

NSCAW III Baseline Report (2017–2022):

Child and Family Involvement with the Child Welfare System

OPRE Report #2024-131 July 2024



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Overview

This report is part of a series describing findings from the third cohort of the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW III) baseline data collection. This report provides a summary of the characteristics of the index maltreatment report (e.g., the maltreatment report that brought the child and family into the sampling frame); a description of the reasons for child welfare system (CWS) involvement; caseworker perceived harm and risk to the child and the outcome of the investigation or assessment; and a description of child and caregiver experiences with the CWS.

Introduction to NSCAW III

NSCAW is a nationally representative, longitudinal survey of children and families who came in contact with the CWS. The goal of the study is to provide information on a range of fundamental questions about the outcomes of children involved with the CWS. The study also provides insight on the interplay between the characteristics of children and families, their experiences with the CWS, service needs and receipt, and well-being outcomes. Well-being outcomes include physical and mental health, child development, social functioning, academic achievement, and behavioral adjustment.

The study is sponsored by the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The study is led by RTI International. NSCAW III is currently authorized by Social Security Act § 429 [42 U.S.C. 628b]. The design of NSCAW III was guided by three priorities: (1) keeping NSCAW III as comparable to the two previous cohorts as possible, (2) minimizing response burden for all participants, and (3) updating the NSCAW III sample and instruments as needed to reflect the composition of children being served in the CWS.

NSCAW III includes 3,298 children ranging in age from 0 to 17.5 years at the time of sampling in 61 counties and 17 states. There were two data collection waves (i.e., baseline and follow-up). As with NSCAW II, baseline NSCAW III survey data will be merged with National Child Abuse and Neglect System (NCANDS) and Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data.

Additional information about the NSCAW III history, sample design and methods, and instrumentation, as well as a summary of differences between the NSCAW I, NSCAW II, and NSCAW III cohorts can be found in the first report, [NSCAW III Baseline Report \(2017-2022\): Introduction to NSCAW III](#), of this NSCAW III Baseline series.

Primary Research Questions of Interest

The following NSCAW III research questions are relevant for this report:

- What are the characteristics of children and families in contact with the CWS beginning in 2017?

- To what extent are children entering the CWS via pathways other than a maltreatment investigation or assessment? What are their characteristics?
- What are the main reasons for child welfare involvement?
- What services needs were identified by caseworkers, and of those, which services were received by children and their caregivers?
- What levels of contact and satisfaction with caseworkers were reported by children and their caregivers?
- What were the children’s experiences of placement changes reported by caseworkers?

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to describe the characteristics of the maltreatment report that brought the child and family into the sampling frame, reasons for CWS involvement, caseworker perceived harm and risk to the child and the outcome of the investigation or assessment, and child and caregiver experiences with the CWS.

Key Findings and Highlights

Characteristics of the maltreatment report that brought the child and family into contact with the CWS:

- The majority of children in the cohort (98.4%) had a recently completed maltreatment investigation; 1.6% were identified as entering the CWS through an alternative pathway such as the juvenile court system or child trafficking.
- Children were reported for an average of 1.4 types of maltreatment (range 0¹–7). Over half of children (61.8%) were reported for one type of maltreatment, 28.0% were reported for two types, and 6.1% were reported for three types. A small number of children (2.7%) were not reported for any type of maltreatment, and less than 1% were reported for four to seven types of maltreatment.
- Close to a third (30.1%) of the cases had a report that included neglect (lack of supervision), 23.1% substance-abusing parent, 22.1% physical maltreatment, 14.7% domestic violence, 11.9% physical neglect (failure to provide), 8.5% sexual maltreatment, 6.3% emotional maltreatment, 4.3% substance exposure, and 14.4% other types of abuse.
- Caseworkers reported that 65.9% of families had a prior CWS report of maltreatment. Other family risks reported by caseworkers included high stress (50.1% of families), a

¹ Among 70 children for whom the total number of reported abuse or neglect types was 0, for 73% (unweighted) the caseworker selected “None reported” in response to the request to select the type or types of abuse or neglect reported on the date of the index report. Close to a quarter (24%, unweighted) selected “Don’t Know,” and 3% refused to answer (unweighted). Less than 10% (unweighted) of these 70 cases entered the CWS through an alternative pathway. For close to 40% (unweighted), the outcome of the investigation was “no alleged maltreatment.”

history of domestic violence (27.7%), trouble paying for basic necessities (20.9%), low social support (25.3%), a history of abuse or neglect of the primary caregiver (22.3%), primary caregiver has serious mental health problems (19.1%), and poor parenting skills (18.2%).

Child and caregiver services and experiences with the CWS:

- Caseworkers reported that 13.5% of families needed housing, 26.4% financial assistance, 15.6% employment, 16.4% domestic violence services, 10.7% legal aid, 17.1% services for substance misuse, 20.1% mental health services, and 3.8% health services.
 - Of those with a reported need, caseworkers reported that 38.8% received housing, 59.5% financial assistance, 25.7% employment, 37.4% domestic violence services, 48.1% legal aid, 57.0% services for substance misuse, 58.6% mental health services, and 64.0% health services.
- Over half of children 13 to 17 years old (60.5%) reported that they had contact with a caseworker in the previous 12 months. From that group, over half of children felt that the caseworker listened “all of the time” (55.6%). When asked how well [they felt] the caseworker understood their situation, 44.8% said “very well.”
- Among parents and voluntary kin caregivers, 54.7% reported that in all their meetings they felt that the caseworker listened to their concerns all the time, 72.0% reported that the caseworker treated them with respect all of the time, and 58.2% reported that the caseworker explained problems, treatments, and/or services to them very well.
- Among formal kin caregivers and nonrelative foster caregivers, 64.3% reported that they had input into the service plan, 79.5% reported that they felt like a respected member of the team, and 43.2% reported receiving special training or instruction on foster parenting.

Methods

The NSCAW III sampling frame was expanded to include children with a closed maltreatment investigation and also children who enter foster care through other pathways, such as juvenile justice and no-fault dependency proceedings. Children were sampled from participating state and county child welfare agencies between July 2017 and September 2021. Baseline data collection began in November 2017 and included three types of respondents: caregivers, children, and caseworkers. In March 2020, interviews were paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to the onset of the pandemic and similar to prior NSCAW cohorts, all caregiver and child interviews were conducted in person. During the pandemic (starting in February 2021), caseworkers’ interviews were transitioned to telephone administration. In-person interviewing resumed in June 2021 and was completed in March 2022. Like prior NSCAWs, NSCAW III oversampled infants, children receiving services, and children in out-of-home

placements. It also involved in-person data collection with children, caregivers, and caseworkers.

NSCAW III employed a stratified, two-stage sample design with the primary sampling units (PSUs) being U.S. counties or contiguous areas of two or more counties and secondary sampling units being children who entered the CWS through a child maltreatment investigation or an alternative pathway during the sample recruitment period. It was also designed to produce national estimates of the population entering CWS.

Key derived variables for analyses include child sociodemographics, maltreatment characteristics, services, and family and caregiver characteristics. Detailed information is included in the [Appendix](#). Detailed information on the study methods is provided in [NSCAW III Baseline Report \(2017-2022\): Introduction to NSCAW III](#).

The tables in this report present nationally representative estimates of all children in the United States, ages 0 to 17.5 years, who had CWS contact (via a child maltreatment investigation or who entered the child welfare system via an alternative pathway), regardless of the outcome of the investigation.

Guide to the NSCAW III Baseline Report Series

This report is part of a series describing findings from the NSCAW III baseline data. It provides a summary of the characteristics of the index maltreatment report that brought the child and family into the sampling frame; a description of the reasons for CWS involvement, caseworker perceived harm and risk to the child and the outcome of the investigation or assessment; and a description of child and caregiver experiences with the CWS. The topics covered in other NSCAW III baseline reports in this series include:

- Introduction to NSCAW III (describing the history and progression of the NSCAW study, the sample design, methods, and instrumentation, and the characteristics of children and caregivers who participated in the baseline data collection effort);
- Child Well-Being (exploring physical health and special health care needs, cognitive functioning and academic achievement, social, emotional and behavioral health, developmental assessments of young children, and risky behavior in adolescents);
- Children’s Services (exploring insurance status, health and mental health services, and special education); and
- Caregiver Health and Services (exploring caregiver physical and mental health, substance use, involvement with the law, and services received by in-home parents).

The data analyzed in this report have been released through the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect ([NDACAN](#)).

Executive Summary

Purpose

This report is part of a series describing findings from the third cohort of the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW III) baseline data collection. Information for NSCAW III was collected directly from children, caregivers, and caseworkers between November 2017 and March 2022. This report provides a:

- Summary of the characteristics of the index maltreatment report that brought the child and family into the sampling frame, reasons for child welfare system (CWS) involvement, caseworker perceived harm and risk to the child and the outcome of the investigation or assessment, and child and caregiver experiences with the CWS.
- Descriptive findings on the child and caregiver experiences with the CWS.

Overview

NSCAW is a nationally representative, longitudinal survey of children and families who came in contact with the CWS. The goal of the study is to provide information on a range of fundamental questions about the outcomes of children involved with the CWS. The study also provides insight on the interplay between the characteristics of children and families, their experiences with the CWS, service needs and receipt, and well-being outcomes.

The study is sponsored by the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), in collaboration with ACF's Children's Bureau, and led by RTI International. The study is currently authorized by Social Security Act § 429 [42 U.S.C. 628b].

This report includes information collected during the baseline wave of NSCAW III. The report describes information collected from investigative caseworkers on the index maltreatment report, reasons for investigation/assessment, types of maltreatment, and family service needs and receipt. The report also describes information collected from children and caregivers about their experiences with the CWS. The tables in this report present nationally representative estimates of all children in the United States, ages 0–17.5, who entered the CWS through a child maltreatment investigation or an alternative pathway, regardless of the outcome of the investigation. The descriptive statistics (percentages, standard errors, and confidence intervals) are based on weighted NSCAW III baseline data.

Key Findings

- The majority of children in the cohort (98.4%) had a recently completed maltreatment investigation; 1.6% were identified as entering the CWS through an alternative pathway such as the juvenile court system or child trafficking.

- Children were reported for an average of 1.4 types of maltreatment. Over half of children (61.8%) were reported for one type of maltreatment, 28.0% were reported for two types, and 6.1% were reported for three types. A small number of children (2.7%) were not reported for any type of maltreatment, and less than 1% were reported for four to seven types of maltreatment.
- Close to a third (30.1%) of the cases had a report that included neglect (lack of supervision), 23.1% substance-abusing parent, 22.1% physical maltreatment, 14.7% domestic violence, 11.9% physical neglect (failure to provide), 8.5% sexual maltreatment, 6.3% emotional maltreatment, 4.3% substance exposure, and 14.4% other types of abuse.
- Caseworkers reported that 65.9% of families had a prior CWS report of maltreatment. Other family risks reported by caseworkers included high stress (50.1% of families), a history of domestic violence (27.7%), trouble paying for basic necessities (20.9%), low social support (25.3%), a history of abuse or neglect of the primary caregiver (22.3%), primary caregiver has serious mental health problems (19.1%), and poor parenting skills (18.2%).
- Caseworkers reported that 13.5% of families needed housing, 26.4% financial assistance, 15.6% employment, 16.4% domestic violence services, 10.7% legal aid, 17.1% services for substance misuse, 20.1% mental health services, and 3.8% health services.
 - Of those with a reported need, caseworkers reported that 38.8% received housing, 59.5% financial assistance, 25.7% employment, 37.4% domestic violence services, 48.1% legal aid, 57.0% services for substance misuse, 58.6% mental health services, and 64.0% health services.

Design and Methods

NSCAW III was designed to produce national estimates of the children entering the CWS through a child maltreatment investigation or an alternative pathway. Children were sampled from participating state and county child welfare agencies between July 2017 and September 2021. NSCAW III includes 3,298 children ranging in age from 0 to 17.5 years at the time of sampling in 61 counties and 17 states.

Key derived variables for the analyses in this report include child sociodemographic, maltreatment characteristics, services, and family and caregiver characteristics. The tables in this report present nationally representative estimates of all children in the United States, ages 0–17.5, who entered the CWS through a child maltreatment investigation or an alternative pathway, regardless of the outcome of the investigation. The descriptive statistics (percentages, standard errors, and confidence intervals) are based on weighted NSCAW III baseline data.

Child and Family Involvement with the CWS

Child and Caregiver Characteristics

Child Characteristics

For approximately half of the sample, the child's sex assigned at birth was male (50.1%). Children 11 and older also reported about their gender identity. Based on youth report, 50.6% identified as cisgender male, 45.4% as cisgender female, 1.9% as transgender, and 2.1% did not identify as male, female, or transgender (see [Exhibit 1](#)).

As previously described, NSCAW III oversampled infants, older children, children receiving services, and children in out-of-home placements. Over one-third of children (35.6%) were 11 to 17 years old, 33.6% were 6 to 10 years old, 13.3% were 3 to 5 years old, and 17.4% were 0 to 2 years old. In terms of ethnicity,² less than a quarter of children (23.7%) were Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino. In terms of race, 59.5% of children were White, 26.4% Black, 4.2% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and less than 1% were Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (0.4%) and Asian (0.2%). Almost one in ten children (9.2%) was two or more races.

At the time of the baseline interview:

- Most of the children were living in-home with a parent (85.7%), while a combined 9.0% were living with either a formal kin caregiver (1.4%) or a voluntary kin caregiver (7.6%). A kin caregiver can include a grandparent, aunt or uncle, sibling, or other relative. A kin caregiving arrangement is considered formal if the caregiver reported receiving payments for being the child's foster parent. A kin caregiver arrangement is considered voluntary if the caregiver reported not receiving payments from CWS for the care of the child. Voluntary kin caregivers do not have a license or certification to provide foster care.
- A smaller proportion of children were living in foster care (4.0%), group homes or residential programs (0.5%), or other out-of-home arrangements (0.9%). "Other out-of-home" includes situations such as the child living in the home of a family friend, transitional independent living, therapeutic foster home, or emergency shelter.
- Most children (79.3%) received an investigation conducted by a CWS agency located in an urban area.³

² Ethnicity- and race-derived variables follow the guidance of [Race and Ethnicity Flexibilities \(whitehouse.gov\)](#) and [U.S. HHS Implementation Guidance on Data Collection Standards for Race, Ethnicity, Sex, Primary Language, and Disability Status](#).

³ Geography represents the location of the child welfare agency that completed the report's investigation. Counties with more than 50% urban were classified as urban. The remaining counties were classified as rural.

Caregiver Characteristics

Most caregivers were female (90.2%) (see [Exhibit 2](#)). Over half were 30 to 49 years old (61.4%), with many fewer caregivers in the youngest and oldest age groups of 15 to 19 years old (1.2%), 50 to 59 years old (7.7%), and 60 years and older (3.8%).

At the time of the baseline interview:

- Less than a fifth of caregivers (19.9%) reported their ethnicity as Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino. In terms of race, 68.0% of caregivers identified as White, 24.0% Black, 3.0% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and less than 1% were Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (0.4%) and Asian (0.4%). Two or more races were reported by 4.1% of caregivers.
- Close to half of caregivers (46.3%) reported having a high school education, while 35.6% reported educational attainment beyond high school.
- Over half of caregivers (53.3%) reported household incomes under the [federal poverty guidelines](#).⁴ Almost a third of caregivers (29.5%) reported household incomes at 50 to 99% of the federal poverty guidelines and 23.8% reported household incomes of less than 50% of the federal poverty guidelines. Less than one-third (27.6%) of caregivers reported household incomes of 100 to 200% of the federal poverty guidelines, and 19.1% reported household incomes over 200% of the federal poverty guidelines.
- Over half of caregivers had full-time or part-time employment (57.9%), while 11.2% reported being unemployed and looking for work.
- Approximately one-third of caregivers reported being currently married (31.5%) or never married (37.0%).
- Regardless of marital status, more than two-thirds of caregivers reported living with other adults in the home (69.0%). More than one-quarter (25.9%) had four or more children living in the home.

Caseworker⁵ Characteristics

The demographic characteristics of the investigative caseworkers⁶ in the NSCAW III cohort are presented in [Exhibit 3](#).

⁴ Federal poverty guideline was based on the 2019 Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines. For more information see [2019 Poverty Guidelines | ASPE \(hhs.gov\)](#).

⁵ Among 3,298 children in NSCAW III, 2,156 had a caseworker interview (response rate= 65.4%). Detailed information is provided as part of the NSCAW III data documentation available by request at: [Dataset Details: The National Survey on Child and Adolescent Well-being III \(NSCAW III\) Restricted Release, Wave 1 \(hhs.gov\)](#).

⁶ Some caseworkers reported on more than one child. Characteristics of caseworkers were linked to each child. All analyses were on child-level weighted NSCAW III baseline data.

At the time of the baseline interview:

- Most caseworkers were female (82.1%). Over two-thirds (70.9%) of caseworkers were 25 to 44 years old, with fewer caseworkers younger than 25 years old (11.1%), 45 to 54 years old (12.3%), or 55 years old or older (5.6%). Less than one in ten caseworkers identified as Hispanic (9.3%). About two-thirds of caseworkers were White (64.9%), 29.5% were Black, and 3.7% reported two or more races.
- About a quarter of caseworkers reported a Bachelor of Social Work degree (24.2%). Most caseworkers reported attaining a bachelor's degree in a different field (51.9%). Less than one in ten (9.2%) had attained a Master of Social Work degree, while 13.8% had another master's degree.
- Three-quarters of caseworkers (75.0%) reported an annual salary between \$30,000 and \$49,999. Approximately one-quarter (22.6%) of caseworkers had salaries over \$50,000 per year.
- When asked to describe their assigned work unit within the child welfare agency, most caseworkers worked in an intake unit focused only on investigations (64.1%). Fewer caseworkers worked in an intake unit that managed cases from investigation through dependency (16.6%) or a unit providing ongoing services (19.3%).
- Caseworkers representing children in the NSCAW III cohort had an average of 5.1 years of tenure at their assigned agency (median=2.9) and an average of 7.3 years of tenure in the CWS (median=4.0).

Caseworker Report of Reasons for Child Welfare Involvement

Child Welfare Involvement Pathway

The NSCAW III data collection includes children who were the subject of a child maltreatment investigation (as was the case in NSCAW I and II); however, sampling eligibility was expanded to include children who entered foster care through other pathways, such as juvenile justice and human trafficking. Of the 3,298 children included in NSCAW III, 3,171 (98.4%) were identified at sampling as having had a completed child welfare investigation and 127 (1.6%) were identified as entering the CWS through an alternative pathway.

The small size of the subgroup of children in NSCAW III that entered the CWS through an alternative pathway may inhibit subgroup analysis. Subgroup estimates having a relative standard error (RSE) of 25% or greater should be flagged as unreliable (see, for e.g., (CDC, 2022; Klein et al., 2002; Parseh & Asplund, 2022). For example, among children that entered the CWS through an alternative pathway, 12.7% were in voluntary kin care ($SE= 4.7$, 95% CI= 3.4, 22.0). Because the RSE of the estimate is 37.0% (i.e., $4.7/12.7=0.3701$) which is more than 25%, the data should be interpreted with caution.

Reported Reasons for Investigation

States have the primary public responsibility for ensuring the well-being of children and families in their populations. Each state has its own definitions of child abuse and neglect adapted from federal minimum standards. Within the standards set by the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) (42 U.S.C.A. §5106g), as amended by the CAPTA Reauthorization Act of 2010 (PL 111-320), each state is responsible for defining child abuse and neglect (Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2019; Stoltzfus, 2023). Most states recognize four main types of maltreatment: neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and psychological (emotional) maltreatment. Any forms of child maltreatment may be found separately or they can occur in combination. NSCAW III used the same categories as NSCAW II, following the Limited Maltreatment Classification System (L-MCS; Barnett et al., 1993) to capture information about the reported maltreatment. Compared to NSCAW I, NSCAW II and III included several new categories intended to obtain more information from caseworkers about specific types of maltreatment. The new categories were Prematurity or Low Birth Weight, Substance Exposure, Domestic Violence, Substance-abusing Parent, Voluntary Relinquishment, Children in Need of Services, and Investigation Only Way to Get Services. Prematurity or Low Birth Weight was added to obtain additional information related to the allegation of maltreatment, representing a potential association with maltreatment categories like Substance Exposure. As a standalone descriptor, prematurity or low birth weight was not a maltreatment category.

The caseworker who was interviewed at baseline was asked to use information from the case record to describe the type or types of maltreatment or other events that precipitated the investigation.

Reported Maltreatment Type

Caseworkers were shown a card listing types of [maltreatment](#). Caseworkers selected all types of maltreatment reported in the child's case regardless of whether or not the case was substantiated. Children were reported for an average of 1.4 types of maltreatment (range 0⁷ to 7). Over half of children (61.8%) were reported for one type of maltreatment, 28.0% were reported for two types, and 6.1% were reported for three types. A small number of children (2.7%) were not reported for any type of maltreatment, and less than 1% were reported for 4 to 7 types of maltreatment. As shown in [Exhibit 4](#), 30.1% of cases had a report that included neglect (lack of supervision), 23.1% substance-abusing parent, 22.1% physical maltreatment, 14.7% domestic violence, 11.9% physical neglect (failure to provide), 8.5% sexual maltreatment, 6.3% emotional maltreatment 4.3% substance exposure, and 14.4% other types of abuse. [Exhibit 5](#) presents seven of the most common types of maltreatment (physical, sexual, physical

⁷ Among 70 children for whom the total number of reported abuse or neglect types was 0, for 73% (unweighted) the caseworker selected "None reported" in response the request to select the type or types of abuse or neglect reported on the date of the index report. Close to a quarter (24%, unweighted) selected "Don't Know," and 3% refused to answer (unweighted). Less than 10% (unweighted) of these 70 cases entered the CWS through an alternative pathway. For close to 40% (unweighted) the outcome of the investigation was "no alleged maltreatment."

neglect (failure to provide), neglect (lack of supervision), substance exposure, domestic violence, and substance-abusing parent) by child characteristics.

Considerations for Interpreting Reported Maltreatment Estimates

Direct comparisons between the NSCAW III and the 2019 NCANDS data should be made with caution due to differences in the information being collected. Specifically, NSCAW provides estimates for children who received a completed investigation, regardless of the outcome of the investigation being substantiated or not, while the annual Child Maltreatment Report based on NCANDS provides information on types of maltreatment among those with a disposition of substantiated or indicated (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2021). Moreover, each state reports according to its own definitions of maltreatment, whereas NSCAW uses a standardized instrument. Further, the NCANDS data report on seven categories of maltreatment based on state-reported data, whereas NSCAW III provided 17 categories to caseworkers. In 2019, NCANDS reported that 74.9% of children investigated for maltreatment had a report that included neglect, 17.5% physical abuse, 9.3% sexual abuse, 6.1% psychological maltreatment, 2.3% medical neglect, and 6.8% “Other”⁸ (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2021). Even with the limitations described above, NSCAW III and NCANDS 2019 data have similar estimates for the percentage of reports that include physical, sexual, and emotional abuse.

Risk Assessment

Caseworkers at the baseline interview reported the kinds of risks⁹ that were present in the children’s homes at the time of the investigation/assessment, responding “Yes” or “No” to each of the questions on risk factors ([Exhibit 6](#)). Sixty-six percent of families had a prior CWS report of maltreatment, 61.5% had a prior investigation, and 24.5% had a prior incident of substantiated child maltreatment. These prior reports were assessed at the family level and do not necessarily refer to the NSCAW III index maltreatment report (the report that brought the child and family into the sampling frame); therefore, the prior report may be unrelated to the NSCAW III sampled child.

Other risks that caseworkers identified as present in a substantial percentage of families included high stress on the family (e.g., unemployment, drug use, poverty, or neighborhood violence; 50.1% of families); a child 5 years old and older with poor ability to self-protect (26.6%); a history of domestic violence against the primary caregiver (27.7%); trouble paying for

⁸ Note that the NCANDS “neglect” category likely encompasses several of the categories reported in NSCAW III, including failure to provide, lack of supervision, and abandonment.

⁹ NSCAW III uses risk assessment questions that were adapted from the risk assessment tools used in child protective services in Michigan, New York, Washington, Illinois, and Colorado risk assessment forms and checklists. These tools collect information regarding the main caregiver. The following introduction to this section was used with caseworkers: “Now I would like to ask you about whether certain factors were significant in determining the decision of the case.” Questions include: “At the time of the investigation was there active alcohol abuse by primary caregiver? Was there active drug abuse by primary caregiver? Did caregiver have any serious mental health or emotional problem? Was there a history of abuse and neglect of caregiver? Was there low social support? Was there high stress on the family?” All response options were yes/no.

basic necessities (20.9%); low social support (25.3%); a history of abuse or neglect of the primary caregiver (22.3%); primary caregiver having serious mental health problems (19.1%); and poor parenting skills (18.2%). Caseworkers also reported that for 88.6% of caregivers there was a reasonable level of caregiver cooperation.¹⁰

Substantiation Status and Type of Abuse or Neglect Found in Substantiated Cases

Caseworkers reported on the outcome of the maltreatment investigation and the type of abuse or neglect found in cases that were substantiated.

Substantiation Status

Overall, about a fifth (20.9%) of the index maltreatment reports were substantiated¹¹ ([Exhibit 7](#)). Another 4.3% of the cases were *indicated*, a classification used in some jurisdictions in cases for which some evidence exists for maltreatment but not enough for substantiation. Less than one in ten (5.9%) were alternative response.¹² Over two thirds (68.8%) of cases were not substantiated. The percentage of children with a substantiated case is slightly higher than the estimate based on 2019 data from NCANDS (16.0%) (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2021). [Exhibit 7](#) presents substantiation status by child characteristics.

Type of Abuse or Neglect Found in Substantiated Cases

Caseworkers were asked about the types of abuse or neglect that the investigation found to have occurred.¹³ Caseworkers were shown a card listing types of [maltreatment](#) (including the main categories of maltreatment most states use, and these include Physical Maltreatment; Sexual Maltreatment; Emotional Maltreatment; Physical Neglect (Failure to Provide); and Neglect (Lack of Supervision). The list did not include a definition of each category.¹⁴

Among cases that were *substantiated* ([Exhibit 8](#)), caseworkers reported that the investigation found a substance-abusing parent for 41.0% of children, 28.9% were for neglect (lack of supervision), 21.5% were for domestic violence, 12.7% for physical maltreatment, 12.6% physical neglect (failure to provide), 10.5% sexual maltreatment, 9.9% substance exposure, 5.8% child was in need of supervision/services, 3.9% emotional maltreatment, 2.7% educational maltreatment, 1.4% abandonment, and 16.3% were for other.

¹⁰ Caseworkers were asked: “At the time of the investigation/assessment, was there a reasonable level of caregiver cooperation?”

¹¹ Caseworkers were asked: “What was the case decision of the investigation/assessment? Was it...1=substantiated, 2= indicated, 3= alternative response, 4= unsubstantiated, or 5= no alleged maltreatment.

¹² Based on the annual Child Maltreatment report based on NCANDS, alternative response is defined as “The provision of a response other than an investigation that determines if a child or family needs services. A determination of maltreatment is not made and a perpetrator is not determined.” (p.17) (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2021)

¹³ Caseworkers were asked as part of the Alleged Abuse module: “Please look at Card 10 and tell me the type or types of abuse or neglect that the investigation/assessment found to have occurred.” All categories on the card are listed in the appendix.

¹⁴ Please see the Appendix for more information.

Caseworker Perceptions of Level of Harm and Risk

Caseworkers described their perception of the level of harm (none, mild, moderate, or severe) that they believed to have occurred during the index maltreatment incident.¹⁵ For 51.0% of cases, the caseworker perceived that no harm had occurred; the level of harm was judged to be mild for 27.6% of cases, moderate for 15.9%, and severe for 5.5% ([Exhibit 9](#)).

Caseworkers also described their perception of the level of risk for the child (none, mild, moderate, or severe) for the subset of children that the outcome of investigation was substantiated, indicated, or alternative response.¹⁶ For 7.1% of these cases, the caseworker perceived no risk to the child; the level of risk was judged to be mild for 26.9% of cases, moderate for 36.3%, and severe for 29.7% ([Exhibit 10](#)).

Safety Plan

Caseworkers reported on whether the CWS agency entered into a safety plan or a safety agreement with the family at the time of the investigation. Among all cases and regardless of the outcome of the investigation, caseworkers reported that the agency entered into a safety plan agreement with the family for 36.2% of children. Among those with a safety plan ([Exhibit 11](#)),¹⁷ for 12.0% a parent or caretaker in the home agreed to temporarily leave the home or to temporarily place the child with the other parent; for 18.0% the child's parent, parents, or primary caretaker agreed to place the child with relatives or in some other placement outside the home; for 9.1% the child's parent, parents, or primary caretaker agreed to have a safety resource come into the home; and for 60.8% none of the previous alternatives were in the safety plan.

