



Consider your entry criteria

Recommended criteria

For FTCs

- Meet assessment criteria for an SUD/AUD/ODD
- Does not have certain felony charges in history
- Child or children have a safety threat
- That safety threat is cause for a dependency filing

- High risk/high need

For ECCs

- Does not have certain felony charges in history
- Child or children have a safety threat
- That safety threat is cause for a dependency filing

- Has a child under 3 years of age

- High risk/High need

Recommended criteria

For ICW courts

- Child or children have a safety threat
- That safety threat is cause for a dependency filing
- The Child is enrolled or can be enrolled in a federally recognized tribe

- High risk/high need



Talk for a moment

Make sure that everyone in your group understands the entrance criteria as they currently are

What we know

About High Contact Collaborative Dependency Courts

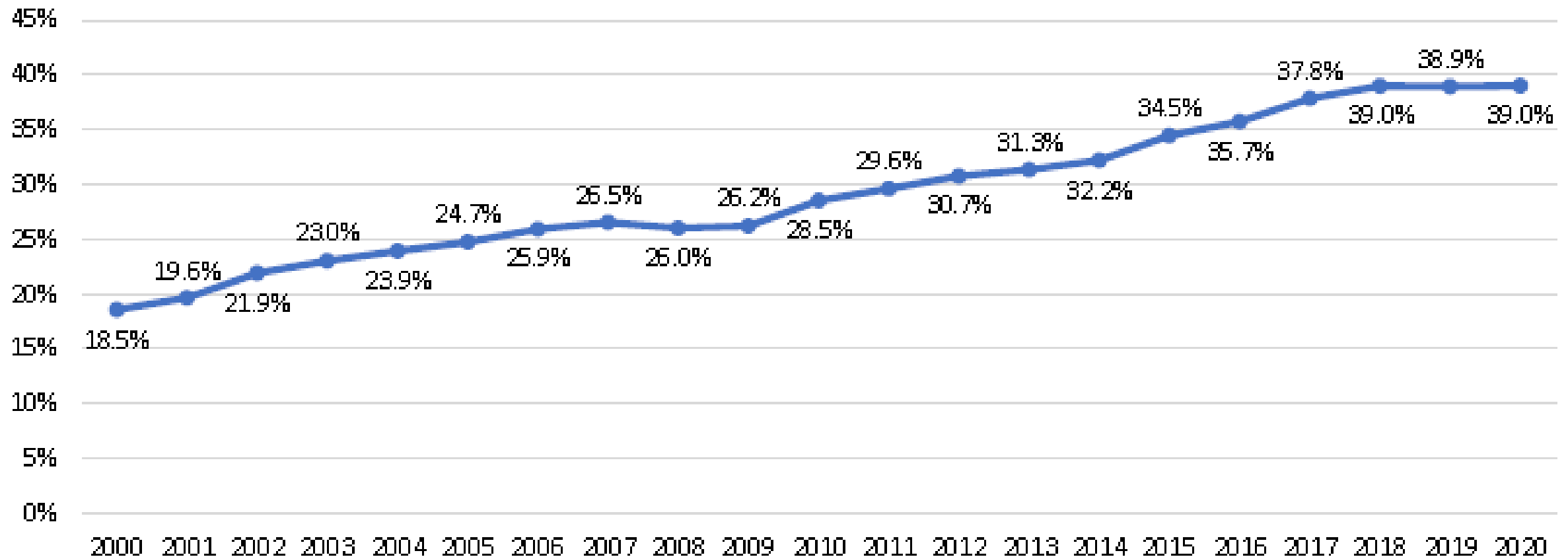
National Data



Children impacted by substance use have poorer outcomes in the child welfare system than those that don't

- Longer out-of-home
- Less Likely to Reunify
- More likely to have termination of parental rights

Prevalence of Parental Alcohol or Drug Abuse as an Identified Condition of Removal in the United States, 2000 to 2020

