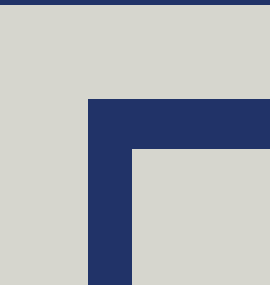
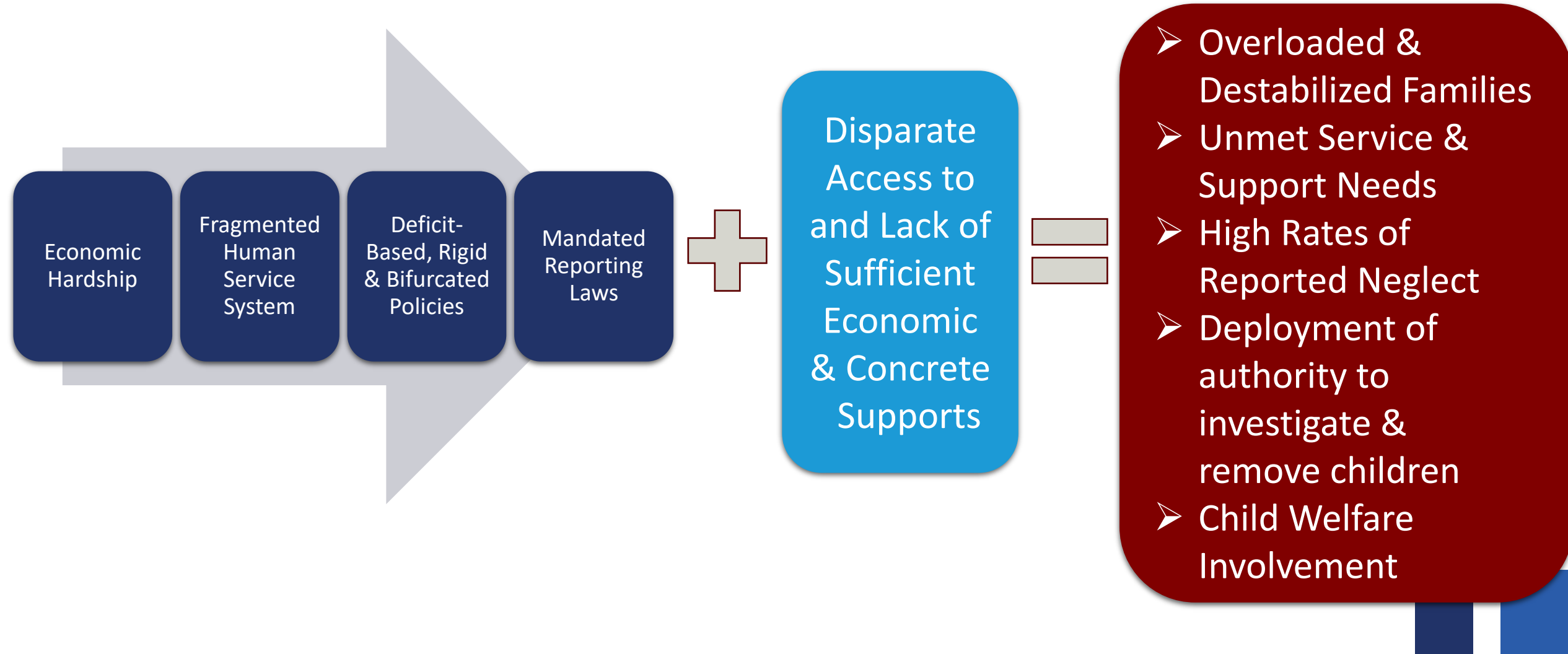


Child and Family Well-being System: Economic & Concrete Supports as a Core Component

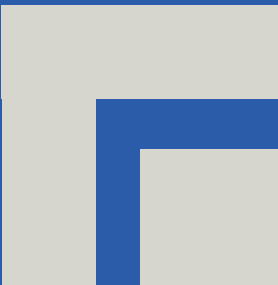
Historical & Contemporary Policy Context

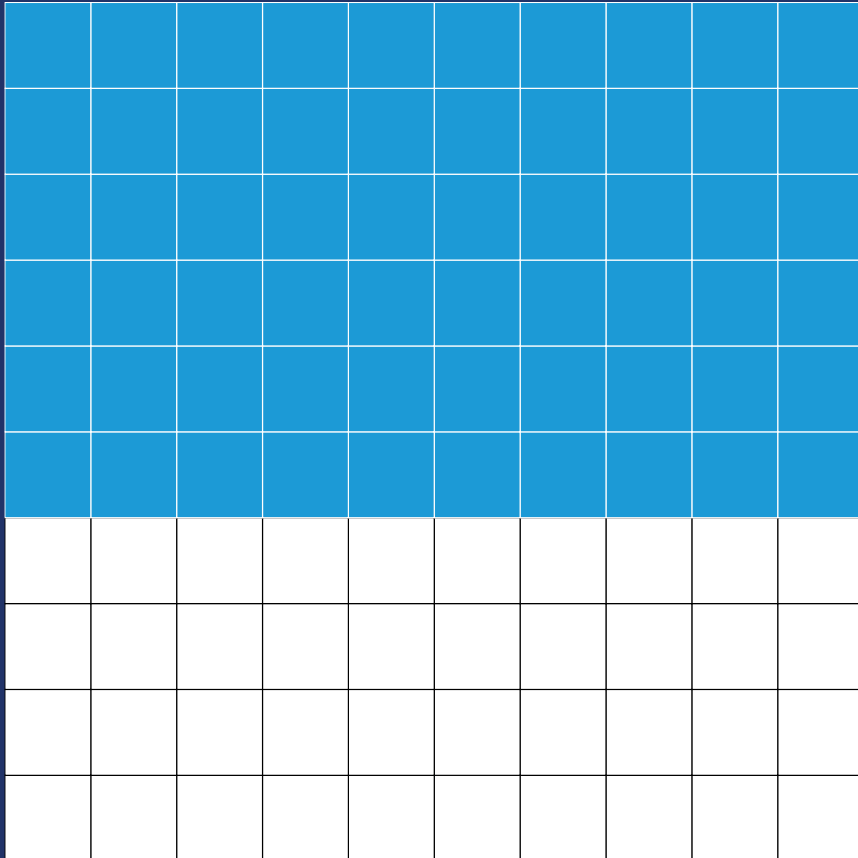


Impact of Historical & Contemporary Policy Choices



Intersection of Family Economic Insecurity, Income & Child Welfare Involvement





60%+

of substantiated CPS responses nationally involve **neglect only**

...and provision of economic & concrete supports is associated with decreased risk for both neglect and physical abuse

State Policy Option: Tightening Legal Standards for Removal of Children



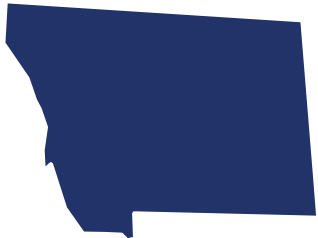
Washington State – [Keeping Families Together](#) (2021)

- Prevents removal of child solely due to **community or family poverty, inadequate housing, mental illness or substance use**



Kentucky – [Senate Bill 8](#) (2022)

- Narrows definition of neglect to situations where child's welfare is harmed or threatened with harm by parent due to inadequate care, supervision, food, clothing, shelter, education or medical care necessary for the child's well-being **when financially able to do so or offered financial or other means to do so**



Montana – [Child Protective Reforms](#) (proposed 2022)

- Prohibits removal solely due to **parental substance use, disorderly living conditions or economic status** and **expands “reasonable efforts required to prevent removal” to include identifying community resources** (*housing, financial, transportation, mental health & substance abuse services*) and actively assisting families to access these resources

State Policy Option: Economic Diversion System to Address Poverty-Related Neglect

Vermont



- Vermont has the *highest* rate of child maltreatment referrals in the nation, but the *lowest* reported screened-in neglect rate (1.5%)

Vermont has created an “**economic firewall**” through:

- **Interagency collaboration & service coordination:** CPS is co-located with economic services division & early child development division
- Providing all CPS district directors with access to **family preservation flexible funds** to prevent removal
- **Multidimensional diversion system** that refers families to:
 - ✓ Economic support services (e.g., TANF)
 - ✓ Family resource centers
 - ✓ Differential response systems

nearly **85%**

of families investigated by
child protective services
earn below 200% of the
federal poverty line

Material Hardship Increases Risk for Child Welfare Involvement: **Both Neglect & Abuse**

If low-income families experience **at least one** material hardship

- ~3x higher likelihood of neglect investigation
- ~4x higher likelihood physical abuse investigation

If low-income families experience **multiple types** of material hardship
(after experiencing no hardships)

- ~4x higher likelihood of CPS investigation
- ~7x higher likelihood physical abuse investigation

(Yang, 2015)

**Dimensions of material hardship in this study included: food, housing, utilities & medical hardship*

The Intersection of Family Economic Insecurity & Child Welfare Involvement

Most reliable **economic predictors**
of **child welfare involvement**



(Conrad-Hiebner, 2020)

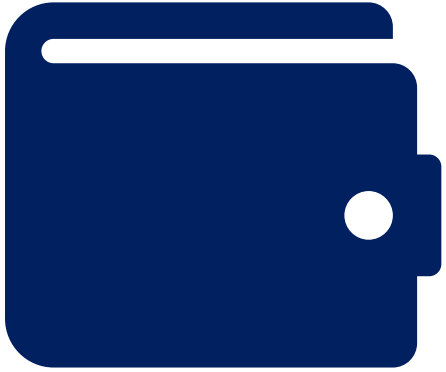
Strongest predictors of
investigated neglect reports



(Slack, 2011)

Negative Earnings Shocks Are Associated with Increased Risk for Subsequent Child Welfare Involvement

(slide 1 of 2)



About 10% of low-income adults with children have experienced an economic shock resulting in a **50% income drop** over one year

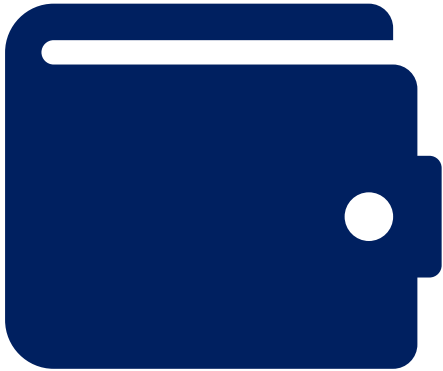
For low-income families with recently closed CPS investigations:

