



# **Meeting the Developmental Needs of Infants and Toddlers in the Child Welfare System**

**Webinar Presented by  
Child Welfare Information Gateway and  
ZERO TO THREE  
May 7, 2012**

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# Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act



## One Hundred Twelfth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE FIRST SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Wednesday,  
the fifth day of January, two thousand and eleven*

### An Act

To amend part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to extend the child and family services program through fiscal year 2016, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act".

### TITLE I—EXTENSION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAMS

#### SEC. 101. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROGRAM.

(a) EXTENSION OF PROGRAM.—Section 425 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 625) is amended by striking "2007 through 2011" and inserting "2012 through 2016".

(b) MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN STATE PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) RESPONSE TO EMOTIONAL TRAUMA.—Section 422(b)(15)(A)(ii) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 622(b)(15)(A)(ii)) is amended by inserting ", including emotional trauma associated with a child's maltreatment and removal from home" before the semicolon.

(2) PROCEDURES ON THE USE OF PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATIONS.—Section 422(b)(15)(A)(v) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 622(b)(15)(A)(v)) is amended by inserting ", including protocols for the appropriate use and monitoring of psychotropic medications" before the semicolon.

(3) DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES TO ADDRESS DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS OF VERY YOUNG CHILDREN.—Section 422(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 622(b)) is amended—

(A) by striking "and" at the end of paragraph (16);

(B) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (17) and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

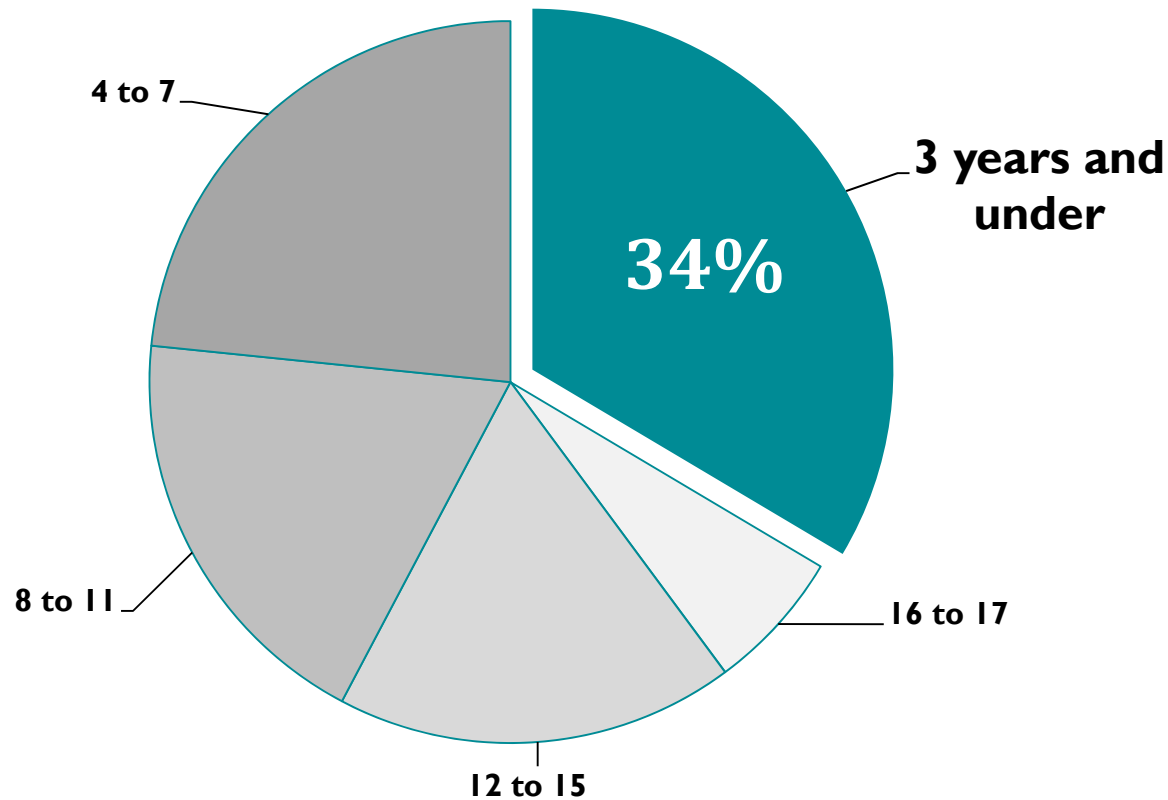
"(18) include a description of the activities that the State has undertaken to reduce the length of time children who have not attained 5 years of age are without a permanent family, and the activities the State undertakes to address the developmental needs of such children who receive benefits or services under this part or part E."