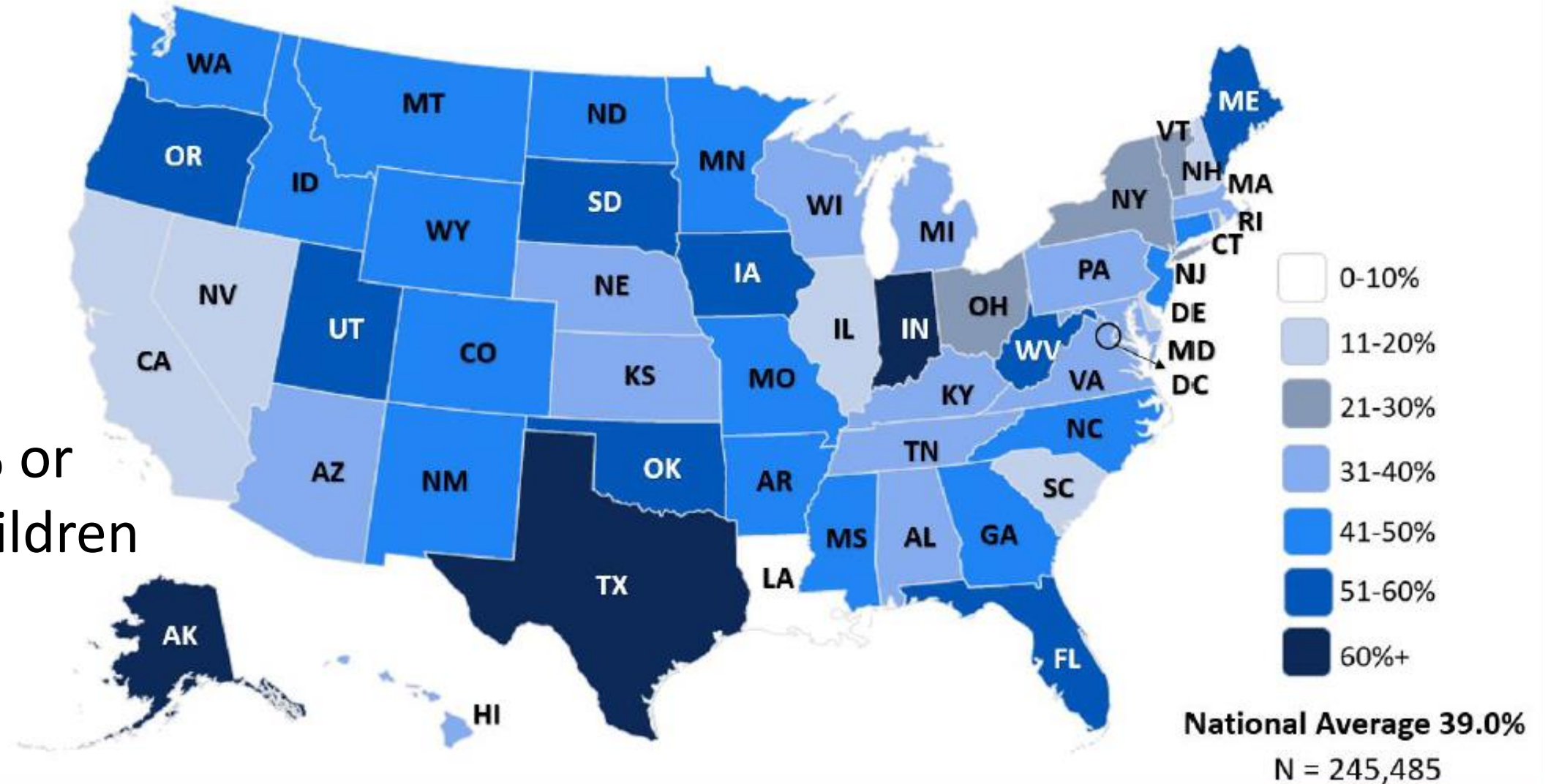


These data indicate that the prevalence of parental alcohol or other drug (AOD) abuse as an identified condition of removal of children and placement in out-of-home care has increased from 2000 to 2020. Data from 2000 show a prevalence rate of 18.5%. This increased to 39.0% in 2020, an increase of 20.5%.

Note: Estimates based on all children in out of home care at some point during Fiscal Year