- Experiencing a **negative earnings shock** (*quarterly reduction in earnings of 30% or more*):
 - Increases risk of subsequent CPS investigation by 18%
 - Increases risk of physical abuse investigation by 26%
- Each additional negative earnings shock is associated with a **15% greater likelihood** of CPS involvement
- But each consecutive quarter with stable income is associated with a **5% lower risk** of CPS investigation

But the Association Diminishes When Negative Earnings Shocks Are Offset by Public Benefits

(slide 2 of 2)

For low-income families with recently closed CPS investigations:



- **Accessing sufficient public benefits** when negative earnings shocks occur effectively buffers **against the risk of child welfare involvement**
 - Buffer is particularly strong for families with young children (ages 0–4), who are associated with a:
 - **12% decrease** in risk for CPS involvement
 - **50% decrease** in risk for physical abuse investigation

Increased Unemployment Rates Are Associated with Increased Child Abuse



During the Great Recession (2007–2009):

The rate of abusive head trauma (AHT) for children < 5 years old was **considerably higher** than during the period immediately before

- AHT rate **increased** from 8.9 in 100,000 children before the recession to 14.7 in 100,000 children during the recession

Evidence of Possible Causal Effect of Income on Risk for Child Welfare Involvement



Mothers who participate in TANF and are eligible to receive full child support for their children (and child support is disregarded in determining welfare benefits) are **10% less likely to have a child subject to a screened-in maltreatment report**

(compared to mothers who are eligible to receive only partial child support payments)

- Even a modest increase in child support payments—averaging \$100 per year—results in a decrease in screened-in maltreatment reports

Lower Family Income Is Associated with Longer Time to Reunify

Children in foster care take longer to reunify with their families when:

- ❑ Their families have **lower average monthly incomes** post placement

Every \$100 increase in a mother's post-placement income increases her child's speed of reunification by 6%

- ❑ Their families **lose a significant amount of cash assistance** post placement

Percentage of children remaining in foster care after a year whose mothers lost a significant amount of income from cash assistance post placement is more than double that of children whose mothers did not lose income from cash assistance post placement (87% vs. 41%)

- ❑ Their families must **pay the state for the costs of foster care**

\$100 increase in monthly child support order amount predicted to delay time to reunification 6.6 months

State Policy Option: Continuing Cash Assistance for Families Working to Reunify



California – [AB 135](#) (effective 2021)

Requires that parents who are receiving TANF benefits, and who are actively working to reunify when their children are placed into foster care, will **continue to be eligible to receive monthly cash assistance** for up to 6 months

New Federal Guidance: Recommends Limiting Billing Parents for the Cost of Foster Care

In June 2022, ACF issued revised policy guidance allowing child welfare agencies **to stop billing parents for the cost of foster care**

- Recommends collecting child support **only in very rare instances** where there is no adverse effect on the child & it will not impede reunification
- Acknowledges that collecting child support is **not cost effective**

CHILDREN'S BUREAU

An Office of the Administration for Children & Families

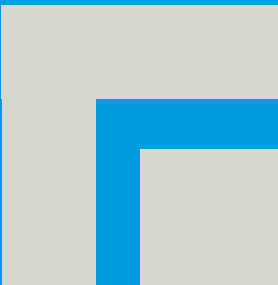
([CWPM 8.4C, Question 5](#))

“

It's likely that reducing the income of the child's parent(s) **could impede their ability to engage in reunification efforts**, potentially extending the time the child spends in foster care.

”

Exploring the Context of Family Economic Insecurity, Income, & Child Welfare Involvement



Economic Insecurity Is Widespread, But Families Move In and Out of Poverty

(Drake, 2014)
(Cellini, 2008)
(Mistry, 2002)
(Han, 2021)

Economic insecurity is widespread



Almost 50% of American families with young children are at risk of poverty before their child enters kindergarten



More than 50% of all Americans will spend a year in poverty (by age 65)



84% of all Black Americans will spend a year in poverty (by age 65)

Families move in and out of poverty over time



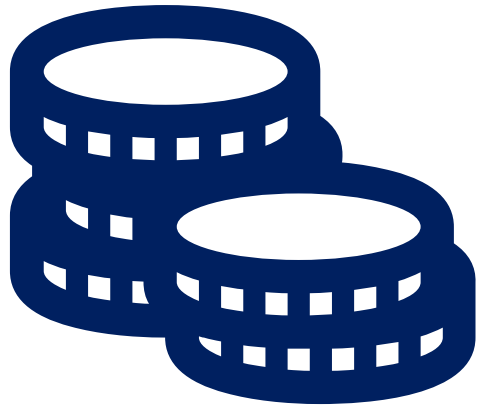
Almost 50% of those who become poor are out of poverty a year later



But more than 50% of those who previously left poverty will return to poverty within 5 years

**THE VOLATILITY AND TURBULENCE CREATED BY ENTERING & LEAVING POVERTY
MAY CREATE SERIOUS STRESS FOR PARENTS AND IMPACT PARENTING**

Family Income Instability Increases Risk for Child Welfare Involvement



Low-income families at risk for child welfare involvement who have experienced **income instability** in the past year (*including changes in both earnings and public benefits*) are at **increased risk for CPS investigations**, even after controlling for household income level

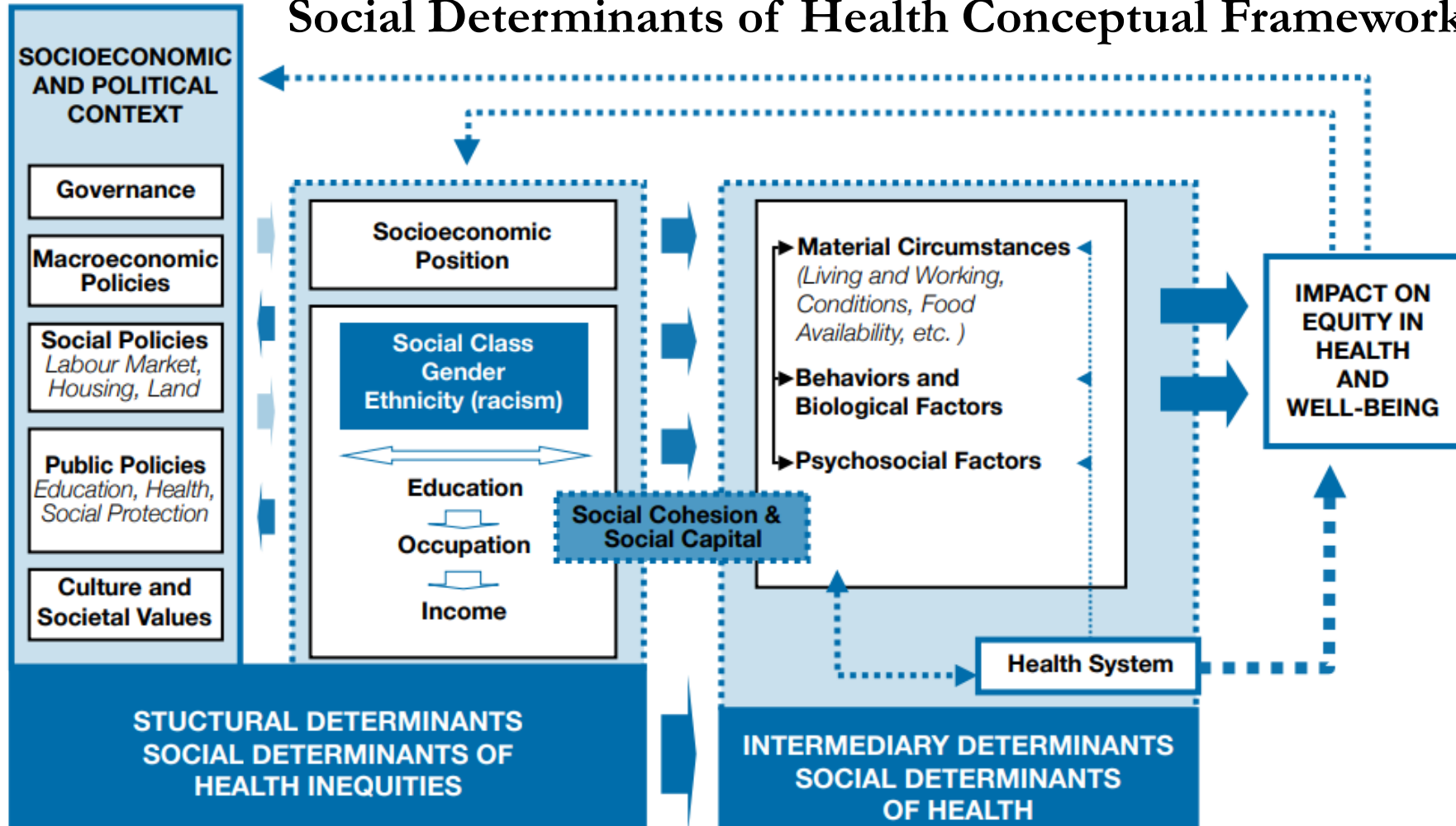
- These findings suggest a **unique relationship** between **income instability & child welfare involvement**

Multiple Material & Economic Hardships Overload Families and Increase Risk for Child Welfare Involvement



But Families Must be Considered within the Context of Their Communities, Cultures, Policies & Systems

World Health Organization's Commission on Social Determinants of Health Conceptual Framework



“The single most significant lesson of [this] conceptual framework is **that interventions & policies to reduce health inequities must not limit themselves to intermediary determinants**, but must include policies specifically crafted to tackle underlying structural determinants.”

