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Illinois Child Endangerment Risk Assessment Protocol Evaluation: Impact on Short-term Recurrence Rates – Year Five

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Executive Summary

This report analyzes the impact of Child Endangerment Risk Assessment Protocol (CERAP) implementation on the safety of children investigated by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) for abuse and neglect. For this study safety, is assessed using data from DCFS' Child Abuse and Neglect Tracking System (CANTS). Safety is defined in terms of the occurrence/nonoccurrence of an indicated allegation of maltreatment within 60 days of an initial investigation. The current analysis builds upon the results of previous years' reports that found declining recurrence rates over the four years since the CERAP was first implemented.

COMPARISONS OF SERVICE VOLUME, CHILD LEVEL

This section includes simple frequency counts of children and child reports that appeared as part of investigations in the years 1995 to 2000.

1. A pattern of decline is apparent in the number of child reports with allegations – from 133,859 in 1995 to 102,439 in 2000; child reports with indicated allegations - from 49,088 to 29,725; and number of children taken into protective custody, - from 8,171 to 5,033.
2. The pattern of child reports in the six-year period shows a leveling off in the last two years compared to the first three years.

Counting children only for the first time they appeared as part of an investigation during the six-year time period shows a similar pattern of decline.

1. The number of children with allegations declined from 100,403 in 1995 to 60,150 in 2000.

2. The number of children with indicated allegations declined from 35,024 in 1995 to 16,157 in 2000.
3. The number of children taken into protective custody for the first time in the six-year time period declined from 5,269 in 1995 to 2,415 in 2000.
4. The pattern in the number of children with allegations, children with indicated allegations, and children taken into protective custody for the first time in the six-year period has been declining, but it has leveled off in the last two years.

The number of children reported for the first time in the six-year period between 1995 and 2000 and whose first report was a Sequence A report showed a pattern of decline over the time period similar to that shown when including all first reports.

The number of children with allegations in the first Sequence A report declined from 76,949 in 1995 to 54,588 in 2000, but the last year shows a slight increase over the previous year (about 500 higher than in 1999).

1. The number of children with indicated allegations declined in the six-year period from 23,440 in 1995 to 13,598 in 2000.
2. The number of children taken into protective custody in relation to a first Sequence A report in the time period ranged from 2,794 in 1995 to 1,492 in 2000. With the exception of 1998 the number of children taken into protective custody for the first time in the six-year period has consistently been on the decline.

COMPARISONS OF RECURRENCE, CHILD LEVEL

Short-term (60 day) recurrence rates for all children reported decreased over the five years following implementation of the CERAP.

1. Recurrence within 60 days of initial investigation declined from 2.7% in 1995, the pre-implementation year, down to 1.3% in 2000.

2. The decline was most noticeable in the first year of implementation of CERAP (1996) when the recurrence rate went down to 2.1%. Since that point the recurrence rate has continue to decline.
3. The rate of recurrence within 60 days was 1.8% in 1997, 1.7% in 1998, 1.65 in 1999, and 1.3% in 2000. The last year's rate probably underestimates actual recurrence as data for the last two months of the year were not available at the time of analysis.

Short-term recurrence rates for children with 1) a first report of Sequence A in the time period and 2) excluding children taken into protective custody for any period of time showed a similar pattern of overall decline compared to the rates of all children.

1. The recurrence rate within 60 days of initial investigation declined from 2.13% in 1995 to 1.12% in 2000.
2. Once again the most noticeable reduction in the recurrence rate from year to year was apparent between the pre-implementation year and the first year of implementation, 2.13% and 1.75% respectively.
3. The recurrence rates continued to decline from year to year in a more moderate rate. In 1997 the rate of recurrence was 1.6%, in 1998 the recurrence rate was 1.55%, in 1999 the recurrence rate was 1.45%, and by 2000 the recurrence rate was 1.12%. The last year's rate probably underestimates actual recurrence as data for the last two months of the year were not available at the time of analysis.

120-day recurrence rates for children with 1) a first report of Sequence A in the time period and 2) excluding children taken into protective custody for any period of time showed a similar pattern to 60-day recurrence rates.

1. The recurrence rate within 120 days of initial investigation declined from 14.78% in 1995 to 2.12% in 1999 (data for year 2000 were incomplete at the time of analysis)..

2. The most noticeable reduction in the recurrence rate from year to year was apparent between the pre-implementation year and the first year of implementation, 3.18% and 2.71% respectively.
3. The recurrence rates continued to decline from year to year in a more moderate rate.

