

Multi-System Families in Illinois

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Measuring Incarceration in
Household Surveys

ChapinHall at the University of Chicago

Policy research that benefits children, families, and their communities

The Multi-System Family Study

- Overview and highlights
- Approach
- Findings
- Future directions

Overview

Study rationale

- A small number of families in Illinois use a large portion of the State's service resources.
- If the State could understand where these families are and what services they are using, the State could provide more adequate and efficient services.

Major problems identified for study

- Mental health service, claimed through Medicaid
- Substance abuse treatment, claimed through Medicaid
- Adult incarceration
- Juvenile incarceration
- Foster care

We are probably underestimating the statistics because we are not including all services, only the costliest.

Definitions

Definition of a “family”

- Individuals who were “linked” through the membership in Food Stamps or TANF cases, or were involved in a DCFS case
- 90% of these families had 10 or fewer members

Definition of a “problem”

- An instance of mental health service, substance abuse treatment, adult incarceration, juvenile incarceration, or foster care placement.

Definition of a “Multi-system Family”

- A family whose members had at least two different types of problems (e.g. adult incarceration and substance abuse)

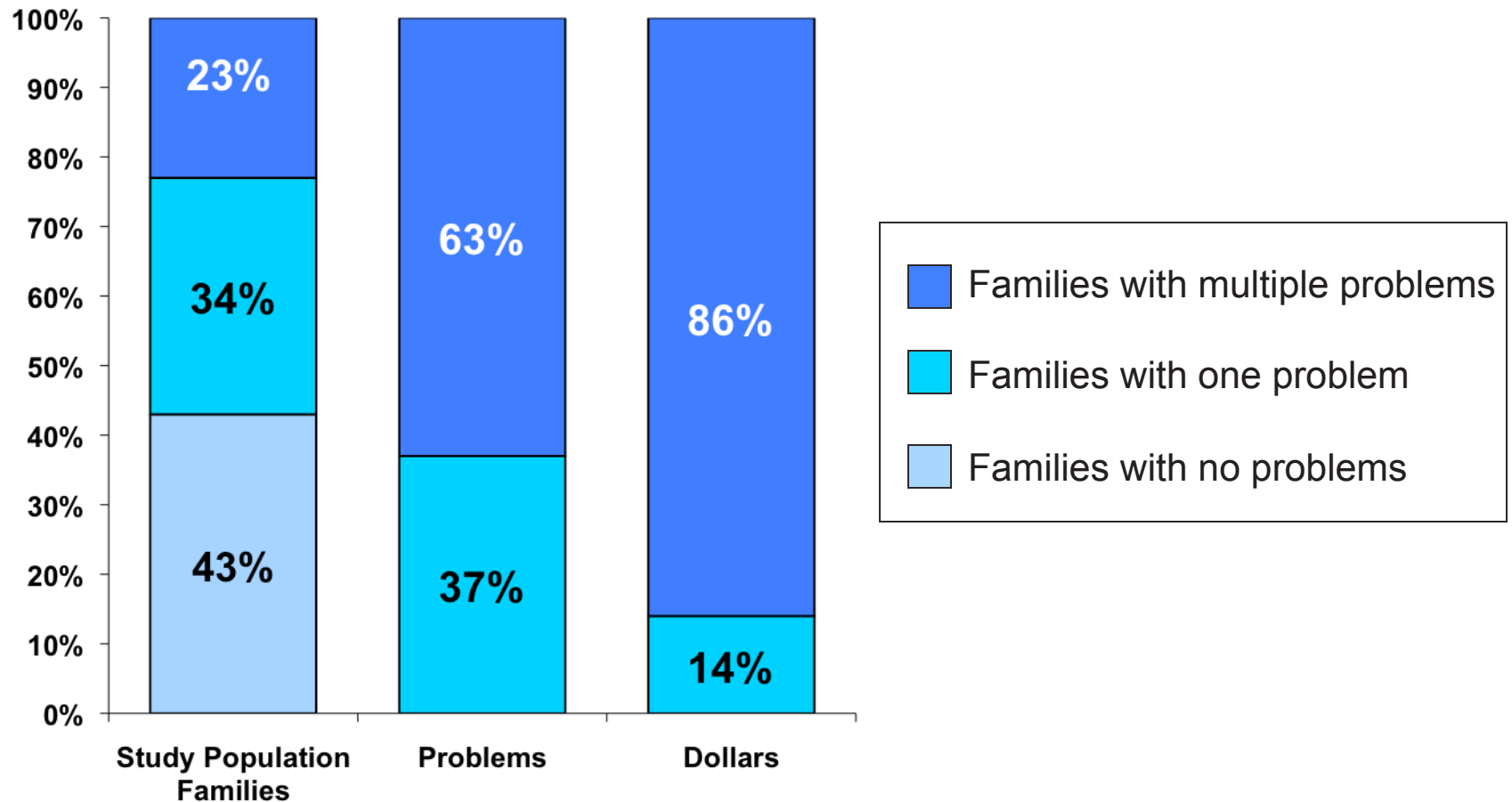
Costs

- Total per unit foster care, Medicaid, adult and juvenile incarceration dollars

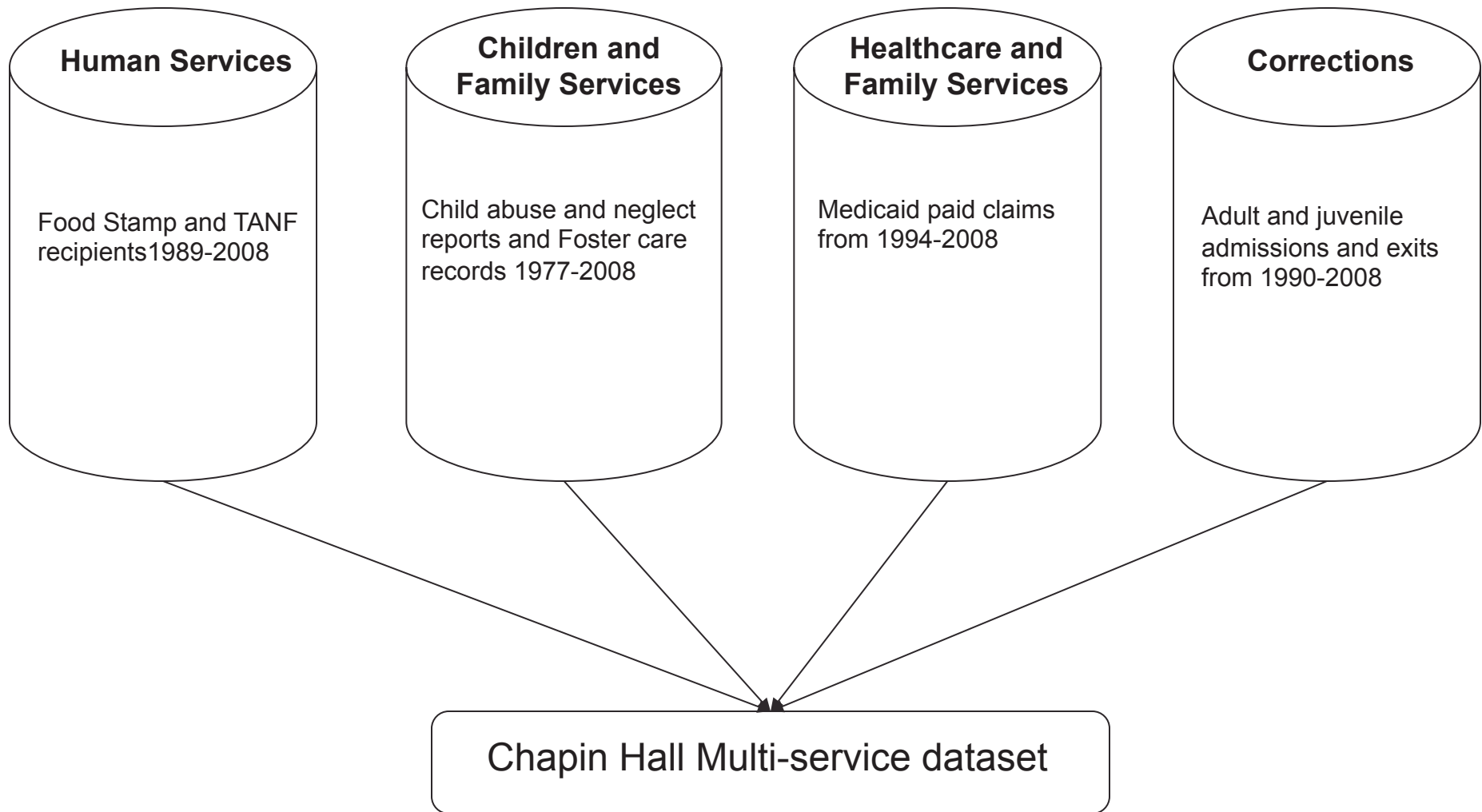
Highlights of Findings

- **23 percent** of the study population were Multi-system Families (MSFs)
- MSFs accounted for **63 percent** of the total number of problems
- The MSFs accounted for **86 percent** of the dollars spent on all of the families in the study population


Multi-Problem Families Account for a Large Proportion of the Problems and Expenditures



Chapin Hall linked separate program data across Illinois departments



Criminal and Juvenile Justice Data



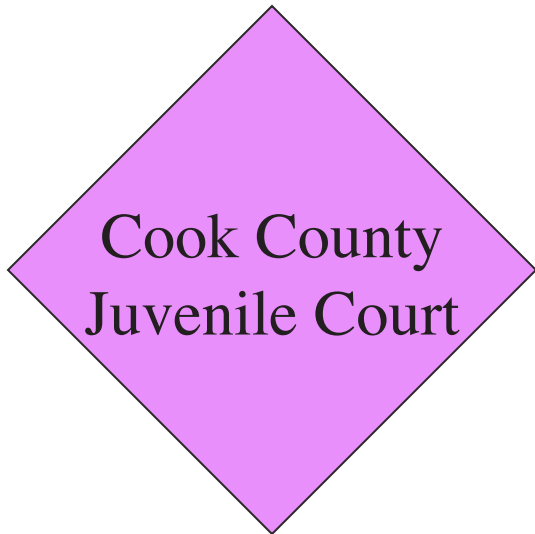
Departments of
Corrections and
Juvenile Justice