Economic & Concrete Support Packages (NAS) to Improve Context and Prevent Child Maltreatment

Analysis simulating the effects of increased income on CPS involvement for 3 anti-poverty policy packages found these packages have the potential to **reduce annual CPS investigations by 11 to 20%** (*386,000 to 669,000 children*)

- Reductions were **particularly large** for Black and Latinx children & those living with single parents
- Results suggest a **substantial reduction in racial disproportionality** in CPS involvement:
 - 19 to 29% reduction in investigations for Black children
 - 13 to 24% reduction in investigations for Latinx children
 - 7 to 13% reduction in investigations for white children

National Academy of Sciences Consensus Report (2019) *A Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty*

- **Anti-poverty package 2:** expansion of EITC & Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC) + universal monthly child allowance
- **Anti-poverty package 3:** expansion of EITC, CDCTC, Housing Choice Voucher Program & SNAP
- **Anti-poverty package 4:** expansion of EITC & CDCTC, increase in federal minimum wage (to \$10.25/hr) + monthly child allowance

(Pac, 2022 *forthcoming*)
([*A Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty*](#), 2019)

Evidence Regarding How People Spend Unconditional Cash Payments



Meeting Basic Needs

- Food
- Rent
- Utilities
- Auto care/transportation



Education

- School supplies
- Tuition
- Child care



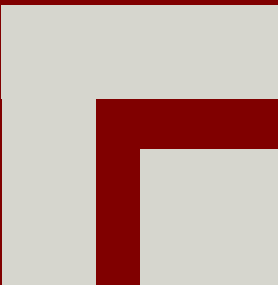
Paying Down Debt



Alcohol & Tobacco

- Families who received **monthly Canadian child benefit payments** significantly decreased their alcohol & tobacco spending
 - *Supports theory that substance use is sometimes a response to financial stress*
 - *Consider economic & concrete supports as a substance abuse prevention intervention*
- **Stockton & Baby's First Years** unconditional cash transfer recipients spent less than 1% of their payments on tobacco & alcohol

Economic & Concrete Supports:
A Race Equity Strategy to
Address Disparity & Disproportionality
in Child Welfare



Economic & Concrete Supports:

A Race Equity Strategy to Address Disparity & Disproportionality in Child Welfare

Poverty & economic hardship puts families at **increased risk of child welfare involvement**

Economic & concrete supports to stabilize families and prevent child welfare involvement may be a mechanism to **reduce racial disparities**



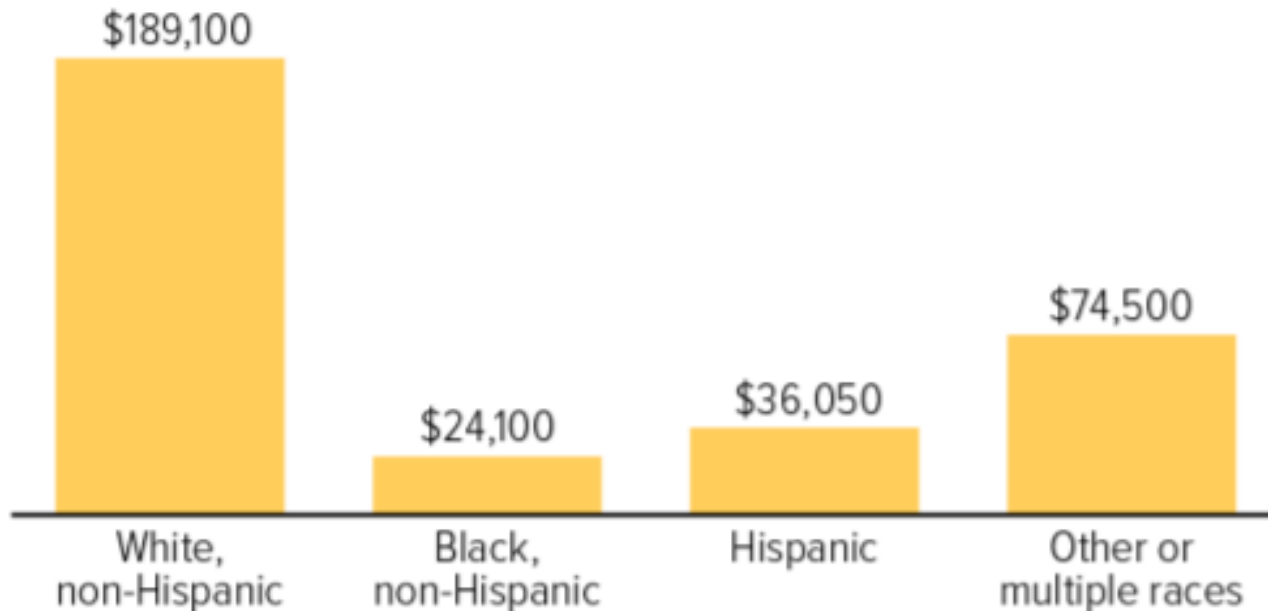
Due to systemic inequities, families of color are **more likely to experience economic hardship** & this may contribute to their disproportionate child welfare involvement

Disproportionality and disparities are due to racism both internal and external to the child welfare system (Dettlaff, 2020)

Macroeconomic Policy Context: Racial Wealth Gap Exacerbates Economic Insecurity for Families of Color

White Families Hold 8 Times More Wealth Than Black Families, 5 Times More Than Hispanic Families

Median net worth, in 2019 U.S. dollars



Note: "Other or multiple races" includes all respondents who identified as Asian, American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, Pacifica Islander, other race, and those who reported more than one racial identification. Roughly 69 percent and 23 percent of respondents in this grouping reported more than one racial identification or identified as Asian, respectively.

- Black Americans represent **13%** of the U.S. population, but possess **only 4%** of the nation's household wealth
- The median wealth of young Black families is **\$600**
- Nearly **1 in 5** Black households has **zero or negative net worth**
- Native American households own **\$0.09** for every dollar of wealth held by white households (*as of 2000*)

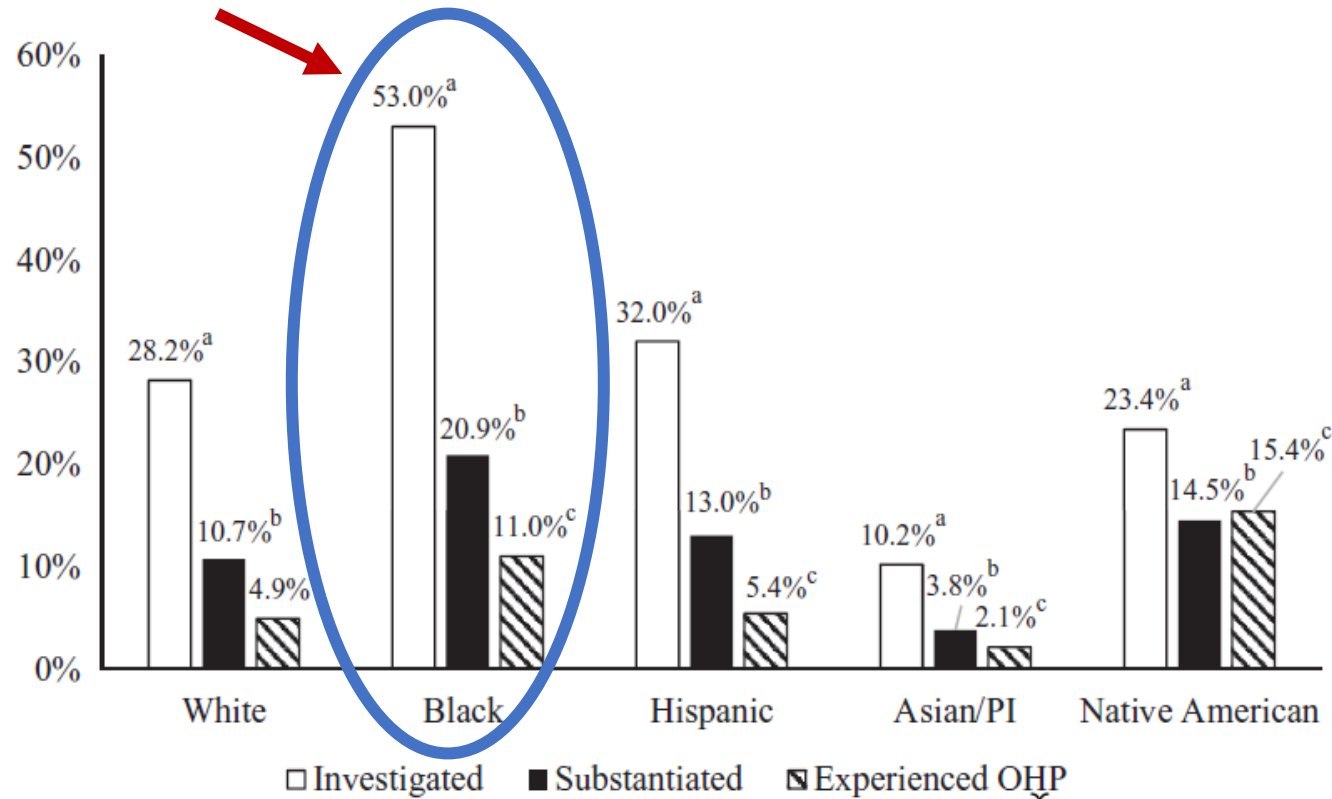
([CBPP](#), 2021 – graphic)

(Federal Reserve, 2020) (Moss, 2020)

(Prosperity Now, 2020) (Chang, 2010)

CPS Interventions Are Pervasive: Over Half of All Black Children Experience an Investigation

Lifetime (Birth–18) Incidence of CPS Involvement in the United States by Race/Ethnicity

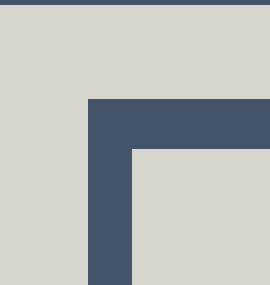


- **37% of all children** and 41% of children in the 20 most populous U.S. counties experience at least one CPS investigation by age 18
- **Almost 3.5 million children** experience a CPS investigation each year (FFY 2019)
- An estimated **1 in every 100** children experience a termination of parental rights

(Berger, 2020 - graphic) (Kim, 2017) (Edwards, 2021)
(Child Maltreatment 2019) (Wildeman, 2020)

Evidence:

The Relationship between Economic & Concrete Supports
and Child Welfare Involvement



Sources of Evidence

How do the following studies show the impact of programs, policies, and strategies for reducing child welfare system involvement through economic & concrete supports?



Research designed to detect the impact of a specific strategy through randomized controlled trials (RCT)



Analysis of decades of administrative data aligned with policy or other shifts



Natural experiments to assess public benefit programs

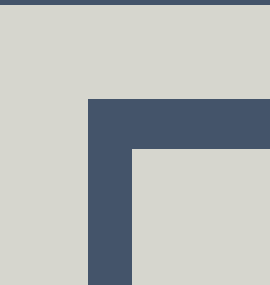


Theoretical models and studies that illustrate the processes by which material hardship leads to child maltreatment

This vast body of science and growing preponderance of evidence informs our understanding of **what has been effective and why** and hypotheses about **potential policy shifts** & new pathways.

**Unless otherwise noted, all findings presented are statistically significant*

What does the evidence suggest happens
when economic & concrete supports
are reduced?



What Are Economic & Concrete Supports?

