

The background of the slide is a collage of images featuring children and families. In the top left, a child is seen from behind, walking away. To the right, a woman smiles warmly. Further right, two young boys are shown smiling and hugging. In the top right corner, a close-up of a young girl's face is visible. A large, dark blue curved shape sweeps across the middle of the slide, framing the title text. In the bottom right corner, there is a circular inset showing a man and a woman in a close embrace.

# Children *and* Family Research Center

## *Child Welfare and Allied Services*

### *Substance Abuse and Juvenile Justice*

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# Substance Abuse and Child Welfare

- Substance abuse compromises appropriate parenting practices, creates problems in the parent-child relationship, and significantly increases the risk of child maltreatment.
- Children in substance abusing families have poorer developmental outcomes and are more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol as teenagers and adults.
- Family reunification for children in substance abusing families is low. Only 14% of the substance exposed infants entering care in 1994 were reunified by June 2001



# Current Child Welfare and Substance Abuse Initiatives

**Illinois AODA Waiver:** *Increase timely access to substance abuse treatment and thus speed up time to family reunification*

## ***How is this Accomplished:*** *Recovery Coaches*

- Contracted through an independent agency (TASC)
- Works in collaboration with caseworker; not a replacement
- Assigned to family for the life of a case
- Provide ongoing outreach, engagement, and re-engagement
- Coordinate AOD planning efforts
- Standardized, regular (monthly) reporting to worker

# Is the AODA Waiver Working?

## Group Assignment by Permanency Status (child level)

Living Arrangement Type	Control	Demonstration
Home of Parent	16%	22%
Home of Adoptive Parent	32%	30%
Subsidized Guardianship	11%	12%
<b>Permanency Totals</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>64%</b>

*The difference between the proportion of children returning home is statistically significant,  $p < .01$*

# Families with Co-occurring Problems

## Substance Abuse (SA)



56% Housing



30% Mental Health



30% Domestic Vlnce.

62% report SA and at least 2 additional problems

27% report SA and all 3 additional problems

# Co-occurring Problems and Reunification

## The *Problems* and the *Progress* are Important

Problems indicated by Caseworker	Not Reunified	Reunified	Totals
Substance abuse only	79%	21%	8%
One additional problem	89%	11%	30%
Two additional problems	88%	12%	35%
Three additional problems	89%	11%	27%
Totals	88%	12%	100%

# Co-occurring Problems and Reunification

## The *Problems* and the *Progress* are Important

Problem Area	% progress	Not Reunified	Reunified
<b>Substance Abuse</b>			
Complete	18%	74%	26%
Substantial	24%	87%	13%
Reasonable effort	15%	91%	9%
Unsatisfactory	43%	93%	7%
<b>Domestic Violence</b>			
Complete	15%	75%	25%
Substantial	9%	76%	24%
Reasonable effort	18%	90%	10%
Unsatisfactory	58%	95%	5%

# Co-occurring Problems and Reunification

## The *Problems* and the *Progress* are Important

Problem Area	% progress	Not Reunified	Reunified
<b>Housing</b>			
Complete	10%	69%	31%
Substantial	13%	83%	17%
Reasonable effort	22%	88%	12%
Unsatisfactory	55%	93%	7%
<b>Mental Health</b>			
Complete	5%	58%	42%
Substantial	18%	88%	13%
Reasonable effort	20%	92%	8%
Unsatisfactory	56%	93%	7%