Adult and Juvenile
1991-present
Individual-level



State Police
Arrest

Adult and
Juvenile
1991-present
Individual-level



Delinquency
1990-present
Hearing-level Events
Individual-level

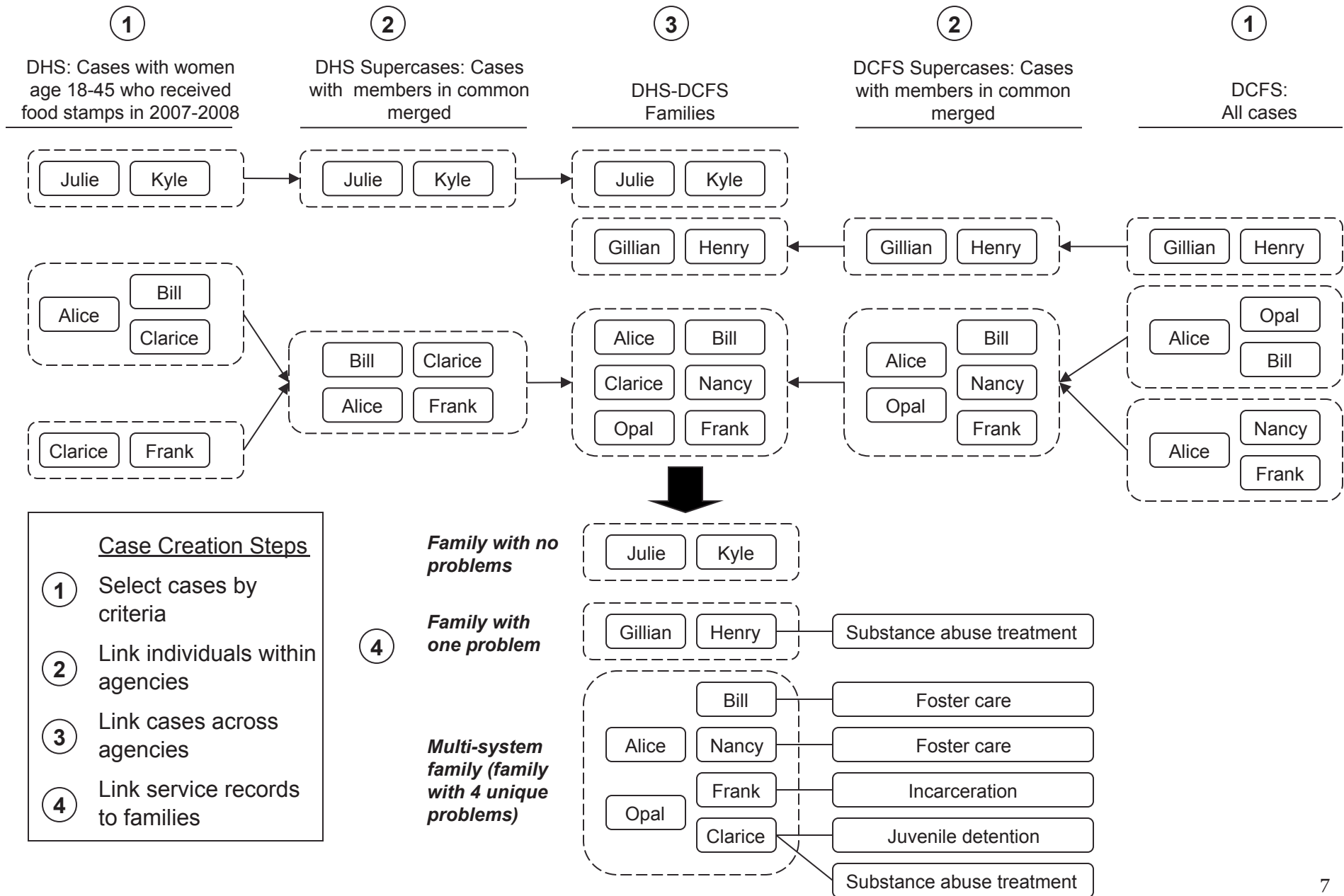


Arrests and Incidents
1995-present
Only Homicide Incidents are
“well” identified

Identifying Multi-system Families

Family

Approach



- Case Creation Steps
- 1 Select cases by criteria
 - 2 Link individuals within agencies
 - 3 Link cases across agencies
 - 4 Link service records to families