COMPARISONS OF SERVICE VOLUME, HOUSEHOLD LEVEL

Recurrence analyses of Sequence A reports was originally conducted with the assumption that a Sequence A report represented the first report in which a given child ever appeared in the CANTS system. However, because sequence assignment is made at the household level, a child can belong to multiple households at a given time and over time. Therefore, children can and do appear on multiple Sequence A reports within the CANTS system. Given the existence of multiple Sequence A reports at the child level and given that the CERAP is itself designed to assess household conditions, recurrence might be more appropriately assessed at the household level

Households are defined here on the basis of common household numbers assigned by the Central Registry.

1. In 1995 there were 74,657 household reports of abuse and neglect in the state. That number has declined since and reached 61,448 in the year 2000.
2. In 1995 there were 27,064 household reports with at least one indicated allegation. That number has been declining over the years reaching 17,258 in the year 2000.
3. In 1995 there were 5,022 household reports associated with at least one child taken into protective custody. That number has declined each year compared to

the previous year except for the year 1998 when the number increased. Since 1998 the number of household reports with protective custody taken has declined, reaching 3,173 in the year 2000.

Limiting the population to only those households first reported during the six-year period provides a similar pattern of decline compared to overall household reports.

1. The total number of household reported for the first time in 1995 was 63,439. By the year 2000 the number had declined to 43,105.
2. The number of households with indicated allegations was 22,159 in 1995 and it had declined to 10,564 by the year 2000.
3. The number of households with children taken into protective custody for the first time in the six-year time period was 3,741 in 1995 and had declined to 1,295 by the year 2000.

Limiting the population of households to those whose first report in the six-year period was a Sequence A report changes the overall number of households as well as the rate of decline over the years.

1. The total number of households with a Sequence A report in 1995 was 49,476. That number declined gradually every year reaching 42,122 in 1999. The number of households in this category increased in the year 2000 to 42,643 compared to 1999.
2. The number of households with indicated allegations was 15,421 in 1995 and gradually declined to 10,023 by the year 1999 and increased slightly to 10,395 in 2000.
3. The number of households with children taken into protective custody was 2,041 in 1995 and gradually declined through 2000 to 1,271 children, with one increase in 1998.

COMPARISONS OF RECURRENCE, HOUSEHOLD LEVEL

When all households are included, short-term recurrence rates at the household level have consistently decreased in the five years since CERAP implementation.

1. The sharpest decline in the rate of recurrence was from 1995 (the pre-implementation year) when it was at 2.79% to 1996 (the first post-implementation year) when the recurrence rate was at 1.99%. The recurrence rates from 1997 through 2000 were 1.80%, 1.73, 1.40%, 1.23%, respectively.

As with the analysis at the child level, analysis of household recurrence was next further limited to only Sequence A household reports. Results from these households varied somewhat from the results including all households.

1. The pattern of recurrence showed an overall decline from the pre-CERAP implementation year (1995) to the year 2000, going from 1.97% to 1.23% respectively.
2. The rate of recurrence declined from 1.97% in 1995 to 1.67% in 1996 but showed limited change in 1997 and 1998 with rates of 1.69% and 1.67% respectively.
3. The recurrence rate went down in 1999 to 1.53% following by further reduction in the year 2000 to 1.23%. The last year's rate probably underestimates actual recurrence as data for the last two months of the year were not available at the time of analysis.

Analyses of recurrence of maltreatment at either the child or household levels yield similar results. However, given that the CERAP was designed and is implemented

at the household level it is suggested that future evaluations be conducted at the household level.

RECURRENCE AT THE HOUSEHOLD LEVEL BY ALLEGATION TYPE AND COOK COUNTY VERSUS OTHER ILLINOIS COUNTIES

Households were categorized into mutually exclusive groups based on the single most severe allegation in the first investigation. Both severity of initial allegation and region reveal important relationships with recurrence.

1. Households with sexual abuse or physical abuse, the two most severe categories, showed consistently lower rates of recurrence compared to either the overall rate of recurrence for a given year or the recurrence for households characterized by less severe abuse and neglect.
2. The pattern for households categorized by an allegation of substance-exposed infants tend to have a consistently higher rate of recurrence compared to the overall rate in a given year.
3. Households categorized by an allegation type of other neglect or substantial risk of harm showed a pattern of consistent decline over the years with the exception of the year 1998 when the rates for both categories went up from the previous year's level.
4. For every year examined, short-term recurrence rates for Cook County were consistently lower than in other Illinois counties.

