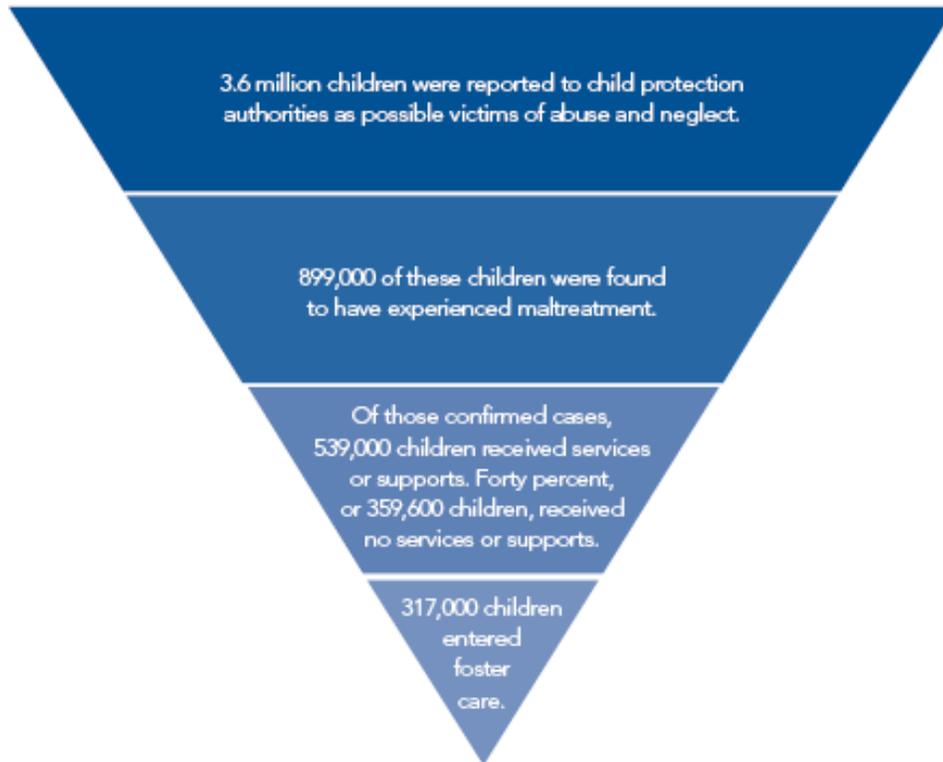


Freundlich, M. (2007). Time for reform: Investing in prevention: Keeping children safe at home. Retrieved on 6/5/09 from: [http://www.preventchildabuse.org/about\\_us/media\\_releases/pew\\_kaw\\_prevention\\_report\\_final.pdf](http://www.preventchildabuse.org/about_us/media_releases/pew_kaw_prevention_report_final.pdf)

Children with disabilities are not mentioned in the report....

- P. 3
  - “Approximately 3.6 million children were reported to child protection authorities as possible victims of abuse and neglect in 2005.”
  - “...it is estimated only 2.5 percent of these children receive any kind of preventive services.”
  - “of the 899,000 confirmed cases of maltreatment, our child welfare system provides services or supports to approximately 60 percent of the children.”
  - “Approximately 359,000 children with confirmed cases of abuse or neglect receive no services or supports. See figure 1.

**FIGURE 1—Children Served Through Child Welfare Systems**



Source: US Department of Health and Human Services. (2006). *Child Maltreatment 2005*. Available on-line at: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cm05/chaptersix.htm#post> (accessed November 9, 2007).

- p. 4
  - “This report examines the role that child welfare programs play in keeping children safe and helping families remain together whenever possible.”
  - “Currently, there are insufficient preventive and reunification services in place—services that have proven to be effective in improving outcomes for children and families. This report highlights some prevention and reunification programs that have shown promising results.”
    - “In 2005, approximately 311,000 children entered foster care.”
      - “They will remain on average for three years and be moved three or more times.”
      - “The majority of children who enter foster care each year return to their families. More than 154,000 children, or 54 percent of the children leaving care, returned home in 2005.”
      - “Children who leave foster care to be reunified with their parents tend to leave foster care rather quickly. The average length of time that children, who left foster care to reunification in 2005, had been in care was 6 months.”
- P. 5