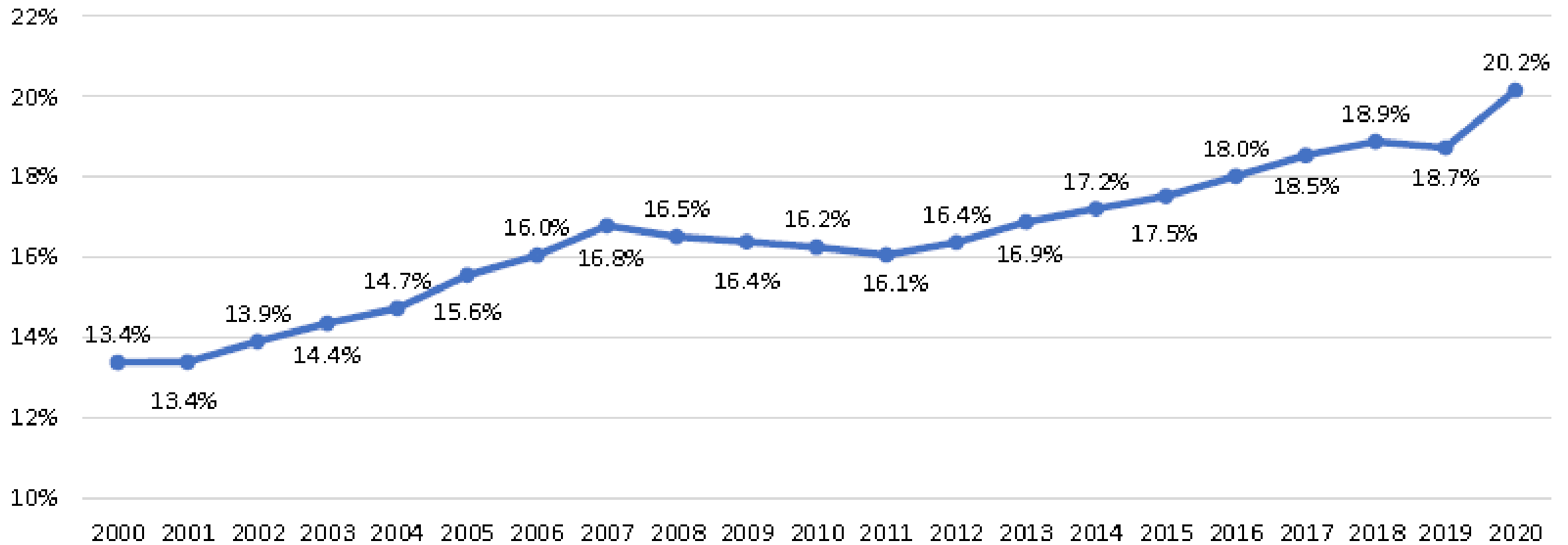
Source: AFCARS Data, 2000-2020

Parental Alcohol or Drug Abuse as an Identified Condition of Removal by State, 2020



WA 44% or
6648 children

Percent of Children Under Age 1 who Entered Out of Home Care in the United States, 2000 to 2020*



From 2000-2018, the percentage of children under age 1 entering out-of-home care steadily increased. Data from Fiscal Year 2019 showed a slight decrease; a reduction of only 0.2%. Data from Fiscal Year 2020 showed an increase of 1.5% from the previous year. Whereas children under 1 represented 13.4% of total removals in 2000, this has increased to close to a quarter (20.2%) of all removals in the most recent fiscal year.

*Note: Estimates based on children who entered out of home care during Fiscal Year
2020 Estimates may be influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic

Source: AFCARS Data, 2000-2020

Early Childhood in Washington



34% of the filed dependencies in 2021 were under 1 year old

An additional 13% are under 3



Entries into care are down across all categories, while participation in voluntary services is increasing