Caseworker Report of Service Need and Receipt

Caseworkers were asked about the services needs of the primary caregiver in all cases, regardless of whether the child was living in-home or out-of-home. Caseworkers reported on the services needs of all primary caregivers during the last 12 months regardless of service availability. As shown in [Exhibit 12](#), 13.5% of families needed housing, 26.4% financial assistance, 15.6% employment, 16.4% domestic violence services, 10.7% legal aid, 17.1% services for drug or alcohol problem, 20.1% mental health services, and 3.8% health services.

Among those identified as in need for each type of service, caseworkers reported about service receipt. As shown in [Exhibit 13](#), caseworkers reported that among those in need 38.8% received housing, 59.5% financial assistance, 25.7% employment, 37.4% domestic violence services,

¹⁵ Caseworkers were asked: Regardless of the outcome of the investigation/assessment, how would you describe the level of harm to (child)?

¹⁶ If the outcome of the investigation/assessment was substantiated, indicated, or alternative response, caseworkers were asked: Regardless of the outcome of the investigation/assessment, how would you describe the level of risk? The outcome of investigation/assessment was substantiated or verified for 752 cases, indicated for 155, and alternative response for 58.

¹⁷ Caseworkers reported on safety plan for 2020 children, on those 799 had a safety plan. Exhibit 12 focuses only on the cases with a safety plans.

48.1% legal aid, 57.0% services for drug or alcohol problem, 58.6% mental health services, and 64.0% health services.¹⁸

Contact and Satisfaction with Caseworkers and the Child Welfare System

Child Contact and Satisfaction with Caseworker

Youth 13 to 17 years old who reported contact with a caseworker in the past 6 months¹⁹ were asked about the amount of contact they had with caseworkers and perceived satisfaction with these interactions. Over half of children 13 to 17 years old (60.5%) reported that they had contact with a caseworker in the previous 12 months. Among those youth, the mean number of contacts with a caseworker in the past year was 8.6 and the mean number of caseworkers in the past 12 months was 2.0 ([Exhibit 14](#)). To assess perceived satisfaction with the caseworker(s), youth in contact with a caseworker were asked if they felt that the caseworkers listened to them and understood their situation. Over half of children felt that the caseworker listened “all of the time” (55.6%). When asked if the caseworker understood their situation, less than half (44.8%) said “very well.”

Caregiver Contact and Satisfaction with Caseworker

Parents and voluntary kin caregivers were asked about the amount of contact they had with caseworkers, and their perceived satisfaction with these interactions. Over half (61.1%) reported having verbal contact with a caseworker²⁰ since the index maltreatment investigation. Among those who reported having verbal contact with a caseworker, 55.1% reported that the caseworker or someone from the child welfare agency met with them and their family to talk about family’s needs, concerns and problems²¹ ([Exhibit 15](#)). Over half (54.7%) reported that in all their meetings they felt that the caseworker listened to their concerns²² all the time, 72.0% reported that the caseworker treated them with respect²³ all of the time, 58.2% reported that the caseworker explained problems, treatments and/or services²⁴ to them very well, 72.6%

¹⁸ The NSCAW III Baseline Report (2017-2022): Caregiver Health and Services provides information from the perspective of caregivers on services receipt.

¹⁹ Of youth 13 to 17 years old who responded to question “Have you met with a caseworker or social worker in the past 6 months?” (N=879), those that responded “yes” were included in Exhibit 15, with item level response ranging from 618 to 643.

²⁰ Parents and voluntary kin caregivers were asked “Now I would like to ask some questions about the experiences that you’ve had with caseworkers from the child welfare agency. Since [contact date with CWS], have you talked with a caseworker?” If the caregiver responded no, no additional questions about satisfaction were asked.

²¹ Parents and voluntary kin caregivers were asked “Has your caseworker or someone else from the child welfare agency met with you and your family to talk about how best to deal with your family’s needs, concerns, and/or problems? This meeting would have included getting your family’s thoughts about a plan of action to deal with your needs and concerns.” (Yes/No)

²² Parents and voluntary kin caregivers were asked “In all your meetings or talks since [contact date with CWS] do you feel the caseworker listened to your concerns...1=never, 2= not very often, 3= some of the time, or 4= all of the time?”

²³ Parents and voluntary kin caregivers were asked “Do you feel the caseworker treated you with respect... 1=never, 2= not very often, 3= some of the time, or 4= all of the time?”

²⁴ Parents and voluntary kin caregivers were asked “How well has caseworker explained problems, treatments, and/or services to you? Would you say...1=not well, 2=somewhat well, 3= very well?”

reported being satisfied or very satisfied with the extent to which the caseworker maintained contact with them,²⁵ 75.3% reported being satisfied or very satisfied with the extent to which the caseworker invited them to meetings,²⁶ and 76.9% reported being satisfied or very satisfied with the extent to which the caseworker involved them in the decision-making regarding the care of their child.²⁷ Parents and voluntary kin caregivers were asked about their agreement with the following three statements: 22.2% agreed or strongly agreed that they should have been given more time to make the changes expected of them,²⁸ 31.6% agreed or strongly agreed that the services they were told to use should have been more useful,²⁹ and 33.2% agreed or strongly agreed that they should have been offered more services.³⁰

Formal kin caregivers and nonrelative foster caregivers were also asked to describe their satisfaction with agency and Child Welfare System interactions ([Exhibit 16](#)). Over two thirds (68.2%) reported that they were given essential information about the child at placement,³¹ 64.3% reported that they had input into the service plan,³² 71.0% reported that the caseworker returned phone calls within 24 hours,³³ 79.5% reported that they felt like a respected member of the team,³⁴ and 43.2% reported receiving special training or instruction on foster parenting.³⁵

²⁵ Parents and voluntary kin caregivers were asked “Since [contact date with CWS], how satisfied have you been with the extent to which the caseworker maintained contact with you? Would you say you have been...1=very dissatisfied, 2=dissatisfied, 3=satisfied, 4=very satisfied?”

²⁶ Parents and voluntary kin caregivers were asked “How satisfied have you been with the extent to which the caseworker invited you to relevant meetings [child’s name]? Would you say you have been... 1=very dissatisfied, 2=dissatisfied, 3=satisfied, 4=very satisfied, 5=not applicable?”

²⁷ Parents and voluntary kin caregivers were asked “How satisfied have you been with the extent to which the caseworker involved you in decision making regarding the care of [child’s name]? Would you say you have been... 1=very dissatisfied, 2=dissatisfied, 3=satisfied, 4=very satisfied, 5=not applicable?”

²⁸ Parents and voluntary kin caregivers responded to the following statement “I should have been given more time to make the changes expected of me. Would you say you...1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neither agree nor disagree, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree?”

²⁹ Parents and voluntary kin caregivers responded to the following statement “The services I was told to use should have been more helpful. Would you say you... 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neither agree nor disagree, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree?”

³⁰ Parents and voluntary kin caregivers responded to the following statement “I should have been offered more services. Would you say you...1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neither agree nor disagree, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree?”

³¹ Formal kin caregivers and nonrelative foster caregivers were asked “Do you feel like you were given essential information about [child’s name] when he/she was placed? (Yes/No)”

³² Formal kin caregivers and nonrelative foster caregivers were asked “Since [data of start of living arrangement] have you had input into the service plan? (Yes/No)”

³³ Formal kin caregivers and nonrelative foster caregivers were asked “Has the caseworker returned phone calls within 24 hours? (Yes/No)”

³⁴ Formal kin caregivers and nonrelative foster caregivers were asked “Have you felt like a respected member of the team of people providing service to this foster child? (Yes/No)”

³⁵ Formal kin caregivers and nonrelative foster caregivers were asked “Since [data of start of living arrangement] have you received any special instruction or training in skills you need to be a foster parent? This would include things like how to deal with problems your foster child may have or behavior management techniques. (Yes/No)”

Exhibits

Exhibit 1. Child Characteristics

Child Characteristic	Total (N=3,298)			
	N	Weighted %	SE	95% CI
Total	3,298	100.0	–	–
Sex Assigned at Birth¹	3,298			
Male	1,662	50.1	1.5	(47.0, 53.2)
Female	1,636	49.9	1.5	(46.8, 53.0)
Gender Identity: Children 11 years and older²	1,090			
Cisgender male	475	50.6	2.9	(44.8, 56.4)
Cisgender female	581	45.4	2.6	(40.3, 50.6)
Gender minority	20	1.9†	0.7†	(0.6, 3.3)†
Do not identify as male, female, or transgender	14	2.1†	0.8†	(0.4, 3.7)†
Age (years)³	3,298			
0–2	1,304	17.4	1.3	(14.9, 20.0)
3–5	317	13.3	1.5	(10.3, 16.3)
6–10	543	33.6	2.3	(29.0, 38.3)
11–17	1,134	35.6	1.4	(32.8, 38.4)
Ethnicity⁴	3,267			
Mexican	590	14.4	3.0	(8.4, 20.3)
Puerto Rican	123	3.5	0.7	(2.1, 4.9)
Cuban	27	0.5†	0.2†	(0.1, 0.9)†
Other	217	5.3	1.2	(2.8, 7.7)
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	2,310	76.3	3.7	(68.9, 83.8)
Ethnicity: Combined categories⁴	3,267			
Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	957	23.7	3.7	(16.2, 31.1)
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	2,310	76.3	3.7	(68.9, 83.8)
Racial Identity: One race and two or more races⁵	2,989			
American Indian/Alaskan Native	124	4.2†	1.4†	(1.4, 7.1)†
Asian	13	0.2†	0.1†	(0.0, 0.4)†
Black	822	26.4	3.7	(18.9, 33.9)
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	18	0.4†	0.1†	(0.1, 0.6)†

NSCAW III Baseline Report
Child and Family Involvement with the Child Welfare System

Child Characteristic	Total (N=3,298)			
	N	Weighted %	SE	95% CI
White	1,606	59.5	4.2	(51.2, 67.9)
Two or more races	406	9.2	0.9	(7.4, 11.1)
Setting⁶	3,297			
In-home	2,322	85.7	1.3	(83.0, 88.4)
Formal kin care	184	1.4	0.2	(1.0, 1.8)
Voluntary kin care	324	7.6	0.9	(5.8, 9.4)
Nonrelative foster care	399	4.0	0.6	(2.8, 5.1)
Group home or residential program	42	0.5†	0.2†	(0.1, 0.8)†
Other out-of-home	26	0.9†	0.5†	(0.0, 1.9)†
Geography⁷ (CWS agency location)	3,298			
Rural	550	20.7†	6.7†	(7.4, 34.1)†
Urban	2,748	79.3	6.7	(65.9, 92.6)
Insurance Status⁸	3,178			
Private	296	13.6	1.4	(10.7, 16.5)
Public	2,728	80.9	1.7	(77.5, 84.4)
Other	49	2.0†	0.7†	(0.6, 3.4)†
Uninsured	105	3.5	0.6	(2.3, 4.7)

Note: Information in this exhibit is based on child, caregiver, and caseworker report. All analyses were on weighted NSCAW III baseline data; Ns are unweighted and, therefore, direct percentages cannot be calculated by hand. Reported Ns vary slightly across analyses because of missing data in some variable categories. Cells are suppressed (–) based on cell count of 1 to 10 (CMS, 2020). True zeros are indicated.

† Indicates unreliable estimate based on a relative standard error (RSE; Parseh & Asplund, 2022) greater than or equal to 25% (CDC, 2022; Klein et al., 2002). RSE is defined as 100 times the estimated standard error of the point estimate, divided by the point estimate. Interpret data with caution.

¹ Sex assigned at birth was determined using first the responses from youth 11 years and older to “What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate? (Male; Female)”. If the child was less than 11 years old, the response from caregiver instrument and then from the caseworker instrument were used.

² Sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) items in NSCAW III align with federal guidance (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/SOGI-Best-Practices.pdf>) on measuring SOGI. For gender identity, youth 11 and older were asked first “What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate? (Male; Female)” immediately followed by “How do you describe yourself? (Male; Female; Transgender; Do not identify as male, female, or transgender)”. Cisgender male was assigned if youth reported that sex assigned at birth was male and they describe themselves as male. Cisgender female was assigned if youth reported that sex assigned at birth was female and they describe themselves as female. Gender minority was assigned if youth reported female as sex assigned at birth and described themselves as male or, reported male as sex assigned at birth and described themselves as female, or selected transgender.

³ NSCAW III oversampled infants, children receiving services, and children in out-of-home placements.

⁴ Youth 11 and older were asked “Are you Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?” Response options were 1 No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino, 2 Yes, Mexican, Mexican-American, Chicano, 3 Yes, Puerto Rican, 4 Yes, Cuban, and 5 Yes, Other. Caregivers were asked “Now thinking about (child), is he/she Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?” Response options were the same as the ones for youth. Ethnicity- and race-derived variables follow the guidance at [Race and Ethnicity Flexibilities \(whitehouse.gov\)](#) and [U.S. HHS Implementation Guidance on Data Collection Standards for Race, Ethnicity, Sex, Primary Language, and Disability Status](#).

- ⁵ Children 6 and older were asked “What race are you?” Response options were 1 American Indian or Alaska Native, 2 Asian, 3 Black or African American, 4 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and 5 White. Caregivers were asked “What is (child)’s race?” Response options were the same as the ones for children. These categories are mutually exclusive. Referred to as One Race and Two or More Races at [Race and Ethnicity Flexibilities \(whitehouse.gov\)](https://www.whitehouse.gov).
- ⁶ “In home” includes children living at their home with biological parents, adoptive parents, or primary caregiver(s) at the time of the baseline interview. This includes children who were removed from their home during the initial Child Protective Services (CPS) investigations and reunified by the time of the baseline data collection. “Out-of-home” includes children who are cared for by formal and voluntary kin, nonrelative foster, group home or residential staff and other out-of-home caregivers. A total of 975 children are cared for by an out-of-home caregiver. “Formal kin care” includes children placed with kin through CWS involvement; these caregivers report receiving payments from the CWS. The caregiver may or may not be licensed or certified. “Voluntary kin care” includes children living with kin who do not report receiving payments from CWS for the care of the child. Voluntary kin caregivers do not have a license or certification to provide foster care. “Nonrelative foster care” includes children who have been placed with a nonrelative caregiver through CWS involvement; these caregivers receive payments from CWS, and the caregiver is a licensed or certified foster caregiver. “Group home or residential program” includes children residing in a group home or residential treatment facility. “Other out-of-home” includes children in some other type of living situation such as the child living in the home of a family friend, transitional independent living, specialized therapeutic foster home, or emergency shelter. Information is based on caregiver, caseworker, and child report.
- ⁷ Geography represents the location of the child welfare agency that completed the report’s investigation. Counties with more than 50% urban were classified as Urban. The remaining counties were classified as Rural.
- ⁸ Caregivers were asked to report on the child’s insurance status. “Private” includes children who had any private insurance plan obtained through an employer or purchased directly. “Public” includes children who had Medicaid and/or a State Children’s Health Insurance Plan (SCHIP). “Other” includes children who did not have private insurance or Medicaid (or other public coverage) at the time of interview, but who have any other type of insurance, including coverage through a military health plan. “Uninsured” includes children not covered under private, public, or other insurance or who endorsed participating in the Indian Health Service.

Exhibit 2. Caregiver Characteristics

Caregiver Characteristic	Total (N=298)			
	N	Weighted %	SE	95% CI
Total	3,298	100.0	–	–
Sex	3,151			
Male	284	9.8	1.1	(7.6, 12.1)
Female	2,867	90.2	1.1	(87.9, 92.4)
Age (years)	3,149			
15-19	56	1.2	0.3	(0.6, 1.7)
20-29	806	25.9	1.8	(22.3, 29.6)
30-49	1,744	61.4	2.1	(57.3, 65.5)
50-59	353	7.7	0.9	(6.0, 9.5)
60-older	190	3.8	0.4	(2.9, 4.7)
Ethnicity¹	3,148			
Mexican	492	12.0	2.8	(6.5, 17.5)
Puerto Rican	96	2.8	0.6	(1.6, 4.1)
Cuban	25	0.4†	0.2†	(0.0, 0.8)†
Other	187	4.6	1.0	(2.6, 6.6)
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	2,348	80.1	3.3	(73.4, 86.8)
Ethnicity: Combined categories¹	3,148			
Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	800	19.9	3.3	(13.2, 26.6)
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	2,348	80.1	3.3	(73.4, 86.8)
Racial Identity: One race alone or in combination²				
American Indian/Alaskan Native	206	5.8	1.3	(3.1, 8.5)
Asian	29	0.6†	0.2†	(0.2, 0.9)†
Black	32	0.5†	0.2†	(0.2, 0.9)†
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	857	24.3	3.4	(17.5, 31.1)
White	1,970	66.7	3.8	(59.0, 74.4)
Two or more races				
Type of Caregiver³	3,297			
Parent	2,322	85.7	1.3	(83.0, 88.4)
Out-of-home caregiver				
Formal kin	184	1.4	0.2	(1.0, 1.8)
Voluntary kin	324	7.6	0.9	(5.8, 9.4)

Caregiver Characteristic	Total (N=298)			
	N	Weighted %	SE	95% CI
Nonrelative foster	399	3.9	0.6	(2.8, 5.1)
Group home or residential program staff	42	0.5†	0.2†	(0.1, 0.8)†
Other out-of-home caregiver	26	0.9†	0.5†	(0.0, 1.9)†
Education: Highest level of education completed⁴	3,147			
No degree completed	683	18.7	1.7	(15.4, 22.1)
High school equivalency (e.g., GED)	400	14.3	1.3	(11.8, 16.8)
High school diploma	943	30.6	1.4	(27.8, 33.4)
Vocational tech certificate or diploma	390	11.9	1.0	(9.9, 13.9)
Nursing certificate or diploma	118	4.4	0.7	(3.1, 5.7)
Associate degree	251	8.1	1.1	(5.9, 10.4)
Bachelor's degree	236	8.4	1.4	(5.5, 11.3)
Master's degree	84	2.3	0.5	(1.2, 3.4)
Graduate or professional degree	18	0.2†	0.1†	(0.0, 0.4)†
Other	24	1.0†	0.4†	(0.2, 1.8)†
Education: Combined categories	3,125			
Less than HS	627	18.2	1.6	(15.0, 21.3)
High school	1,401	46.3	1.8	(42.7, 49.8)
Some college or bachelor's degree	995	33.1	2.0	(29.0, 37.1)
More than bachelor's degree	102	2.5	0.6	(1.4, 3.6)
Percentage of Federal Poverty Guideline⁵	2,989			
<50	742	23.8	1.9	(19.9, 27.7)
50–99	763	29.5	1.8	(25.8, 33.2)
100–200	859	27.6	1.3	(24.9, 30.2)
>200	625	19.1	1.6	(15.9, 22.3)
Employment Status⁶	3,150			
Work, full time	1,139	38.1	1.5	(35.2, 41.0)
Work, part time	580	19.8	1.9	(16.1, 23.5)
Unemployed, looking for work	362	11.2	1.2	(8.8, 13.6)
Does not work	964	27.8	1.9	(24.0, 31.7)
Other	105	3.0	0.4	(2.1, 3.9)

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Caregiver Characteristic	Total (N=298)			
	N	Weighted %	SE	95% CI
Marital Status	3,144			
Married	1,045	31.5	1.6	(28.4, 34.7)
Separated	290	11.5	0.9	(9.7, 13.3)
Divorced	472	17.2	1.1	(15.0, 19.5)
Widowed	119	2.6	0.5	(1.7, 3.6)
Never married	1,218	37.0	1.9	(33.3, 40.8)
Number of Children in the Household⁷	3,151			
1	961	30.6	3.0	(24.6, 36.6)
2	707	22.0	1.6	(18.8, 25.1)
3	653	21.6	1.4	(18.7, 24.4)
4	384	13.5	1.4	(10.7, 16.3)
5 or more	446	12.4	1.1	(10.2, 14.6)
Number of Adults in the Household⁸	3,149			
1	941	31.0	2.2	(26.5, 35.4)
2	1,456	47.6	2.1	(43.3, 51.8)
3	487	14.1	1.3	(11.6, 16.6)
4 or more	265	7.4	0.9	(5.6, 9.1)

Note: Information in this exhibit is based on caregiver self-report. All analyses were on weighted NSCAW III baseline data; Ns are unweighted and, therefore, direct percentages cannot be calculated by hand. Reported Ns vary slightly across analyses because of missing data in some variable categories. Cells are suppressed (-) based on cell count of 1 to 10 (CMS, 2020). True zeros are indicated.

† Indicates unreliable estimate based on a relative standard (RSE; Parseh & Asplund, 2022) greater than or equal to 25% (CDC, 2022; Klein et al., 2002). RSE is defined as 100 times the estimated standard error of the point estimate, divided by the point estimate. Interpret data with caution.

¹ Caregivers were asked “Are you Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?” Response options were 1 No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino, 2 Yes, Mexican, Mexican-American, Chicano, 3 Yes, Puerto Rican, 4 Yes, Cuban, and 5 Yes, Other. Ethnicity- and race-derived variables follows guidance from [Race and Ethnicity Flexibilities \(whitehouse.gov\)](https://www.whitehouse.gov/policy/briefing-room/2019/04/23/race-and-ethnicity-flexibilities/) and [U.S. HHS Implementation Guidance on Data Collection Standards for Race, Ethnicity, Sex, Primary Language, and Disability Status](https://www.hhs.gov/implementation-guidance-on-data-collection-standards-for-race-ethnicity-sex-primary-language-and-disability-status/).

² Caregivers were asked “What is your race?” Response options were 1 American Indian or Alaska Native, 2 Asian, 3 Black or African American, 4 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and 5 White. Ethnicity- and race-derived variables from [Race and Ethnicity Flexibilities \(whitehouse.gov\)](https://www.whitehouse.gov/policy/briefing-room/2019/04/23/race-and-ethnicity-flexibilities/) and [U.S. HHS Implementation Guidance on Data Collection Standards for Race, Ethnicity, Sex, Primary Language, and Disability Status](https://www.hhs.gov/implementation-guidance-on-data-collection-standards-for-race-ethnicity-sex-primary-language-and-disability-status/).

³ “Parent” includes biological parents, adoptive parents or other primary caregiver(s) of child participants in NSCAW at the time of the baseline interview. This includes parents or primary caregivers of children who were removed from their homes during initial CPS investigation and reunified by the time of the baseline data collection. “Out of home” caregivers include formal and voluntary kin, nonrelative foster, group home or residential staff and other out-of-home caregivers. There are a total of 975 out-of-home caregivers. “Formal kin caregiver” includes caregivers of children placed with kin through CWS involvement; these caregivers report receiving payments from the CWS. The caregiver may or may not be licensed or certified. “Voluntary kin caregiver” includes the caregivers of children living with kin who do not report receiving payments from CWS for the care of the child. Voluntary kin caregivers do not have a license or certification to provide foster care. “Nonrelative foster caregiver” includes the caregivers of children placed with a nonrelative caregiver through CWS involvement; these caregivers receive payments from CWS and the caregiver is a licensed or certified foster caregiver. “Group home or residential staff” include the primary caregivers of children residing in a group home or residential

treatment facility. “Other out-of-home caregiver” includes some other type of caregiving situation such as caring for a child of a family friend, or caring for a child in transitional independent living facility, specialized therapeutic foster home, or emergency shelter. Information is based on caregiver, caseworker, and child report.

⁴ Caregivers were asked: “What is the highest degree, diploma, or certificate you hold?” The categories represent the exact answer selections caregivers selected.

⁵ This derived variable was calculated using caregiver report of estimated household income and number of household members, and the poverty guidelines updated periodically in the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2). The [2019 Poverty Guidelines | ASPE \(hhs.gov\)](#) was utilized given this was the time period when most data were collected.

⁶ “Work, full time” includes caregivers who reported working “full-time, 35 or more hours/week.” “Work, part time” includes caregivers who reported working “part-time, less than 35 hours/week” or working “sometimes, when work’s available.” “Unemployed, looking for work” includes caregivers who reported that they were “Unemployed, looking for work.” “Does not work” includes 491 caregivers who reported they don’t work because of family responsibilities; 88 caregivers who don’t work because they are retired; 329 caregivers who don’t work because of illness or disability; 19 caregivers who don’t work because they don’t want to work; and 37 caregivers who don’t work because they are currently a student. “Other” includes caregivers who selected “Other.”

⁷ Number of children ranged from 1 to 10.

⁸ Number of adults ranged from 1 to 8.

Exhibit 3. Caseworker Characteristics

Caseworker Characteristic	Total (N=2,125)			
	N	Weighted %	SE	95% CI
Total	2,125	100.0	–	–
Sex	2,124			
Male	419	17.9	2.6	(12.7, 23.0)
Female	1,705	82.1	2.6	(77.0, 87.3)
Age (years)	2,064			
<25	160	11.1	2.6	(5.9, 16.4)
25–34	857	42.1	3.3	(35.5, 48.7)
35–44	641	28.8	2.8	(23.3, 34.4)
45–54	300	12.3	2.1	(8.1, 16.6)
>54	106	5.6	1.4	(2.9, 8.3)
Ethnicity¹	2,117			
Mexican	144	4.0†	1.5†	(1.0, 6.9)†
Puerto Rican	58	1.8†	0.6†	(0.5, 3.1)†
Cuban	11	0.5†	0.2†	(0.0, 0.9)†
Other	79	3.1†	0.9†	(1.2, 5.0)†
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	1,825	90.7	2.1	(86.4, 95.0)
Ethnicity: Combined¹	2,117			
Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	292	9.3	2.1	(5.0, 13.6)
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	1,825	90.7	2.1	(86.4, 95.0)
Racial Identity: One race and two or more races²	2,060			
American Indian/Alaskan Native	25	1.5†	0.8†	(0.0, 3.1)†
Asian	13	0.1†	0.1†	(0.0, 0.3)†
Black	571	29.5	5.3	(18.9, 40.1)
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	–	–	–	–
White	1,344	64.9	5.5	(53.9, 75.9)
Two or more races	98	3.7†	1.1†	(1.5, 5.9)†
Education	2,125			
Less than bachelor's degree	–	–	–	–
Bachelor of social work	481	24.2	2.9	(18.5, 29.9)
Other bachelor's degree	1,100	51.9	4.4	(43.0, 60.8)
Master's of social work	249	9.2	1.7	(5.9, 12.5)

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Caseworker Characteristic	Total (N=2,125)			
	N	Weighted %	SE	95% CI
Other master's degree	279	13.8	2.0	(9.8, 17.7)
PhD or other doctoral degree	–	–	–	–
Salary	2,026			
Less than \$19,999	–	–	–	–
\$20,000–29,999	18	2.4†	1.9†	(0.0, 6.2)†
\$30,000–39,999	616	32.9	4.0	(24.9, 41.0)
\$40,000–49,999	785	42.1	4.8	(32.5, 51.7)
\$50,000 or more	605	22.6	4.2	(14.1, 31.1)
Work unit	2,103			
Intake—investigations only	1,378	64.1	3.7	(56.6, 71.6)
Intake—investigation through dependency	292	16.6	2.5	(11.5, 21.6)
Unit providing ongoing services	433	19.3	3.7	(12.0, 26.6)
Tenure in role	2,123			
< 1 year	162	6.2	1.5	(3.1, 9.2)
1–2 years	494	24.5	3.5	(17.6, 31.4)
3–5 years	544	26.3	2.1	(22.2, 30.5)
6–10 years	356	18.1	2.7	(12.7, 23.5)
11–15 years	243	10.4	2.1	(6.1, 14.7)
16+ years	324	14.5	2.4	(9.8, 19.2)

Note: Information in this exhibit is based on caseworker report. All analyses were on weighted NSCAW III baseline data; Ns are unweighted and, therefore, direct percentages cannot be calculated by hand. Reported Ns vary slightly across analyses because of missing data in some variable categories. Cells are suppressed (–) based on cell count of 1 to 10 (CMS, 2020). True zeros are indicated.

† Indicates unreliable estimate based on a relative standard error (RSE; Parseh & Asplund, 2022) greater than or equal to 25% (CDC, 2022; Klein et al., 2002). RSE is defined as 100 times the estimated standard error of the point estimate, divided by the point estimate. Interpret data with caution.

¹ Caseworkers were asked “Are you Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?” Response options were 1 No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino, 2 Yes, Mexican, Mexican-American, Chicano, 3 Yes, Puerto Rican, 4 Yes, Cuban, and 5 Yes, Other. Ethnicity- and race-derived variables follow guidance at [Race and Ethnicity Flexibilities \(whitehouse.gov\)](https://www.whitehouse.gov) and [U.S. HHS Implementation Guidance on Data Collection Standards for Race, Ethnicity, Sex, Primary Language, and Disability Status](https://www.hhs.gov).