# Findings from Multivariate Models

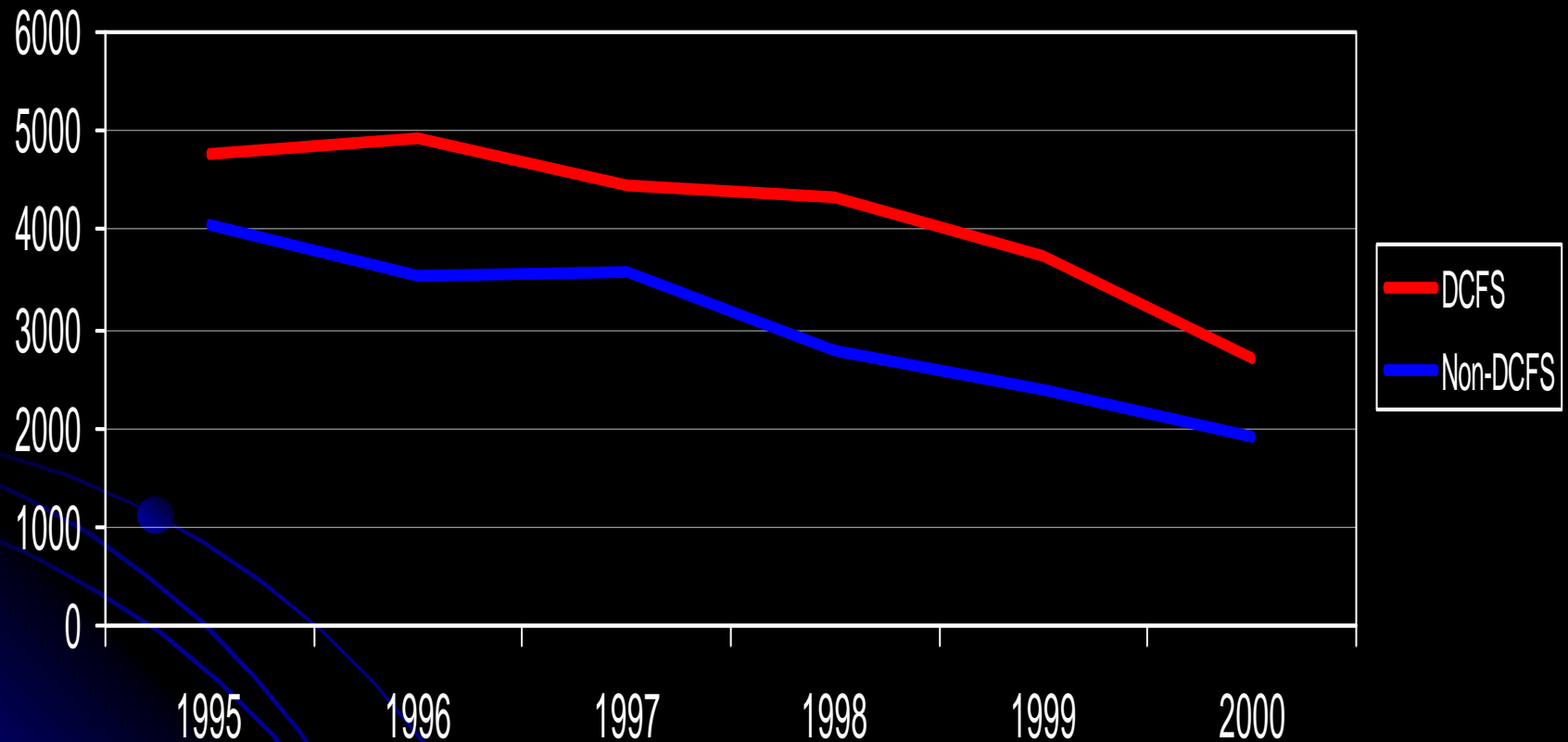
- Families unable to make sufficient progress in SA are 42% less likely to achieve reunification
- Families unable to make sufficient progress in DV are 53% less likely to achieve reunification
- Families unable to make sufficient progress in MH are 39% less likely to achieve reunification
- No significant effect associate with housing

# Conclusions

- Co-occurring problems significantly decrease the likelihood of reunification.
- Yet – when progress is achieved – the likelihood of achieving family reunification is significantly increased – especially with regard to MH and DV.
- **Implications:** Integrated service models designed to increase treatment access and reunification must target services to specific problem areas and be effective enough to insure client progress.
- How can social service systems and individual agencies facilitate progress in these areas?