This is not an exhaustive list, but examples include:

- ❖ Cash assistance
 - ❖ Emergency funds
 - ❖ Direct cash transfers
 - ❖ Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
 - ❖ Child Tax Credit (CTC)
 - ❖ TANF benefits
 - ❖ Employment
 - ❖ Income
 - ❖ Flexible funds
 - ❖ In-kind benefits
 - ❖ Child care
 - ❖ Housing supports
 - ❖ SNAP
 - ❖ WIC
 - ❖ Medicaid
 - ❖ Unemployment benefits
 - ❖ Legal support
 - ❖ Rental assistance
 - ❖ Utility assistance
 - ❖ Furniture & equipment
 - ❖ Transportation
 - ❖ Food
 - ❖ Clothing
- 

Decreased Access to Economic & Concrete Supports Is Associated with Increased Child Welfare Involvement



Reduced
TANF
benefits



Reduced
employment



Lack of
child care



Increased
gas prices



Lack of
stable
housing



Reduced income
& negative
earnings shocks



**Increased risk
for child welfare
involvement**

(Ginther, 2017) (Paxson, 2003) (Yang, 2016) (Cash, 2003)
(Klevens, 2015) (Weiner, 2020) (McLaughlin, 2017) (Bullinger, 2021)
(Berger, 2015) (Frioux, 2014) (Wood, 2012) (Cai, 2021)

Lack of Access to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

States that imposed total benefit loss as the most severe sanction for not meeting TANF work requirements:

Reminder: First statutory goal of TANF is to support needy families so that children can remain safely at home or with relatives.

23.3%

Increase in
substantiated
neglect
reports

13.4%

Increase in
foster care entries
due to neglect

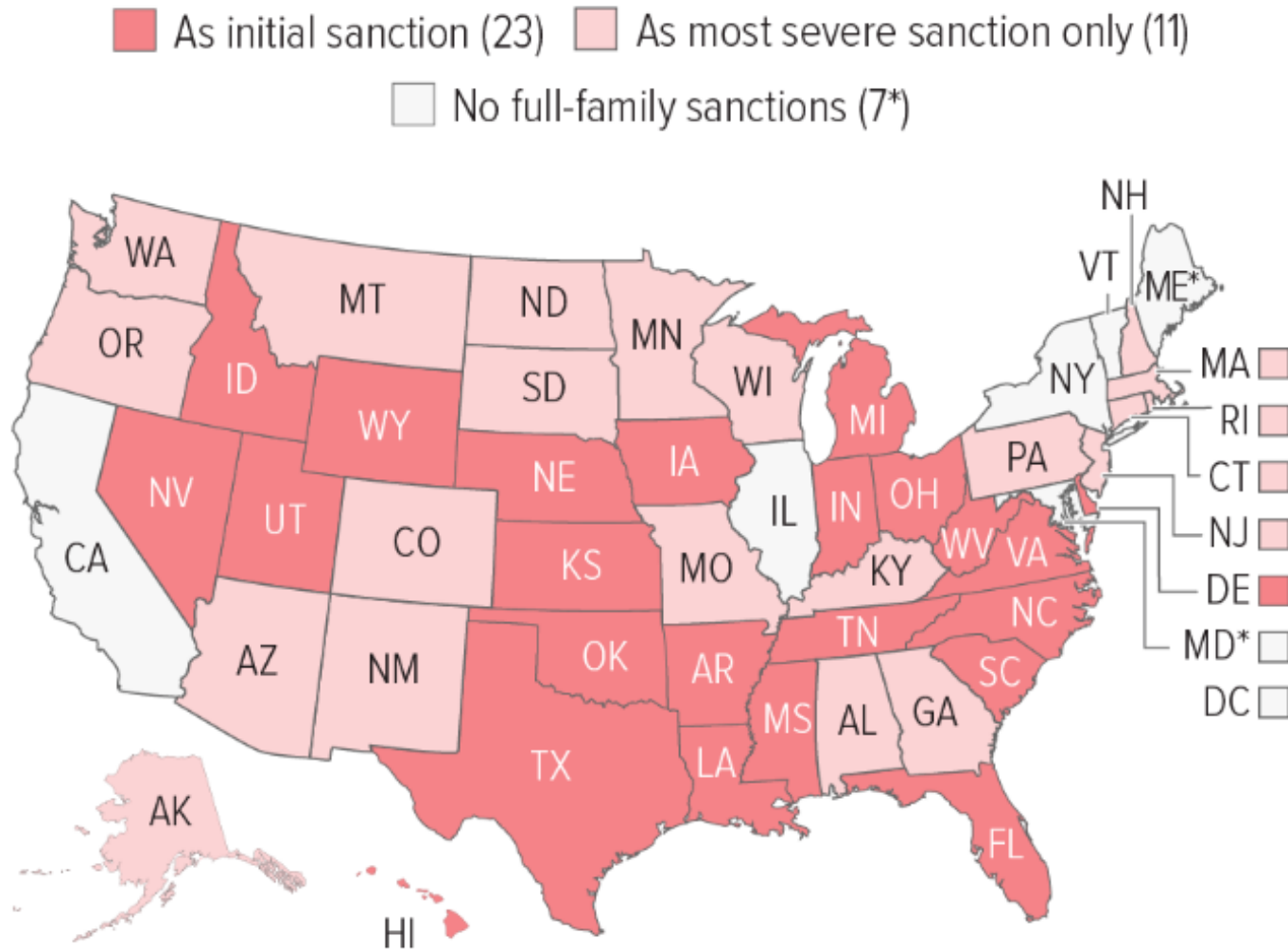
12.7%

Increase in
total foster
care entries

(Ginther, 2017)

(Increases observed from 2004 to 2015)

State Policy Option: No Full-Family Sanctions for Non-Compliance with TANF Work Requirements

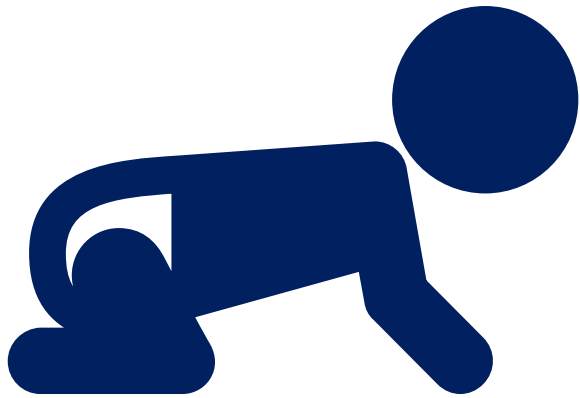


- **Nearly half of states** take away TANF benefits from the entire family (“full-family sanctions”) as the initial punishment if a parent does not meet work requirements
- States with higher concentrations of Black residents have a **higher likelihood** of imposing full-family sanctions
(as of 2021)

*Policymakers in Maine and Maryland have repealed sanctions; implementation is pending.

(Center on Budget and Policy Priorities ([CBPP](#)), 2021)

Lack of Access to Child Care



- For every additional child care concern reported by families receiving TANF, the **risk of supervisory child neglect increases by 20%**
- Mothers entering substance abuse treatment who have difficulty securing child care are **82% more likely to self-report child neglect**
(compared to mothers entering treatment who don't have difficulty securing child care)
 - Difficulty finding child care was a stronger predictor of maternal neglect than almost any other factor measured in this study, including mental health & severity of drug use

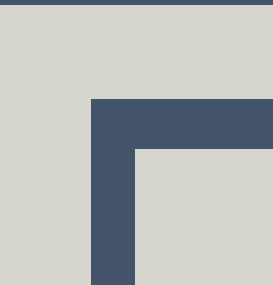
Housing Insecurity – Mortgage Delinquency & Foreclosures



Increases in mortgage delinquency & foreclosure rates are associated with increases in hospital admissions for:

- **Physical abuse** of children < 6 years old
- **Traumatic brain injury** for infants <1 year old
(non-birth & non-motor vehicle crash related)

What does the evidence suggest happens when economic & concrete supports are increased?



Increased Access to These Economic & Concrete Supports (ECS) Is Associated with Decreased Child Welfare Involvement



Macroeconomic Supports

- Minimum wage increase
- Tax Credits (EITC & CTC)
- Paid family leave
- Unemployment benefits

