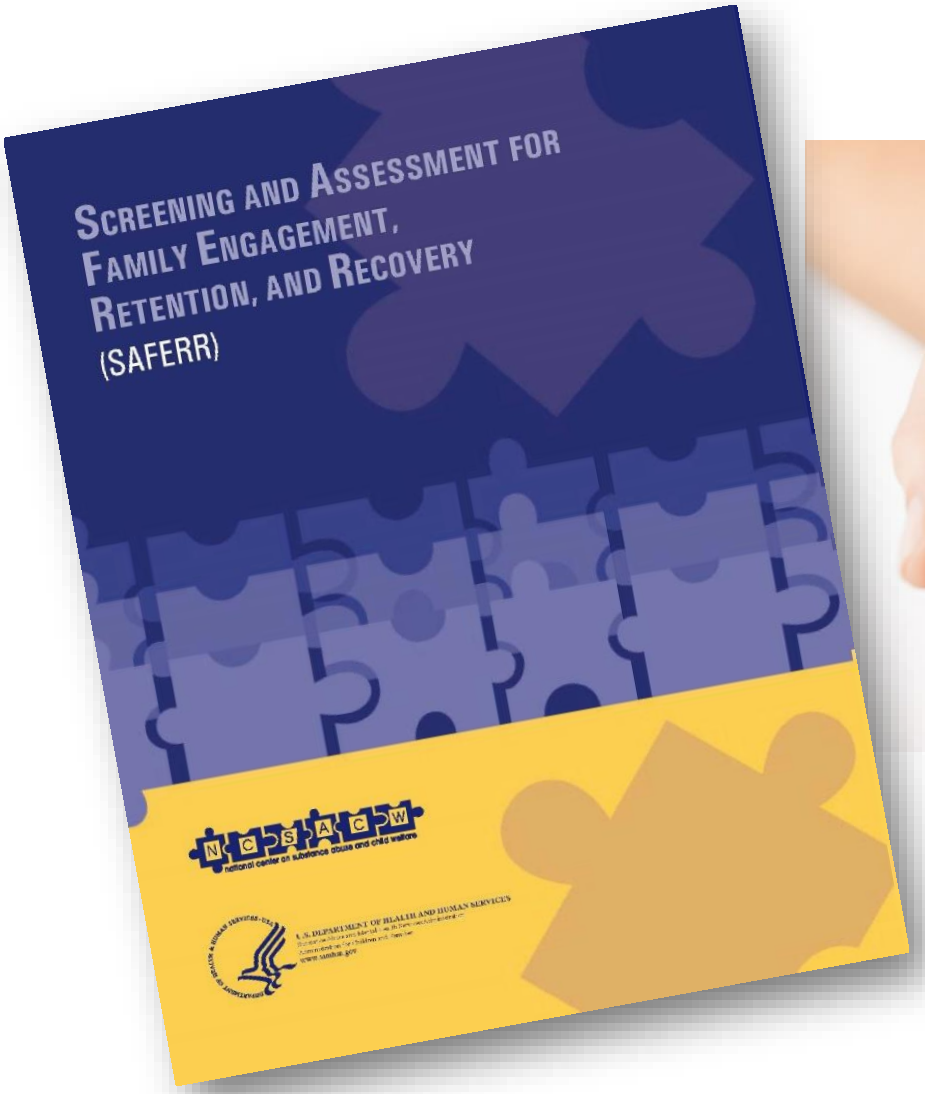
Resources

FDC Discipline Specific Orientation Materials

Child Welfare | AOD Treatment | Judges | Attorneys

Please visit: www.cffutures.org/fdc/

Resource: Screening and Assessment for Family Engagement, Retention, and Recovery (SAFERR)



To download a copy, please visit:

http://www.ncsacw.samhsa.gov/files/SAFERR.pdf

NCSACW Online Tutorials

- Understanding Substance Abuse and Facilitating Recovery: A Guide for Child Welfare Workers
- Understanding Child Welfare and the Dependency Court: A Guide for Substance Abuse Treatment Professionals
- Understanding Substance Use Disorders, Treatment and Family Recovery: A Guide for Legal Professionals

Please visit: http://www.ncsacw.samhsa.gov/

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- Child and family welfare
- Public health and substance use treatment programs
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To learn more about how we can help you design and implement research and evaluation projects that improve the lives of children and families, visit or contact us at:

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