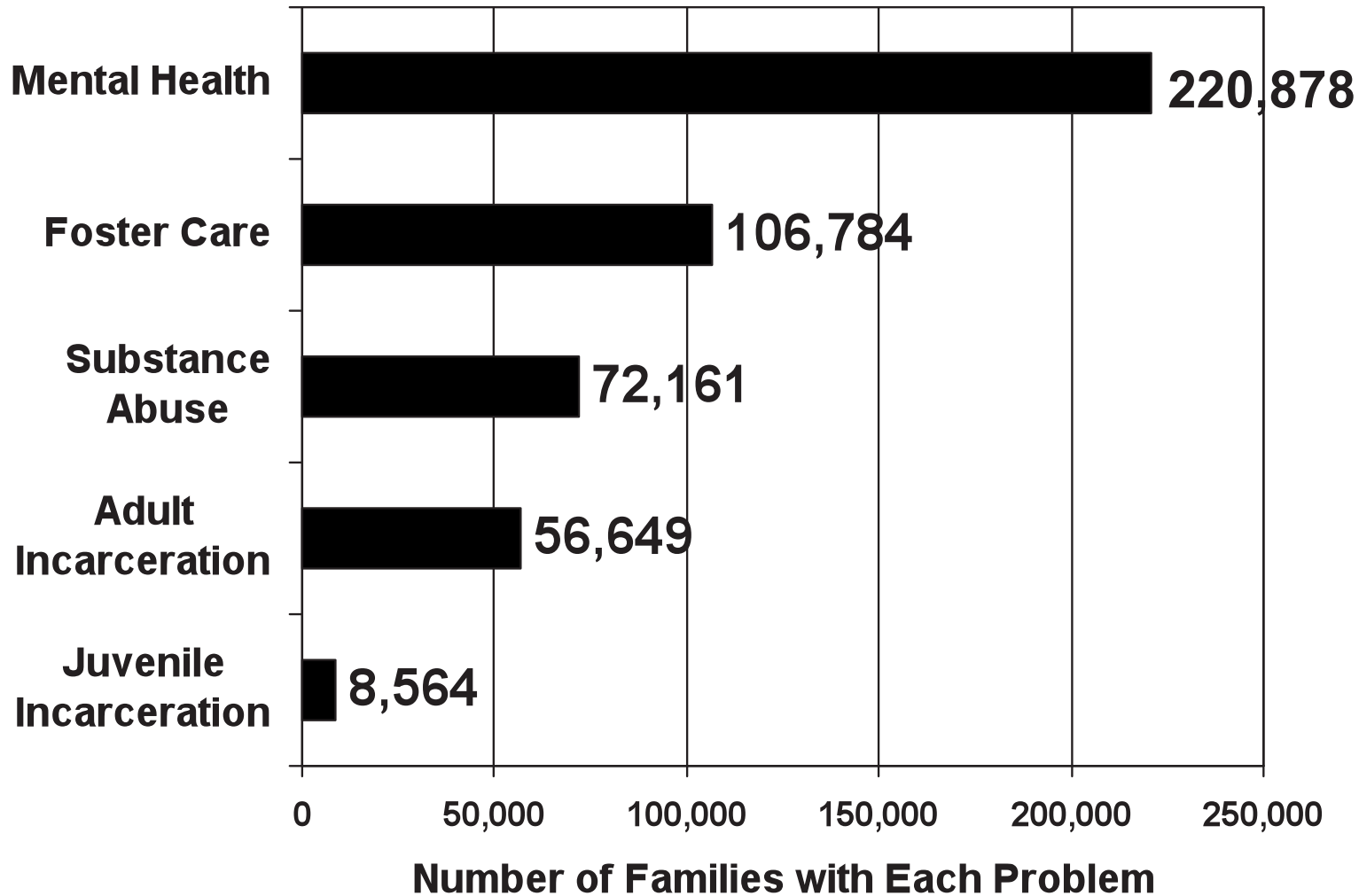
Not all agency records were linked to families

Service	Agency records in final dataset	Excluded records
Foster care	100%	None
Mental health	47%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals who could not be linked to a 2007-2008 female Food Stamp household member age 18-45 or DCFS case.
Substance abuse	53%	
Adult incarceration	33%	
Juvenile incarceration	47%	

The smallest proportion of records included is that of adult incarceration where the population is predominantly male.

We can improve upon this with other data, namely birth certificates and child support enforcement data

Mental health service was the most common problem (Total number of problems=465,036)*



*The total number of problems (465,036) exceeds the total number of families with problems (285,722) because some families have multiple problems.