² Caseworkers were asked “What is your race?” Response options were 1 American Indian or Alaska Native, 2 Asian, 3 Black or African American, 4 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and 5 White. These categories are mutually exclusive. Referred to as One Race and Two or More Races following the guidance from [Race and Ethnicity Flexibilities \(whitehouse.gov\)](https://www.whitehouse.gov).

Exhibit 4. Reasons for Investigation by Caseworker Report

Reasons for Investigation ¹	Total (N=2,134)			
	N	Weighted %	SE	95% CI
Total	2,134	100.0	–	
Physical maltreatment	397	22.1	1.6	(19.0, 25.3)
Sexual maltreatment	154	8.5	0.9	(6.8, 10.2)
Emotional maltreatment	116	6.3	1.6	(3.2, 9.4)
Physical Neglect (Failure to provide)	248	11.9	2.0	(7.8, 15.9)
Neglect (Lack of supervision)	659	30.1	2.7	(24.7, 35.6)
Abandonment	34	1.1†	0.4†	(0.3, 1.8)†
Moral/legal maltreatment	–	–	–	–
Educational maltreatment	39	2.7†	0.9†	(0.9, 4.4)†
Exploitation	–	–	–	–
Prematurity or low birth weight	20	0.3†	0.1†	(0.1, 0.4)†
Substance exposure	267	4.3	0.6	(3.0, 5.6)
Domestic violence	362	14.7	2.1	(10.5, 18.9)
Substance-abusing parent	550	23.1	1.8	(19.5, 26.6)
Voluntary relinquishment	–	–	–	–
Children in need of supervision/services (CHINS)	42	2.2†	0.9†	(0.5, 3.9)†
Investigation only way to get services for family	12	0.3†	0.1†	(0.0, 0.5)†
Other	299	14.4	1.8	(10.8, 17.9)

Note: Information in this exhibit is based on caseworker report. All analyses were on weighted NSCAW III baseline data; *Ns* are unweighted and, therefore, direct percentages cannot be calculated by hand. Reported *Ns* vary slightly across analyses because of missing data in some variable categories. Cells are suppressed (–) based on cell count of 1 to 10 (CMS, 2020). True zeros are indicated.

† Indicates unreliable estimate based on a relative standard error (RSE; Parseh & Asplund, 2022) greater than or equal to 25% (CDC, 2022; Klein et al., 2002). RSE is defined as 100 times the estimated standard error of the point estimate, divided by the point estimate. Interpret data with caution.

¹ Caseworkers were shown a card listing types of [maltreatment](#) included in this exhibit. Caseworkers selected all types of maltreatment reported in the child’s case, with a mean number of types of maltreatment per child of 1.4 (range 0-7).

Exhibit 5. Selected Types of Abuse or Neglect and Other Reasons for Investigation

Child Characteristic	Types of Abuse or Neglect and Other Reasons for Investigation ¹ Total (N=2,134)												
	Physical Maltreatment				Sexual Maltreatment			Physical Neglect (Failure to Provide)			Neglect (Lack of Supervision)		
	N	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI
Total	2,134	22.1	1.6	(19.0, 25.3)	8.5	0.9	(6.8, 10.2)	11.9	2.0	(7.8, 15.9)	30.1	2.7	(24.7, 35.6)
Sex Assigned at Birth²	2,134												
Male	1,079	25.5	2.1	(21.4, 29.7)	6.3+	1.6+	(3.1, 9.5)+	10.1	1.8	(6.6, 13.6)	30.4	3.9	(22.5, 38.2)
Female	1,055	18.6	2.2	(14.2, 23.0)	10.7	1.5	(7.8, 13.6)	13.6+	3.9+	(5.7, 21.5)+	29.9	3.3	(23.2, 36.6)
Gender Identity Children 11 years and older³	708												
Cisgender male	310	26.0	3.1	(19.7, 32.3)	5.5+	2.1+	(1.4, 9.7)+	8.4+	2.2+	(3.9, 12.8)+	27.0	5.6	(15.7, 38.3)
Cisgender female	375	24.0	3.1	(17.7, 30.3)	17.4	3.0	(11.4, 23.3)	6.1+	1.5+	(3.0, 9.3)+	23.3	3.9	(15.5, 31.0)
Gender minority	12	–	–	–	–	–	–	0	–	–	–	–	–
Do not identify as male, female, or transgender	11	–	–	–	–	–	–	0	–	–	–	–	–
Age (years)⁴	2,134												
0–2	852	13.5	2.4	(8.6, 18.4)	1.8+	0.7+	(0.3, 3.3)+	8.6	1.7	(5.1, 12.1)	33.1	3.2	(26.8, 39.4)
3–5	205	16.1	2.8	(10.4, 21.7)	9.5+	2.8+	(4.0, 15.1)+	14.8	3.6	(7.6, 22.0)	34.2	5.1	(23.9, 44.5)
6–10	354	26.0	3.4	(19.3, 32.8)	9.3	2.1	(5.1, 13.6)	17.9	4.4	(9.0, 26.7)	32.9	4.6	(23.6, 42.2)
11–17	723	25.3	2.5	(20.3, 30.3)	10.8	1.4	(7.9, 13.7)	7.0	1.6	(3.8, 10.1)	24.6	4.0	(16.7, 32.6)
Ethnicity⁵	2,129												
Mexican	296	29.7	5.1	(19.4, 39.9)	7.6+	2.5+	(2.7, 12.6)+	7.8+	2.3+	(3.3, 12.4)+	34.3	4.5	(25.4, 43.2)
Puerto Rican	95	32.3	7.4	(17.5, 47.2)	–	–	–	–	–	–	13.9+	3.8+	(6.3, 21.5)+
Cuban	20	–	–	–	–	–	–	0	–	–	–	–	–

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Child Characteristic	Types of Abuse or Neglect and Other Reasons for Investigation ¹ Total (N=2,134)												
	Physical Maltreatment				Sexual Maltreatment			Physical Neglect (Failure to Provide)			Neglect (Lack of Supervision)		
	N	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI
Other	138	23.3+	6.8+	(9.7, 36.9)+	–	–	–	–	–	–	29.2	3.9	(21.5, 36.9)
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	1,580	20.4	1.7	(16.9, 23.9)	9.2	1.0	(7.1, 11.3)	13.2	2.4	(8.3, 18.0)	30.5	3.2	(24.1, 36.9)
Ethnicity: Combined categories⁵	2,129												
Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	549	28.8	3.0	(22.7, 34.8)	5.7	1.2	(3.4, 8.1)	6.8	1.6	(3.6, 10.0)	28.9	2.9	(23.0, 34.7)
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	1,580	20.4	1.7	(16.9, 23.9)	9.2	1.0	(7.1, 11.3)	13.2	2.4	(8.3, 18.0)	30.5	3.2	(24.1, 36.9)
Racial Identity: One race and two or more races⁶	1,971												
American Indian/Alaskan Native	72	32.8+	16.6+	(0.0, 66.0)+	–	–	–	–	–	–	14.7+	6.9+	(0.8, 28.5)+
Asian	–	–	–	–	0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Black	512	29.0	3.3	(22.4, 35.7)	6.4+	2.1+	(2.2, 10.7)+	12.6+	4.4+	(3.8, 21.4)+	28.5	3.1	(22.2, 34.8)
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
White	1,102	17.8	2.1	(13.6, 22.0)	8.4	1.0	(6.3, 10.4)	12.6	2.2	(8.1, 17.0)	30.5	3.8	(23.0, 38.0)
Two or more races	269	23.3	4.2	(14.9, 31.8)	17.8+	8.4+	(1.0, 34.6)+	10.7+	4.0+	(2.6, 18.8)+	36.8	7.2	(22.4, 51.1)
Setting⁷	2,134												
In-home	1,507	22.6	1.6	(19.4, 25.8)	7.1	0.9	(5.3, 8.9)	10.3	2.4	(5.5, 15.1)	27.5	2.8	(22.0, 33.1)
Formal kin care	98	24.1+	8.1+	(7.8, 40.4)+	–	–	–	20.7+	6.7+	(7.2, 34.1)+	45.9	8.7	(28.4, 63.3)
Voluntary kin care	224	22.1+	7.6+	(7.0, 37.2)+	6.8+	2.9+	(1.1, 12.5)+	25.8+	7.1+	(11.6, 40.1)+	40.4	7.2	(26.1, 54.7)
Nonrelative foster care	256	19.1+	5.7+	(7.7, 30.6)+	14.9+	3.9+	(7.0, 22.7)+	17.3+	4.6+	(8.1, 26.4)+	44.4	5.6	(33.1, 55.7)
Group home or residential program	24	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other out-of-home	25	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

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Child Characteristic	Types of Abuse or Neglect and Other Reasons for Investigation ¹ Total (N=2,134)												
	N	Substance Exposure			Domestic Violence			Substance-Abusing Parent			Emotional Maltreatment		
		%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI
Total	2,134	4.3	0.6	(3.0, 5.6)	14.7	2.1	(10.5, 18.9)	23.1	1.8	(19.5, 26.6)	6.3	1.6	(3.2, 9.4)
Sex Assigned at Birth²	2,134												
Male	1,079	4.2	0.8	(2.7, 5.8)	12.4	2.0	(8.5, 16.4)	24.5	2.4	(19.6, 29.3)	4.3+	1.1+	(2.2, 6.5)+
Female	1,055	4.4	0.7	(2.9, 5.8)	17.1	2.8	(11.4, 22.7)	21.6	1.9	(17.7, 25.4)	8.4+	2.6+	(3.2, 13.6)+
Gender Identity Children 11 years and older³	708												
Cisgender male	310	–	–	–	12.4	2.6	(7.3, 17.5)	26.1	3.8	(18.4, 33.7)	6.6+	2.5+	(1.7, 11.5)+
Cisgender female	375	–	–	–	13.6	3.2	(7.1, 20.0)	20.9	4.2	(12.5, 29.2)	9.4+	3.1+	(3.1, 15.7)+
Gender minority	12	0			–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Do not identify as male, female, or transgender	11	0			–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Age (years)⁴	2,134												
0–2	852	14.5	2.2	(10.0, 19.0)	19.4	3.0	(13.4, 25.5)	20.8	2.5	(15.9, 25.7)	4.4+	2.0+	(0.4, 8.5)+
3–5	205	7.5+	2.3+	(2.8, 12.1)+	10.8+	2.8+	(5.2, 16.4)+	24.9	4.6	(15.8, 34.0)	–	–	–
6–10	354	–	–	–	15.9+	4.0+	(7.9, 23.9)+	22.2	4.1	(14.0, 30.4)	8.0+	2.8+	(2.5, 13.6)+
11–17	723	0.7+	0.3+	(0.1, 1.4)+	12.7	2.0	(8.6, 16.8)	24.3	2.4	(19.4, 29.2)	7.7	1.7	(4.3, 11.2)
Ethnicity⁵	2,129												
Mexican	296	3.9+	1.1+	(1.8, 6.1)+	17.6+	4.6+	(8.3, 26.8)+	12.3	2.9	(6.6, 18.0)	13.5+	3.9+	(5.6, 21.3)+
Puerto Rican	95	–	–	–	29.3	6.9	(15.4, 43.1)	17.1+	5.2+	(6.7, 27.4)+	–	–	–
Cuban	20	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

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Child Characteristic	Types of Abuse or Neglect and Other Reasons for Investigation ¹ Total (N=2,134)													
	N	Substance Exposure			Domestic Violence			Substance-Abusing Parent			Emotional Maltreatment			
		%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI	
Other	138	4.2+	1.9+	(0.4, 8.1)+	25.6	5.8	(14.0, 37.2)	24.9	4.7	(15.5, 34.3)	–	–	–	
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	1,580	4.3	0.7	(2.9, 5.8)	12.7	1.8	(9.0, 16.4)	24.5	2.1	(20.3, 28.7)	5.4+	1.6+	(2.1, 8.7)+	
Ethnicity: Combined categories⁵	2,129													
Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	549	4.0	1.0	(2.0, 6.0)	22.6	4.0	(14.5, 30.7)	17.6	3.0	(11.6, 23.6)	9.7+	2.9+	(4.0, 15.5)+	
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	1,580	4.3	0.7	(2.9, 5.8)	12.7	1.8	(9.0, 16.4)	24.5	2.1	(20.3, 28.7)	5.4+	1.6+	(2.1, 8.7)+	
Racial Identity: One race and two or more races⁶	1,971													
American Indian/Alaskan Native	72	–	–	–	16.4+	7.4+	(1.6, 31.3)+	30.9+	10.8+	(9.3, 52.6)+	–	–	–	
Asian	–	0			0			–	–	–	–	–	–	
Black	512	5.9	1.5	(2.9, 8.8)	15.9	3.1	(9.7, 22.1)	11.9	2.6	(6.7, 17.1)	7.8+	4.6+	(0.0, 17.0)+	
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	–	0			–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
White	1,102	4.0	0.8	(2.4, 5.5)	12.9	2.6	(7.7, 18.1)	29.0	2.1	(24.8, 33.2)	5.0+	1.5+	(2.1, 8.0)+	
Two or more races	269	5.4	1.3	(2.9, 8.0)	19.2+	5.9+	(7.4, 30.9)+	17.6	4.1	(9.4, 25.7)	5.5+	2.4+	(0.8, 10.2)+	
Setting⁷	2,134													
In-home	1,507	3.6	0.7	(2.3, 5.0)	14.9	2.2	(10.5, 19.4)	21.9	1.8	(18.3, 25.5)	6.7+	1.8+	(3.2, 10.2)+	
Formal kin care	98	12.6+	4.6+	(3.5, 21.7)+	29.8+	8.1+	(13.5, 46.0)+	20.0+	6.2+	(7.6, 32.3)+	–	–	–	
Voluntary kin care	224	6.5+	1.8+	(3.0, 10.1)+	11.3+	3.7+	(4.0, 18.6)+	32.8	5.7	(21.3, 44.2)	–	–	–	
Nonrelative foster care	256	11.7	2.3	(7.1, 16.3)	17.1+	5.7+	(5.7, 28.5)+	35.4	5.4	(24.6, 46.3)	6.0+	2.3+	(1.4, 10.6)+	
Group home or residential program	24	0			–	–	–	–	–	–	0			
Other out-of-home	25	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0			

NSCAW III Baseline Report

Child and Family Involvement with the Child Welfare System

Note: Information in this exhibit is based on caseworker report. All analyses were on weighted NSCAW III baseline data; *N*s are unweighted and, therefore, direct percentages cannot be calculated by hand. Reported *N*s vary slightly across analyses because of missing data in some variable categories. Cells are suppressed (–) based on cell count of 1 to 10 (CMS, 2020). True zeros are indicated.

- † Indicates unreliable estimate based on a relative standard error (RSE; Parseh & Asplund, 2022) greater than or equal to 25% (CDC, 2022; Klein et al., 2002). RSE is defined as 100 times the estimated standard error of the point estimate, divided by the point estimate. Interpret data with caution.
- ¹ Caseworkers were shown a card listing types of [maltreatment](#) included in this exhibit. Caseworkers selected all types of maltreatment reported in the child’s case, with a mean number of types of maltreatment per child of 1.4 (range 0-7). This exhibit presents the most commonly reported types of maltreatment.
- ² Sex assigned at birth was determined using first the responses from youth 11 years and older to “What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate? (Male; Female)”. If the child was less than 11 years old, the response from caregiver instrument and then from the caseworker instrument were used.
- ³ Sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) items in NSCAW III align with federal guidance (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/SOGI-Best-Practices.pdf>) on measuring SOGI. For gender identity, youth 11 and older were asked first “What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate? (Male; Female)” immediately followed by “How do you describe yourself? (Male; Female; Transgender; Do not identify as male, female, or transgender)”. Cisgender male was assigned if youth reported that sex assigned at birth was male and they describe themselves as male. Cisgender female was assigned if youth reported that sex assigned at birth was female and they describe themselves as female. Gender minority was assigned if youth reported female as sex assigned at birth and described themselves as male or, reported male as sex assigned at birth and described themselves as female, or selected transgender.
- ⁴ NSCAW III oversampled infants, children receiving services, and children in out-of-home placements.
- ⁵ Youth 11 and older were asked “Are you Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?” Response options were 1 No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino, 2 Yes, Mexican, Mexican-American, Chicano, 3 Yes, Puerto Rican, 4 Yes, Cuban, and 5 Yes, Other. Caregivers were asked “Now thinking about (child), is he/she Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?” Response options were the same as the ones for youth. Ethnicity and race-derived variables follow the guidance at [Race and Ethnicity Flexibilities \(whitehouse.gov\)](#) and [U.S. HHS Implementation Guidance on Data Collection Standards for Race, Ethnicity, Sex, Primary Language, and Disability Status](#).
- ⁶ Children 6 and older were asked “What race are you?” Response options were 1 American Indian or Alaska Native, 2 Asian, 3 Black or African American, 4 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and 5 White. Caregivers were asked “What is (child)’s race?” Response options were the same as the ones for children. These categories are mutually exclusive. Referred to as One Race and Two or More Races at [Race and Ethnicity Flexibilities \(whitehouse.gov\)](#).
- ⁷ “In home” includes children living at their home with biological parents, adoptive parents, or primary caregiver(s) at the time of the baseline interview. This includes children who were removed from their home during the initial Child Protective Services (CPS) investigations and reunified by the time of the baseline data collection. “Out-of-home” includes children who are cared for by formal and voluntary kin, nonrelative foster, group home or residential staff and other out-of-home caregivers. A total of 975 children are cared for by an out-of-home caregiver. “Formal kin care” includes children placed with kin through CWS involvement; these caregivers report receiving payments from the CWS. The caregiver may or may not be licensed or certified. “Voluntary kin care” includes children living with kin who do not report receiving payments from CWS for the care of the child. Voluntary kin caregivers do not have a license or certification to provide foster care. “Nonrelative foster care” includes children who have been placed with a nonrelative caregiver through CWS involvement; these caregivers receive payments from CWS, and the caregiver is a licensed or certified foster caregiver. “Group home or residential program” includes children residing in a group home or residential treatment facility. “Other out-of-home” includes children in some other type of living situation such as the child living in the home of a family friend, transitional independent living, specialized therapeutic foster home, or emergency shelter. Information is based on caregiver, caseworker, and child report.

Exhibit 6. Risk Assessment by Caseworker Report

History of Child Abuse or Neglect and Characteristics at the Time of Investigation ¹	Total (N=2,133)			
	N	Weighted %	SE	95% CI
Total	2,133	100.0	–	–
History of Child Abuse or Neglect				
Prior reports of child maltreatment	2,061	65.9	2.6	(60.7, 71.0)
Prior investigation of child maltreatment	2,042	61.5	2.5	(56.6, 66.5)
Prior child welfare service history	1,939	27.3	2.2	(22.9, 31.8)
Prior incident of substantiated child maltreatment	1,962	24.5	2.1	(20.4, 28.6)
Characteristics at the Time of Investigation				
Reasonable level of caregiver cooperation ²	2,081	88.6	1.2	(86.2, 90.9)
Primary caregiver recognized the problem and showed a motivation to change ³	99	56.3	9.0	(38.2, 74.5)
Another supportive caregiver present in the home ⁴	2,072	52.1	2.1	(47.8, 56.4)
High stress on the family (e.g., unemployment, drug use, poverty, or neighborhood violence)	2,048	50.1	2.4	(45.2, 55.0)
History of domestic violence against caregiver	1,934	27.7	2.5	(22.8, 32.7)
Child had poor ability to self-protect (children 5 and older)	1,102	26.6	2.5	(21.6, 31.5)
Low social support	2,016	25.3	2.0	(21.2, 29.4)
Caregiver was involved in non-child protective services (mental health, home visiting, public health nursing, or substance abuse treatment) ⁵	2,002	25.0	2.5	(20.0, 30.0)
History of abuse or neglect of primary caregiver	1,746	22.3	1.9	(18.5, 26.1)
Family had trouble paying for basic necessities (food, shelter, clothing, electricity, or heat)	2,034	20.9	2.2	(16.6, 25.2)
Primary caregiver had serious mental health problem	1,960	19.1	2.4	(14.3, 24.0)
Primary caregiver had poor parenting skills	2,037	18.2	1.6	(15.1, 21.4)
Child had major special needs or behavioral problems	2,099	17.4	1.7	(14.0, 20.7)
Active drug abuse by primary caregiver	2,000	16.6	1.5	(13.6, 19.7)
Active drug abuse by secondary caregiver	1,457	16.5	1.7	(13.0, 20.0)
Primary caregiver had recent history of arrests	1,904	13.9	1.6	(10.7, 17.1)
History of abuse or neglect of secondary caregiver	1,218	13.0	2.6	(7.8, 18.1)
Active domestic violence against caregiver	2,045	12.8	1.7	(9.4, 16.1)

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History of Child Abuse or Neglect and Characteristics at the Time of Investigation ¹	Total (N=2,133)			
	N	Weighted %	SE	95% CI
Active alcohol abuse by secondary caregiver	1,482	8.8	1.8	(5.2, 12.3)
Secondary caregiver used inappropriate or excessive discipline	1,539	6.6	1.6	(3.4, 9.7)
Parent had unrealistic expectations of child	2,018	6.2	1.0	(4.2, 8.2)
Primary caregiver had intellectual or cognitive impairments	2,023	4.3	1.0	(2.2, 6.3)
Primary caregiver had physical impairments	2,035	3.7	0.7	(2.3, 5.1)
Child was involved in any delinquent or chronic CHINS behavior (Child In Need of Supervision or Services) ⁶	2,096	2.8	0.5	(1.8, 3.9)
Active alcohol abuse by primary caregiver	1,966	2.8	0.5	(1.8, 3.8)
Primary caregiver had very limited communication skills, such as a language barrier	2,050	2.6	0.6	(1.4, 3.9)
Primary caregiver described or acted toward child in predominately negative terms	2,021	2.5	0.5	(1.6, 3.5)
Primary caregiver used inappropriate or excessive discipline	2,035	3.5	0.7	(2.1, 4.9)

Note: Information in this exhibit is based on caseworker report. All analyses were on weighted NSCAW III baseline data; Ns are unweighted and, therefore, direct percentages cannot be calculated by hand. Reported Ns vary slightly across analyses because of missing data in some variable categories. Cells are suppressed (-) based on cell count of 1 to 10 (CMS, 2020). True zeros are indicated.

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¹ The following introduction to the risk assessment section was used with caseworkers: “Now I would like to ask you about whether certain factors were significant in determining the decision of the case. The first few questions are about the history of child abuse or neglect.” After questions on prior history, the following introduction to the characteristics at the time of investigation was used: “The next items are about the child’s characteristics and situation.” All response options were yes/no.

² At the time [of the investigation/ assessment/child entered CWS custody], was there a reasonable level of caregiver cooperation?

³ Did [permanent primary caregiver] recognize the problem and show a motivation to change?

⁴ At the time [of the investigation/ assessment/child entered CWS custody], was there another supportive caregiver present in the home?

⁵ At the time [of the investigation/ assessment/child entered CWS custody], was there caregiver involvement in non-CPS services?

⁶ At the [of the investigation/ assessment/child entered CWS custody], was [child] involved in any delinquent or chronic CHINS behavior that may have resulted in negative consequences, such as arrests or probation?

Exhibit 7. Substantiation Status by Caseworker Report

Child Characteristic	Total (N=2,036)												
	N	%	Substantiated N=752		Indicated N=155		Alternative Response N=58			Unsubstantiated N=1,071			
			SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI
Total	2,036	20.9	2.6	(15.8, 26.0)	4.3	1.2	(1.9, 6.8)	5.9	1.6	(2.7, 9.1)	68.8	3.4	(62.0, 75.7)
Sex Assigned at Birth¹	2,036												
Male	1,026	19.5	2.7	(14.0, 25.0)	3.4+	1.1+	(1.3, 5.6)+	4.9+	1.6+	(1.6, 8.2)+	72.2	3.2	(65.9, 78.5)
Female	1,010	22.5	3.2	(16.1, 28.9)	5.3+	1.9+	(1.5, 9.0)+	7.0+	2.3+	(2.4, 11.5)+	65.2	4.1	(57.0, 73.5)
Gender Identity: Children 11 years and older²	663												
Cisgender male	290	16.3+	4.2+	(7.8, 24.8)+	4.1+	1.8+	(0.4, 7.8)+	–	–	–	72.3	5.5	(61.3, 83.3)
Cisgender female	354	21.6	3.7	(14.2, 29.0)	7.0+	3.9+	(0.0, 14.9)+	9.0+	3.3+	(2.3, 15.7)+	62.4	6.4	(49.6, 75.2)
Gender minority	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0	–	–	–	–	–
Do not identify as male, female, or transgender	–	–	–	–	0	–	–	0	–	–	–	–	–
Age (years)³	2,036												
0–2	813	24.4	3.0	(18.5, 30.4)	4.4+	1.6+	(1.2, 7.7)+	4.7+	1.7+	(1.2, 8.1)+	66.5	3.8	(58.9, 74.0)
3–5	200	25.0	5.1	(14.7, 35.3)	3.5+	1.6+	(0.3, 6.8)+	–	–	–	68.7	6.1	(56.5, 80.9)
6–10	345	20.0	3.6	(12.8, 27.2)	3.5+	1.7+	(0.1, 6.9)+	–	–	–	71.0	5.4	(60.2, 81.7)
11–17	678	18.4	3.3	(11.8, 25.0)	5.3+	2.0+	(1.4, 9.3)+	8.1+	2.4+	(3.2, 13.0)+	68.2	5.0	(58.3, 78.1)
Ethnicity⁴	2,032												
Mexican	285	23.3	4.8	(13.8, 32.8)	–	–	–	–	–	–	73.2	5.3	(62.6, 83.8)
Puerto Rican	92	24.8+	6.9+	(11.0, 38.5)+	10.5+	4.6+	(1.2, 19.8)+	–	–	–	56.8	9.1	(38.6, 75.0)
Cuban	19	–	–	–	0	–	–	0	–	–	64.6	12.6	(39.4, 89.8)
Other	135	23.2+	7.9+	(7.4, 39.0)+	–	–	–	–	–	–	64.7	8.4	(47.8, 81.6)

NSCAW III Baseline Report
Child and Family Involvement with the Child Welfare System

Child Characteristic	Total (N=2,036)												
	N	%	Substantiated N=752		%	Indicated N=155		Alternative Response N=58		%	Unsubstantiated N=1,071		
SE			95% CI	SE		95% CI	SE	95% CI	SE		95% CI		
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	1,501	20.1	2.7	(14.8, 25.5)	4.2+	1.4+	(1.4, 7.1)+	6.4+	1.7+	(2.9, 10.0)+	69.2	3.7	(61.7, 76.6)
Ethnicity: Combined categories⁴	2,032												
Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	531	23.9	4.2	(15.5, 32.2)	4.7+	1.8+	(1.1, 8.2)+	3.9+	1.8+	(0.3, 7.5)+	67.6	5.0	(57.5, 77.6)
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	1,501	20.1	2.7	(14.8, 25.5)	4.2+	1.4+	(1.4, 7.1)+	6.4+	1.7+	(2.9, 10.0)+	69.2	3.7	(61.7, 76.6)
Racial Identity: One race and two or more races⁵	1,882												
American Indian/Alaskan Native	70	38.7+	13.0+	(12.7, 64.7)+	–	–	–	0			60.8	13.1	(34.6, 86.9)
Asian	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0			–	–	–
Black	478	15.0	2.8	(9.4, 20.6)	4.5+	2.1+	(0.2, 8.7)+	8.5+	3.5+	(1.5, 15.4)+	72.1	5.3	(61.5, 82.6)
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0			–	–	–
White	1,064	23.4	3.3	(16.8, 30.0)	3.9+	1.3+	(1.3, 6.6)+	5.1+	1.9+	(1.4, 8.8)+	67.6	4.3	(58.9, 76.3)
Two or more races	254	16.2	3.7	(8.8, 23.5)	5.5+	3.0+	(0.0, 11.5)+	–	–	–	69.3	5.7	(57.9, 80.6)
Setting⁶	2,036												
In-home	1,453	17.4	2.6	(12.1, 22.7)	4.2+	1.2+	(1.8, 6.6)+	6.5+	1.8+	(2.8, 10.2)+	71.9	3.7	(64.5, 79.3)
Formal kin care	92	51.0	9.4	(32.2, 69.7)	–	–	–	–	–	–	37.6+	9.9+	(17.8, 57.4)+
Voluntary kin care	216	27.7	6.0	(15.7, 39.7)	7.0+	3.0+	(1.0, 13.0)+	–	–	–	63.9	6.5	(50.9, 77.0)
Nonrelative foster care	235	71.7	6.5	(58.6, 84.8)	4.1+	2.1+	(0.0, 8.2)+	–	–	–	20.1+	6.8+	(6.5, 33.7)+
Group home or residential program	17	–	–	–	–	–	–	0			–	–	–
Other out-of-home	23	16.2+	13.4+	(0.0, 43.1)+	0			0			–	–	–

NSCAW III Baseline Report

Child and Family Involvement with the Child Welfare System

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- † Indicates unreliable estimate based on a relative standard error (RSE; Parseh & Asplund, 2022) greater than or equal to 25% (CDC, 2022; Klein et al., 2002). RSE is defined as 100 times the estimated standard error of the point estimate, divided by the point estimate. Interpret data with caution.
- ¹ Sex assigned at birth was determined using first the responses from youth 11 years and older to “What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate? (Male; Female)”. If the child was less than 11 years old, the response from caregiver instrument and then from the caseworker instrument were used.
 - ² Sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) items in NSCAW III align with federal guidance (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/SOGI-Best-Practices.pdf>) on measuring SOGI. For gender identity, youth 11 and older were asked first “What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate? (Male; Female)” immediately followed by “How do you describe yourself? (Male; Female; Transgender; Do not identify as male, female, or transgender)”. Cisgender male was assigned if youth reported that sex assigned at birth was male and they describe themselves as male. Cisgender female was assigned if youth reported that sex assigned at birth was female and they describe themselves as female. Gender Minority was assigned if youth reported female as sex assigned at birth and described themselves as male or, reported male as sex assigned at birth and described themselves as female, or selected transgender.
 - ³ NSCAW III oversampled infants, children receiving services, and children in out-of-home placements.
 - ⁴ Youth 11 and older were asked “Are you Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?” Response options were 1 No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino, 2 Yes, Mexican, Mexican-American, Chicano, 3 Yes, Puerto Rican, 4 Yes, Cuban, and 5 Yes, Other. Caregivers were asked “Now thinking about (child), is he/she Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?” Response options were the same as the ones for youth. Ethnicity- and race-derived variables follow the guidance at [Race and Ethnicity Flexibilities \(whitehouse.gov\)](#) and [U.S. HHS Implementation Guidance on Data Collection Standards for Race, Ethnicity, Sex, Primary Language, and Disability Status](#).
 - ⁵ Children 6 and older were asked “What race are you?” Response options were 1 American Indian or Alaska Native, 2 Asian, 3 Black or African American, 4 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and 5 White. Caregivers were asked “What is (child)’s race?” Response options were the same as the ones for children. These categories are mutually exclusive. Referred to as One Race and Two or More Races at [Race and Ethnicity Flexibilities \(whitehouse.gov\)](#).
 - ⁶ “In home” includes children living at their home with biological parents, adoptive parents or primary caregiver(s) at the time of the baseline interview. This includes children who were removed from their home during the initial Child Protective Services (CPS) investigations and reunified by the time of the baseline data collection. “Out-of-home” includes children who are cared for by formal and voluntary kin, nonrelative foster, group home or residential staff and other out-of-home caregivers. There is a total of 975 children who are cared for by an out-of-home caregiver. “Formal kin care” includes children placed with kin through CWS involvement; these caregivers report receiving payments from the CWS. The caregiver may or may not be licensed or certified. “Voluntary kin care” includes children living with kin who do not report receiving payments from CWS for the care of the child. Voluntary kin caregivers do not have a license or certification to provide foster care. “Nonrelative foster care” includes children who have been placed with a nonrelative caregiver through CWS involvement; these caregivers receive payments from CWS, and the caregiver is a licensed or certified foster caregiver. “Group home or residential program” includes children residing in a group home or residential treatment facility. “Other out-of-home” includes children in some other type of living situation such as the child living in the home of a family friend, transitional independent living, specialized therapeutic foster home, or emergency shelter. Information is based on caregiver, caseworker, and child report.