- "...the majority of federal funds dedicated to child welfare can only be accessed *after* a child has been removed from the family, and they can be used only to pay for foster care placements—with foster families, in group homes and in child care institutions—and related services."
- "...in many cases, the very services that families need are not available. Studies, for example, have found that children whose families have housing problems are almost twice as likely to enter foster care as children whose families do not have these problems.<sup>15</sup>
- "...children are most often placed in foster care because of neglect. As Table 1 shows, neglect, when combined with families' housing problems, has consistently been the principal reason that many children enter foster care."
- "The rate of removals because of neglect, in fact, increased 17 percent between 2000 and 2005, or by nearly 35,000 cases."
- "...it is neglect, not abuse, that accounts for the majority of children's entries to foster care."
- Neglect...many forms...
  - "...there is too little income to provide their children with food, health care, and other necessities that their children need."
  - "...the lack of affordable quality housing results in homelessness or substandard living conditions that pose risks to their children's and their own safety"
  - "...parents must work two or more jobs and struggle to provide their children with appropriate supervision while the parents are at work. Child care for many families is unaffordable."
  - "And for some parents, depression and other mental health conditions undermine their ability to provide adequately for their children."
- P. 6
  - "Neglect may also occur when parents struggle with substance abuse, an issue that has become increasingly prevalent over the last several years. In 2005, nearly 75,000 children and youth were removed from their families because of parental substance abuse—a 42 percent increase over the 2000 rate."
  - "When prevention services and supports are not available for families, the only solution often is the placement of children in foster care—which in and of itself can be a traumatic experience for children and create greater stresses on already fragile families."
- P. 7
  - "When these services and supports are lacking in communities, child welfare agencies are often forced to remove children from their families to protect them."
  - Identifies the characteristics of effective prevention programs:
    - Strengthen-based family services
    - Cultural sensitivity
    - Comprehensive and holistic approaches
  - List a number of promising programs...no mention of children with disabilities...I wonder if/how many are prepared/geared for such services
- P. 10

- Noted the “Family Preservation: Ft. Berthold Reservation, North Dakota program....proven to be very effective in its use with Native Americans...tell Dessa about this
- P. 14
  - Success rate of placing children back into their homes...
    - “...From the research literature on reunification, it is clear that reunification is much more likely to take place earlier in children’s foster care placements than later. One study found that children’s probability of reunifying with their families is 28 percent during their first year in foster care. During their second year in foster care, the probability of reunification declines to 16 percent. For children who continue to remain in foster care, the probability of reunification declines further each year.”
    - “Infants are least likely to be reunified with their parents. One study found that only about 35 percent of children under the age of 1 in foster care were reunified compared to slightly more than half of the children ages 1 to 5 and 6 to 12.”
  - Impact of race upon removal and reunification...
    - “Removal and reunification outcomes for children and youth vary by race.<sup>42</sup> Research has demonstrated that Black and American Indian/Alaskan Native children are disproportionately removed from their families and placed in foster care.<sup>43</sup> Of the total number of children exiting foster care in 2005, Black children were the least likely to be reunified with their families when compared to children of other races/ethnicities.”
  - A list of promising reunification programs is provided...again, no mention of children with disabilities...
- P. 15
  - One of the listed programs is “Parent Advocates and Parent Mentors” ...possible similarities with Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side program?
- P. 18
  - Cost of child abuse in the U.S....
    - “Prevent Child Abuse America recently estimated that the total annual cost of child abuse in the United States was nearly \$104 billion in 2007.<sup>60</sup> These costs include more than \$33 billion in direct costs of child maltreatment, including judicial, foster care, law enforcement, and health system responses, and \$70 billion in indirect costs, including the long-term economic effects of child abuse and neglect. The cost of providing foster care alone, including local, state and federal dollars, was \$23 billion in 2004.”
- P. 20-21
  - Excellent presentation entitled “A brief history of federal child welfare policy: prevention and reunification”
- P. 22
  - Outline of the Federal funding streams concerning child welfare
- P. 24

- Federal funding for prevention vs. response...
  - “Given the federal financing structure, child welfare agencies currently must depend on other non-child welfare federal sources, or they must draw on state and local dollars to provide prevention and reunification services and supports to keep at risk children safe and families together.”
- P. 26-27
  - Recommendations...policy level...re. how to improve the child welfare system and strengthen families...no mention of children with disabilities.