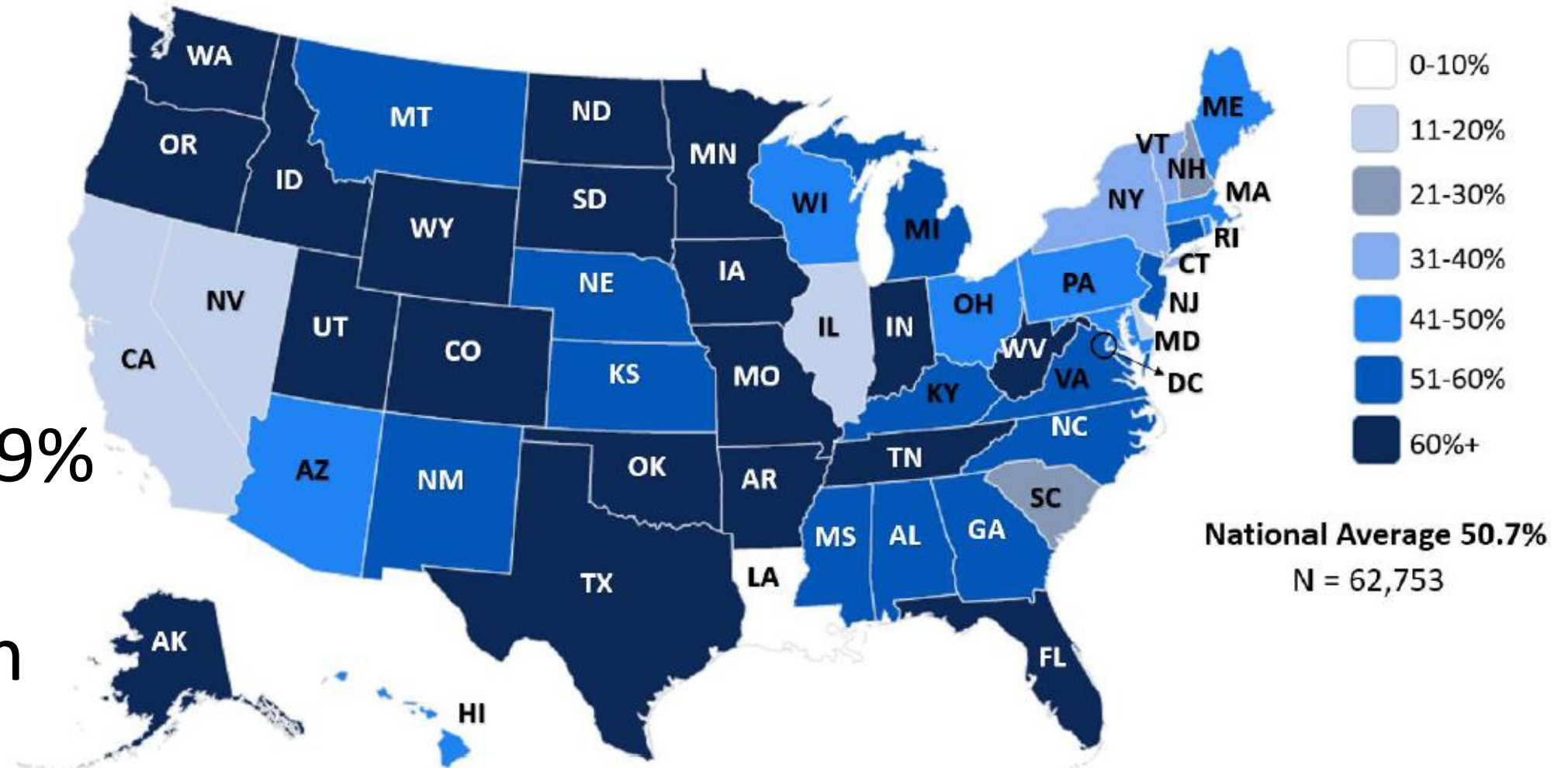
All entries into care		
	July 1-Sept 29, 2022	July 1-Sept 29, 2023*
Voluntary Placements	143	115
Protective Custodies	436	336
Court Approved Placements	280	159
Cases Receiving Services		
Family Voluntary Services	1,281	1,417

*2023 data are observed, not adjusted for known data lag, so may increase somewhat as more case data are entered into FamLink



Parental Alcohol or Drug Abuse as an Identified Condition of Removal for Children Under 1 Year old in 2020

WA 64.9%
= 2469
children



The Risk Increases in these cases

Infants and Toddlers are high in developmental needs

Substance use cases are statistically less likely to have positive outcomes in dependency

Identification of the imminent **threat** to safety can be challenging but there are some clear concerns

But what about success rates in collaborative courts?

Family treatment court participation and permanency in a rural setting – Sieger et al

FTC Treatment Group:

91 children with an open dependency

Assigned to an integrated FTC in a rural midwestern town

Dependency Comparison Group:

146 children with an open dependency

Assigned to non-FTC dependency court

Family treatment court participation and permanency in a rural setting – Sieger et al

FTC Treatment Group:

170% (to 292%) more likely to reunify

58% (to 292%) more likely to achieve permanency

Of note: they also reported that only 8% of these cases had no major co-occurring service needs.

Dependency Comparison Group

This is consistent with other outcome research, including what we've seen in published results from King County.

There have been studies (Moore et al 2020) that showed similar outcomes in FTC and non-FTC cases. None have showed worse outcomes.

Benefits of including families in ADC too



- Adult Drug Court participants that are provided family-centered services (as recommended by FTC and ADC Best Practice Standards) have reduced recidivism (Carey, Mackin, Finigan 2012)

OPT in vs OPT out models

- Mason County FRC has had some success with an Opt Out model
 - Still struggle with engagement
 - Some challenge identifying cases to FRC vs another grant opportunity

Infusion or Hybrid Models

- Colorado Family Treatment Courts have implemented a program they call INFUSION
- Judge Owens in Ohio, has developed a robust Hybrid Model

Therapeutic Court as an ordered service

- Texas Courts have a “track” of dependency that does not require a removal
- This is fully separate from Voluntary Programs and from out of home dependency
- Children Remain in home, but with ordered services (one of which can be Family Treatment Court, Early Childhood Court, or ICW Court)

BFF | Better for Families

Six Principles of BFF

1. Early universal screening for SUD

2. Enhanced judicial practice

3. Timely access to treatment

4. Enhanced communication

5. Data collection and sharing

6. Multi-system cross training

Is a dependency filing necessary to enter your program and why?

Is one of these models possible? What barriers are there?

How can we “triage” cases that are high risk/high need from (or before) Shelter Care?

Can we partner with DCYF earlier to discuss safety?