Exhibit 8. Type of Abuse or Neglect Found in Substantiated Cases by Caseworker Report

Type of Abuse or Neglect Found ¹	Substantiated (N=752)			
	N	Weighted %	SE	95% CI
Total	751	100.0	–	–
Physical maltreatment	96	12.7	3.1	(6.5, 18.9)
Sexual maltreatment	55	10.5	1.8	(6.9, 14.1)
Emotional maltreatment	40	3.9†	1.0†	(1.9, 5.8)†
Physical Neglect (Failure to provide)	117	12.6†	3.6†	(5.3, 19.9)†
Neglect (Lack of supervision)	237	28.9	2.8	(23.3, 34.5)
Abandonment	19	1.4†	0.8†	(0.0, 2.9)†
Moral/legal maltreatment	–	–	–	–
Educational maltreatment	18	2.7†	1.1†	(0.6, 4.9)†
Exploitation	–	–	–	–
Prematurity or low birth weight	–	–	–	–
Substance exposure	163	9.9	2.0	(6.0, 13.9)
Domestic violence	153	21.5	4.8	(11.8, 31.2)
Substance-abusing parent	281	41.0	4.0	(33.0, 49.1)
Voluntary relinquishment	–	–	–	–
Children in need of supervision/services (CHINS)	31	5.8†	2.7†	(0.4, 11.1)†
Investigation was only way to get services for family	–	–	–	–
Investigation was unfounded or unsubstantiated	–	–	–	–
Assessment or differential response found no maltreatment	–	–	–	–
Assessment or differential response did not make determination of whether maltreatment occurred	–	–	–	–
Other	101	16.3†	4.1†	(8.0, 24.6)†

Note: Information in this exhibit is based on caseworker report. All analyses were on weighted NSCAW III baseline data; Ns are unweighted and, therefore, direct percentages cannot be calculated by hand. Reported Ns vary slightly across analyses because of missing data in some variable categories. Cells are suppressed (–) based on cell count of 1 to 10 (CMS, 2020). True zeros are indicated.

† Indicates unreliable estimate based on a relative standard error (RSE; Parseh & Asplund, 2022) greater than or equal to 25% (CDC, 2022; Klein et al., 2002). RSE is defined as 100 times the estimated standard error of the point estimate, divided by the point estimate. Interpret data with caution.

¹ Caseworkers were asked: “Please look at Card 10 and tell me the type or types of abuse or neglect that the investigation/assessment found to have occurred.” (It is possible that different maltreatment type(s) were found than the type(s) that were reported” [see [Appendix](#)].)

Exhibit 9. Caseworker Perceptions of Level of Harm

Child Characteristic	Level of Harm Total (N=2,070)													
			None N=826		Mild N=535		Moderate N=432		Severe N=277					
	N	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI	
Total	2,070	51.0	2.9	(45.1, 56.8)	27.6	2.4	(22.8, 32.5)	15.9	1.9	(12.2, 19.6)	5.5	0.9	(3.6, 7.3)	
Sex Assigned at Birth¹	2,070													
Male	1,043	55.3	3.3	(48.6, 62.0)	26.2	2.8	(20.5, 31.9)	13.2	1.8	(9.6, 16.9)	5.3	1.2	(2.9, 7.6)	
Female	1,027	46.4	3.6	(39.2, 53.6)	29.2	2.9	(23.3, 35.0)	18.8	2.6	(13.5, 24.0)	5.7	1.3	(3.1, 8.2)	
Gender Identity: Children 11 years and older²	677													
Cisgender male	296	51.6	5.1	(41.3, 61.9)	35.9	5.3	(25.3, 46.5)	9.7	2.3	(5.2, 14.3)	2.8†	0.7†	(1.3, 4.2)†	
Cisgender female	360	43.3	5.6	(32.1, 54.6)	31.9	4.6	(22.7, 41.1)	20.8	3.6	(13.6, 27.9)	4.0†	1.2†	(1.6, 6.3)†	
Gender minority	11	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Do not identify as male, female, or transgender	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Age (years)³	2,070													
0–2	832	47.9	4.7	(38.6, 57.2)	27.3	2.9	(21.5, 33.2)	18.9	2.8	(13.4, 24.5)	5.8	1.1	(3.6, 8.0)	
3–5	202	49.4	6.3	(36.8, 62.0)	29.0	5.4	(18.1, 39.9)	13.9	2.8	(8.4, 19.5)	7.7†	2.1†	(3.5, 11.9)†	
6–10	345	57.8	5.2	(47.4, 68.1)	19.1	3.2	(12.8, 25.4)	16.4	3.9	(8.7, 24.1)	6.7†	2.0†	(2.8, 10.6)†	
11–17	691	47.1	3.5	(40.1, 54.1)	35.0	3.8	(27.3, 42.6)	14.6	1.9	(10.8, 18.5)	3.3	0.7	(2.0, 4.6)	
Ethnicity⁴	2,066													
Mexican	289	50.6	6.5	(37.6, 63.6)	28.6	6.3	(15.9, 41.3)	12.7	3.2	(6.4, 19.1)	8.1†	2.3†	(3.5, 12.6)†	
Puerto Rican	93	37.0	8.1	(20.8, 53.2)	41.7	7.9	(25.8, 57.6)	15.4†	6.6†	(2.3, 28.5)†	5.9†	2.2†	(1.4, 10.4)†	
Cuban	20	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Other	135	38.5	9.0	(20.4, 56.5)	33.2	7.2	(18.9, 47.5)	22.4†	6.1†	(10.1, 34.6)†	6.0†	2.7†	(0.5, 11.4)†	

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Child Characteristic	Level of Harm Total (N=2,070)													
			None N=826		Mild N=535		Moderate N=432		Severe N=277					
	N	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI	
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	1,529	52.8	3.4	(46.0, 59.5)	26.4	2.6	(21.2, 31.6)	15.8	2.1	(11.6, 19.9)	5.0	1.0	(3.0, 7.1)	
Ethnicity: Combined categories⁴	2,066													
Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	537	44.4	4.7	(35.1, 53.7)	32.2	4.3	(23.6, 40.8)	16.5	3.5	(9.5, 23.5)	7.0	1.4	(4.2, 9.8)	
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	1,529	52.8	3.4	(46.0, 59.5)	26.4	2.6	(21.2, 31.6)	15.8	2.1	(11.6, 19.9)	5.0	1.0	(3.0, 7.1)	
Racial Identity: One race and two or more races⁵	1,915													
American Indian/Alaskan Native	71	57.3	12.9	(31.4, 83.2)	17.7+	7.2+	(3.2, 32.1)+	19.1+	8.2+	(2.6, 35.5)+	6.0+	2.8+	(0.4, 11.6)+	
Asian	–	0			–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Black	493	59.4	6.7	(46.1, 72.8)	21.8	5.2	(11.4, 32.1)	12.4+	3.7+	(4.9, 19.9)+	6.4+	2.0+	(2.4, 10.4)+	
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
White	1,077	48.4	3.5	(41.3, 55.5)	29.1	2.8	(23.5, 34.8)	16.9	2.6	(11.7, 22.0)	5.6	1.1	(3.4, 7.8)	
Two or more races	258	50.0	7.0	(36.0, 64.0)	31.2	4.9	(21.4, 41.0)	16.1	3.9	(8.3, 23.8)	2.7+	0.8+	(1.1, 4.4)+	
Setting⁶	2,070													
In-home	1,474	52.7	3.1	(46.6, 58.8)	29.2	2.7	(23.9, 34.6)	14.5	1.9	(10.7, 18.3)	3.5+	0.9+	(1.7, 5.4)+	
Formal kin care	92	31.8+	10.9+	(10.0, 53.7)+	19.9+	5.8+	(8.2, 31.5)+	28.3+	7.9+	(12.5, 44.0)+	20.1+	8.1+	(3.9, 36.2)+	
Voluntary kin care	218	48.9	7.9	(33.0, 64.8)	19.8	4.7	(10.4, 29.1)	24.1	5.5	(13.1, 35.2)	7.3+	1.9+	(3.6, 11.0)+	
Nonrelative foster care	244	16.7+	6.3+	(4.1, 29.3)+	16.3+	4.9+	(6.5, 26.0)+	28.7	5.2	(18.3, 39.0)	38.3	6.8	(24.7, 51.9)	
Group home or residential program	19	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Other out-of-home	23	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	

Note: Information in this exhibit is based on caseworker report. All analyses were on weighted NSCAW III baseline data; Ns are unweighted and, therefore, direct percentages cannot be calculated by hand. Reported Ns vary slightly across analyses because of missing data in some variable categories. Cells are suppressed (–) based on cell count of 1 to 10 (CMS, 2020). True zeros are indicated.

- † Indicates unreliable estimate based on a relative standard error (RSE; Parseh & Asplund, 2022) greater than or equal to 25% (CDC, 2022; Klein et al., 2002). RSE is defined as 100 times the estimated standard error of the point estimate, divided by the point estimate. Interpret data with caution.
- ¹ Sex assigned at birth was determined using first the responses from youth 11 years and older to “What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate? (Male; Female)”. If the child was less than 11 years old, the response from caregiver instrument and then from the caseworker instrument were used.
 - ² Sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) items in NSCAW III align with federal guidance (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/SOGI-Best-Practices.pdf>) on measuring SOGI. For gender identity, youth 11 and older were asked first “What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate? (Male; Female)” immediately followed by “How do you describe yourself? (Male; Female; Transgender; Do not identify as male, female, or transgender)”. Cisgender male was assigned if youth reported that sex assigned at birth was male and they describe themselves as male. Cisgender female was assigned if youth reported that sex assigned at birth was female and they describe themselves as female. Gender minority was assigned if youth reported female as sex assigned at birth and described themselves as male or, reported male as sex assigned at birth and described themselves as female, or selected transgender.
 - ³ NSCAW III oversampled infants, children receiving services, and children in out-of-home placements.
 - ⁴ Youth 11 and older were asked “Are you Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?” Response options were 1 No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino, 2 Yes, Mexican, Mexican-American, Chicano, 3 Yes, Puerto Rican, 4 Yes, Cuban, and 5 Yes, Other. Caregivers were asked “Now thinking about (child), is he/she Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?” Response options were the same as the ones for youth. Ethnicity- and race-derived variables follow the guidance at [Race and Ethnicity Flexibilities \(whitehouse.gov\)](#) and [U.S. HHS Implementation Guidance on Data Collection Standards for Race, Ethnicity, Sex, Primary Language, and Disability Status](#).
 - ⁵ Children 6 and older were asked “What race are you?” Response options were 1 American Indian or Alaska Native, 2 Asian, 3 Black or African American, 4 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and 5 White. Caregivers were asked “What is (child)’s race?” Response options were the same as the ones for children. These categories are mutually exclusive. Referred to as One Race and Two or More Races at [Race and Ethnicity Flexibilities \(whitehouse.gov\)](#).
 - ⁶ “In home” includes children living at their home with biological parents, adoptive parents, or primary caregiver(s) at the time of the baseline interview. This includes children who were removed from their home during the initial Child Protective Services (CPS) investigations and reunified by the time of the baseline data collection. “Out-of-home” includes children who are cared for by formal and voluntary kin, nonrelative foster, group home or residential staff and other out-of-home caregivers. A total of 975 children are cared for by an out-of-home caregiver. “Formal kin care” includes children placed with kin through CWS involvement; these caregivers report receiving payments from the CWS. The caregiver may or may not be licensed or certified. “Voluntary kin care” includes children living with kin who do not report receiving payments from CWS for the care of the child. Voluntary kin caregivers do not have a license or certification to provide foster care. “Nonrelative foster care” includes children who have been placed with a nonrelative caregiver through CWS involvement; these caregivers receive payments from CWS, and the caregiver is a licensed or certified foster caregiver. “Group home or residential program” includes children residing in a group home or residential treatment facility. “Other out-of-home” includes children in some other type of living situation such as the child living in the home of a family friend, transitional independent living, specialized therapeutic foster home, or emergency shelter. Information is based on caregiver, caseworker, and child report.

Exhibit 10. Caseworker Perceptions of Severity of Risk among Children with a Case Substantiated or Indicated or Alternative Response

Child Characteristic	Severity of Risk ¹ Total (N=1,018)													
	N	%	None N=47		Mild N=181		Moderate N=339		Severe N=451					
SE			95% CI	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI		
Total	1,018	7.1	2.0	(3.0, 11.1)	26.9	3.1	(20.7, 33.1)	36.3	4.8	(26.6, 46.0)	29.7	4.5	(20.8, 38.6)	
Sex Assigned at Birth²	1,018													
Male	510	7.4+	2.5+	(2.5, 12.3)+	26.1	5.5	(15.0, 37.2)	43.1	6.4	(30.3, 56.0)	23.4	4.1	(15.2, 31.6)	
Female	508	6.8+	2.5+	(1.8, 11.8)+	27.6	4.5	(18.6, 36.6)	30.7	4.9	(20.9, 40.5)	34.9	6.3	(22.2, 47.5)	
Gender Identity: Children 11 years and older³	304													
Cisgender male	122	–	–	–	35.0+	12.9+	(9.2, 60.7)+	46.6+	13.0+	(20.4, 72.7)+	11.8+	4.1+	(3.6, 20.0)+	
Cisgender female	175	–	–	–	38.9	5.9	(27.1, 50.6)	30.4	5.7	(18.9, 41.9)	25.2+	8.7+	(7.8, 42.7)+	
Gender minority	–	–	–	–	0	–	–	0	–	–	–	–	–	
Do not identify as male, female, or transgender	–	0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Age (years)⁴	1,018													
0–2	479	8.0+	3.0+	(2.0, 14.1)+	25.9+	6.5+	(12.9, 38.9)+	26.2	3.8	(18.6, 33.9)	39.9	5.7	(28.5, 51.2)	
3–5	86	–	–	–	20.0+	6.1+	(7.8, 32.1)+	40.1	8.4	(23.3, 56.9)	35.6	7.4	(20.9, 50.4)	
6–10	140	–	–	–	18.7+	5.8+	(7.2, 30.2)+	40.0+	10.2+	(19.6, 60.5)+	32.3+	10.6+	(10.9, 53.6)+	
11–17	313	5.9+	2.3+	(1.3, 10.4)+	37.4	5.7	(26.0, 48.8)	37.1	6.7	(23.8, 50.5)	19.6+	5.9+	(7.8, 31.3)+	
Ethnicity⁵	1,015													
Mexican	155	–	–	–	21.7+	9.4+	(3.0, 40.4)+	29.9	6.7	(16.4, 43.3)	42.5	7.0	(28.5, 56.5)	
Puerto Rican	59	0	–	–	–	–	–	39.6+	10.8+	(17.9, 61.2)+	41.2+	10.4+	(20.4, 62.0)+	

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Child Characteristic	Severity of Risk ¹ Total (N=1,018)													
			None N=47		Mild N=181		Moderate N=339		Severe N=451					
	N	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI	
Cuban	–	–	–	–	0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Other	68	–	–	–	–	–	–	49.0+	13.8+	(21.4, 76.7)+	35.5+	15.0+	(5.5, 65.4)+	
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	724	8.0+	2.5+	(3.1, 13.0)+	29.4	3.4	(22.6, 36.2)	36.0	5.5	(24.9, 47.0)	26.6	4.6	(17.3, 35.8)	
Ethnicity: Combined categories⁵	1,015													
Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	291	–	–	–	17.8+	5.7+	(6.4, 29.1)+	37.6	5.8	(26.0, 49.1)	41.0	6.0	(29.0, 53.1)	
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	724	8.0+	2.5+	(3.1, 13.0)+	29.4	3.4	(22.6, 36.2)	36.0	5.5	(24.9, 47.0)	26.6	4.6	(17.3, 35.8)	
Racial Identity: One race and two or more races⁶	934													
American Indian/Alaskan Native	39	–	–	–	–	–	–	33.5+	14.7+	(4.0, 62.9)+	16.1+	7.1+	(1.9, 30.2)+	
Asian	–	–	–	–	0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Black	239	13.2+	7.9+	(0.0, 28.9)+	21.6+	6.8+	(8.0, 35.3)+	45.4+	12.0+	(21.4, 69.3)+	19.8+	5.9+	(8.0, 31.6)+	
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	–	0	–	–	–	–	–	0	–	–	–	–	–	
White	522	6.0+	1.7+	(2.5, 9.4)+	25.6	3.4	(18.7, 32.5)	34.6	6.2	(22.2, 46.9)	33.9	6.3	(21.1, 46.6)	
Two or more races	126	–	–	–	44.8	10.0	(24.8, 64.7)	18.3+	4.8+	(8.7, 27.8)+	34.0+	9.4+	(15.2, 52.8)+	
Setting⁷	1,018													
In-home	559	8.6+	2.6+	(3.4, 13.8)+	31.7	3.6	(24.5, 38.9)	35.9	5.9	(24.2, 47.7)	23.7	5.1	(13.5, 33.9)	
Formal kin care	69	–	–	–	–	–	–	44.8	11.1	(22.6, 67.1)	43.6+	11.3+	(21.1, 66.2)+	

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Child Characteristic	Severity of Risk ¹ Total (N=1,018)													
			None N=47		Mild N=181		Moderate N=339		Severe N=451					
	N	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI	
Voluntary kin care	143	–	–	–	13.1†	4.4†	(4.4, 21.9)†	38.0	6.8	(24.5, 51.6)	48.4	8.1	(32.1, 64.6)	
Nonrelative foster care	221	–	–	–	–	–	–	35.0	5.2	(24.6, 45.4)	59.9	5.4	(49.0, 70.8)	
Group home or residential program	12	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Other out-of-home	14	0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	

Note: Information in this exhibit is based on caseworker report. All analyses were on weighted NSCAW III baseline data; Ns are unweighted and, therefore, direct percentages cannot be calculated by hand. Reported Ns vary slightly across analyses because of missing data in some variable categories. Cells are suppressed (–) based on cell count of 1 to 10 (CMS, 2020). True zeros are indicated.

† Indicates unreliable estimate based on a relative standard error (RSE; Parseh & Asplund, 2022) greater than or equal to 25% (CDC, 2022; Klein et al., 2002). RSE is defined as 100 times the estimated standard error of the point estimate, divided by the point estimate. Interpret data with caution.

¹ Severity of Risk was asked for cases substantiated or indicated or alternative response. The outcome of investigation was substantiated or verified for 752 cases, indicated for 155, and alternative response for 58.

² Sex assigned at birth was determined using first the responses from youth 11 years and older to “What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate? (Male; Female)”. If the child was less than 11 years old, the response from caregiver instrument and then from the caseworker instrument were used.

³ Sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) items in NSCAW III align with federal guidance (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/SOGI-Best-Practices.pdf>) on measuring SOGI. For gender identity, youth 11 and older were asked first “What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate? (Male; Female)” immediately followed by “How do you describe yourself? (Male; Female; Transgender; Do not identify as male, female, or transgender)”. Cisgender male was assigned if youth reported that sex assigned at birth was male and they describe themselves as male. Cisgender female was assigned if youth reported that sex assigned at birth was female and they describe themselves as female. Gender minority was assigned if youth reported female as sex assigned at birth and described themselves as male or, reported male as sex assigned at birth and described themselves as female, or selected transgender.

⁴ NSCAW III oversampled infants, children receiving services, and children in out-of-home placements.

⁵ Youth 11 and older were asked “Are you Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?” Response options were 1 No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino, 2 Yes, Mexican, Mexican-American, Chicano, 3 Yes, Puerto Rican, 4 Yes, Cuban, and 5 Yes, Other. Caregivers were asked “Now thinking about (child), is he/she Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?” Response options were the same as the ones for youth. Ethnicity- and race-derived variables follow the guidance at [Race and Ethnicity Flexibilities \(whitehouse.gov\)](#) and [U.S. HHS Implementation Guidance on Data Collection Standards for Race, Ethnicity, Sex, Primary Language, and Disability Status](#).

⁶ Children 6 and older were asked “What race are you?” Response options were 1 American Indian or Alaska Native, 2 Asian, 3 Black or African American, 4 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and 5 White. Caregivers were asked “What is (child)’s race?” Response options were the same as the ones for children. These categories are mutually exclusive. Referred to as One Race and Two or More Races at [Race and Ethnicity Flexibilities \(whitehouse.gov\)](#).

⁷ “In home” includes children living at their home with biological parents, adoptive parents or primary caregiver(s) at the time of the baseline interview. This includes children who were removed from their home during the initial Child Protective Services (CPS) investigations and reunified by the time of the baseline data collection. “Out-of-home” includes children who are cared for by formal and voluntary kin, nonrelative foster, group home or residential staff and other out-of-home caregivers. A total of 975 children are cared for by an out-of-home caregiver. “Formal kin care” includes children placed with kin through CWS involvement; these caregivers report receiving payments from the CWS. The caregiver may or may not be licensed or certified. “Voluntary kin care” includes children living with kin who do not report receiving payments from CWS for the care of the child. Voluntary kin caregivers do not have a license or certification to provide foster care. “Nonrelative foster care” includes children who have been placed with a nonrelative caregiver through CWS involvement; these caregivers receive payments from CWS, and the caregiver is a licensed or certified foster caregiver. “Group home or residential program” includes children residing in a group home or residential treatment facility. “Other out-of-home” includes children in some other type of living situation such as the child living in the home of a family friend, transitional independent living, specialized therapeutic foster home, or emergency shelter. Information is based on caregiver, caseworker, and child report.

Exhibit 11. Safety Plan Characteristics Among Cases with a Safety Plan by Caseworker Report

Child Characteristic	Safety Plan Characteristics ¹ Total (N=796)												
	Parent/Caregiver Temporarily Left the House or Place Child with the Other Parent N=116				Child Was Temporarily Placed with Relatives or Other Placement outside the Home N=227			Safety Resource Came into the House N=88			Something Else N=365		
	N	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI
Total	796	12.0	2.5	(7.0, 16.9)	18.0	3.7	(10.6, 25.5)	9.1	2.4	(4.3, 14.0)	60.8	6.2	(48.3, 73.3)
Sex Assigned at Birth²	796												
Male	418	12.0	2.8	(6.3, 17.6)	15.9+	4.4+	(7.0, 24.7)+	10.9+	3.1+	(4.8, 17.0)+	61.3	7.1	(47.1, 75.5)
Female	378	12.0+	3.3+	(5.4, 18.6)+	20.4	4.6	(11.2, 29.6)	7.3+	2.4+	(2.5, 12.1)+	60.3	6.6	(47.1, 73.6)
Gender Identity: Children 11 years and older³	228												
Cisgender male	93	14.5+	5.4+	(3.7, 25.3)+	12.3+	4.0+	(4.3, 20.3)+	13.9+	6.9+	(0.1, 27.8)+	59.3	7.4	(44.4, 74.3)
Cisgender female	125	10.7+	5.4+	(0.0, 21.6)+	23.1+	5.9+	(11.2, 35.0)+	7.3+	3.6+	(0.2, 14.5)+	58.9	7.5	(43.9, 73.9)
Gender minority	–	–	–	–	0			0			–	–	–
Do not identify as male, female, or transgender	–	0			0			–	–	–	–	–	–
Age (years)⁴	796												
0–2	364	8.3	1.8	(4.6, 12.0)	21.3+	5.5+	(10.2, 32.4)+	10.9+	3.2+	(4.4, 17.3)+	59.6	7.3	(45.0, 74.1)
3–5	78	–	–	–	20.3+	8.3+	(3.7, 36.9)+	13.9+	6.6+	(0.6, 27.3)+	60.5	11.0	(38.5, 82.5)
6–10	118	18.0+	6.3+	(5.5, 30.6)+	15.2+	4.4+	(6.3, 24.2)+	–	–	–	62.8	8.0	(46.7, 78.9)
11–17	236	12.5+	3.7+	(5.2, 19.8)+	17.1	3.6	(9.8, 24.4)	10.2+	3.7+	(2.7, 17.7)+	60.2	5.8	(48.5, 71.8)
Ethnicity⁵	795												
Mexican	112	17.2+	5.2+	(6.9, 27.5)+	23.5+	6.3+	(10.8, 36.1)+	13.4+	5.6+	(2.1, 24.6)+	46.0	9.6	(26.8, 65.1)
Puerto Rican	32	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	37.5+	12.0+	(13.5, 61.5)+

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Child Characteristic	Safety Plan Characteristics ¹ Total (N=796)												
	Parent/Caregiver Temporarily Left the House or Place Child with the Other Parent N=116				Child Was Temporarily Placed with Relatives or Other Placement outside the Home N=227			Safety Resource Came into the House N=88			Something Else N=365		
	N	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI
Cuban	–	–	–	–	0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other	38	–	–	–	20.8†	7.8†	(5.1, 36.4)†	–	–	–	44.8†	19.4†	(5.9, 83.6)†
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	606	10.1	2.3	(5.4, 14.8)	16.9	4.2	(8.6, 25.2)	8.5†	2.3†	(3.8, 13.2)†	64.5	6.4	(51.6, 77.4)
Ethnicity: Combined categories⁵	795												
Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	189	21.2†	7.6†	(6.0, 36.4)†	23.7	4.4	(14.8, 32.6)	12.3†	4.4†	(3.6, 21.0)†	42.8	8.2	(26.3, 59.2)
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	606	10.1	2.3	(5.4, 14.8)	16.9	4.2	(8.6, 25.2)	8.5†	2.3†	(3.8, 13.2)†	64.5	6.4	(51.6, 77.4)
Racial Identity: One race and two or more races⁶	747												
American Indian/Alaskan Native	23	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Black	164	13.5†	4.7†	(4.1, 23.0)†	13.0†	4.3†	(4.4, 21.6)†	8.4†	3.5†	(1.4, 15.5)†	65.0	6.4	(52.1, 77.9)
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0	–	–	–	–	–
White	454	12.0	2.6	(6.8, 17.1)	17.8†	4.7†	(8.5, 27.2)†	8.9†	2.6†	(3.7, 14.0)†	61.3	7.1	(47.2, 75.5)
Two or more races	102	4.0†	2.2†	(0.0, 8.5)†	18.6†	8.1†	(2.4, 34.9)†	9.9†	5.1†	(0.0, 20.2)†	67.5	11.7	(44.1, 90.8)
Setting⁷	796												
In-home	560	13.2	2.9	(7.5, 18.9)	12.8	2.9	(6.9, 18.7)	8.9†	2.6†	(3.6, 14.2)†	65.1	5.9	(53.2, 77.1)
Formal kin care	39	–	–	–	68.9	14.8	(39.2, 98.6)	–	–	–	–	–	–

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Child Characteristic	Safety Plan Characteristics ¹ Total (N=796)												
	Parent/Caregiver Temporarily Left the House or Place Child with the Other Parent N=116				Child Was Temporarily Placed with Relatives or Other Placement outside the Home N=227			Safety Resource Came into the House N=88			Something Else N=365		
	N	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI	%	SE	95% CI
Voluntary kin care	105	–	–	–	46.5	7.7	(31.0, 62.0)	–	–	–	37.6	8.4	(20.7, 54.4)
Nonrelative foster care	78	–	–	–	42.5	10.3	(22.0, 63.1)	–	–	–	37.6†	12.1†	(13.3, 62.0)†
Group home or residential program	–	0	–	–	–	–	–	0	–	–	–	–	–
Other out-of-home	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0	–	–	0	–	–

Note: Information in this exhibit is based on caseworker report. All analyses were on weighted NSCAW III baseline data; Ns are unweighted and, therefore, direct percentages cannot be calculated by hand. Reported Ns vary slightly across analyses because of missing data in some variable categories. Cells are suppressed (–) based on cell count of 1 to 10 (CMS, 2020). True zeros are indicated.