Concrete Supports

- Healthcare/Medicaid
- Child care
- Housing

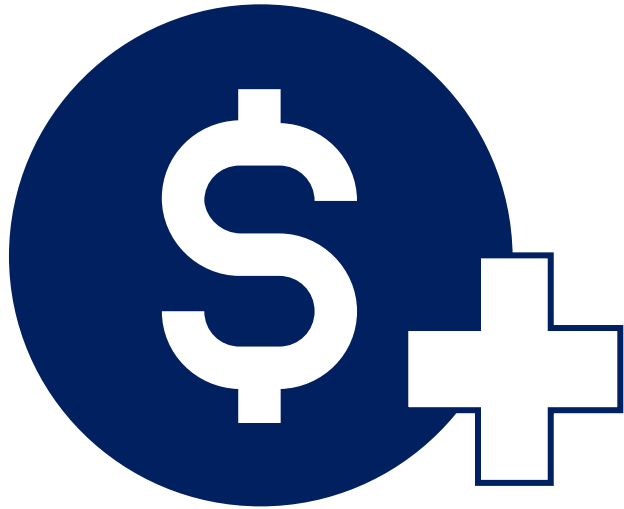
Public Benefits

- Overall state spending on benefits
- TANF
- SNAP & WIC

Child Welfare Interventions with ECS

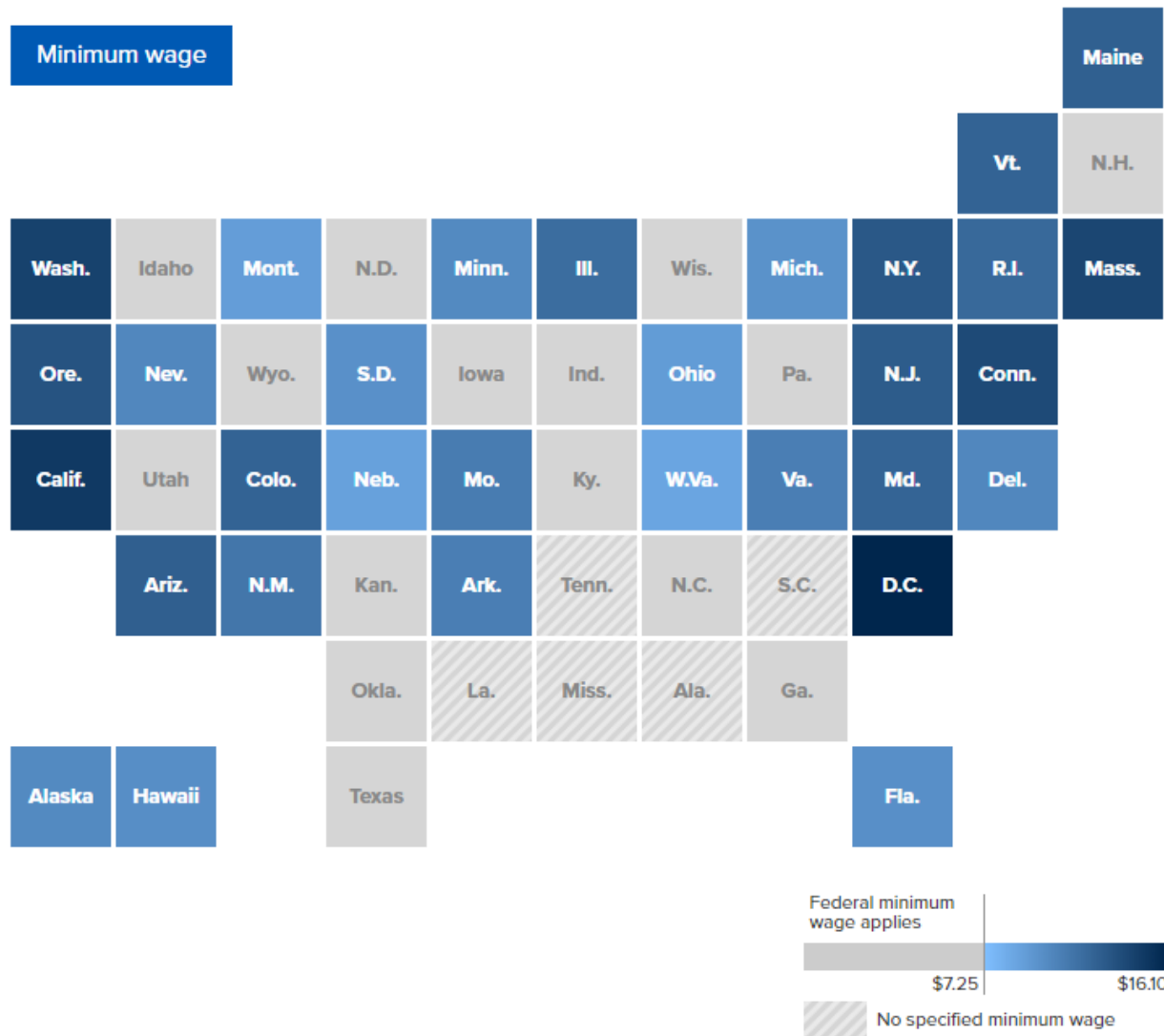
- Differential response
- Family preservation

Minimum Wage



- States that increased the minimum wage beyond \$7.25 per hour experienced a **reduction in child maltreatment reports**
- For every \$1 increase in the minimum wage, there was a **9.6% reduction in neglect reports**
(primarily for children < 12 years)

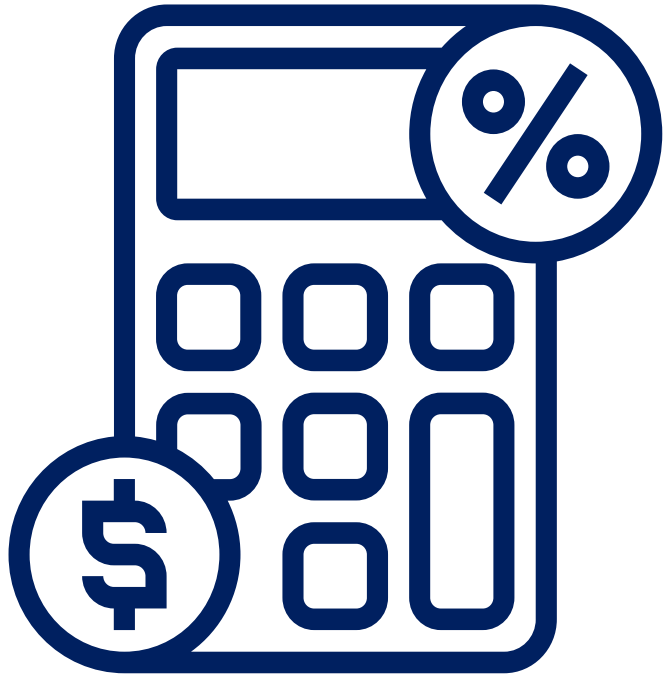
State Policy Option: Establishing or Increasing Minimum Wage



- **14 states + D.C.** have adopted minimum wages of \$12 or higher
- The current federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour is now **worth less than at any point since 1956**
- A worker paid the current federal minimum wage earns **40% less** than a minimum wage worker in 1968
(as of July 2022)

([EPI](#), 2022 - graphic)
([EPI](#), 2022)

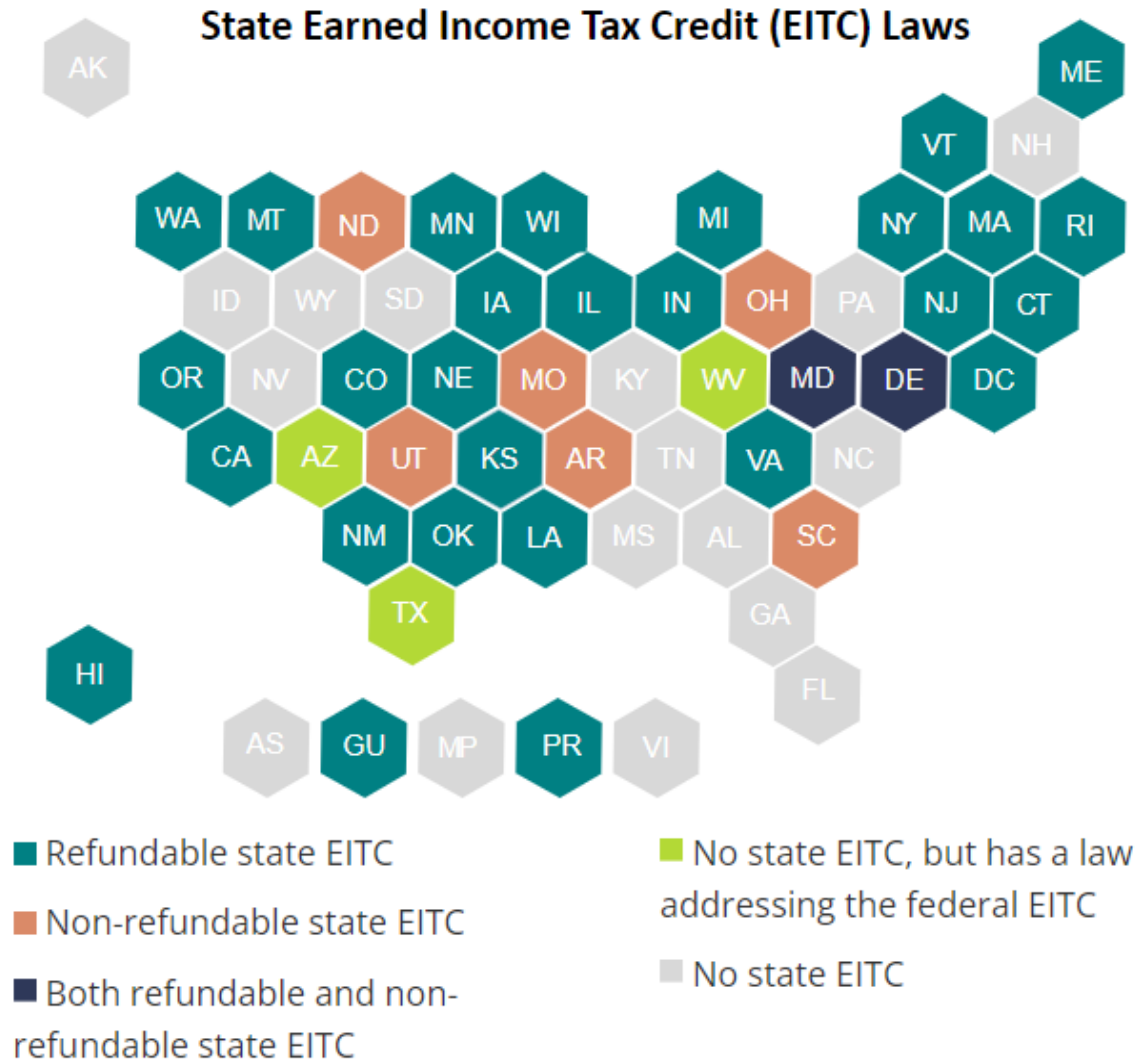
Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)



States with a state-level refundable EITC, compared to those without, had **11% fewer entries into foster care** (*even after controlling for poverty, race, education, and unemployment*)

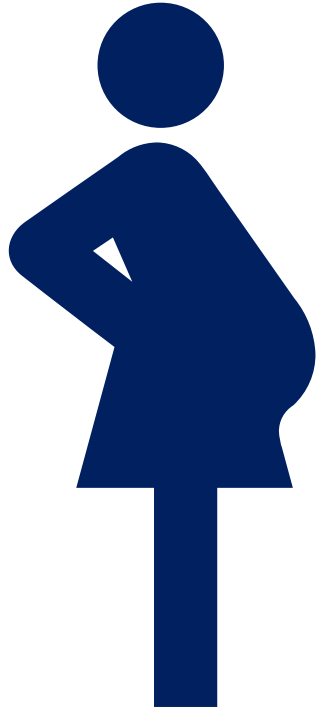
- If states without any EITC implemented a refundable EITC, an average of **668 fewer children would enter foster care** annually in each state

State Policy Option: Establishing a State Earned Income Tax Credit



26 states, D.C., Guam & Puerto Rico
have a refundable EITC
(as of August 2022)

Paid Family Leave (PFL)



Compared to states with no PFL policy, the implementation of California's 2004 PFL policy (*up to 12 weeks of partially paid leave*) was associated with a **decrease in hospital admissions for abusive head trauma** among children <1 year old and among children < 2 years old

State Policy Option: Establishing Paid Family Leave Policies

7 states have adopted and fully implemented a paid family leave program of a minimum of 6 weeks following the birth, adoption, or the placement of a child into foster care.



- **Less than 1 in 4** workers have access to paid family leave
- 11 states + D.C. have adopted a statewide paid family leave program (but not all are fully implemented)
(as of 2022)

2021: 6 states

State has newly adopted and implemented the policy since October 1, 2021

([Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center \(PN3\)](#), 2022 - graphic)
([KFF](#), 2021)

Medicaid Expansion

States that newly **expanded Medicaid** in 2014 were associated with **reductions in the average rate of child neglect reports** per state-year:

- 13% reduction for children ages 0-5
- 15% reduction for children ages 6-12
- 16% reduction for children ages 13–17 years

(compared to states that did not expand Medicaid from 2008 to 2018)

- Almost **60%** of uninsured children are eligible for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- **7.6%** of children in non-expansion states, compared to 3.8% of children in expansion states, are uninsured *(as of 2019)*



State Policy Option: Expanding Medicaid

39

states have adopted and fully implemented the Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act that includes coverage for most adults with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level.