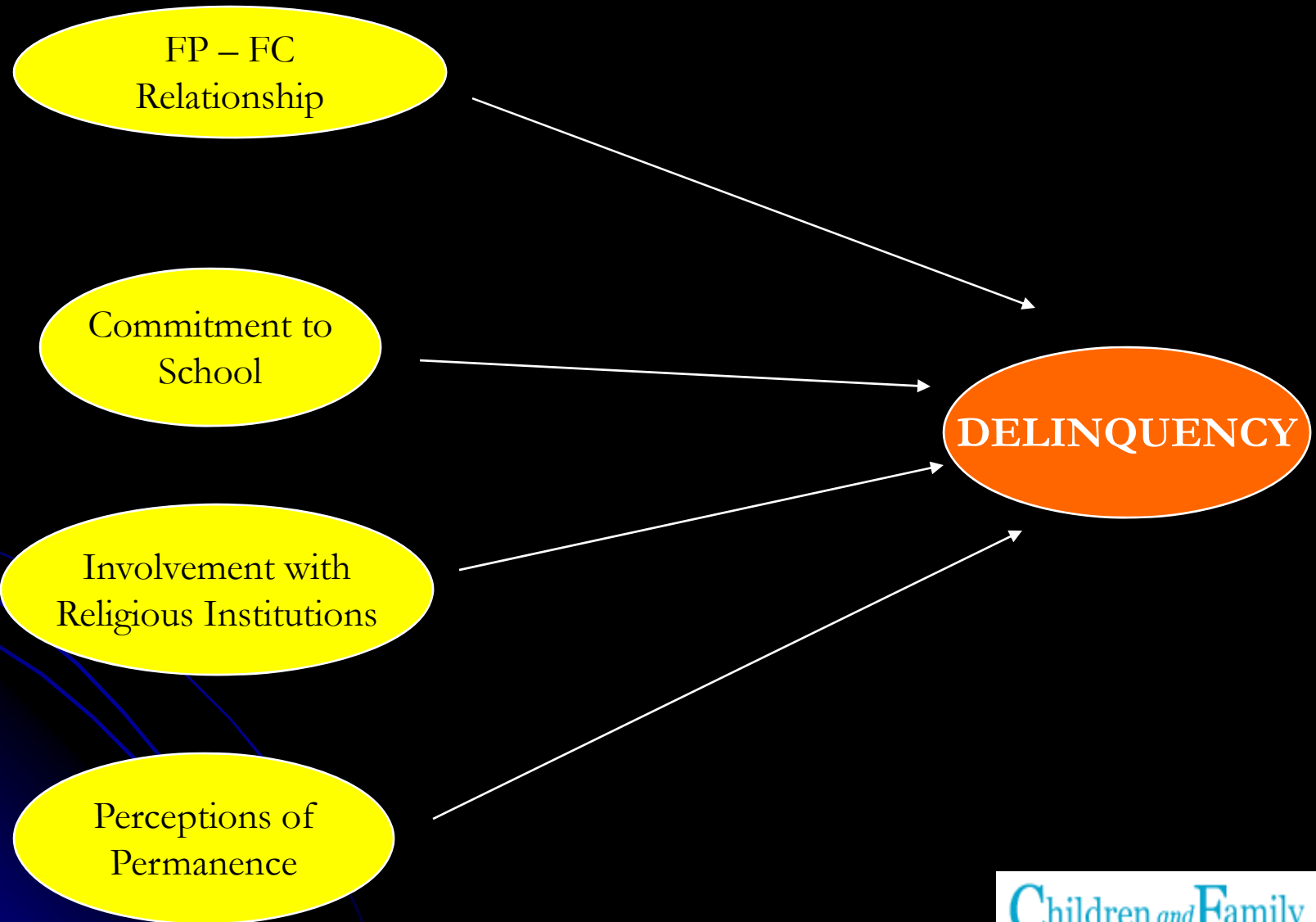


# Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice





# The Importance of Social Bonds in Foster Care



# Placement Types and Crossover in Los Angeles County

## Group Home Effects

- Adolescents in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to be arrested