- † Indicates unreliable estimate based on a relative standard error (RSE; Parseh & Asplund, 2022) greater than or equal to 25% (CDC, 2022; Klein et al., 2002). RSE is defined as 100 times the estimated standard error of the point estimate, divided by the point estimate. Interpret data with caution.
- ¹ Caseworkers reported on safety plan for 2020 children, on those 799 had a safety plan, representing 36.2% of cases. Exhibit 12 focuses only on the cases with a safety plans.
- ² Sex assigned at birth was determined using first the responses from youth 11 years and older to “What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate? (Male; Female)”. If the child was less than 11 years old, the response from caregiver instrument and then from the caseworker instrument were used.
- ³ Sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) items in NSCAW III align with federal guidance (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/SOGI-Best-Practices.pdf>) on measuring SOGI. For gender identity, youth 11 and older were asked first “What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate? (Male; Female)” immediately followed by “How do you describe yourself? (Male; Female; Transgender; Do not identify as male, female, or transgender)”. Cisgender male was assigned if youth reported that sex assigned at birth was male and they describe themselves as male. Cisgender female was assigned if youth reported that sex assigned at birth was female and they describe themselves as female. Gender minority was assigned if youth reported female as sex assigned at birth and described themselves as male or, reported male as sex assigned at birth and described themselves as female, or selected transgender.
- ⁴ NSCAW III oversampled infants, children receiving services, and children in out-of-home placements.
- ⁵ Youth 11 and older were asked “Are you Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?” Response options were 1 No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino, 2 Yes, Mexican, Mexican-American, Chicano, 3 Yes, Puerto Rican, 4 Yes, Cuban, and 5 Yes, Other. Caregivers were asked “Now thinking about (child), is he/she Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?” Response options were the same as the ones for youth. Ethnicity- and race-derived variables follow the guidance at [Race and Ethnicity Flexibilities \(whitehouse.gov\)](#) and [U.S. HHS Implementation Guidance on Data Collection Standards for Race, Ethnicity, Sex, Primary Language, and Disability Status](#).
- ⁶ Children 6 and older were asked “What race are you?” Response options were 1 American Indian or Alaska Native, 2 Asian, 3 Black or African American, 4 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and 5 White. Caregivers were asked “What is (child)’s race?” Response options were the same as the ones for children. These categories are mutually exclusive. Referred to as One Race and Two or More Races at [Race and Ethnicity Flexibilities \(whitehouse.gov\)](#).

⁷ “In home” includes children living at their home with biological parents, adoptive parents or primary caregiver(s) at the time of the baseline interview. This includes children who were removed from their home during the initial Child Protective Services (CPS) investigations and reunified by the time of the baseline data collection. “Out-of-home” includes children who are cared for by formal and voluntary kin, nonrelative foster, group home or residential staff and other out-of-home caregivers. There is a total of 975 children who are cared for by an out-of-home caregiver. “Formal kin care” includes children placed with kin through CWS involvement; these caregivers report receiving payments from the CWS. The caregiver may or may not be licensed or certified. “Voluntary kin care” includes children living with kin who do not report receiving payments from CWS for the care of the child. Voluntary kin caregivers do not have a license or certification to provide foster care. “Nonrelative foster care” includes children who have been placed with a nonrelative caregiver through CWS involvement; these caregivers receive payments from CWS, and the caregiver is a licensed or certified foster caregiver. “Group home or residential program” includes children residing in a group home or residential treatment facility. “Other out-of-home” includes children in some other type of living situation such as the child living in the home of a family friend, transitional independent living, specialized therapeutic foster home, or emergency shelter. Information is based on caregiver, caseworker, and child report.

Exhibit 12. Service Need by Caseworker Report

Child Characteristic	Service Need											
	Housing				Financial Assistance				Employment			
	N	%	SE	95% CI	N	%	SE	95% CI	N	%	SE	95% CI
Total	1,797	13.5	1.6	(10.4, 16.6)	1,732	26.4	2.4	(21.6, 31.1)	1,732	15.6	1.2	(13.3, 18.0)
Sex Assigned at Birth¹	1,797				1,732				1,732			
Male	905	10.9	1.6	(7.7, 14.0)	868	23.1	2.5	(18.0, 28.2)	870	15.1	1.7	(11.8, 18.4)
Female	892	16.2	2.5	(11.1, 21.2)	864	29.7	3.3	(23.1, 36.2)	862	16.2	2.1	(12.0, 20.3)
Gender Identity: Children 11 years and older²	584				566				573			
Cisgender male	259	10.6	2.3	(5.9, 15.2)	246	21.7	4.0	(13.6, 29.7)	247	14.0	3.1	(7.8, 20.3)
Cisgender female	308	9.6+	2.4+	(4.8, 14.5)+	301	25.9	4.0	(17.9, 33.9)	307	11.6	2.7	(6.2, 16.9)
Gender minority	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Do not identify as male, female, or transgender	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Age (years)³	1,797				1,732				1,732			
0–2	708	12.3	2.5	(7.4, 17.3)	680	28.9	3.9	(21.1, 36.7)	678	21.8	3.1	(15.7, 27.9)
3–5	174	18.0	3.9	(10.1, 25.9)	165	36.2	5.4	(25.4, 47.0)	161	20.7	4.3	(12.1, 29.3)
6–10	317	14.9	3.4	(8.0, 21.7)	308	23.0	4.1	(14.9, 31.2)	309	13.5	2.0	(9.4, 17.5)
11–17	598	11.0	1.8	(7.4, 14.5)	579	24.6	3.1	(18.3, 30.9)	584	12.9	2.2	(8.4, 17.3)
Ethnicity⁴	1,796				1,731				1,731			
Mexican	243	18.6+	5.1+	(8.4, 28.8)+	240	28.2	6.1	(16.0, 40.4)	241	18.9+	4.7+	(9.4, 28.4)+
Puerto Rican	78	22.3+	8.0+	(6.2, 38.3)+	77	25.6+	8.4+	(8.9, 42.3)+	74	23.9+	8.8+	(6.3, 41.4)+
Cuban	16	–	–	–	17	–	–	–	17	–	–	–
Other	116	11.3+	5.1+	(1.1, 21.4)+	111	15.1+	5.5+	(4.0, 26.2)+	114	14.9+	6.4+	(2.1, 27.6)+
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	1,343	12.6	1.8	(9.0, 16.1)	1,286	27.0	2.6	(21.7, 32.3)	1,285	14.8	1.4	(12.0, 17.6)

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Child Characteristic	Service Need											
	Housing				Financial Assistance				Employment			
	N	%	SE	95% CI	N	%	SE	95% CI	N	%	SE	95% CI
Ethnicity: Combined categories⁴	1,796				1,731				1,731			
Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	453	17.0	3.7	(9.7, 24.4)	445	24.0	4.3	(15.4, 32.5)	446	18.8	4.0	(10.9, 26.7)
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	1,343	12.6	1.8	(9.0, 16.1)	1,286	27.0	2.6	(21.7, 32.3)	1,285	14.8	1.4	(12.0, 17.6)
Racial Identity: One race and two or more races⁵	1,662				1,596				1,599			
American Indian/Alaskan Native	63	4.2+	2.0+	(0.2, 8.2)+	62	21.7+	8.3+	(5.2, 38.2)+	65	3.0+	1.6+	(0.0, 6.3)+
Asian	–	0			–	0			–	–	–	–
Black	412	14.5+	4.0+	(6.6, 22.5)+	386	26.8	4.1	(18.7, 34.9)	387	13.6	2.5	(8.6, 18.7)
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
White	941	11.6	1.5	(8.6, 14.7)	911	24.1	2.9	(18.3, 30.0)	909	15.1	1.5	(12.0, 18.2)
Two or more races	232	14.6+	4.3+	(6.1, 23.2)+	222	32.0	6.4	(19.3, 44.7)	223	15.6	3.8	(8.1, 23.2)
Setting⁶	1,797				1,732				1,732			
In-home	1,334	11.8	1.7	(8.3, 15.2)	1,285	24.4	2.3	(19.7, 29.1)	1,284	14.1	1.3	(11.4, 16.7)
Formal kin care	75	49.0	9.8	(29.3, 68.7)	70	68.8	9.7	(49.3, 88.2)	69	30.3+	8.0+	(14.4, 46.2)+
Voluntary kin care	171	12.3+	3.6+	(5.1, 19.6)+	170	25.4	5.4	(14.5, 36.3)	170	15.4+	4.4+	(6.6, 24.3)+
Nonrelative foster care	190	40.0	5.7	(28.7, 51.3)	180	61.1	6.5	(48.1, 74.0)	181	47.3	5.4	(36.6, 58.0)
Group home or residential program	13	–	–	–	13	–	–	–	14	–	–	–
Other out-of-home	14	–	–	–	14	–	–	–	14	–	–	–

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Child Characteristic	Service Need											
	Domestic Violence				Legal Aid				Drug or Alcohol			
	N	%	SE	95% CI	N	%	SE	95% CI	N	%	SE	95% CI
Total	1,775	16.4	1.7	(13.1, 19.7)	1,731	10.7	1.3	(8.2, 13.3)	1,841	17.1	1.4	(14.3, 19.9)
Sex Assigned at Birth¹	1,775				1,731				1,841			
Male	897	14.5	1.9	(10.7, 18.3)	878	10.1	1.9	(6.3, 13.9)	932	13.4	1.7	(10.0, 16.9)
Female	878	18.4	2.4	(13.6, 23.1)	853	11.3	2.0	(7.3, 15.3)	909	21.1	2.6	(15.9, 26.2)
Gender Identity: Children 11 years and older²	582				561				597			
Cisgender male	257	13.7+	4.0+	(5.7, 21.8)+	250	14.6+	4.5+	(5.5, 23.7)+	262	7.5+	2.1+	(3.3, 11.6)+
Cisgender female	305	19.5	3.4	(12.8, 26.3)	293	10.4	2.1	(6.1, 14.6)	315	16.5+	4.4+	(7.8, 25.3)+
Gender minority	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Do not identify as male, female, or transgender	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Age (years)³	1,775				1,731				1,841			
0–2	699	23.0	2.6	(17.7, 28.3)	686	11.3	2.4	(6.5, 16.1)	733	23.0	2.8	(17.5, 28.6)
3–5	169	11.0	2.5	(6.1, 16.0)	164	12.1+	3.7+	(4.8, 19.5)+	179	24.0	5.0	(13.9, 34.0)
6–10	311	14.5	3.2	(8.1, 20.8)	308	5.5+	1.7+	(2.1, 8.9)+	318	16.0	3.1	(9.7, 22.2)
11–17	596	16.7	2.7	(11.3, 22.1)	573	14.9	2.7	(9.6, 20.3)	611	12.5	2.0	(8.4, 16.6)
Ethnicity⁴	1,774				1,730				1,839			
Mexican	249	23.3	4.9	(13.5, 33.2)	243	14.8+	4.2+	(6.4, 23.1)+	257	11.8+	3.1+	(5.5, 18.0)+
Puerto Rican	77	34.1	8.2	(17.8, 50.5)	78	10.0+	3.8+	(2.4, 17.6)+	80	15.6+	5.1+	(5.4, 25.8)+
Cuban	17	–	–	–	17	–	–	–	17	–	–	–
Other	115	20.6	4.9	(10.7, 30.5)	115	16.9+	5.3+	(6.4, 27.5)+	121	13.1+	3.6+	(5.8, 20.4)+
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	1,316	14.0	1.5	(11.0, 17.1)	1,277	9.7	1.4	(6.8, 12.6)	1,364	18.1	1.8	(14.6, 21.6)

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Child Characteristic	Service Need											
	Domestic Violence				Legal Aid				Drug or Alcohol			
	N	%	SE	95% CI	N	%	SE	95% CI	N	%	SE	95% CI
Ethnicity: Combined categories⁴	1,774				1,730				1,839			
Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	458	25.1	4.0	(17.0, 33.2)	453	14.5	2.7	(9.0, 20.0)	475	13.3	2.2	(9.0, 17.6)
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	1,316	14.0	1.5	(11.0, 17.1)	1,277	9.7	1.4	(6.8, 12.6)	1,364	18.1	1.8	(14.6, 21.6)
Racial Identity: One race and two or more races⁵	1,635				1,597				1,700			
American Indian/Alaskan Native	65	11.5+	5.7+	(0.0, 22.9)+	62	18.1+	8.5+	(1.0, 35.2)+	69	20.7+	8.4+	(3.9, 37.5)+
Asian	–	–	–	–	–	0	–	–	–	–	–	–
Black	401	16.9	3.2	(10.4, 23.3)	389	7.6+	2.0+	(3.7, 11.5)+	422	12.1+	3.8+	(4.5, 19.7)+
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
White	925	13.9	2.1	(9.6, 18.1)	912	10.9	1.8	(7.2, 14.6)	957	19.9	1.9	(16.0, 23.8)
Two or more races	228	19.2	4.4	(10.4, 28.1)	219	7.1+	2.1+	(2.8, 11.3)+	236	16.0	2.7	(10.6, 21.5)
Setting⁶	1,775				1,731				1,841			
In-home	1,319	16.2	1.8	(12.5, 19.8)	1,282	9.3	1.4	(6.5, 12.1)	1,366	14.9	1.5	(11.9, 17.8)
Formal kin care	71	25.4+	6.8+	(11.9, 38.9)+	70	21.8+	7.2+	(7.5, 36.1)+	74	34.5+	9.1+	(16.3, 52.8)+
Voluntary kin care	173	10.8+	2.8+	(5.2, 16.3)+	171	13.1+	4.6+	(3.8, 22.4)+	175	23.2+	6.0+	(11.3, 35.1)+
Nonrelative foster care	185	33.0	6.5	(20.0, 46.1)	179	34.6	7.7	(19.3, 50.0)	197	54.7	5.9	(42.9, 66.6)
Group home or residential program	13	–	–	–	14	–	–	–	14	–	–	–
Other out-of-home	14	–	–	–	15	–	–	–	15	–	–	–

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Child Characteristic	Service Need							
	Mental Health				Health			
	N	%	SE	95% CI	N	%	SE	95% CI
Total	1,711	20.1	1.8	(16.4, 23.8)	1,720	3.8	0.5	(2.8, 4.9)
Sex Assigned at Birth¹	1,711				1,720			
Male	857	19.4	1.7	(15.9, 22.8)	871	3.3	0.6	(2.1, 4.6)
Female	854	20.9	3.0	(14.8, 27.0)	849	4.4	1.0	(2.3, 6.4)
Gender Identity: Children 11 years and older²	549				556			
Cisgender male	236	24.7	4.3	(16.1, 33.3)	242	4.2+	1.3+	(1.5, 6.9)+
Cisgender female	294	21.4	5.3	(10.8, 32.0)	294	5.8+	2.1+	(1.6, 10.0)+
Gender minority	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Do not identify as male, female, or transgender	–	–	–	–	–	0		
Age (years)³	1,711				1,720			
0–2	675	23.5	3.2	(17.1, 29.9)	682	4.8+	1.3+	(2.2, 7.5)+
3–5	167	18.6	3.8	(11.0, 26.3)	166	–	–	–
6–10	308	15.6	2.1	(11.4, 19.8)	305	–	–	–
11–17	561	23.2	3.4	(16.4, 30.1)	567	4.9	1.0	(2.9, 7.0)
Ethnicity⁴	1,709				1,719			
Mexican	244	17.4	4.0	(9.4, 25.5)	249	3.8+	1.8+	(0.3, 7.3)+
Puerto Rican	76	28.0+	8.0+	(12.1, 44.0)+	76	–	–	–
Cuban	17	–	–	–	17	–	–	–
Other	109	8.9+	3.3+	(2.3, 15.4)+	110	–	–	–
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	1,263	20.8	2.1	(16.7, 24.9)	1,267	4.0	0.7	(2.7, 5.3)

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Child Characteristic	Service Need							
	Mental Health				Health			
	N	%	SE	95% CI	N	%	SE	95% CI
Ethnicity: Combined categories⁴	1,709				1,719			
Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	446	17.3	2.9	(11.5, 23.1)	452	3.3†	1.1†	(1.0, 5.5)†
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	1,263	20.8	2.1	(16.7, 24.9)	1,267	4.0	0.7	(2.7, 5.3)
Racial Identity: One race and two or more races⁵	1,579				1,582			
American Indian/Alaskan Native	60	14.0†	5.9†	(2.3, 25.8)†	64	–	–	–
Asian	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Black	391	11.6	2.4	(6.8, 16.3)	387	2.6†	0.8†	(1.0, 4.1)†
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
White	891	23.6	2.3	(19.0, 28.2)	894	4.4	0.8	(2.9, 5.9)
Two or more races	221	19.8	4.7	(10.5, 29.1)	221	3.0†	1.4†	(0.3, 5.7)†
Setting⁶	1,711				1,720			
In-home	1,278	18.8	1.9	(15.1, 22.6)	1,277	3.9	0.6	(2.6, 5.1)
Formal kin care	69	36.5†	12.5†	(11.5, 61.5)†	72	–	–	–
Voluntary kin care	163	14.2	3.3	(7.6, 20.8)	166	2.0†	1.0†	(0.1, 4.0)†
Nonrelative foster care	175	55.1	7.1	(40.8, 69.4)	178	7.1†	2.4†	(2.2, 11.9)†
Group home or residential program	13	–	–	–	14	–	–	–
Other out-of-home	13	–	–	–	13	–	–	–

Note: Information in this exhibit is based on caseworker report. All analyses were on weighted NSCAW III baseline data; Ns are unweighted and, therefore, direct percentages cannot be calculated by hand. Reported Ns vary slightly across analyses because of missing data in some variable categories. Cells are suppressed (–) based on cell count of 1 to 10 (CMS, 2020). True zeros are indicated.

† Indicates unreliable estimate based on a relative standard error (RSE; Parseh & Asplund, 2022) greater than or equal to 25% (CDC, 2022; Klein et al., 2002). RSE is defined as 100 times the estimated standard error of the point estimate, divided by the point estimate. Interpret data with caution.

¹ Sex assigned at birth was determined using first the responses from youth 11 years and older to “What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate? (Male; Female)”. If the child was less than 11 years old, the response from caregiver instrument and then from the caseworker instrument were used.

- ² Sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) items in NSCAW III align with federal guidance (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/SOGI-Best-Practices.pdf>) on measuring SOGI. For gender identity, youth 11 and older were asked first “What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate? (Male; Female)” immediately followed by “How do you describe yourself? (Male; Female; Transgender; Do not identify as male, female, or transgender)”. Cisgender male was assigned if youth reported that sex assigned at birth was male and they describe themselves as male. Cisgender female was assigned if youth reported that sex assigned at birth was female and they describe themselves as female. Gender minority was assigned if youth reported female as sex assigned at birth and described themselves as male or, reported male as sex assigned at birth and described themselves as female, or selected transgender.
- ³ NSCAW III oversampled infants, children receiving services, and children in out-of-home placements.
- ⁴ Youth 11 and older were asked “Are you Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?” Response options were 1 No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino, 2 Yes, Mexican, Mexican-American, Chicano, 3 Yes, Puerto Rican, 4 Yes, Cuban, and 5 Yes, Other. Caregivers were asked “Now thinking about (child), is he/she Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?” Response options were the same as the ones for youth. Ethnicity- and race-derived variables follow the guidance at [Race and Ethnicity Flexibilities \(whitehouse.gov\)](#) and [U.S. HHS Implementation Guidance on Data Collection Standards for Race, Ethnicity, Sex, Primary Language, and Disability Status](#).
- ⁵ Children 6 and older were asked “What race are you?” Response options were 1 American Indian or Alaska Native, 2 Asian, 3 Black or African American, 4 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and 5 White. Caregivers were asked “What is (child)’s race?” Response options were the same as the ones for children. These categories are mutually exclusive. Referred to as One Race and Two or More Races at [Race and Ethnicity Flexibilities \(whitehouse.gov\)](#).
- ⁶ “In home” includes children living at their home with biological parents, adoptive parents, or primary caregiver(s) at the time of the baseline interview. This includes children who were removed from their home during the initial Child Protective Services (CPS) investigations and reunified by the time of the baseline data collection. “Out-of-home” includes children who are cared for by formal and voluntary kin, nonrelative foster, group home or residential staff and other out-of-home caregivers. A total of 975 children are cared for by an out-of-home caregiver. “Formal kin care” includes children placed with kin through CWS involvement; these caregivers report receiving payments from the CWS. The caregiver may or may not be licensed or certified. “Voluntary kin care” includes children living with kin who do not report receiving payments from CWS for the care of the child. Voluntary kin caregivers do not have a license or certification to provide foster care. “Nonrelative foster care” includes children who have been placed with a nonrelative caregiver through CWS involvement; these caregivers receive payments from CWS, and the caregiver is a licensed or certified foster caregiver. “Group home or residential program” includes children residing in a group home or residential treatment facility. “Other out-of-home” includes children in some other type of living situation such as the child living in the home of a family friend, transitional independent living, specialized therapeutic foster home, or emergency shelter. Information is based on caregiver, caseworker, and child report.

Exhibit 13. Service Receipt Among Those in Need by Caseworker Report

Child Characteristic	Service Receipt											
	Housing				Financial Assistance				Employment			
	N	%	SE	95% CI	N	%	SE	95% CI	N	%	SE	95% CI
Total	339	38.8	6.0	(26.9, 50.8)	559	59.5	3.3	(53.0, 66.1)	382	25.7	3.9	(17.8, 33.6)
Sex Assigned at Birth¹	339				559				382			
Male	174	42.3	7.2	(27.8, 56.9)	279	58.3	5.4	(47.5, 69.2)	203	31.6	4.9	(21.9, 41.4)
Female	165	36.4	9.0	(18.4, 54.5)	280	60.4	4.4	(51.6, 69.3)	179	20.0	4.9	(10.2, 29.9)
Gender Identity: Children 11 years and older²	91				163				93			
Cisgender Male	40	53.0	12.6	(27.5, 78.5)	68	37.6	8.5	(20.5, 54.8)	41	–	–	–
Cisgender Female	48	18.3+	7.9+	(2.3, 34.3)+	89	57.1	8.1	(40.8, 73.5)	48	22.8+	8.8+	(5.0, 40.7)+
Gender Minority	–	0			–	–	–	–	–	0		
Do not identify as male, female, or transgender	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Age (years)³	339				559				382			
0–2	157	31.6+	8.0+	(15.5, 47.6)+	245	55.1	5.6	(43.9, 66.3)	198	21.8+	5.5+	(10.8, 32.8)+
3–5	34	35.2+	11.9+	(11.4, 59.0)+	58	62.0	9.7	(42.6, 81.5)	35	24.6+	10.5+	(3.6, 45.5)+
6–10	55	48.3+	12.4+	(23.5, 73.1)+	90	72.7	5.8	(61.0, 84.3)	54	27.8+	7.4+	(13.0, 42.7)+
11–17	93	33.1	6.8	(19.5, 46.8)	166	49.0	5.0	(39.0, 59.0)	95	27.5+	8.1+	(11.2, 43.8)+
Ethnicity⁴	339				558				382			
Mexican	64	24.5+	9.2+	(6.1, 42.8)+	101	51.2	6.2	(38.7, 63.7)	70	–	–	–
Puerto Rican	15	–	–	–	22	–	–	–	16	–	–	–
Cuban	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other	19	–	–	–	31	19.4+	9.1+	(1.2, 37.7)+	24	–	–	–
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	240	42.1	7.6	(26.8, 57.3)	399	62.8	3.7	(55.4, 70.1)	268	28.4	4.5	(19.4, 37.5)

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Child Characteristic	Service Receipt											
	Housing				Financial Assistance				Employment			
	N	%	SE	95% CI	N	%	SE	95% CI	N	%	SE	95% CI
Ethnicity: Combined categories⁴	339				558				382			
Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	99	29.6+	7.4+	(14.7, 44.5)+	159	45.7	4.6	(36.5, 54.8)	114	17.4+	5.7+	(6.0, 28.9)+
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	240	42.1	7.6	(26.8, 57.3)	399	62.8	3.7	(55.4, 70.1)	268	28.4	4.5	(19.4, 37.5)
Racial Identity: One race and two or more races⁵	303				499				339			
American Indian/Alaskan Native	14	–	–	–	25	62.2+	19.9+	(22.3, 100.0)+	11	–	–	–
Asian	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Black	89	50.8+	16.4+	(17.9, 83.7)+	131	62.2	9.2	(43.8, 80.6)	87	19.6+	5.3+	(8.9, 30.4)+
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	–	0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
White	149	31.6	6.3	(19.1, 44.2)	256	63.4	4.0	(55.4, 71.4)	187	29.3	6.5	(16.3, 42.2)
Two or more races	50	39.2+	13.7+	(11.8, 66.7)+	83	49.7+	12.9+	(23.8, 75.6)+	49	19.0+	7.7+	(3.6, 34.5)+
Setting⁶	339				559				382			
In-home	174	41.1	7.5	(26.0, 56.2)	340	64.3	3.7	(56.8, 71.7)	214	25.1	4.7	(15.7, 34.6)
Formal kin care	30	–	–	–	44	51.3+	13.7+	(23.9, 78.6)+	26	–	–	–
Voluntary kin care	43	32.3+	13.4+	(5.4, 59.3)+	62	39.9+	10.8+	(18.3, 61.6)+	47	26.7+	10.9+	(5.0, 48.5)+
Nonrelative foster care	86	39.7+	11.3+	(17.1, 62.4)+	107	38.9	9.6	(19.8, 58.1)	87	30.3+	9.5+	(11.3, 49.4)+
Group home or residential program	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other out-of-home	–	0	–	–	–	0	–	–	–	0	–	–