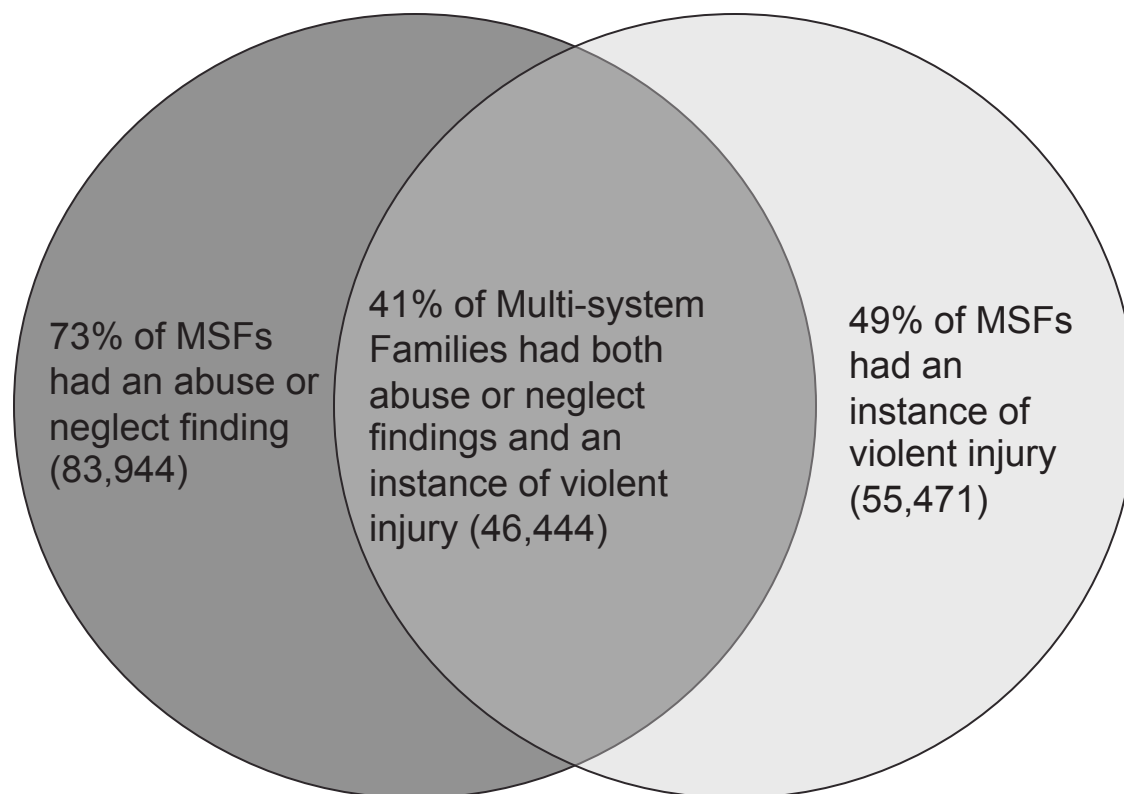
Incarceration, substance abuse treatment, and foster care were also common in Multi-system Families

	All families (502,165)		Families with one problem (171,368)		Families with multiple problems (114,355)	
Problem	Number	Percent of All Families*	Number	Percent of Families with One Problem	Number	Percent of Families with Multiple Problems**
Adult incarceration	56,649	11%	8,406	5%	48,243	42%
Juvenile incarceration	8,564	2%	366	1%<	8,198	7%
Mental health	220,878	44%	113,321	66%	107,557	94%
Substance abuse	72,161	14%	3,675	2%	68,468	60%
Foster care	106,784	21%	45,599	27%	61,185	53%

*The percentages in the “Percent of All Families” column do not total 100% because families with no problems are not included.

**The percentages in the “Percent of Families with Multiple Problems” columns do not total 100% because families with multiple problems are counted once for each problem they have.

81 percent of Multi-system Families had abuse and neglect or intentional injuries



Violent injury incidents correspond to Medicaid paid claims for CCS codes for injury due to violence and those ICD-9 codes that were found to be highly indicative of abuse, neglect or violence.

Multi-system Families: Potential future directions

Potential research area	Benefit
Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identifying unique characteristics of MSFs in specific places
Recent problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discovering the problems that may have the greatest impact on the current state of the family
Individual vs. family problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revealing whether single individuals account for multiple problems within a family or whether several family members encounter problems
Magnitude of problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delineating between families that have had few service spells versus families with multiple service spells.• Estimating the cost of providing state services to multi-problem families.
Additional family characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Problems: Asthma and chronic conditions• Assets: Employment and education
Trajectories	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct longitudinal analysis to determine when these families become MSF