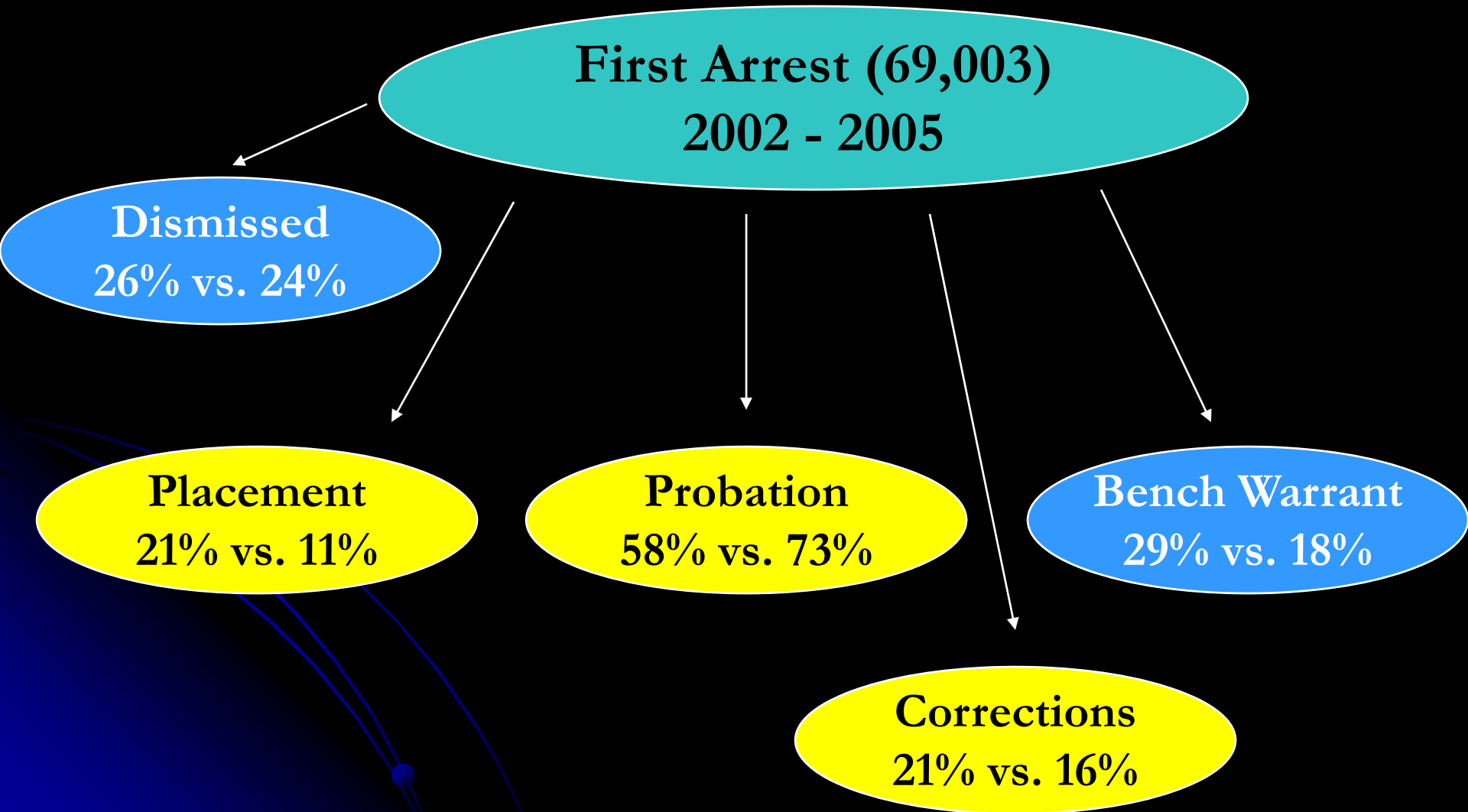
## Location of Youth at Time of Arrest

- 37% of all arrests occur while the child is in the group home

## Offense Type

- Group home youth more likely to have a violent offense (38% v. 20%)
- Group home youth more likely to have a threat offense (10% v. 5%)

# What Happens After Initial Arrest?



# Conclusions and Questions

## Placement and Delinquency

- Less than 20% of adolescents enter group home placements and a relative short period of time is spent in such placements – non random selection into group care.
- Group homes associated with significant increase.
- 37% of all arrests for open child welfare cases occur while the adolescent is in the group home
- What is it about such placements that increases the risk of arrest? Policies and peers are likely areas of interest.
- How can agencies facilitate and support positive social bonds?

# Conclusions and Questions

## Child Welfare Status and Judicial Dispositions

- Adolescents coming to probation from CW are less likely to receive probation and more likely to enter secure settings.
- This is problematic for at least two reasons – the cost associated with secure setting placements – and the relative ineffectiveness.
- What are the long term implications for moving maltreated youth into secure setting justice oriented placements?
- What types of placements within the child welfare system work best for crossover youth?
- Would improved communication decrease bench warrants and probation violations?