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Child Characteristic	Service Receipt											
	Domestic Violence				Legal Aid				Drug or Alcohol			
	N	%	SE	95% CI	N	%	SE	95% CI	N	%	SE	95% CI
Total	380	37.4	5.4	(26.4, 48.3)	280	48.1	6.4	(35.3, 60.9)	486	57.0	5.0	(46.9, 67.1)
Sex Assigned at Birth¹	380				280				486			
Male	192	32.4	7.1	(18.2, 46.6)	142	48.3	10.3	(27.6, 69.0)	245	51.0	6.1	(38.7, 63.3)
Female	188	41.5	6.7	(28.1, 55.0)	138	47.9	8.4	(31.1, 64.6)	241	61.1	7.5	(46.1, 76.1)
Gender Identity: Children 11 years and older²	108				84				98			
Cisgender Male	46	27.2+	12.6+	(1.8, 52.6)+	31	54.2+	19.5+	(14.6, 93.7)+	39	41.5+	12.1+	(17.1, 65.8)+
Cisgender Female	58	48.5	9.7	(29.0, 68.1)	47	54.2	13.1	(27.7, 80.6)	55	41.8+	12.5+	(16.5, 67.1)+
Gender Minority	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Do not identify as male, female, or transgender	–	0			–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Age (years)³	380				280				486			
0–2	186	27.5	6.7	(14.1, 41.0)	137	49.8	11.1	(27.6, 72.1)	275	65.6	6.0	(53.6, 77.6)
3–5	29	46.4	10.6	(25.1, 67.8)	20	64.6	15.0	(34.5, 94.7)	52	40.4	9.6	(21.1, 59.8)
6–10	54	42.5+	11.3+	(19.9, 65.2)+	36	25.2+	8.6+	(8.0, 42.4)+	57	69.5	10.2	(49.0, 90.1)
11–17	111	37.9	9.3	(19.2, 56.7)	87	50.7	11.0	(28.6, 72.8)	102	46.3	10.2	(25.8, 66.8)
Ethnicity⁴	380				280				484			
Mexican	76	64.1	9.3	(45.5, 82.7)	55	60.6	14.9	(30.6, 90.5)	68	68.9	10.2	(48.4, 89.5)
Puerto Rican	23	48.9+	17.9+	(13.1, 84.7)+	16	–	–	–	19	–	–	–
Cuban	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other	30	–	–	–	23	56.1+	15.2+	(25.4, 86.7)+	27	66.1	14.1	(37.9, 94.4)
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	244	30.8	6.0	(18.7, 42.8)	183	43.6	7.7	(28.1, 59.1)	366	54.8	5.9	(42.9, 66.7)

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Child Characteristic	Service Receipt											
	Domestic Violence				Legal Aid				Drug or Alcohol			
	N	%	SE	95% CI	N	%	SE	95% CI	N	%	SE	95% CI
Ethnicity: Combined categories⁴	380				280				484			
Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	136	51.2	10.0	(31.1, 71.3)	97	59.2	9.0	(41.1, 77.4)	118	68.5	7.9	(52.6, 84.4)
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	244	30.8	6.0	(18.7, 42.8)	183	43.6	7.7	(28.1, 59.1)	366	54.8	5.9	(42.9, 66.7)
Racial Identity: One race and two or more races⁵	336				257				468			
American Indian/Alaskan Native	13	–	–	–	12	–	–	–	24	86.6	8.8	(69.0, 100.0)
Asian	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Black	100	32.8+	8.6+	(15.4, 50.1)+	61	60.8	13.8	(33.1, 88.6)	92	58.2+	16.3+	(25.6, 90.8)+
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
White	157	29.5	6.1	(17.2, 41.9)	141	39.4	7.1	(25.2, 53.7)	269	53.7	5.8	(42.0, 65.4)
Two or more races	60	45.4+	14.3+	(16.7, 74.1)+	40	48.4+	13.6+	(21.1, 75.6)+	80	58.2	6.4	(45.3, 71.1)
Setting⁶	380				280				486			
In-home	256	35.8	5.9	(24.0, 47.7)	140	42.4	7.8	(26.8, 58.1)	258	57.1	6.5	(44.1, 70.1)
Formal kin care	26	55.7+	16.5+	(22.6, 88.9)+	22	77.8	13.6	(50.5, 100.0)	36	60.2	8.9	(42.4, 78.1)
Voluntary kin care	36	–	–	–	38	72.4	13.5	(45.3, 99.5)	64	61.9	13.0	(35.9, 88.0)
Nonrelative foster care	57	60.1	10.2	(39.7, 80.4)	71	59.8	10.9	(38.0, 81.7)	117	53.2	8.0	(37.3, 69.2)
Group home or residential program	–	0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0	–	–
Other out-of-home	–	0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

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Child Characteristic	Service Receipt							
	Mental Health				Health			
	N	%	SE	95% CI	N	%	SE	95% CI
Total	495	58.6	4.1	(50.3, 66.9)	98	64.0	9.5	(44.9, 83.1)
Sex Assigned at Birth¹	495				98			
Male	253	49.8	5.8	(38.2, 61.3)	50	67.1	11.6	(43.6, 90.6)
Female	242	67.2	4.9	(57.4, 77.1)	48	61.4	14.2	(32.9, 90.0)
Gender Identity: Children 11 years and older²	137				44			
Cisgender male	65	37.2+	9.9+	(17.2, 57.1)+	23	60.8	14.5	(31.0, 90.6)
Cisgender female	67	58.4	10.8	(36.7, 80.1)	19	54.6+	21.0+	(11.5, 97.8)+
Gender minority	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Do not identify as male, female, or transgender	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Age (years)³	495				98			
0–2	237	63.2	6.5	(50.2, 76.2)	38	68.6	15.5	(37.4, 99.8)
3–5	41	63.5	9.5	(44.6, 82.5)	–	–	–	–
6–10	78	71.5	6.6	(58.3, 84.7)	–	–	–	–
11–17	139	46.3	8.5	(29.3, 63.3)	45	59.4	12.9	(33.4, 85.5)
Ethnicity⁴	493				98			
Mexican	79	77.0	8.2	(60.6, 93.4)	17	–	–	–
Puerto Rican	25	60.9+	16.0+	(29.0, 92.9)+	–	–	–	–
Cuban	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other	22	50.7+	15.8+	(19.0, 82.5)+	–	–	–	–
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	362	56.8	4.8	(47.2, 66.5)	71	59.6	11.1	(37.3, 81.9)

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Child Characteristic	Service Receipt							
	Mental Health				Health			
	N	%	SE	95% CI	N	%	SE	95% CI
Ethnicity: Combined categories⁴	493				98			
Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	131	66.9	8.1	(50.7, 83.1)	27	84.0	9.4	(65.1, 100.0)
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	362	56.8	4.8	(47.2, 66.5)	71	59.6	11.1	(37.3, 81.9)
Racial Identity: One race and two or more races⁵	449				88			
American Indian/Alaskan Native	23	81.7	9.3	(62.9, 100.0)	–	–	–	–
Asian	–	–	–	–	–	0	–	–
Black	103	51.0	8.3	(34.3, 67.6)	23	81.8	9.7	(62.3, 100.0)
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
White	248	58.8	5.6	(47.7, 70.0)	46	56.8	12.0	(32.6, 81.1)
Two or more races	70	67.4	8.1	(51.1, 83.6)	11	100.0	0.0	(100.0, 100.0)
Setting⁶	495				98			
In-home	299	60.7	4.7	(51.3, 70.1)	65	60.7	10.7	(39.2, 82.2)
Formal kin care	35	59.6	9.2	(41.0, 78.1)	–	–	–	–
Voluntary kin care	49	50.9	12.0	(26.7, 75.0)	11	–	–	–
Nonrelative foster care	104	51.3	11.1	(29.1, 73.5)	14	98.4	1.7	(95.0, 100.0)
Group home or residential program	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other out-of-home	–	–	–	–	–	0	–	–

Note: Information in this exhibit is based on caseworker report. Service receipt represents that caseworker reported that the caregiver received the service or that the caregiver was already receiving the service. All analyses were on weighted NSCAW III baseline data; *N*s are unweighted and, therefore, direct percentages cannot be calculated by hand. Reported *N*s vary slightly across analyses because of missing data in some variable categories. Cells are suppressed (–) based on cell count of 1 to 10 (CMS, 2020). True zeros are indicated.

† Indicates unreliable estimate based on a relative standard error (RSE; Parseh & Asplund, 2022) greater than or equal to 25% (CDC, 2022; Klein et al., 2002). RSE is defined as 100 times the estimated standard error of the point estimate, divided by the point estimate. Interpret data with caution.

¹ Sex assigned at birth was determined using first the responses from youth 11 years and older to “What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate? (Male; Female)”. If the child was less than 11 years old, the response from caregiver instrument and then from the caseworker instrument were used.

- ² Sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) items in NSCAW III align with federal guidance (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/SOGI-Best-Practices.pdf>) on measuring SOGI. For gender identity, youth 11 and older were asked first “What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate? (Male; Female)” immediately followed by “How do you describe yourself? (Male; Female; Transgender; Do not identify as male, female, or transgender)”. Cisgender male was assigned if youth reported that sex assigned at birth was male and they describe themselves as male. Cisgender female was assigned if youth reported that sex assigned at birth was female and they describe themselves as female. Gender minority was assigned if youth reported female as sex assigned at birth and described themselves as male or, reported male as sex assigned at birth and described themselves as female, or selected transgender.
- ³ NSCAW III oversampled infants, children receiving services, and children in out-of-home placements.
- ⁴ Youth 11 and older were asked “Are you Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?” Response options were 1 No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino, 2 Yes, Mexican, Mexican-American, Chicano, 3 Yes, Puerto Rican, 4 Yes, Cuban, and 5 Yes, Other. Caregivers were asked “Now thinking about (child), is he/she Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?” Response options were the same as the ones for youth. Ethnicity- and race-derived variables follow the guidance at [Race and Ethnicity Flexibilities \(whitehouse.gov\)](#) and [U.S. HHS Implementation Guidance on Data Collection Standards for Race, Ethnicity, Sex, Primary Language, and Disability Status](#).
- ⁵ Children 6 and older were asked “What race are you?” Response options were 1 American Indian or Alaska Native, 2 Asian, 3 Black or African American, 4 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and 5 White. Caregivers were asked “What is (child)’s race?” Response options were the same as the ones for children. These categories are mutually exclusive. Referred to as One Race and Two or More Races at [Race and Ethnicity Flexibilities \(whitehouse.gov\)](#).
- ⁶ “In home” includes children living at their home with biological parents, adoptive parents, or primary caregiver(s) at the time of the baseline interview. This includes children who were removed from their home during the initial Child Protective Services (CPS) investigations and reunified by the time of the baseline data collection. “Out-of-home” includes children who are cared for by formal and voluntary kin, nonrelative foster, group home or residential staff and other out-of-home caregivers. A total of 975 children are cared for by an out-of-home caregiver. “Formal kin care” includes children placed with kin through CWS involvement; these caregivers report receiving payments from the CWS. The caregiver may or may not be licensed or certified. “Voluntary kin care” includes children living with kin who do not report receiving payments from CWS for the care of the child. Voluntary kin caregivers do not have a license or certification to provide foster care. “Nonrelative foster care” includes children who have been placed with a nonrelative caregiver through CWS involvement; these caregivers receive payments from CWS, and the caregiver is a licensed or certified foster caregiver. “Group home or residential program” includes children residing in a group home or residential treatment facility. “Other out-of-home” includes children in some other type of living situation such as the child living in the home of a family friend, transitional independent living, specialized therapeutic foster home, or emergency shelter. Information is based on caregiver, caseworker, and child report.

Exhibit 14. Youth Report of Contact, Number of Caseworkers in the Past 6 Months, and Perception of Caseworker

Youth Characteristic	Number of Contacts with Caseworker in the Past Year				Number of Caseworkers in the Past 12 Months				Caseworker(s) Listened All of the Time ¹				Caseworker(s) Understood Youth Very Well ²			
	N	Mean	SE	95% CI	N	Mean	SE	95% CI	N	%	SE	95% CI	N	%	SE	95% CI
Total	618	8.6	0.8	(7.3, 9.9)	618	2.0	0.1	(1.9, 2.1)	643	55.6	3.9	(47.8, 63.4)	640	44.8	2.9	(39.1, 50.6)
Sex Assigned at Birth³	618				618				643				640			
Male	249	6.9	1.0	(5.3, 8.5)	252	2.0	0.1	(1.8, 2.2)	261	57.2	5.4	(46.4, 68.1)	260	49.6	3.6	(42.4, 56.8)
Female	369	10.5	1.3	(8.3, 12.8)	366	2.0	0.1	(1.9, 2.2)	382	53.8	4.1	(45.6, 61.9)	380	39.4	3.7	(31.9, 46.9)
Gender Identity: Children 11 years and older⁴	600				600				625				622			
Cisgender male	237	7.1	1.0	(5.4, 8.8)	238	2.0	0.1	(1.8, 2.2)	247	60.0	5.6	(48.9, 71.2)	246	51.8	3.8	(44.2, 59.5)
Cisgender female	346	10.5	1.3	(8.3, 12.8)	341	2.0	0.1	(1.8, 2.1)	357	55.8	3.8	(48.2, 63.5)	355	41.3	3.9	(33.6, 49.1)
Gender minority	–	–	–	–	13	3.1	0.4	(2.5, 3.8)	13	–	–	–	13	–	–	–
Do not identify as male, female, or transgender	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Ethnicity⁵	618				618				643				640			
Mexican	153	10.6†	2.8†	(5.9, 15.4)†	157	2.1	0.2	(1.7, 2.4)	160	56.9	5.4	(46.1, 67.6)	159	47.9	5.0	(37.9, 57.9)
Puerto Rican	24	12.9†	5.6†	(3.1, 22.8)†	25	2.1	0.4	(1.4, 2.8)	26	50.7†	15.1†	(20.4, 81.0)†	26	43.7†	14.2†	(15.3, 72.1)†
Cuban	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other	39	6.9†	3.0†	(1.8, 12.1)†	37	1.6	0.2	(1.2, 1.9)	40	49.6†	15.4†	(18.8, 80.3)†	40	37.8†	14.3†	(9.1, 66.5)†
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	393	8.3	0.8	(6.9, 9.6)	389	2.0	0.1	(1.9, 2.2)	407	56.2	4.9	(46.3, 66.1)	405	45.2	3.7	(37.8, 52.7)
Ethnicity: Combined categories⁵	618				618				643				640			
Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	225	9.6	2.0	(6.2, 13.0)	229	2.0	0.2	(1.7, 2.2)	236	54.0	5.0	(43.9, 64.1)	235	43.8	4.4	(35.0, 52.5)
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	393	8.3	0.8	(6.9, 9.6)	389	2.0	0.1	(1.9, 2.2)	407	56.2	4.9	(46.3, 66.1)	405	45.2	3.7	(37.8, 52.7)

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Youth Characteristic	Number of Contacts with Caseworker in the Past Year				Number of Caseworkers in the Past 12 Months				Caseworker(s) Listened All of the Time ¹				Caseworker(s) Understood Youth Very Well ²			
	N	Mean	SE	95% CI	N	Mean	SE	95% CI	N	%	SE	95% CI	N	%	SE	95% CI
Racial Identity: One race and two or more races⁶	548				546				568				565			
American Indian/Alaskan Native	37	15.9 [†]	6.5 [†]	(4.6, 27.1) [†]	36	2.5	0.5	(1.7, 3.3)	37	59.2	13.2	(32.8, 85.6)	37	65.6	14.2	(37.2, 94.1)
Asian	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Black	148	6.9	0.9	(5.4, 8.5)	150	1.9	0.2	(1.6, 2.2)	155	63.6	9.6	(44.3, 82.8)	153	50.4	9.7	(30.9, 69.8)
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
White	288	8.7	1.0	(6.9, 10.4)	289	2.0	0.1	(1.8, 2.1)	299	54.6	4.0	(46.7, 62.6)	298	43.5	3.7	(36.1, 50.9)
Two or more races	69	10.3	2.1	(6.8, 13.8)	64	2.5	0.3	(2.0, 3.0)	69	52.7 [†]	13.2 [†]	(26.3, 79.1) [†]	69	39.5 [†]	10.5 [†]	(18.6, 60.4) [†]
Setting⁷	618				618				643				640			
In-home	409	8.0	0.9	(6.5, 9.5)	410	2.0	0.1	(1.8, 2.1)	428	55.5	4.0	(47.4, 63.5)	424	43.4	3.3	(36.9, 50.0)
Formal kin care	34	10.2 [†]	3.0 [†]	(4.9, 15.4) [†]	32	1.6	0.2	(1.2, 2.0)	33	52.5 [†]	19.7 [†]	(13.1, 92.0) [†]	34	40.7 [†]	14.0 [†]	(12.8, 68.7) [†]
Voluntary kin care	64	8.4	2.0	(5.0, 11.7)	63	2.1	0.4	(1.5, 2.8)	66	69.3	9.4	(50.4, 88.2)	65	59.3	11.4	(36.5, 82.1)
Nonrelative foster care	71	16.3	3.6	(10.1, 22.5)	71	2.6	0.4	(2.0, 3.2)	75	46.4	10.7	(25.1, 67.7)	75	46.9	10.8	(25.3, 68.5)
Group home or residential program	28	20.3	4.4	(12.5, 28.1)	31	2.5	0.3	(2.0, 2.9)	31	37.9 [†]	15.7 [†]	(6.4, 69.3) [†]	31	35.1 [†]	14.8 [†]	(5.4, 64.8) [†]
Other out-of-home	12	8.3 [†]	2.9 [†]	(2.8, 13.9) [†]	11	2.7 [†]	0.7 [†]	(1.4, 3.9) [†]	–	–	–	–	11	–	–	–

Note: Information in this exhibit is based on report from youth 13 to 17 years. Of youth 13 to 17 years old who responded to question “Have you met with a caseworker or social worker in the past 6 months?” (N=879), those that responded “yes” were included in Exhibit 15. All analyses were on weighted NSCAW III baseline data; Ns are unweighted and, therefore, direct percentages cannot be calculated by hand. Reported Ns vary slightly across analyses because of missing data in some variable categories. Cells are suppressed (–) based on cell count of 1 to 10 (CMS, 2020). True zeros are indicated.

† Indicates unreliable estimate based on a relative standard error (RSE; Parseh & Asplund, 2022) greater than or equal to 25% (CDC, 2022; Klein et al., 2002). RSE is defined as 100 times the estimated standard error of the point estimate, divided by the point estimate. Interpret data with caution.

¹ Youth were asked “Overall, how much do you feel the caseworkers or social workers you met with listened to you? Would you say they listened to you...” Response options were 1=never, 2=not very often, 3=some of the time, and 4=all of the time.

² Youth were asked “How well do you feel that the caseworkers or social workers understood you and your situation? Would you say...” Response options were: 1=not well at all, 2=somewhat, and 3=very well.

³ Sex assigned at birth was determined using first the responses from youth 11 years and older to “What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate? (Male; Female)”. If the child was less than 11 years old, the response from caregiver instrument and then from the caseworker instrument were used.

- ⁴ Sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) items in NSCAW III align with federal guidance (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/SOGI-Best-Practices.pdf>) on measuring SOGI. For gender identity, youth 11 and older were asked first “What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate? (Male; Female)” immediately followed by “How do you describe yourself? (Male; Female; Transgender; Do not identify as male, female, or transgender)”. Cisgender male was assigned if youth reported that sex assigned at birth was male and they describe themselves as male. Cisgender female was assigned if youth reported that sex assigned at birth was female and they describe themselves as female. Gender Minority was assigned if youth reported female as sex assigned at birth and described themselves as male or, reported male as sex assigned at birth and described themselves as female, or selected transgender.
- ⁵ Youth 11 and older were asked “Are you Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?” Response options were 1 No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino, 2 Yes, Mexican, Mexican-American, Chicano, 3 Yes, Puerto Rican, 4 Yes, Cuban, and 5 Yes, Other. Caregivers were asked “Now thinking about (child), is he/she Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?” Response options were the same as the ones for youth. Ethnicity- and race-derived variables follow the guidance at [Race and Ethnicity Flexibilities \(whitehouse.gov\)](#) and [U.S. HHS Implementation Guidance on Data Collection Standards for Race, Ethnicity, Sex, Primary Language, and Disability Status](#).
- ⁶ Children 6 and older were asked “What race are you?” Response options were 1 American Indian or Alaska Native, 2 Asian, 3 Black or African American, 4 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and 5 White. Caregivers were asked “What is (child)’s race?” Response options were the same as the ones for children. These categories are mutually exclusive. Referred to as One Race and Two or More Races at [Race and Ethnicity Flexibilities \(whitehouse.gov\)](#).
- ⁷ “In home” includes children living at their home with biological parents, adoptive parents, or primary caregiver(s) at the time of the baseline interview. This includes children who were removed from their home during the initial Child Protective Services (CPS) investigations and reunified by the time of the baseline data collection. “Out-of-home” includes children who are cared for by formal and voluntary kin, nonrelative foster, group home or residential staff and other out-of-home caregivers. A total of 975 children are cared for by an out-of-home caregiver. “Formal kin care” includes children placed with kin through CWS involvement; these caregivers report receiving payments from the CWS. The caregiver may or may not be licensed or certified. “Voluntary kin care” includes children living with kin who do not report receiving payments from CWS for the care of the child. Voluntary kin caregivers do not have a license or certification to provide foster care. “Nonrelative foster care” includes children who have been placed with a nonrelative caregiver through CWS involvement; these caregivers receive payments from CWS, and the caregiver is a licensed or certified foster caregiver. “Group home or residential program” includes children residing in a group home or residential treatment facility. “Other out-of-home” includes children in some other type of living situation such as the child living in the home of a family friend, transitional independent living, specialized therapeutic foster home, or emergency shelter. Information is based on caregiver, caseworker, and child report.

Exhibit 15. Parent and Voluntary Kin Report of Contact and Satisfaction with Caseworker and Child Welfare System by Caregiver Characteristics

Caregiver Characteristic	Any Contact with CW since Index Maltreatment Investigation ¹				CW Met with CG to Discuss Family Needs ²				CW Listened to CG Concerns ³			
	N	% Yes	SE	95% CI	N	% Yes	SE	95% CI	N	% All of the time	SE	95% CI
Total	2,506	61.1	1.9	(57.3, 64.9)	1,742	55.1	1.8	(51.4, 58.7)	1,734	54.7	2.0	(50.6, 58.7)
Sex	2,506				1,742				1,734			
Male	236	61.4	7.7	(46.1, 76.8)	172	44.1	6.2	(31.8, 56.4)	172	45.4	6.0	(33.4, 57.4)
Female	2,270	61.1	2.0	(57.2, 65.0)	1,570	56.3	1.9	(52.5, 60.1)	1,562	55.7	2.0	(51.7, 59.7)
Age (years)	2,505				1,741				1,733			
15-19	55	50.2+	13.0+	(24.2, 76.1)+	33	44.2+	15.6+	(12.9, 75.5)+	32	41.4+	15.0+	(11.4, 71.5)+
20-29	753	60.8	2.9	(55.0, 66.6)	510	53.0	4.7	(43.6, 62.4)	504	55.6	4.4	(46.8, 64.5)
30-49	1,385	62.4	2.6	(57.3, 67.5)	972	55.8	2.1	(51.5, 60.1)	970	55.2	2.9	(49.4, 61.0)
50-59	210	59.0	6.3	(46.4, 71.5)	149	52.6	7.4	(37.8, 67.3)	150	47.4	5.1	(37.1, 57.6)
60-older	102	47.1	11.3	(24.5, 69.6)	77	70.2	9.9	(50.3, 90.1)	77	56.0	8.5	(39.1, 73.0)
Ethnicity⁴	2,504				1,740				1,732			
Mexican	381	62.3	4.1	(54.0, 70.5)	267	60.8	4.0	(52.7, 68.8)	266	62.5	3.9	(54.7, 70.3)
Puerto Rican	79	73.3	6.9	(59.5, 87.1)	58	57.8	13.3	(31.2, 84.4)	59	41.0	9.8	(21.5, 60.6)
Cuban	19	70.7	9.9	(50.8, 90.5)	15	–	–	–	15	–	–	–
Other	160	65.9	6.0	(53.8, 77.9)	111	49.1	7.5	(34.1, 64.2)	109	68.3	6.9	(54.5, 82.0)
Not Hispanic	1,865	60.1	2.0	(56.1, 64.1)	1,289	54.4	2.4	(49.7, 59.1)	1,283	53.2	2.4	(48.4, 57.9)
Ethnicity: Combined categories⁴	2,504				1,740				1,732			
Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	639	65.0	3.4	(58.1, 71.8)	451	57.5	3.8	(49.9, 65.2)	449	60.3	3.3	(53.6, 67.0)
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	1,865	60.1	2.0	(56.1, 64.1)	1,289	54.4	2.4	(49.7, 59.1)	1,283	53.2	2.4	(48.4, 57.9)
Racial Identity: One race and two or more races⁵	2,305				1,586				1,580			
American Indian/Alaskan Native	71	47.8	7.8	(32.2, 63.4)	47	39.9+	11.8+	(16.2, 63.5)+	47	74.8	5.8	(63.3, 86.3)

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Caregiver Characteristic	Any Contact with CW since Index Maltreatment Investigation ¹				CW Met with CG to Discuss Family Needs ²				CW Listened to CG Concerns ³			
	N	% Yes	SE	95% CI	N	% Yes	SE	95% CI	N	% All of the time	SE	95% CI
Asian	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Black	605	52.7	3.6	(45.5, 59.8)	376	48.8	5.2	(38.3, 59.3)	372	48.8	4.5	(39.8, 57.8)
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	13	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
White	1,458	64.2	2.5	(59.2, 69.3)	1,040	57.6	2.3	(53.1, 62.2)	1,037	54.7	2.6	(49.5, 59.8)
Two or more races	148	62.3	6.8	(48.7, 75.8)	110	40.8	9.7	(21.4, 60.2)	110	65.5	8.3	(49.0, 82.0)
Education⁶	2,501				1,738				1,730			
Less than HS	549	55.7	4.0	(47.8, 63.7)	351	56.6	4.4	(47.7, 65.5)	349	59.6	4.4	(50.8, 68.4)
High school	1,184	60.7	2.1	(56.5, 64.9)	819	52.7	3.6	(45.5, 59.9)	816	53.6	2.8	(47.9, 59.3)
More than high school	768	64.2	3.0	(58.2, 70.2)	568	57.7	2.4	(52.9, 62.5)	565	54.0	4.7	(44.6, 63.4)
Percentage of Federal Poverty Level⁷	2,382				1,660				1,654			
< 50%	690	56.6	2.8	(51.0, 62.3)	446	59.6	5.1	(49.4, 69.9)	443	50.4	3.8	(42.8, 58.0)
50% – <100%	674	61.8	3.6	(54.6, 69.1)	477	50.3	4.1	(42.1, 58.5)	475	50.2	4.7	(40.8, 59.6)
100%–200%	653	63.9	2.9	(58.1, 69.8)	458	54.2	3.2	(47.9, 60.6)	458	60.6	3.7	(53.1, 68.0)
>200%	365	65.2	4.4	(56.4, 74.1)	279	56.5	4.1	(48.4, 64.6)	278	58.3	6.3	(45.7, 71.0)
Employment Status⁸	2,505				1,741				1,733			
Full-time	867	60.8	3.6	(53.7, 67.9)	594	53.6	2.4	(48.7, 58.4)	592	54.2	4.6	(45.0, 63.3)
Part-time	467	61.4	3.7	(53.9, 68.8)	336	55.4	4.1	(47.2, 63.7)	332	61.3	6.1	(49.1, 73.5)
Unemployed	335	58.9	3.8	(51.3, 66.5)	222	61.3	7.5	(46.3, 76.4)	223	66.0	7.6	(50.9, 81.2)
Do not work	756	61.8	3.5	(54.7, 68.9)	532	55.7	3.9	(47.9, 63.5)	530	45.9	3.4	(39.1, 52.8)
Other ⁴	80	64.8	6.9	(50.9, 78.7)	57	45.3	10.3	(24.7, 65.9)	56	59.7	9.8	(40.2, 79.2)
Marital Status	2,500				1,738				1,730			
Married	682	64.5	3.2	(58.2, 70.8)	497	57.2	4.5	(48.2, 66.2)	497	57.0	3.8	(49.5, 64.5)
Separated	269	66.1	4.8	(56.5, 75.6)	198	62.2	6.1	(50.1, 74.4)	196	49.6	7.6	(34.5, 64.8)
Divorced	367	59.1	4.7	(49.7, 68.4)	256	48.1	5.2	(37.7, 58.6)	255	50.9	4.6	(41.8, 60.0)