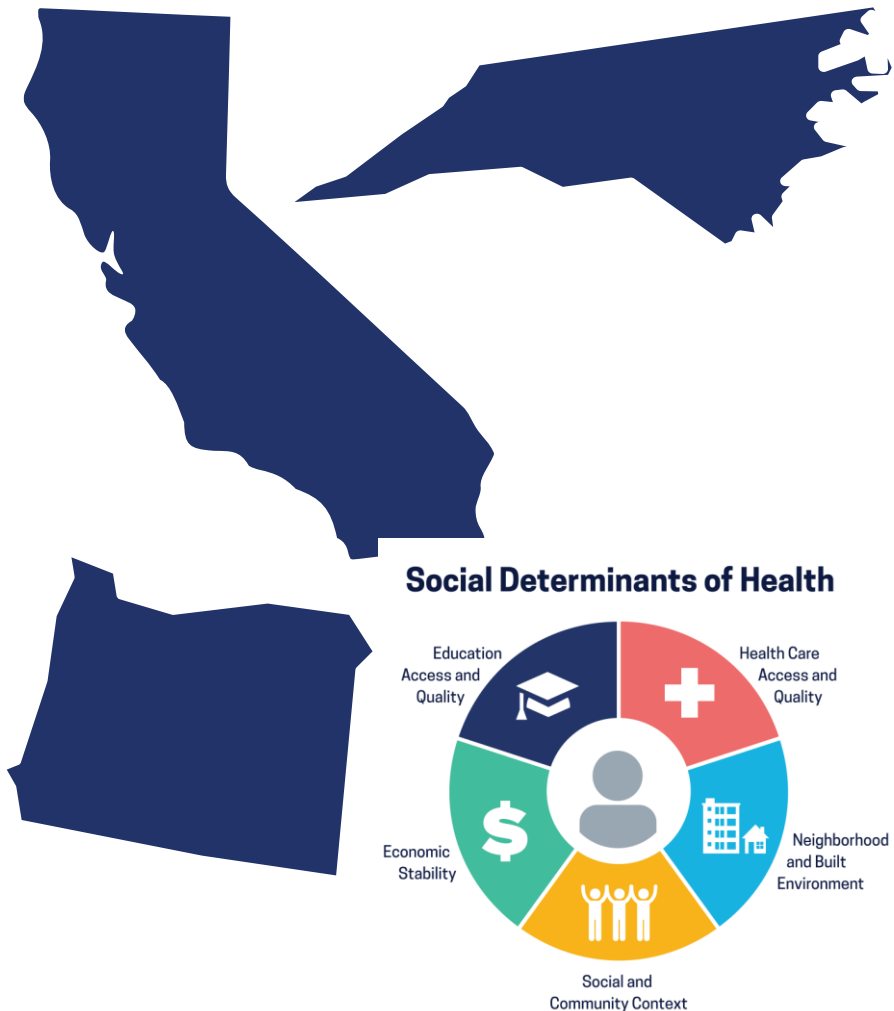


2021: 39 states

About **4.3 million uninsured adults** would become newly eligible for Medicaid if all 12 non-expansion states expanded income eligibility for Medicaid to 138% of the federal poverty line
(as of 2019)

([Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center \(PN3\)](#), 2022 - graphic) ([KFE](#), 2021)

State Policy Option: Leveraging Opportunities to Use Medicaid Funding to Address Social Determinants of Health



North Carolina – [Healthy Opportunities](#) (2022)

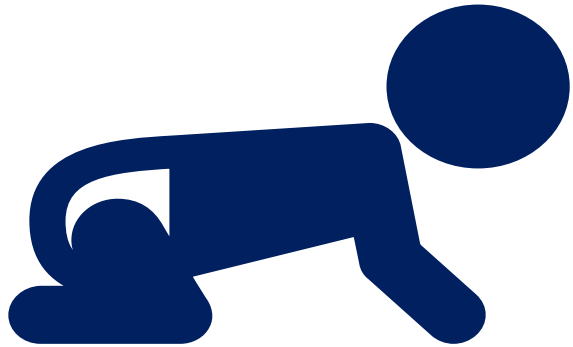
California – [CalAIM](#) (2022)

Oregon – [Oregon Health Plan](#) (2022)

Medicaid waivers shifting to a population health approach prioritize prevention & social determinants of health

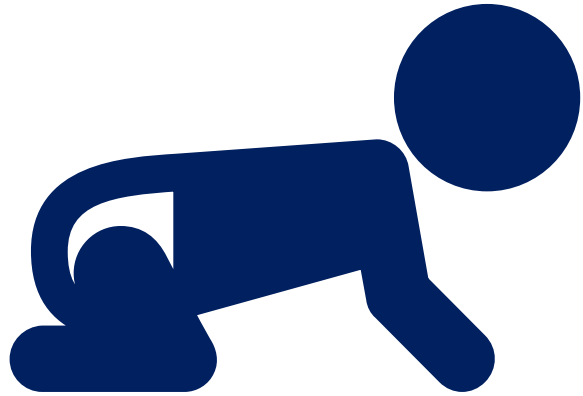
- Provide non-medical supports related to **housing, food & transportation** for those with complex needs
- Improve individual & community health

Child Care Subsidies



States with more flexible Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) program policies regarding subsidies for child welfare-supervised children have, on average, **fewer child removals** than other states

Child Care Subsidies

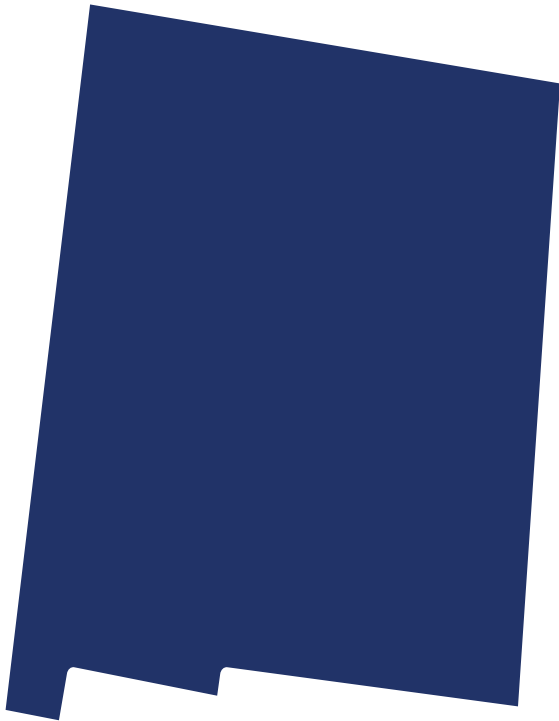


Each additional month that mothers who are low-income receive a child care subsidy is associated with a **16% decrease in the odds of a neglect report** (*in the following 12 months*)

State Policy Option: Increasing Access to Child Care for Families

New Mexico

- From 2022 to 2023, **child care will be free for most families** (*family of four earning up to about \$111,000*)
- Goal is to develop a **free, universal child care system**
 - In November 2022, New Mexico will vote on a measure that would guarantee a **constitutional right to early childhood education**
 - If approved, it would create a **dedicated funding stream** (*from the state's Land Grant Permanent Fund*) for universal preschool & child care and bolster home-visiting programs for new parents



Supportive Housing



Children of child welfare-involved families who face housing instability and receive a supportive housing program (housing voucher + case management) experience:

- **Fewer removals** (*9% vs. 40% in business-as-usual control group after 2 years*)
- **Lower prevalence of substantiated maltreatment** (*8% vs. 26% in control group after 18 months*)
- **Increased reunification** (*30% vs. 9% in control group after 2 years*)

State Policy Option: Providing Short-Term Housing Support to Families Involved with Child Welfare



Wisconsin – [Family Keys Pilot Program](#) (2022)

- Will provide **short-term housing funds** to families with children at risk of removal due to housing insecurity & to families unable to reunify due to inadequate housing
- Short-term housing funds will be used for **hotel costs, short-term rentals & expenses related to finding and maintaining housing** (*security deposits, housing application fees, utility costs*)

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

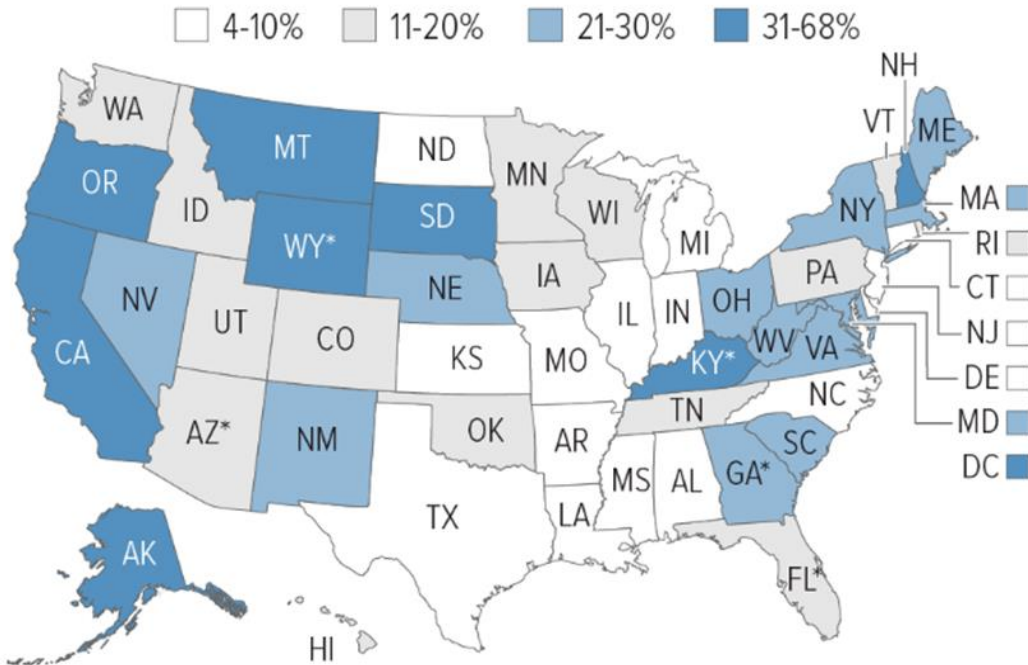


A 10% increase in state public benefit levels (*AFDC/TANF + the value of food stamps*) for a family of four is predicted to **reduce foster care placements by 8%**

Increasing TANF Cash Assistance

Most States Spend Small Share of TANF Funds on Basic Assistance to Help Families

Share of TANF funds spent on basic assistance, 2020



*Relative foster care payments and adoption/guardianship subsidies make up more than half of basic assistance spending by these states.