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# The Most Vulnerable Children

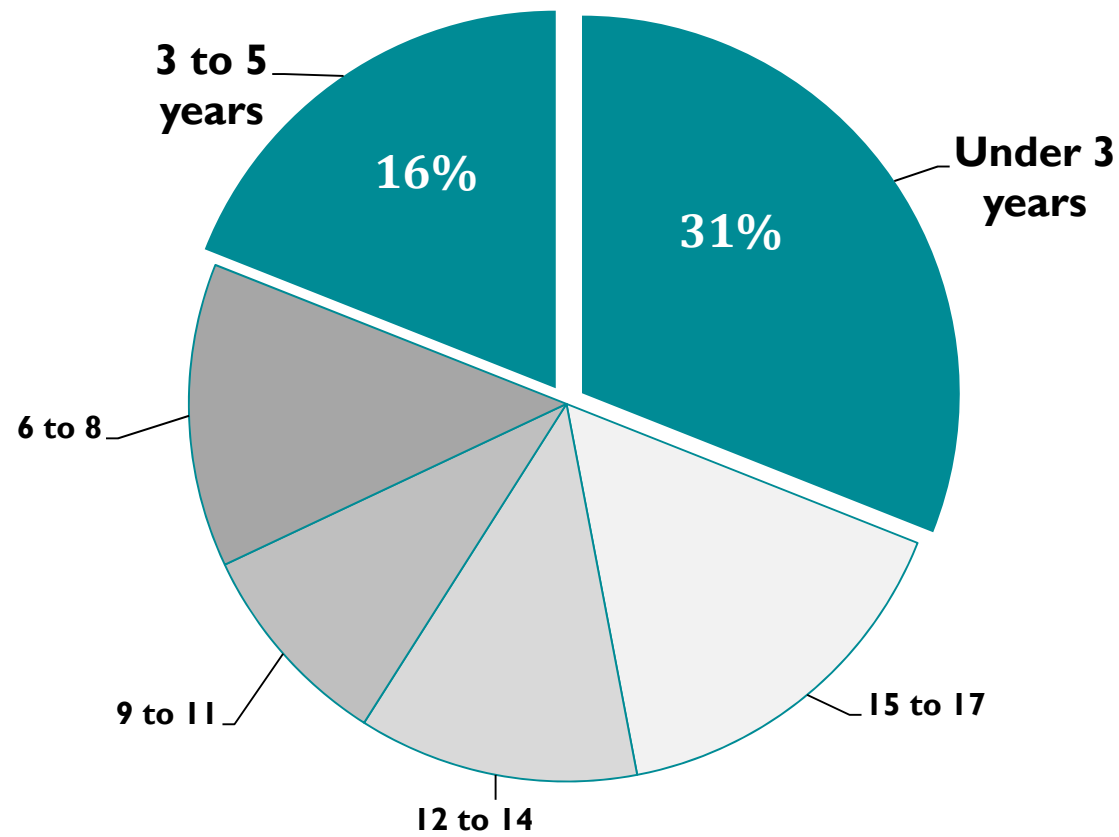


Children age 3 and under make up a third of maltreatment victims



Source: HHS, *Child Maltreatment 2010*

# Infants and Toddlers are the Largest Group Entering Foster Care

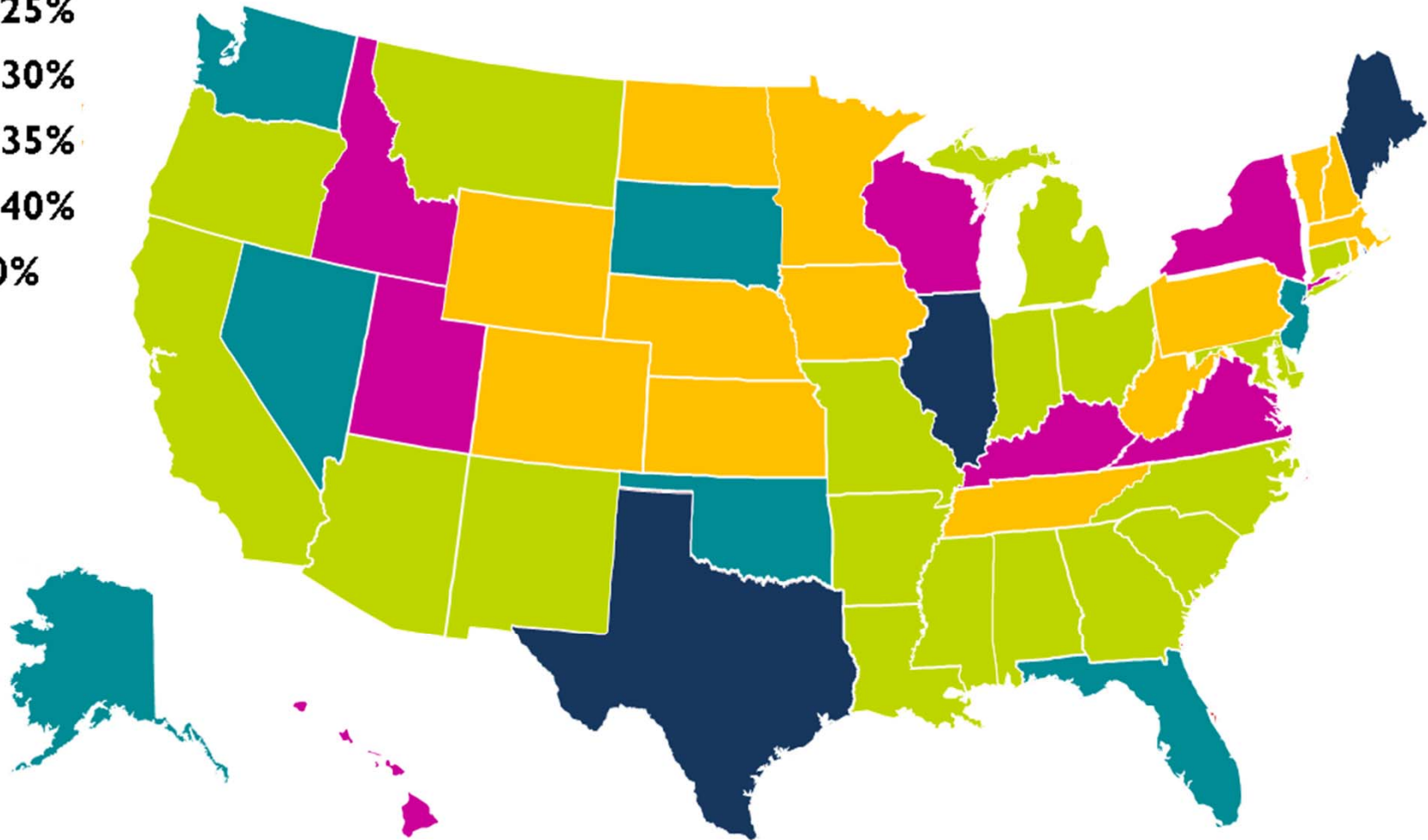


Source: HHS, AFCARS Data

# Proportion of Foster Care Entries that are Infants and Toddlers (by State)

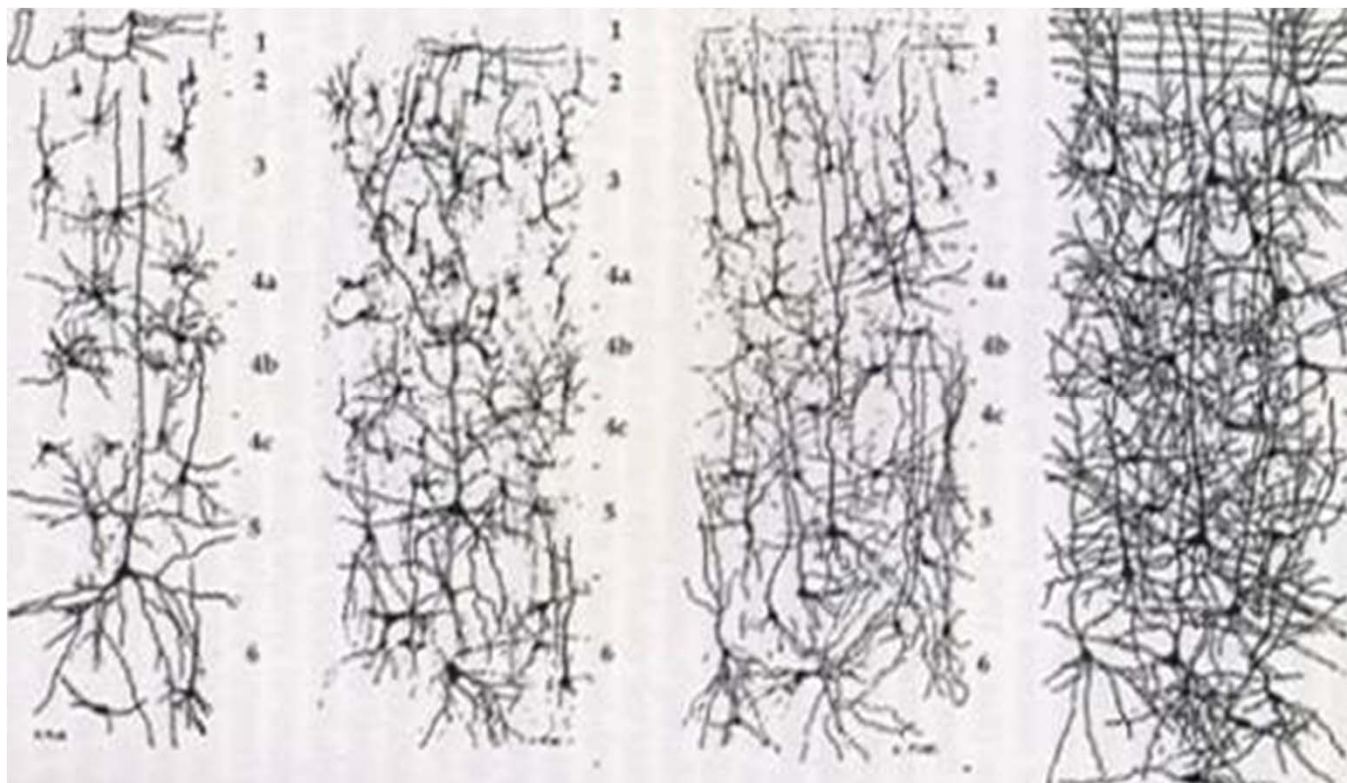


- 20-25%
- 26-30%
- 31-35%
- 36-40%
- >40%



Source: <http://cwoutcomes.acf.hhs.gov>

# 700 New Neural Connections Every Second!



*newborn*

*1 month*

*3 months*

*6 months*

# Early Experiences Shape Brain Development



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# It's All About Relationships

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As babies, the way we are held, talked to, and cared for teaches us about who we are and how we are valued.





# Hope Through Action: A Unique Window of Opportunity

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The early years  
present an  
unparalleled  
opportunity to  
intervene effectively.

# Today's Program

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- ***Maltreated infants and toddlers and their experiences in foster care***  
**Fred Wulczyn, Ph.D.**, Senior Research Fellow, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago
- ***Impact of maltreatment on early childhood development***  
**Brenda Jones Harden, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, Institute for Child Study, University of Maryland
- ***A State's experience in taking a developmental approach***  
**Cecile Blucker**, Director of the Division of Children and Family Services, Arkansas Department of Human Services
- ***Framework for a developmental approach to child welfare***  
**Patricia Cole**, Director of Government Relations, ZERO TO THREE Policy Center