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Caregiver Characteristic	Any Contact with CW since Index Maltreatment Investigation ¹				CW Met with CG to Discuss Family Needs ²				CW Listened to CG Concerns ³			
	N	% Yes	SE	95% CI	N	% Yes	SE	95% CI	N	% All of the time	SE	95% CI
Widowed	88	57.8	9.6	(38.6, 77.0)	60	74.6	10.5	(53.5, 95.6)	61	58.8	11.4	(36.0, 81.7)
Never married	1,094	57.9	2.3	(53.4, 62.4)	727	52.9	3.0	(47.0, 58.9)	721	56.0	3.3	(49.4, 62.6)
Investigation Outcome	1,621				1,136				1,127			
Substantiated	479	78.3	3.7	(70.8, 85.7)	409	73.3	5.7	(62.0, 84.7)	408	52.6	5.4	(41.7, 63.4)
Indicated	116	72.8	8.4	(56.0, 89.6)	93	58.2 ⁺	14.7 ⁺	(28.9, 87.6) ⁺	93	48.4	10.7	(27.0, 69.8)
Unsubstantiated	1,026	57.6	2.6	(52.5, 62.8)	634	49.5	2.5	(44.6, 54.5)	626	54.7	3.5	(47.7, 61.7)
Most Serious Type of Maltreatment Reported⁹	1,659				1,172				1,162			
Physical	223	60.8	5.0	(50.7, 70.8)	153	36.9	5.8	(25.3, 48.5)	151	61.2	6.6	(48.0, 74.4)
Sexual	108	63.7	6.5	(50.6, 76.7)	78	55.1	7.9	(39.3, 70.8)	78	69.4	7.6	(54.2, 84.7)
Emotional	48	71.0	9.4	(52.2, 89.7)	33	81.1	13.5	(54.0, 100.0)	34	11.5 ⁺	6.6 ⁺	(0.0, 24.6) ⁺
Physical neglect (Failure to provide)	110	62.3	11.0	(40.4, 84.3)	73	58.3	5.5	(47.3, 69.3)	73	50.1	6.0	(38.2, 62.1)
Neglect (Lack of supervision)	263	59.6	4.6	(50.4, 68.9)	181	51.9	5.5	(40.9, 62.9)	177	46.9	7.7	(31.6, 62.2)
Substance exposure	144	58.8	7.6	(43.5, 74.1)	116	59.3	8.1	(43.2, 75.4)	115	76.9	6.1	(64.8, 89.0)
Domestic violence	224	53.9	6.3	(41.3, 66.5)	136	55.3	9.9	(35.4, 75.3)	137	46.1	8.6	(28.8, 63.3)
Substance-abusing parent	270	72.5	3.7	(65.2, 79.9)	213	62.2	5.3	(51.5, 72.8)	211	61.9	4.5	(52.9, 71.0)

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Caregiver Characteristic	CW Treated CG with Respect ¹⁰				CW Explained Problems and Services to CG ¹¹				CW Maintained Contact ¹² to CG ¹¹			
	N	% All of the Time	SE	95% CI	N	% Very Well	SE	95% CI	N	% Satisfied or Very Satisfied	SE	95% CI
Total	1,746	72.0	2.0	(68.1, 75.9)	1,739	58.2	1.7	(54.8, 61.6)	1,737	72.6	1.8	(68.9, 76.3)
Sex	1,746				1,739				1,737			
Male	173	71.6	6.6	(58.3, 84.8)	173	49.7	6.1	(37.4, 61.9)	171	69.3	6.1	(57.0, 81.5)
Female	1,573	72.0	2.0	(68.0, 76.1)	1,566	59.1	1.7	(55.8, 62.5)	1,566	72.9	1.9	(69.2, 76.7)
Age (years)	1,745				1,738				1,736			
15-19	33	67.1	13.5	(40.1, 94.0)	33	67.5	13.0	(41.5, 93.5)	33	73.8	12.2	(49.4, 98.2)
20-29	511	68.5	4.6	(59.2, 77.7)	510	60.3	4.1	(52.1, 68.5)	505	70.1	4.3	(61.5, 78.6)
30-49	974	73.7	2.2	(69.4, 78.0)	968	58.4	2.9	(52.6, 64.2)	973	73.6	2.5	(68.6, 78.5)
50-59	150	68.8	6.9	(55.0, 82.6)	150	45.3	5.6	(34.0, 56.5)	150	70.9	6.5	(57.8, 83.9)
60-older	77	76.1	7.5	(61.1, 91.1)	77	60.6	8.6	(43.5, 77.8)	75	78.0	6.1	(65.8, 90.3)
Ethnicity⁴	1,744				1,737				1,735			
Mexican	267	78.0	4.4	(69.1, 86.9)	264	66.6	3.9	(58.8, 74.4)	266	78.9	4.5	(69.8, 88.0)
Puerto Rican	59	62.5	12.1	(38.3, 86.6)	59	38.5+	10.3+	(17.9, 59.1)+	59	56.1	12.3	(31.4, 80.7)
Cuban	15	91.5	5.6	(80.3, 100.0)	15	66.8+	20.2+	(26.3, 100.0)+	15	89.9	6.0	(77.9, 100.0)
Other	109	82.2	3.9	(74.4, 90.0)	108	72.1	4.3	(63.5, 80.7)	109	73.0	6.5	(60.0, 86.0)
Not Hispanic	1,294	70.7	2.3	(66.2, 75.2)	1,291	56.9	2.3	(52.3, 61.4)	1,286	72.2	1.9	(68.3, 76.1)
Ethnicity: Combined categories⁴	1,744				1,737				1,735			
Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	450	76.7	3.3	(70.1, 83.3)	446	63.2	3.4	(56.3, 70.1)	449	73.9	4.1	(65.7, 82.1)
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	1,294	70.7	2.3	(66.2, 75.2)	1,291	56.9	2.3	(52.3, 61.4)	1,286	72.2	1.9	(68.3, 76.1)
Racial Identity: One race and two or more races⁵	1,590				1,585				1,582			
American Indian/Alaskan Native	47	83.8	5.9	(71.9, 95.7)	47	68.4	7.5	(53.3, 83.4)	47	84.1	5.7	(72.7, 95.4)
Asian	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Black	376	69.0	4.4	(60.3, 77.8)	376	61.0	5.0	(50.9, 71.0)	374	72.6	5.0	(62.5, 82.7)

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Caregiver Characteristic	CW Treated CG with Respect ¹⁰				CW Explained Problems and Services to CG ¹¹				CW Maintained Contact ¹² to CG ¹¹			
	N	% All of the Time	SE	95% CI	N	% Very Well	SE	95% CI	N	% Satisfied or Very Satisfied	SE	95% CI
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
White	1,042	71.4	2.3	(66.9, 75.9)	1,037	57.4	2.1	(53.1, 61.6)	1,038	70.9	2.2	(66.5, 75.4)
Two or more races	111	71.7	8.0	(55.6, 87.7)	111	48.6	10.0	(28.6, 68.6)	109	82.2	5.1	(72.1, 92.3)
Education⁶	1,742				1,735				1,733			
Less than HS	351	72.8	4.2	(64.4, 81.1)	350	68.8	4.4	(60.1, 77.6)	349	78.8	4.1	(70.6, 86.9)
High school	824	70.7	3.1	(64.5, 76.9)	822	56.2	2.5	(51.2, 61.2)	818	72.2	3.1	(66.0, 78.4)
More than high school	567	73.5	3.4	(66.8, 80.3)	563	56.1	4.1	(47.8, 64.4)	566	70.6	3.8	(62.9, 78.3)
Percentage of Federal Poverty Level⁷	1,663				1,656				1,655			
< 50%	449	65.3	4.8	(55.8, 74.8)	446	55.2	4.3	(46.5, 63.9)	448	73.4	4.4	(64.5, 82.3)
50% - <100%	474	69.0	4.3	(60.5, 77.6)	473	60.3	3.8	(52.8, 67.9)	473	70.1	4.1	(61.8, 78.4)
100%-200%	461	74.3	3.6	(67.1, 81.5)	461	58.0	2.9	(52.2, 63.9)	458	74.4	3.4	(67.6, 81.2)
>200%	279	83.6	3.2	(77.1, 90.0)	276	59.6	4.8	(50.0, 69.2)	276	75.3	3.8	(67.8, 82.8)
Employment Status⁸	1,745				1,738				1,736			
Full-time	598	77.1	3.3	(70.6, 83.6)	593	60.4	2.8	(54.8, 65.9)	593	71.4	3.9	(63.7, 79.2)
Part-time	335	74.8	4.5	(65.8, 83.7)	333	60.3	5.8	(48.7, 72.0)	333	77.4	4.3	(68.8, 86.0)
Unemployed	224	70.3	7.3	(55.7, 84.8)	224	66.0	8.2	(49.6, 82.4)	223	79.3	8.0	(63.2, 95.3)
Do not work	530	64.1	3.8	(56.5, 71.7)	530	50.0	3.9	(42.2, 57.7)	530	68.9	3.2	(62.6, 75.2)
Other ⁴	58	73.7	8.1	(57.5, 90.0)	58	67.3	8.8	(49.8, 84.9)	57	68.9	8.8	(51.3, 86.5)
Marital Status	1,742				1,735				1,733			
Married	498	75.7	2.6	(70.6, 80.9)	497	58.9	3.1	(52.6, 65.2)	494	71.1	2.7	(65.7, 76.6)
Separated	197	66.2	8.8	(48.5, 83.9)	196	48.9	7.8	(33.3, 64.5)	197	63.1	7.6	(47.9, 78.2)
Divorce	256	69.7	4.4	(61.0, 78.5)	253	57.3	5.7	(45.9, 68.7)	254	71.4	4.4	(62.6, 80.3)
Widowed	61	74.2	11.4	(51.4, 97.0)	61	49.8	11.9	(26.1, 73.6)	61	79.9	8.6	(62.7, 97.1)

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Child and Family Involvement with the Child Welfare System

Caregiver Characteristic	CW Treated CG with Respect ¹⁰				CW Explained Problems and Services to CG ¹¹				CW Maintained Contact ¹²			
	N	% All of the Time	SE	95% CI	N	% Very Well	SE	95% CI	N	% Satisfied or Very Satisfied	SE	95% CI
Never married	730	71.5	3.6	(64.3, 78.7)	728	61.5	3.6	(54.3, 68.8)	727	77.0	2.6	(71.8, 82.3)
Investigation Outcome	1,136				1,130				1,130			
Substantiated	408	66.0	4.4	(57.2, 74.7)	406	46.7	5.6	(35.5, 57.8)	405	72.3	4.0	(64.4, 80.3)
Indicated	93	77.5	7.6	(62.3, 92.8)	92	65.8	9.5	(46.7, 85.0)	93	65.6	12.0	(41.5, 89.6)
Unsubstantiated	635	73.2	2.9	(67.5, 78.9)	632	62.0	2.4	(57.2, 66.8)	632	73.2	2.8	(67.7, 78.7)
Most Serious Type of Maltreatment Reported⁹	1,172				1,166				1,166			
Physical	152	77.3	6.0	(65.3, 89.2)	151	61.5	7.1	(47.3, 75.7)	151	77.6	5.9	(65.8, 89.4)
Sexual	78	84.8	5.3	(74.2, 95.3)	78	75.8	6.2	(63.4, 88.3)	78	85.9	4.9	(76.2, 95.7)
Emotional	34	49.0+	19.3+	(10.4, 87.6)+	33	37.0+	16.8+	(3.4, 70.6)+	34	37.9+	17.8+	(2.3, 73.6)+
Physical neglect (Failure to provide)	73	69.3	7.1	(55.0, 83.5)	71	57.1	9.0	(39.1, 75.0)	73	66.2	8.1	(50.0, 82.5)
Neglect (Lack of supervision)	180	71.8	5.7	(60.3, 83.2)	179	61.1	6.1	(49.0, 73.2)	179	74.3	5.0	(64.3, 84.4)
Substance exposure	116	85.7	3.2	(79.3, 92.1)	116	65.2	7.5	(50.1, 80.3)	116	81.1	6.3	(68.5, 93.6)
Domestic violence	137	69.8	5.9	(58.0, 81.6)	137	51.7	6.9	(38.0, 65.5)	135	71.9	6.8	(58.3, 85.4)
Substance-abusing parent	213	69.2	4.8	(59.6, 78.8)	212	60.3	4.8	(50.7, 69.8)	212	75.5	3.9	(67.7, 83.4)

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Child and Family Involvement with the Child Welfare System

Caregiver Characteristic	CW Invited CG to Meetings ¹³				CW Involved CG in Decision Making ¹⁴				"I Should Have Been Given More Time to Make the Changes Expected of Me" ¹⁵			
	N	% Satisfied or Very Satisfied	SE	95% CI	N	% Satisfied or Very Satisfied	SE	95% CI	N	% Agrees or Strongly Agrees	SE	95% CI
Total	1,274	75.3	2.4	(70.4, 80.1)	1,440	76.9	2.4	(72.1, 81.8)	1,643	22.2	2.6	(17.1, 27.4)
Sex	1,274				1,440				1,643			
Male	137	72.6	6.2	(60.3, 85.0)	148	76.7	6.3	(64.1, 89.4)	166	17.4+	4.7+	(8.1, 26.7)+
Female	1,137	75.6	2.6	(70.4, 80.8)	1,292	77.0	2.7	(71.6, 82.3)	1,477	22.8	2.8	(17.1, 28.4)
Age (years)	1,273				1,439				1,642			
15-19	29	68.3	14.6	(39.1, 97.5)	31	85.2	11.2	(62.8, 100.0)	31	–	–	–
20–29	358	67.1	5.7	(55.6, 78.5)	413	73.6	4.6	(64.4, 82.8)	487	24.3	4.3	(15.7, 32.9)
30–49	705	79.5	3.0	(73.6, 85.5)	793	78.9	3.3	(72.2, 85.5)	917	21.1	2.9	(15.2, 27.0)
50–59	124	67.5	7.1	(53.3, 81.6)	134	71.4	5.6	(60.2, 82.6)	140	22.9+	8.4+	(6.1, 39.7)+
60–older	57	79.2	10.2	(58.9, 99.6)	68	75.6	8.6	(58.4, 92.9)	67	21.2+	9.0+	(3.1, 39.3)+
Ethnicity⁴	1,272				1,438				1,641			
Mexican	204	80.1	4.6	(70.9, 89.4)	228	82.5	3.0	(76.5, 88.4)	247	34.9	6.6	(21.8, 48.1)
Puerto Rican	38	56.5+	15.0+	(26.5, 86.5)+	47	65.1	13.1	(38.8, 91.4)	56	35.4+	11.5+	(12.4, 58.5)+
Cuban	12	–	–	–	13	89.3	7.1	(75.1, 100.0)	14	–	–	–
Other	83	80.5	6.0	(68.6, 92.5)	91	86.3	5.4	(75.4, 97.2)	101	37.6	6.7	(24.1, 51.1)
Not Hispanic	935	75.0	2.6	(69.9, 80.2)	1,059	76.0	2.8	(70.4, 81.5)	1,223	18.6	2.5	(13.7, 23.5)
Ethnicity: Combined categories⁴	1,272				1,438				1,641			
Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	337	76.1	4.2	(67.8, 84.5)	379	80.4	2.7	(75.0, 85.8)	418	35.7	4.4	(26.8, 44.6)
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	935	75.0	2.6	(69.9, 80.2)	1,059	76.0	2.8	(70.4, 81.5)	1,223	18.6	2.5	(13.7, 23.5)
Racial Identity: One race and two or more races⁵	1,152				1,300				1,501			
American Indian/Alaskan Native	37	85.1	6.2	(72.7, 97.5)	42	79.8	5.2	(69.3, 90.3)	47	29.0+	9.9+	(9.3, 48.7)+
Asian	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

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Caregiver Characteristic	CW Invited CG to Meetings ¹³				CW Involved CG in Decision Making ¹⁴				"I Should Have Been Given More Time to Make the Changes Expected of Me" ¹⁵			
	N	% Satisfied or Very Satisfied	SE	95% CI	N	% Satisfied or Very Satisfied	SE	95% CI	N	% Agrees or Strongly Agrees	SE	95% CI
Black	291	71.5	5.4	(60.7, 82.2)	322	75.4	5.2	(65.0, 85.8)	361	21.1	2.6	(15.9, 26.3)
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
White	732	74.3	3.2	(67.9, 80.7)	834	76.6	3.2	(70.2, 83.0)	978	17.6	2.4	(12.8, 22.5)
Two or more races	82	80.0	8.0	(64.0, 95.9)	90	77.2	8.1	(60.9, 93.5)	101	30.3†	11.6†	(7.1, 53.6)†
Education⁶	1,272				1,438				1,639			
Less than HS	260	82.8	4.6	(73.7, 91.9)	316	81.5	4.2	(73.1, 89.9)	332	37.5	4.8	(28.0, 47.1)
High school	611	77.0	3.6	(69.8, 84.3)	675	77.7	3.2	(71.4, 84.0)	765	24.2	3.7	(16.9, 31.6)
More than high school	401	69.2	5.5	(58.1, 80.2)	447	73.3	5.8	(61.7, 84.9)	542	12.7	2.1	(8.4, 17.0)
Percentage of Federal Poverty Level⁷	1,211				1,368				1,568			
< 50%	331	71.2	5.6	(60.1, 82.3)	385	72.3	4.7	(63.0, 81.7)	418	34.8	5.3	(24.2, 45.4)
50% – <100%	363	75.1	4.4	(66.3, 83.9)	406	79.4	3.4	(72.5, 86.2)	453	21.4	4.0	(13.5, 29.3)
100%–200%	323	77.0	3.7	(69.7, 84.3)	368	76.4	3.4	(69.6, 83.2)	433	18.4	2.6	(13.2, 23.6)
>200%	194	77.1	4.9	(67.3, 86.9)	209	81.7	4.9	(71.9, 91.4)	264	13.3†	3.5†	(6.4, 20.2)†
Employment Status⁸	1,273				1,440				1,642			
Full-time	434	76.5	4.1	(68.3, 84.7)	483	78.8	3.9	(70.9, 86.7)	564	18.3	2.8	(12.7, 23.8)
Part-time	238	77.5	5.3	(66.9, 88.1)	268	77.8	5.0	(67.7, 87.9)	310	24.5	5.1	(14.2, 34.7)
Unemployed	168	76.2	10.6	(55.0, 97.4)	198	80.9	8.9	(63.1, 98.6)	216	22.8†	5.8†	(11.3, 34.3)†
Do not work	386	71.6	3.9	(63.7, 79.4)	447	71.8	4.3	(63.2, 80.4)	498	24.2	3.9	(16.4, 32.0)
Other	47	70.3	10.3	(49.7, 91.0)	44	77.9	9.0	(60.0, 95.8)	54	39.2†	11.4†	(16.5, 62.0)†
Marital Status	1,271				1,437				1,639			
Married	357	77.7	3.6	(70.5, 84.8)	398	79.5	3.8	(71.9, 87.1)	466	20.0	3.6	(12.8, 27.2)
Separated	139	65.4	10.4	(44.7, 86.2)	158	70.6	10.6	(49.3, 91.9)	189	27.3	5.7	(15.9, 38.7)
Divorced	178	70.3	6.5	(57.2, 83.4)	208	72.8	5.5	(61.8, 83.9)	236	17.2	4.2	(8.9, 25.5)

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Caregiver Characteristic	CW Invited CG to Meetings ¹³				CW Involved CG in Decision Making ¹⁴				"I Should Have Been Given More Time to Make the Changes Expected of Me" ¹⁵			
	N	% Satisfied or Very Satisfied	SE	95% CI	N	% Satisfied or Very Satisfied	SE	95% CI	N	% Agrees or Strongly Agrees	SE	95% CI
Widowed	49	72.8	12.6	(47.6, 97.9)	54	74.7	11.8	(51.0, 98.3)	59	35.5+	11.1+	(13.4, 57.6)+
Never married	548	78.1	3.4	(71.3, 84.9)	619	78.8	2.7	(73.4, 84.1)	689	23.7	3.8	(16.0, 31.4)
Investigation Outcome	805				930				1,080			
Substantiated	334	79.4	3.4	(72.6, 86.3)	367	77.6	4.7	(68.3, 87.0)	388	26.0	5.0	(16.1, 35.9)
Indicated	69	85.1	4.6	(75.9, 94.2)	79	80.3	5.4	(69.6, 91.1)	87	27.0+	8.5+	(9.9, 44.1)+
Unsubstantiated	402	72.5	3.8	(64.8, 80.2)	484	77.7	3.7	(70.3, 85.2)	605	18.0	2.9	(12.1, 23.9)
Most Serious Type of Maltreatment Reported⁹	831				961				1,112			
Physical	106	79.0	7.9	(63.2, 94.8)	121	83.4	6.5	(70.4, 96.4)	144	19.6+	6.3+	(6.9, 32.2)+
Sexual	49	93.8	4.9	(83.9, 100.0)	64	92.2	4.2	(83.9, 100.0)	72	22.6+	7.9+	(6.8, 38.5)+
Emotional	24	40.4+	21.4+	(0.0, 83.2)+	29	40.8+	20.4+	(0.0, 81.7)+	32	–	–	–
Physical neglect (Failure to provide)	52	75.0	8.9	(57.3, 92.8)	59	76.8	8.4	(59.9, 93.7)	69	26.4+	8.8+	(8.9, 43.9)+
Neglect (Lack of supervision)	128	71.3	6.7	(57.9, 84.7)	148	77.4	4.9	(67.5, 87.2)	169	18.9+	5.5+	(7.9, 30.0)+
Substance exposure	93	92.3	2.5	(87.3, 97.4)	102	89.4	5.2	(79.1, 99.8)	111	11.8+	3.7+	(4.3, 19.3)+
Domestic violence	95	57.6	8.3	(41.1, 74.1)	108	65.7	8.0	(49.8, 81.7)	130	26.5	5.5	(15.5, 37.6)
Substance-abusing parent	158	73.8	4.1	(65.7, 82.0)	177	75.6	5.0	(65.6, 85.6)	207	16.2	3.8	(8.5, 23.9)

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Child and Family Involvement with the Child Welfare System

Caregiver Characteristic	“The services I was told to use should have been more helpful” ¹⁶				“I should have been offered more services” ¹⁷			
	N	% Agrees or Strongly Agrees	SE	95% CI	N	% Agrees or Strongly Agrees	SE	95% CI
Total	1,677	31.6	2.3	(27.1, 36.2)	1,716	33.2	1.6	(30.0, 36.3)
Sex	1,677				1,716			
Male	165	35.6	6.2	(23.2, 47.9)	169	34.9	6.1	(22.8, 47.1)
Female	1,512	31.2	2.4	(26.5, 35.9)	1,547	33.0	1.6	(29.8, 36.1)
Age (years)	1,676				1,715			
15-19	32	56.8+	15.3+	(26.1, 87.4)+	33	20.0+	8.9+	(2.3, 37.7)+
20-29	495	28.0	3.7	(20.6, 35.4)	506	31.5	4.9	(21.7, 41.3)
30-49	930	32.2	2.4	(27.5, 37.0)	954	31.9	2.3	(27.3, 36.6)
50-59	145	38.4	7.9	(22.6, 54.2)	147	50.8	7.3	(36.1, 65.5)
60-older	74	27.7+	7.9+	(12.0, 43.5)+	75	41.0	8.4	(24.3, 57.7)
Ethnicity⁴	1,676				1,714			
Mexican	251	42.4	5.6	(31.1, 53.7)	260	35.7	4.2	(27.2, 44.1)
Puerto Rican	57	55.4	11.0	(33.3, 77.4)	58	39.4+	12.5+	(14.5, 64.4)+
Cuban	14	–	–	–	15	–	–	–
Other	104	39.8	8.1	(23.6, 55.9)	106	33.7	6.3	(21.2, 46.3)
Not Hispanic	1,250	28.2	1.9	(24.4, 31.9)	1,275	32.4	1.7	(29.1, 35.7)
Ethnicity: Combined categories⁴	1,676				1,714			
Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	426	44.5	4.1	(36.3, 52.7)	439	35.9	3.8	(28.4, 43.4)
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	1,250	28.2	1.9	(24.4, 31.9)	1,275	32.4	1.7	(29.1, 35.7)
Racial Identity: One race and two or more races⁵	1,533				1,566			
American Indian/Alaskan Native	46	43.4	9.9	(23.5, 63.3)	47	28.7+	10.3+	(8.1, 49.3)+
Asian	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Black	366	33.9	3.8	(26.4, 41.4)	368	44.4	5.5	(33.4, 55.5)
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

NSCAW III Baseline Report
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Caregiver Characteristic	“The services I was told to use should have been more helpful” ¹⁶				“I should have been offered more services” ¹⁷			
	N	% Agrees or Strongly Agrees	SE	95% CI	N	% Agrees or Strongly Agrees	SE	95% CI
White	1,004	28.3	2.4	(23.4, 33.2)	1,028	29.3	1.6	(26.1, 32.4)
Two or more races	103	22.0+	5.8+	(10.3, 33.7)+	109	23.1+	5.9+	(11.4, 34.8)+
Education⁶	1,673				1,712			
Less than HS	333	41.6	4.7	(32.2, 51.0)	343	33.4	4.1	(25.2, 41.6)
High school	790	33.6	3.4	(26.9, 40.4)	809	31.6	3.1	(25.3, 37.8)
More than high school	550	24.5	2.5	(19.5, 29.4)	560	34.7	3.7	(27.3, 42.2)
Percentage of Federal Poverty Level⁷	1,600				1,637			
< 50%	432	42.3	4.8	(32.7, 51.9)	442	39.2	4.1	(31.0, 47.4)
50% – <100%	457	32.2	3.7	(24.7, 39.7)	468	35.7	4.3	(27.0, 44.3)
100%–200%	437	26.2	3.1	(20.0, 32.5)	450	31.6	3.2	(25.1, 38.0)
>200%	274	25.4	4.7	(16.0, 34.7)	277	25.7	4.0	(17.6, 33.8)
Employment Status⁸	1,676				1,715			
Full-time	572	28.3	3.2	(21.9, 34.6)	587	30.2	2.4	(25.3, 35.0)
Part-time	314	32.2	5.3	(21.6, 42.7)	326	34.9	5.9	(23.2, 46.6)
Unemployed	217	23.3	4.6	(14.2, 32.5)	223	23.6+	8.5+	(6.6, 40.5)+
Do not work	516	39.1	3.6	(31.8, 46.4)	521	40.3	3.5	(33.4, 47.2)
Other ⁴	57	35.5+	11.1+	(13.2, 57.8)+	58	34.0+	8.7+	(16.6, 51.3)+
Marital Status	1,673				1,712			
Married	480	29.3	4.3	(20.7, 37.8)	489	29.1	3.7	(21.8, 36.5)
Separated	189	29.2	6.0	(17.1, 41.3)	193	49.3	6.5	(36.2, 62.4)
Divorced	244	33.2	5.0	(23.2, 43.2)	252	29.6	4.2	(21.2, 38.1)
Widowed	59	60.4	12.3	(35.8, 85.0)	58	46.6+	12.7+	(21.2, 72.1)+
Never married	701	32.1	2.7	(26.7, 37.5)	720	31.6	3.1	(25.3, 37.9)

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Caregiver Characteristic	“The services I was told to use should have been more helpful” ¹⁶				“I should have been offered more services” ¹⁷			
	N	% Agrees or Strongly Agrees	SE	95% CI	N	% Agrees or Strongly Agrees	SE	95% CI
Investigation outcome	1,097				1,122			
Substantiated	397	27.4	5.3	(16.7, 38.2)	403	27.2	4.2	(18.8, 35.7)
Indicated	90	20.5+	7.5+	(5.4, 35.6)+	91	20.7+	6.4+	(7.8, 33.5)+
Unsubstantiated	610	28.2	2.7	(22.7, 33.6)	628	34.1	2.5	(29.1, 39.1)
Most serious type of maltreatment reported⁹	1,131				1,157			
Physical	147	19.2+	5.1+	(8.9, 29.4)+	149	19.7	4.6	(10.4, 28.9)
Sexual	73	23.5+	7.9+	(7.8, 39.2)+	76	23.9	5.4	(13.1, 34.7)
Emotional	32	33.2+	14.9+	(3.4, 63.0)+	33	58.2+	17.3+	(23.5, 92.9)+
Physical neglect (Failure to provide)	69	38.4	5.8	(26.9, 50.0)	72	43.2	8.1	(27.0, 59.4)
Neglect (Lack of supervision)	173	31.3	6.3	(18.6, 44.0)	178	36.3	5.2	(25.9, 46.7)
Substance exposure	115	20.2+	5.4+	(9.3, 31.2)+	117	20.5+	6.7+	(7.1, 33.9)+
Domestic violence	130	41.2	8.7	(23.7, 58.7)	133	34.0	7.6	(18.7, 49.3)
Substance-abusing parent	209	25.9	5.0	(16.0, 35.8)	213	29.2	5.1	(19.1, 39.3)

Note: All analyses were on weighted NSCAW III baseline data; Ns are unweighted and, therefore, direct percentages cannot be calculated by hand. Reported Ns vary slightly across analyses because of missing data in some variable categories. Cells are suppressed (–) based on cell count of 1 to 10 (CMS, 2020). True zeros are indicated. † indicates unreliable estimate based on relative standard error (RSE) greater than or equal to 25 (RSE defined as 100 times the ratio of estimated standard error of the point estimate to the point estimate).

- ¹ Caregivers were asked “Now I would like to ask some questions about the experiences that you've had with caseworkers from the child welfare agency. Since [date of investigation], have you talked with a caseworker?” and “How long ago did you last talk with a caseworker?” If the caregiver reported at least one contact with a caseworker in the past 12 months, it was counted as contact since the index maltreatment investigation.
- ² Parents and voluntary kin caregivers were asked “Has your caseworker or someone else from the child welfare agency met with you and your family to talk about how best to deal with your family's needs, concerns, and/or problems? This meeting would have included getting your family's thoughts about a plan of action to deal with your needs and concerns.” (Yes/No)
- ³ Parents and voluntary kin caregivers were asked “In all your meetings or talks since [contact date with CWS] do you feel the caseworker listened to your concerns...1=never, 2= not very often, 3= some of the time, or 4= all of the time?”
- ⁴ Caregivers were asked “Are you Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?” Response options were 1 No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino, 2 Yes, Mexican, Mexican-American, Chicano, 3 Yes, Puerto Rican, 4 Yes, Cuban, and 5 Yes, Other. Ethnicity- and race-derived variables follow guidance at [Race and Ethnicity Flexibilities \(whitehouse.gov\)](https://www.whitehouse.gov) and [U.S. HHS Implementation Guidance on Data Collection Standards for Race, Ethnicity, Sex, Primary Language, and Disability Status](https://www.hhs.gov).