Note: TANF = Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

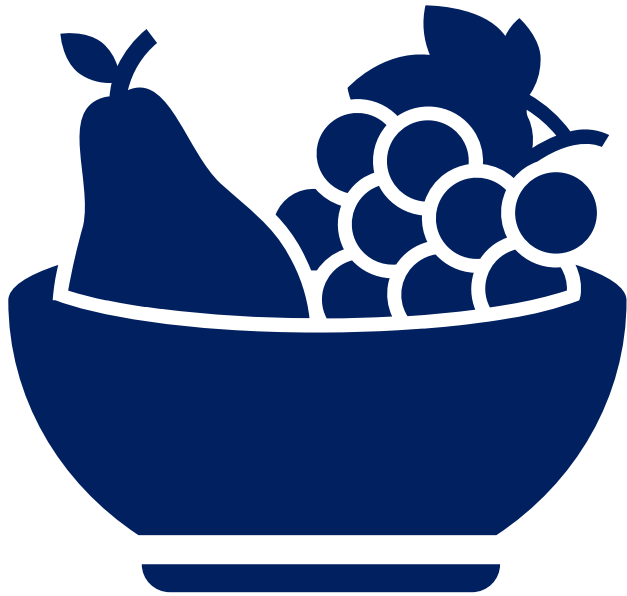
Source: CBPP analysis of 2020 Department of Health and Human Services TANF financial data

- **15 states** spend **<10%** of TANF funds on basic assistance
- **41% of Black children** live in states that spend **<10%** of TANF funds on basic assistance

Find out how your state spends its TANF funds:

<https://www.cbpp.org/research/family-income-support/state-fact-sheets-how-states-spend-funds-under-the-tanf-block-grant>

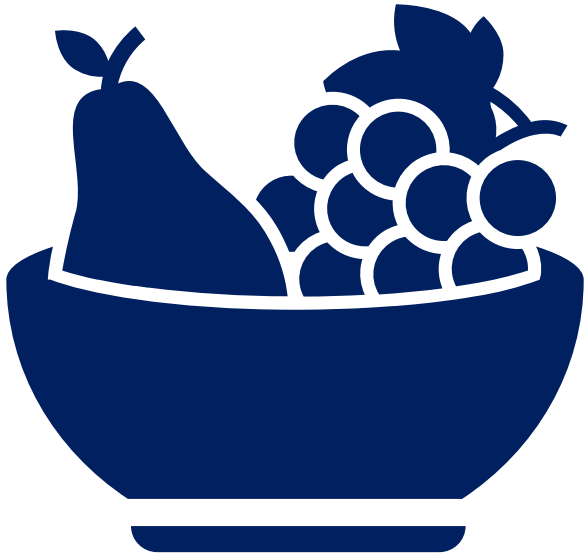
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) & Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)



Children from low-income families who participate in SNAP or WIC (jointly or alone) have a **lower risk of substantiated abuse and neglect reports**

(compared to children from low-income families who don't participate in either program)

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)



From 2004 to 2016, states with **more generous SNAP policies** experienced:

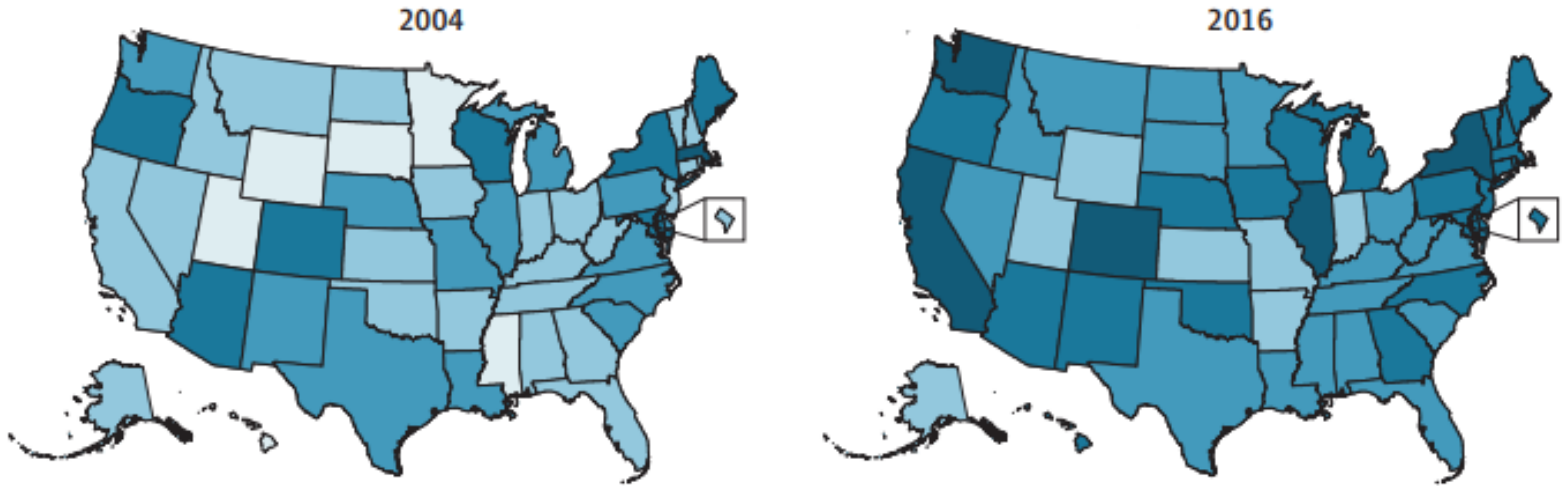
- Large reductions in CPS reports
(reduction of 352 reports per 100,000 children)*
- Fewer substantiated reports, particularly for neglect
- Fewer foster care placements

(compared to states with less generous SNAP policies)

State Policy Option: Implementing More Generous SNAP Policies

States With More Generous SNAP Policies Over Time

B Income policies in the US, 2004 and 2016



SNAP income generosity policies reviewed in the study:

- Increasing income limits under broad-based categorical eligibility
- Excluding legally obligated child support payments from total income
- Providing transitional SNAP benefits to families leaving TANF
- Using simplified reporting option for changes in household circumstances

Family Preservation with Concrete Supports



Families with open child welfare cases (mostly neglect) who receive a home-based services program with concrete supports are **less likely to experience a child maltreatment report**

(compared to families who receive the program without any concrete supports)

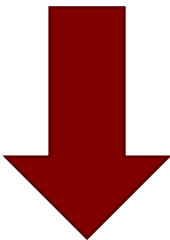
State Policy Option: Providing Concrete Supports through Family Preservation Program



From SFY 2019 to SFY 2021



Prevention
expenditures
**increased by
\$9.6 million**



Out-of-home
care expenditures
**decreased by
\$58.1 million**

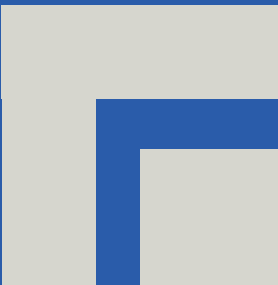
Kentucky – SFY 2022 budget

State budget included **\$1,000 in flexible funds** for families participating in Kentucky's family preservation program to meet concrete needs & prevent removal

(decline in out-of-home expenditures includes decrease in number of children in foster care [900+ less] & reductions in congregate care placements)

[\(Kentucky Interim Joint Committee on Health, Welfare & Family Services, July 21, 2021\)](#)

Relationship Between
Macroeconomic Factors & Child Welfare
Involvement Suggests the Need for a
Population-Level Public Health Approach to
Prevention



Higher Income Inequality Is Associated with Higher Child Maltreatment Rates



At the county level, higher income inequality—*independent of child poverty rates*—is associated with **higher rates of substantiated child maltreatment**

- The impact of income inequality on child maltreatment rates is greatest in counties with the highest levels of child poverty

County Spending on Prevention Services is Associated with Individual Maltreatment Investigations



Mothers receiving WIC benefits in counties with **greater amounts of per child spending on prevention services** have **lower odds of individual child maltreatment investigations**, compared to those who live in counties that spend less

(controlling for individual and county-level risks for maltreatment)

➤ The effect of county prevention spending on individual maltreatment investigations is **irrespective of actual receipt** of prevention services

Prevention services included:

- Domestic violence, parenting, substance abuse & mental health services
- Home visiting programs
- In-home counseling programs
- Flexible funding
- Resource & referral to community resources
- Family team meetings, wraparound programs & coordinated service teams
- Support groups
- Respite care
- Youth services

Connecting Families to Resources via Universal Home Visiting to Reduce Child Maltreatment at Population Level



Family Connects (FC) is a community-wide nurse home visiting program for families with newborns

- **Short-term:** 1–3 home visits to assess family needs (with a focus on material needs), address family needs with collaborative connections to community resources, and provide education & intervention as needed
- **Randomized clinical trial** of all families with births in two county hospitals in Durham, NC found that:
 - **Families assigned to FC experienced 39% fewer CPS investigations through age 5** (*compared to those who didn't receive FC*)
- Findings suggest that, when implemented with high quality and broad reach, a brief postpartum nurse home visiting program connecting families to resources can **reduce population rates of child maltreatment**

Economic & Concrete Supports As a Population-Level Strategy for Prevention of Child Maltreatment

Each additional \$1,000 that states spend annually on public benefit programs per person living in poverty is associated with:

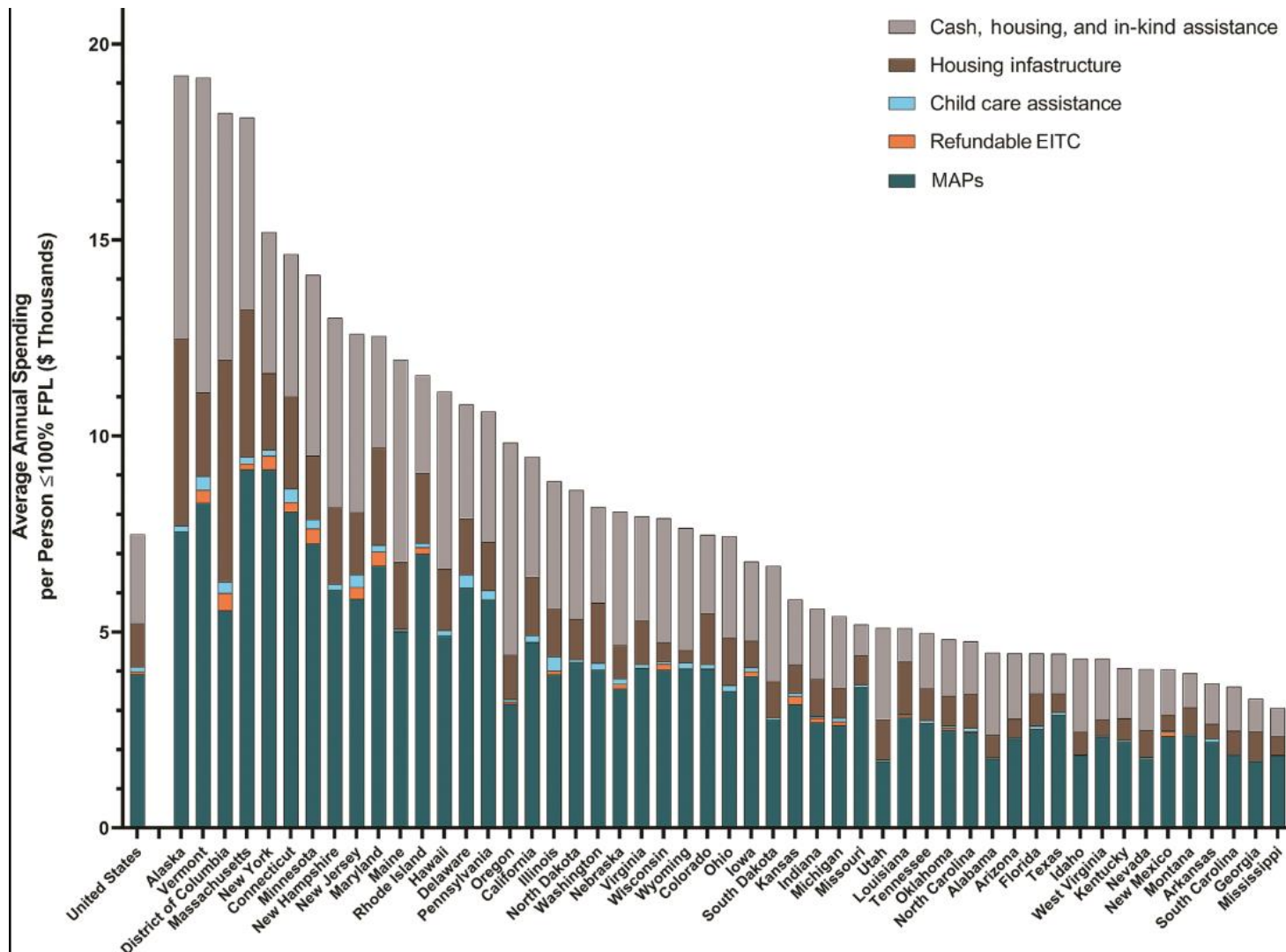
- 4.3% reduction in child maltreatment reports
- 4% reduction in substantiated child maltreatment
- 2.1% reduction in foster care placements
- 7.7% reduction in child fatalities due to maltreatment

(independent of federal spending)

Public benefit programs included in this analysis:

- ✓ Cash, housing, & in-kind assistance
- ✓ Low-income housing infrastructure development
- ✓ Child care assistance
- ✓ Refundable EITC
- ✓ Medical assistance programs (including Medicaid + CHIP)

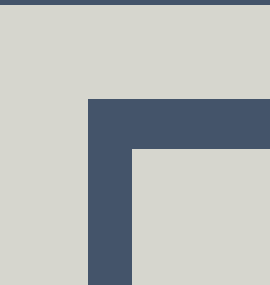
State Policy Option: Level and Mix of State Spending on Public Benefits Per Person Living in Poverty



States' total annualized spending on public benefit programs (FFY 2010 – 2017)

[Puls, 2021](#)

Resource Considerations for Building a Child & Family Well-being System



Annual Costs of Child Maltreatment in the U.S.

- **\$80 billion** = direct & indirect costs of child maltreatment (2012)
- **\$428 billion** = economic burden due to *substantiated* child maltreatment (lifetime costs incurred annually) (2015)
- **\$2 trillion** = economic burden due to *investigated* child maltreatment (lifetime costs incurred annually) (2015)

Total Annual Public Expenditures on Child Welfare Systems in the U.S.

- **\$33 billion** = total direct public expenditures by state & local child welfare agencies (SFY 2018)

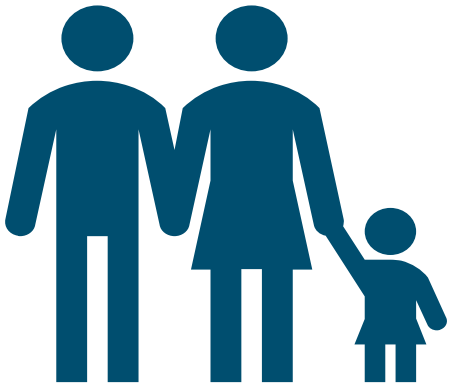
Proportion of federal and state/local expenditures on categories of services



- *Find your state's prevention percentage in the Child Trends Financing Study*
- *What would it take to flip this percentage?*

The Negative Social Return of Foster Care

Every \$1 spent on foster care for a child =
Negative social return of -\$3.64 to -\$9.55



- An estimated **6% of all children, 15% of Native American children and 11% of Black children** spend some time in foster care by age 18
- While foster care remains a necessity for some children, there is no consistent evidence that as an intervention it is beneficial broadly to children & there is substantial evidence that it is associated with **poor outcomes**

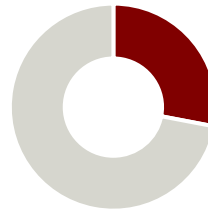
(Nielsen, 2019) (Wildeman, 2014)
(Doyle, 2007) (Sariaslan, 2022)
(Hobbs, 2021)

Human Longevity Costs of Poverty & Family Instability

Compared to children who do not experience early life adversity:

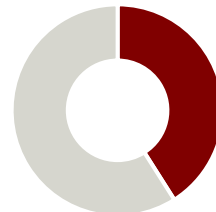
Children who experience **family instability**

(changes in parents' marital status; parental divorce/separation, frequent changes in residence; parent or sibling death; **foster care**)



Are associated with a **28% higher risk for premature death**

Children who experience **poverty + crowded housing**



Are associated with a **41% higher risk for premature death**

“

Once adversities occur, findings such as ours highlight the importance of **integrating anti-poverty programs with family-based interventions** in mitigating the long-term consequences of early adversity.

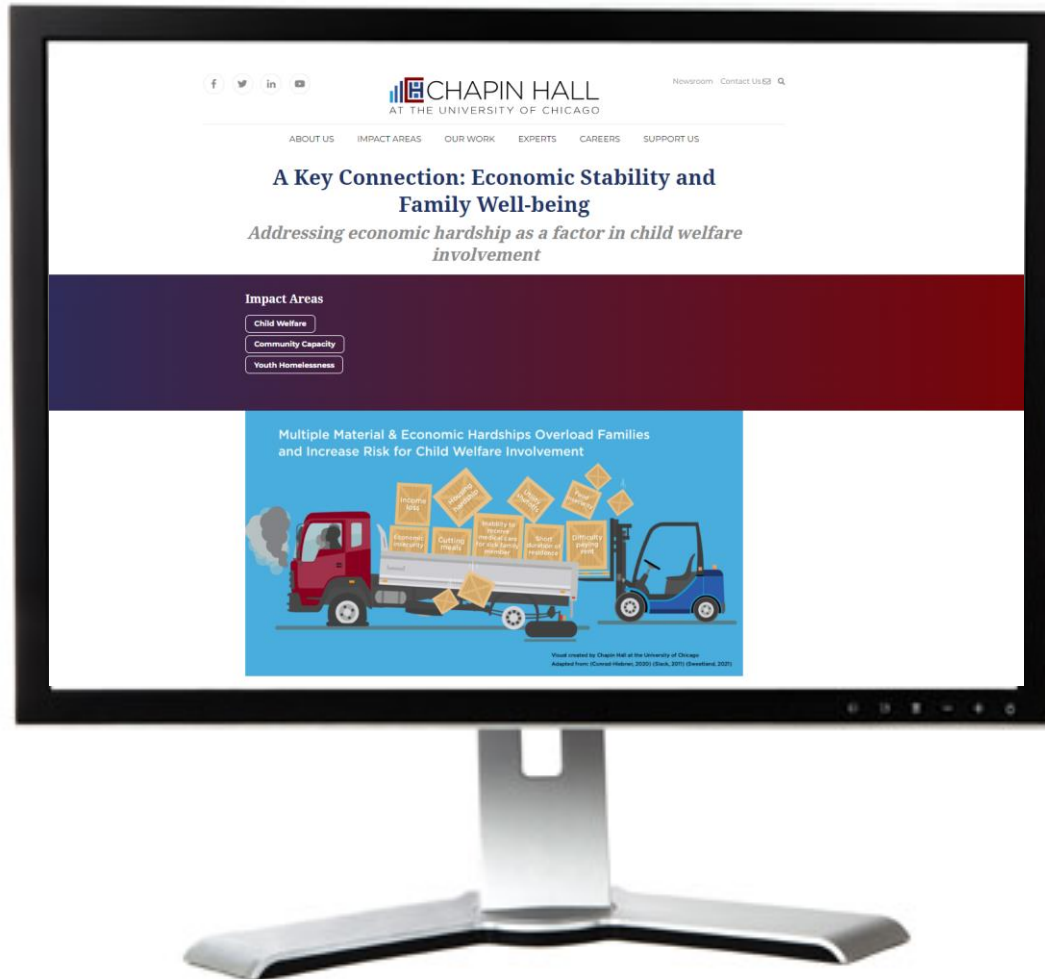
”

(Yu, 2022 - five-decade birth cohort longitudinal study)

RECONCEPTUALIZING AND RESOURCING
FAMILY WELL-BEING AND PREVENTION OF
CHILD WELFARE WITH
ECONOMIC & CONCRETE SUPPORTS



Chapin Hall Resources



[Chapinhall.org/ecspjroject](https://chapinhall.org/ecspjroject)

(Weiner, Anderson & Thomas, 2021)

(Anderson, Grewal-Kök, Cusick, Weiner & Thomas, 2021)

Contact

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Suggested citation:

Anderson, C., Grewal-Kök, Y., Cusick, G., Weiner, D., & Thomas, K. (2022). Family and child well-being system: Economic and concrete supports as a core component. [Power Point slides]. Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

Main slide deck available at:

[Chapinhall.org/ecsproject](https://chapinhall.org/ecsproject)

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