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- ⁵ Caregivers were asked “What is your race?” Response options were 1 American Indian or Alaska Native, 2 Asian, 3 Black or African American, 4 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and 5 White. These categories are mutually exclusive. Referred to as One Race and Two or More Races following the guidance from [Race and Ethnicity Flexibilities \(whitehouse.gov\)](#).
- ⁶ This is derived from two questions. The first asked “what is the highest degree, diploma, or certificate you hold?” and answer options included all categories in “Education: Highest degree completed.” The second question was only used when none or other was selected in the highest degree question. The second question asked “what is the highest grade in school you completed?” and answer options included range from first to twelfth grade, vocational/technical, less than 1 year of college, or 1 to 3 years of college. One exception was if highest degree was none and highest grade was vocational/technical school, then highest degree was assigned as “less than high school.”
- ⁷ This derived variable was calculated using caregiver report of estimated household income and number of household members, and the poverty guidelines updated periodically in the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2). The [2019 Poverty Guidelines | ASPE \(hhs.gov\)](#) was utilized given this was the time period most data were collected.
- ⁸ “Work, full time” includes caregivers who selected “Regularly work full-time, 35 or more hours/week.” “Work, part time” includes caregivers who selected “Regularly work part-time, less than 35 hours/week” or “Work sometimes, when work’s available.” “Unemployed, looking for work” includes caregivers who selected “Unemployed, looking for work.” “Does not work” includes 491 caregivers who reported they don’t work because of family responsibilities; 88 caregivers who don’t work because they are retired; 329 caregivers who don’t work because of illness or disability; 19 caregivers who don’t work because they don’t want to work; and 37 caregivers who don’t work because they are currently a student. “Other” includes caregivers who selected “Other.”
- ⁹ Caseworkers were shown a card listing types of [maltreatment](#) included in this exhibit. Caseworkers selected all types of maltreatment reported in the child’s case, with a mean number of types of maltreatment per child of 1.4 (range 0-7). After reporting on all types of maltreatment recorded during the investigation, caseworkers were asked their opinion about the most serious type of maltreatment the child experienced.
- ¹⁰ Parents and voluntary kin caregivers were asked “Do you feel the caseworker treated you with respect... 1=never, 2= not very often, 3= some of the time, or 4= all of the time?”
- ¹¹ Parents and voluntary kin caregivers were asked “How well has caseworker explained problems, treatments, and/or services to you? Would you say...1=not well, 2=somewhat well, 3= very well?”
- ¹² Parents and voluntary kin caregivers were asked “Since [contact date with CWS], how satisfied have you been with the extent to which the caseworker maintained contact with you? Would you say you have been...1=very dissatisfied, 2=dissatisfied, 3=satisfied, 4=very satisfied?”
- ¹³ Parents and voluntary kin caregivers were asked “How satisfied have you been with the extent to which the caseworker invited you to relevant meetings [child’s name]? Would you say you have been... 1=very dissatisfied, 2=dissatisfied, 3=satisfied, 4=very satisfied, 5=not applicable?”
- ¹⁴ Parents and voluntary kin caregivers were asked “How satisfied have you been with the extent to which the caseworker involved you in decision making regarding the care of [child’s name]? Would you say you have been... 1=very dissatisfied, 2=dissatisfied, 3=satisfied, 4=very satisfied, 5=not applicable?”
- ¹⁵ Parents and voluntary kin caregivers responded to the following statement “I should have been given more time to make the changes expected of me. Would you say you...1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neither agree nor disagree, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree?”
- ¹⁶ Parents and voluntary kin caregivers responded to the following statement “The services I was told to use should have been more helpful. Would you say you... 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neither agree nor disagree, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree?”
- ¹⁷ Parents and voluntary kin caregivers responded to the following statement “I should have been offered more services. Would you say you...1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neither agree nor disagree, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree?”

Exhibit 16. Formal Kin and Nonrelative Foster Caregiver Report of Satisfaction with Child Welfare System

Caregiver Characteristic	CG Was Given Essential Information about Child at Placement ¹				CG Had Input into Service Plan ²				CW Returned Calls within 24 Hours ³			
	N	% Yes	SE	95% CI	N	% Yes	SE	95% CI	N	% Yes	SE	95% CI
Total	858	68.2	2.5	(63.2, 73.3)	826	64.3	3.8	(56.7, 71.9)	860	71.0	2.7	(65.6, 76.5)
Sex	858				826				860			
Male	69	67.4	8.7	(49.9, 84.9)	67	50.3	11.1	(28.1, 72.4)	69	52.8	11.3	(30.2, 75.4)
Female	789	68.3	2.9	(62.6, 74.0)	759	65.4	3.9	(57.7, 73.2)	791	72.5	3.2	(66.0, 79.0)
Age (years)	857				825				859			
20–29	67	71.6	9.4	(52.8, 90.3)	63	61.9	12.6	(36.7, 87.0)	66	44.3	9.9	(24.5, 64.2)
30–49	437	62.7	5.2	(52.3, 73.0)	422	68.1	5.8	(56.5, 79.7)	440	79.2	3.6	(72.0, 86.4)
50–59	220	76.4	5.1	(66.2, 86.5)	216	60.8	5.2	(50.4, 71.1)	223	67.8	5.2	(57.5, 78.1)
60–older	133	70.0	7.5	(55.1, 85.0)	124	59.5	7.9	(43.6, 75.4)	130	69.2	7.9	(53.3, 85.1)
Ethnicity⁴	857				825				859			
Mexican	133	65.1	8.2	(48.6, 81.5)	120	65.8	7.3	(51.2, 80.4)	134	62.0	8.5	(45.0, 79.0)
Puerto Rican	22	80.9	10.9	(59.1, 100.0)	22	83.0	10.2	(62.6, 100.0)	22	86.7	7.5	(71.6, 100.0)
Cuban	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other	38	72.1	11.5	(49.1, 95.0)	34	72.0	12.2	(47.7, 96.3)	38	64.6	15.4	(33.8, 95.3)
Not Hispanic	656	68.4	2.7	(62.9, 73.8)	643	63.5	4.3	(55.0, 72.1)	657	72.1	3.1	(65.9, 78.4)
Ethnicity: Combined categories⁴	857				825				859			
Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	201	67.8	6.5	(54.7, 80.8)	182	68.7	6.0	(56.8, 80.6)	202	64.9	6.7	(51.5, 78.3)
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	656	68.4	2.7	(62.9, 73.8)	643	63.5	4.3	(55.0, 72.1)	657	72.1	3.1	(65.9, 78.4)
Racial Identity: One race and two or more races⁵	791				769				793			
American Indian/Alaskan Native	23	61.2	11.0	(39.2, 83.3)	18	–	–	–	23	59.5	13.2	(33.0, 85.9)
Asian	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Black	216	73.2	6.2	(60.9, 85.6)	210	65.6	6.3	(53.0, 78.2)	216	80.6	5.1	(70.4, 90.7)
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

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Caregiver Characteristic	CG Was Given Essential Information about Child at Placement ¹				CG Had Input into Service Plan ²				CW Returned Calls within 24 Hours ³			
	N	% Yes	SE	95% CI	N	% Yes	SE	95% CI	N	% Yes	SE	95% CI
White	507	67.7	3.7	(60.4, 75.1)	497	64.2	5.0	(54.2, 74.2)	509	70.6	3.6	(63.3, 77.8)
Two or more races	35	45.2+	14.1+	(17.0, 73.4)+	34	45.7+	14.5+	(16.6, 74.8)+	35	44.6+	13.7+	(17.3, 72.0)+
Education⁶	856				824				858			
Less than HS	104	76.4	7.3	(61.8, 90.9)	96	68.5	8.4	(51.7, 85.3)	105	61.7	8.4	(45.0, 78.5)
High school	304	64.7	5.9	(52.8, 76.6)	288	65.0	7.1	(50.8, 79.2)	306	70.3	5.6	(59.2, 81.5)
More than high school	448	69.5	3.9	(61.8, 77.2)	440	62.7	3.9	(54.9, 70.6)	447	73.7	4.2	(65.3, 82.0)
Percentage of federal poverty level⁷	822				790				823			
< 50%	84	67.1	9.7	(47.7, 86.5)	75	62.8	10.2	(42.4, 83.1)	86	59.0	10.2	(38.6, 79.4)
50% – <100%	142	57.4	11.6	(34.1, 80.8)	137	60.7	8.4	(43.8, 77.5)	143	70.0	8.0	(54.0, 85.9)
100%–200%	275	70.9	5.4	(60.2, 81.6)	266	59.8	7.0	(45.8, 73.8)	274	77.2	4.7	(67.9, 86.6)
>200%	321	72.9	4.8	(63.2, 82.6)	312	73.2	4.5	(64.1, 82.3)	320	68.2	4.6	(58.9, 77.4)
Employment status⁸	858				826				860			
Full-time	360	73.1	4.6	(63.9, 82.3)	347	55.9	6.1	(43.7, 68.1)	361	63.5	6.2	(51.0, 76.0)
Part-time	146	75.1	7.2	(60.6, 89.6)	142	70.3	7.7	(54.9, 85.7)	148	76.4	7.9	(60.7, 92.1)
Unemployed	33	81.6	7.2	(67.2, 96.0)	31	70.0	15.4	(39.1, 100.0)	33	75.7	14.9	(45.8, 100.0)
Do not work	290	58.4	5.7	(47.0, 69.9)	277	70.4	5.5	(59.4, 81.5)	288	77.4	4.0	(69.4, 85.4)
Other ⁴	29	70.0+	19.0+	(31.9, 100.0)+	29	55.4+	16.8+	(21.9, 89.0)+	30	51.3+	17.9+	(15.6, 87.0)+
Marital status	857				825				859			
Married	464	70.4	4.1	(62.2, 78.6)	449	68.9	4.8	(59.3, 78.4)	464	76.7	3.4	(69.8, 83.5)
Separated	35	70.6	10.4	(49.8, 91.3)	31	87.6	6.4	(74.9, 100.0)	36	90.7	4.0	(82.7, 98.7)
Divorced	140	60.0	9.8	(40.4, 79.7)	139	62.2	9.5	(43.3, 81.1)	144	67.9	6.5	(54.8, 80.9)
Widowed	51	72.4	10.8	(50.8, 94.0)	48	59.1	12.1	(34.8, 83.3)	49	49.3	11.5	(26.2, 72.4)
Never married	167	70.0	6.7	(56.6, 83.4)	158	49.2	8.2	(32.7, 65.7)	166	59.3	7.7	(43.9, 74.7)

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Caregiver Characteristic	Foster CG Felt like Respected Member of Team ⁹				Foster CG Received Special Training or Instruction ¹⁰			
	N	% Yes	SE	95% CI	N	% Yes	SE	95% CI
Total	855	79.5	2.7	(74.0, 85.0)	862	43.2	3.7	(35.8, 50.5)
Sex	855				862			
Male	68	73.4	8.9	(55.6, 91.2)	69	33.8	7.7	(18.4, 49.1)
Female	787	80.0	2.9	(74.3, 85.8)	793	43.9	4.1	(35.7, 52.1)
Age (years)	854				861			
20–29	66	76.1	9.0	(58.2, 94.0)	65	36.9+	10.2+	(16.5, 57.4)+
30–49	435	81.9	3.6	(74.6, 89.1)	436	55.2	5.8	(43.4, 66.9)
50–59	222	75.5	5.7	(64.1, 86.8)	225	35.8	6.1	(23.7, 48.0)
60–older	131	81.8	6.1	(69.6, 94.0)	135	21.4+	5.9+	(9.6, 33.3)+
Ethnicity⁴	854				861			
Mexican	133	75.3	6.4	(62.4, 88.1)	134	53.6	7.7	(38.1, 69.0)
Puerto Rican	22	81.9	10.1	(61.7, 100.0)	22	42.5+	17.6+	(7.3, 77.8)+
Cuban	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other	37	73.6	11.1	(51.5, 95.7)	37	28.9+	12.2+	(4.5, 53.3)+
Not Hispanic	654	80.2	3.0	(74.2, 86.2)	660	42.2	4.1	(33.9, 50.4)
Ethnicity: Combined categories⁴	854				861			
Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	200	75.8	5.2	(65.3, 86.3)	201	48.7	6.7	(35.3, 62.1)
Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	654	80.2	3.0	(74.2, 86.2)	660	42.2	4.1	(33.9, 50.4)
Racial Identity: One race and two or more races⁵	789				795			
American Indian/Alaskan Native	23	64.4	14.6	(35.2, 93.7)	23	–	–	–
Asian	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Black	215	86.6	4.8	(76.9, 96.2)	216	37.2	5.7	(25.7, 48.6)
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
White	506	79.2	3.2	(72.7, 85.6)	511	44.0	4.8	(34.3, 53.6)

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Caregiver Characteristic	Foster CG Felt like Respected Member of Team ⁹				Foster CG Received Special Training or Instruction ¹⁰			
	N	% Yes	SE	95% CI	N	% Yes	SE	95% CI
Two or more races	35	48.3†	14.1†	(20.0, 76.6)†	35	31.0†	12.1†	(6.8, 55.1)†
Education⁶	853				860			
Less than HS	105	86.9	6.0	(74.9, 99.0)	105	28.0†	7.3†	(13.2, 42.7)†
High school	301	79.8	3.9	(72.1, 87.6)	306	40.0	6.4	(27.2, 52.8)
More than high school	447	77.7	4.3	(69.2, 86.2)	449	49.3	5.7	(38.0, 60.6)
Percentage of federal poverty level⁷	818				825			
<50%	83	73.6	8.9	(55.8, 91.5)	84	37.9	8.7	(20.5, 55.2)
50% – <100%	142	81.9	6.7	(68.6, 95.2)	145	36.4†	11.7†	(13.0, 59.9)†
100%–200%	271	80.3	4.8	(70.7, 89.9)	276	42.7	5.3	(32.1, 53.3)
>200%	322	79.6	4.0	(71.6, 87.5)	320	51.3	5.7	(39.8, 62.7)
Employment status⁸	855				862			
Full-time	359	71.5	5.8	(60.0, 83.1)	360	39.8	5.5	(28.7, 50.9)
Part-time	147	83.8	4.1	(75.5, 92.0)	148	47.7	7.3	(33.1, 62.3)
Unemployed	32	84.5	7.6	(69.3, 99.6)	32	–	–	–
Do not work	288	84.4	3.6	(77.2, 91.6)	292	48.7	6.3	(36.1, 61.3)
Other ⁴	29	93.3	4.6	(84.2, 100.0)	30	30.9†	14.4†	(2.1, 59.7)†
Marital status	854				861			
Married	465	84.0	3.3	(77.5, 90.5)	465	47.2	4.6	(38.0, 56.4)
Separated	33	85.1	10.0	(65.0, 100.0)	36	43.3†	12.1†	(19.1, 67.5)†
Divorced	143	73.1	6.1	(60.9, 85.2)	144	41.5†	11.6†	(18.2, 64.8)†
Widowed	49	64.0	12.8	(38.3, 89.7)	50	32.0	7.8	(16.3, 47.6)
Never married	164	75.5	6.9	(61.8, 89.3)	166	34.4	7.0	(20.4, 48.4)

Note: All analyses were on weighted NSCAW III baseline data; Ns are unweighted and, therefore, direct percentages cannot be calculated by hand. Reported Ns vary slightly across analyses because of missing data in some variable categories. Cells are suppressed (–) based on cell count of 1 to 10 (CMS, 2020). True zeros are indicated.

† indicates unreliable estimate based on relative standard error (RSE) greater than or equal to 25 (RSE defined as 100 times the ratio of estimated standard error of the point estimate to the point estimate).

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- ¹ Formal kin caregivers and nonrelative foster caregivers were asked “Do you feel like you were given essential information about [child’s name] when he/she was placed? (Yes/No)”
- ² Formal kin caregivers and nonrelative foster caregivers were asked “Since [data of start of living arrangement] have you had input into the service plan? (Yes/No)”
- ³ Formal kin caregivers and nonrelative foster caregivers were asked “Has the caseworker returned phone calls within 24 hours? (Yes/No)”
- ⁴ Caregivers were asked “Are you Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?” Response options were 1 No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino, 2 Yes, Mexican, Mexican-American, Chicano, 3 Yes, Puerto Rican, 4 Yes, Cuban, and 5 Yes, Other. Ethnicity- and race-derived variables follow guidance at [Race and Ethnicity Flexibilities \(whitehouse.gov\)](#) and [U.S. HHS Implementation Guidance on Data Collection Standards for Race, Ethnicity, Sex, Primary Language, and Disability Status](#).
- ⁵ Caregivers were asked “What is your race?” Response options were 1 American Indian or Alaska Native, 2 Asian, 3 Black or African American, 4 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and 5 White. These categories are mutually exclusive. Referred to as One Race and Two or More Races following the guidance from [Race and Ethnicity Flexibilities \(whitehouse.gov\)](#).
- ⁶ This is derived from two questions. The first asked “what is the highest degree, diploma, or certificate you hold?” and answer options included all categories in “Education: Highest degree completed.” The second question was only used when none or other was selected in the highest degree question. The second question asked “what is the highest grade in school you completed?” and answer options included range from first to twelfth grade, vocational/technical, less than 1 year of college, or 1 to 3 years of college. One exception was if highest degree was none and highest grade was vocational/technical school, then highest degree was assigned as “less than high school.”
- ⁷ This derived variable was calculated using caregiver report of estimated household income and number of household members, and the poverty guidelines updated periodically in the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2). The [2019 Poverty Guidelines | ASPE \(hhs.gov\)](#) was utilized given this was the time period most data were collected.
- ⁸ “Work, full time” includes caregivers who selected “Regularly work full-time, 35 or more hours/week.” “Work, part time” includes caregivers who selected “Regularly work part-time, less than 35 hours/week” or “Work sometimes, when work’s available.” “Unemployed, looking for work” includes caregivers who selected “Unemployed, looking for work.” “Does not work” includes 491 caregivers who reported they don’t work because of family responsibilities; 88 caregivers who don’t work because they are retired; 329 caregivers who don’t work because of illness or disability; 19 caregivers who don’t work because they don’t want to work; and 37 caregivers who don’t work because they are currently a student. “Other” includes caregivers who selected “Other.”
- ⁹ Formal kin caregivers and nonrelative foster caregivers were asked “Have you felt like a respected member of the team of people providing service to this foster child? (Yes/No)”
- ¹⁰ Formal kin caregivers and nonrelative foster caregivers were asked “Since [data of start of living arrangement] have you received any special instruction or training in skills you need to be a foster parent? This would include things like how to deal with problems your foster child may have or behavior management techniques. (Yes/No)”

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Appendix—Derived Variables

Following is a descriptive list of the variables derived for the NSCAW III Child and Family Involvement with CWS baseline report.

- **Gender Identity.** Gender identity items in NSCAW III align with federal guidance on measuring *sexual orientation and gender identity* (SOGI). For gender identity, youth 11 and older were asked first “What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate? (Male; Female)” immediately followed by “How do you describe yourself? (Male; Female; Transgender; Do not identify as male, female, or transgender)”. Cisgender male was assigned if youth reported that sex assigned at birth was male and they describe themselves as male. Cisgender female was assigned if youth reported that sex assigned at birth was female and they describe themselves as female. Gender minority was assigned if youth reported female as sex assigned at birth and described themselves as male or, reported male as sex assigned at birth and described themselves as female, or selected transgender. Coding of gender identity follows the guidance from [Recommendations on the Best Practices for the Collection of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Data on Federal Statistical Surveys \(whitehouse.gov\)](#) and [Measuring Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Research Group | FCSM.gov](#).
- **Sex Assigned at Birth.** Sex was determined using first the responses from youth 11 years old and older to CH#3b (What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate? 1. Male 2. Female). If child was less than 11 years old, variables from the caregiver instrument (PHH2BA: [If unclear ask] Is Child a boy or girl?), PCHGENDR), CH section of the child instrument (YCH3a), and then from the caseworker instrument derived variable (CCHGENDR) were used.
- **Federal Poverty Guidelines.** The percentage of federal poverty guideline variable examines caregiver household income in the context of the [2019 Poverty Guidelines | ASPE \(hhs.gov\)](#). Household income represents the caregiver’s self-reported combined income of all family members from all sources in the previous 12 months. Combined household income was collected directly from the caregiver or computed by examining the income ranges endorsed by the caregiver (e.g., more than \$40,000, but less than \$45,000 resulted in an estimated income of \$42,500). To calculate poverty level, this household income figure was then divided by the total number of household members dependent on that income. Four categories of federal poverty guideline were created: <50%, 50–99%, 100–199%, and >200%
- **Setting/Caregiver Type.** The setting variable includes six levels: *in-home, formal kin care, voluntary kin care, foster care, group home/residential program, and other out-of-home*. In-home includes children living at their home with parents or primary caregiver at the time of the baseline interview. These include children that during the Child Protective Services (CPS) investigations were removed from their home and reunified by the time of the baseline data collection. Out-of-home is disaggregated in tables. The total out-of-home aggregated has 975 children. Formal kin care includes children who have been placed with a kin caregiver through CWS involvement and the

caregiver reports receiving payments from the CWS. The caregiver may or may not be licensed or certified. Voluntary kin care includes children living with a kin caregiver, no payments are received from CWS for the care of the child, and the caregiver does not have a license or certification to provide foster care. Nonrelative foster care includes children who have been placed with a nonrelative caregiver through CWS involvement, the caregiver receives payments from CWS, and the caregiver is a licensed or certified foster caregiver. Group home or residential program includes children residing in a group home or residential treatment facility that ranges from 3 to 50 or more beds. Other out-of-home includes children in various living situations such as the child living in the home of a family friend, transitional independent living, specialized therapeutic foster home, or emergency shelter.

- **Child Insurance Status.** Child insurance status includes four types: *private*, *public*, *other*, and *uninsured*. Private includes children who had any private insurance plan obtained through an employer or purchased directly. Public includes children who had Medicaid and/or a State Children’s Health Insurance Plan (SCHIP). Other includes children who did not have private insurance or Medicaid (or other public coverage) at the time of interview, but who have any other type of insurance, including coverage through a military health plan. Uninsured includes children not covered under private, public, or other insurance or who endorsed participating in the Indian Health Service.
- **Child Race.** Race was derived by considering youth ages 11 years old and up responses first then caregiver then caseworkers responses if youth responses were unavailable. Youth were able to select all that applies to them out of the following categories: American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, or White. Ethnicity- and race-derived variables follow guidance from [Race and Ethnicity Flexibilities \(whitehouse.gov\)](https://www.whitehouse.gov/policy/briefing-room/2014/04/23/race-and-ethnicity-flexibilities/).
- **Child Ethnicity.** Ethnicity was derived by considering youth ages 11 years old and up responses first, then caregiver, then caseworker responses if youth responses were unavailable. Youth 11 and older were asked “Are you Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?” Response options were 1 No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino, 2 Yes, Mexican, Mexican-American, Chicano, 3 Yes, Puerto Rican, 4 Yes, Cuban, and 5 Yes, Other. Caregivers were asked “Now thinking about (child), is he/she Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?” Response options were the same as the ones for youth. Ethnicity- and race-derived variables follow guidance from [Race and Ethnicity Flexibilities \(whitehouse.gov\)](https://www.whitehouse.gov/policy/briefing-room/2014/04/23/race-and-ethnicity-flexibilities/) and [U.S. HHS Implementation Guidance on Data Collection Standards for Race, Ethnicity, Sex, Primary Language, and Disability Status](https://www.hhs.gov/ohrt/implementation-guidance-on-data-collection-standards-for-race-ethnicity-sex-primary-language-and-disability-status/).
- **Maltreatment Characteristics.** NSCAW III used the same categories as NSCAW II, following the Limited Maltreatment Classification System (L-MCS; Barnett et al., 1993) to capture information about the reported maltreatment. Compared to NSCAW I, NSCAW II and III included several new categories, added with the goal of obtaining more information from caseworkers about specific types of maltreatment. The new categories were: Prematurity or Low Birth Weight, Substance Exposure, Domestic Violence, Substance-abusing Parent, Voluntary Relinquishment, Children in Need of

Services, and Investigation Only Way to Get Services. Prematurity or low birth weight was added to obtain additional information related to the allegation of maltreatment, representing a potential sign associated with maltreatment categories like Substance Exposure. As a standalone descriptor, prematurity or low birth weight is not a maltreatment category.

Caseworkers were provided with a card listing types of maltreatment. The request to caseworkers was: Please look at Card 9 and tell me the type or types of abuse or neglect reported on (Report Date)?

- 1 = "Physical Maltreatment"
- 2 = "Sexual Maltreatment"
- 3 = "Emotional Maltreatment"
- 4 = "Physical Neglect (Failure to Provide)"
- 5 = "Neglect (Lack of Supervision)"
- 6 = "Abandonment"
- 7 = "Moral/legal Maltreatment"
- 8 = "Educational Maltreatment"
- 9 = "Exploitation (e.g., Sale of Minor's Time or Behavior)"
- 10 = "Other"
- 11 = "Prematurity or Low Birth Weight"
- 12 = "Substance Exposure (e.g., Born with drugs in system)"
- 13 = "Domestic Violence"
- 14 = "Substance-abusing Parent"
- 15 = "Voluntary Relinquishment"
- 16 = "Children in Need of Supervision/Services (CHINS)"
- 17 = "Investigation/Report was Only Way to Get Needed Services for Family"

If caseworkers selected 9=" Exploitation," they were asked: Was the exploitation related to sex trafficking or labor trafficking?

- 1= "Yes, Sex Trafficking"
- 2 = "Yes, Labor Trafficking"
- 3 = "Both Sex and Labor Trafficking"
- 4 = No

After caseworker selected the type(s) of maltreatment reported, they were asked: Please look at Card 10 and tell me the type or types of abuse or neglect that the

investigation/assessment found to have occurred. (It is possible that different maltreatment type(s) were found than the type(s) that were reported.)

1 = "Physical Maltreatment"

2 = "Sexual Maltreatment"

3 = "Emotional Maltreatment"

4 = "Physical Neglect (Failure to Provide)"

5 = "Neglect (Lack of Supervision)"

6 = "Abandonment"

7 = "Moral/legal Maltreatment"

8 = "Educational Maltreatment"

9 = "Exploitation (e.g., Sale of Minor's Time or Behavior)"

10 = "Other"

11 = "Prematurity or Low Birth Weight"

12 = "Substance Exposure (e.g., Born with drugs in system)"

13 = "Domestic Violence"

14 = "Substance-abusing Parent"

15 = "Voluntary Relinquishment"

16 = "Children in Need of Supervision/Services (CHINS)"

17 = "Investigation/Report was Only Way to Get Needed Services for Family"

18 = "The Investigation was Unfounded or Unsubstantiated"

19 = "The Assessment or Differential Response did not find any Maltreatment"

20 = "The Assessment or Differential Response did not Make a Determination of Whether Maltreatment Occurred"

The cards listing types of maltreatment did not include a definition of each category. The most serious type of maltreatment found was assessed by asking the caseworkers in the baseline interview, "Of the types of abuse or neglect that were found, please look at Card 12 (same list as Card 10) and tell me the type that you felt was the most serious."

- **Risk Assessment.** NSCAW III uses risk assessment questions that were adapted from the risk assessment tools used in child protective services in Michigan, New York, Washington, Illinois, and Colorado risk assessment forms and checklists. These tools collect information regarding the main caregiver. Questions include: "At the time of the investigation was there active alcohol abuse by primary caregiver? Was there active drug abuse by primary caregiver? Did caregiver have any serious mental health or emotional problem? Was there a history of abuse and neglect of caregiver? Was

there low social support? Was there high stress on the family?" All response options were yes/no.

- **Harm and Risk:** Caseworkers used a 4-point scale to rate the degree of harm the child suffered and the degree of risk the child faced. The text of the prompts and questions was as follows:

For the next set of questions, please do not be concerned with whether or not the report was substantiated when offering your responses. Regardless of the case decision of the investigation/assessment, how would you describe the level of harm to [FILL CHILD]? Would you say 1=*None*; 2=*Mild*; 3=*Moderate*; 4=*Severe*

Regardless of the case decision of the investigation/assessment, how would you describe the level of risk? Would you say: 1=*None*; 2=*Mild*; 3=*Moderate*; 4=*Severe*.