Illinois Child Endangerment Risk Assessment Protocol Evaluation: Impact on Short-term Recurrence Rates – Year FIVE

The report analyzes the impact of Child Endangerment Risk Assessment Protocol (CERAP) implementation on the safety of children investigated by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) for abuse and/or neglect. Development of the CERAP was initiated in 1994 as a response to concerns about the

immediate safety of children in homes under investigation. It consists of a focused system for assessing safety using empirically based factors found to correlate with risk of abuse and/or neglect and documents a safety plan for each child in the household. Investigators are provided intensive training in the CERAP and must pass a certification exam demonstrating mastery of the protocol.

For the purpose of this study, safety is assessed using data from DCFS' Child Abuse and Neglect Tracking System (CANTS) and is defined in terms of the occurrence of an indicated report of maltreatment within 60 days of an initial report. The current analyses build upon the results of previous years' reports that found declining recurrence rates over the four years post CERAP implementation.

Several alternative explanations for the reduction were assessed in previous reports. Policy changes in substance-affected infants and risk of harm and/or inadequate supervision while in the care of a relative were not related to reduced recurrence. These analyses were therefore dropped in this report. However, in order to ensure uniformity with previous reports in the computed lag between the first investigation of abuse or neglect and the second, we did exclude children taken into protective custody from recurrence rates.

The first section of this report presents simple frequency counts of children who were the subjects of abuse and/or neglect investigations. The second section presents an analysis of changes in short-term maltreatment recurrence rates from the year before the first implementation of CERAP through the five years following implementation. The third section of the report presents simple frequency counts of *households* that were investigated for abuse and/or neglect. The fourth section presents an analysis of changes in short-term maltreatment recurrence rates *at the household level*. The fifth and final section breaks down household recurrence rates by the most severe allegation and by Cook versus other Illinois counties.

Section One: Comparison of Service Volumes, Children

Four measures of service provision were compared for the years 1995 to 2000.

The four measures are:

1. Child Reports. This is the count of all children identified within an investigation. Because a child may be a member of multiple households in a given year and/or because a given household may be investigated multiple times in a given year, an individual child may be identified in more than one report in a given year. This is therefore a duplicated count of individual children. A total of 978,709 child reports were received in the six-year period.
2. Child Reports with an Allegation. This is a subset of the children in (1), this is the count of all children identified within an investigation who were alleged to be the victims of at least one incident of abuse and/or neglect. This too is a duplicated count of individual children as a given child could have multiple reports in a single year. Excluded are children named in a report (e.g., siblings, other relatives) who were members of the investigated household but who were not allegedly abused and/or neglected.
3. Child Reports with an Indicated Allegation. This is a subset of the children in (2), and is the count of all children identified within an investigation for whom at least one allegation of abuse and/or neglect was “indicated.” Again, this is a duplicated count of individual children as a child may have more than one investigation, and therefore possibly more than one indicated allegation, in a given year.
4. Protective Custody Taken¹. The fourth count is the number of children taken into protective custody (PC). Protective custody is described within the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (Illinois Compiled Statutes 325 ILCS 5/ 5) in the following terms:

¹ Earlier versions of the report defined “protective custody” as placement into the child welfare system. These children were therefore thought to be at substantially lower risk of re-abuse/re-neglect because it was assumed that they had been removed from and did not reside in the investigated household during the 60-day period examined. About a quarter (27%) of children who are taken into protective custody are not subsequently maintained in the child welfare system. Similarly, about a quarter (24%) of children who enter the child welfare system do so without having had protective custody.

An officer of a local law enforcement agency, designated employee of the Department, or a physician treating a child may take or retain temporary protective custody of the child without the consent of the person responsible for the child's welfare, if (1) he has reason to believe that the child cannot be cared for at home or in the custody of the person responsible for the child's welfare without endangering the child's health or safety; and (2) there is not time to apply for a court order under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 for temporary custody of the child.... The Department shall promptly initiate proceedings under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 for the continued temporary custody of the child.

Table 1 presents counts² for the four measures for the six-year period. Because implementation of the CERAP first occurred on December 1, 1995, each of the six comparison years was defined as beginning on December 1 and ending November 30.

² Counts presented in the current report differ somewhat from those presented in previous reports. Counts from previous reports were derived from a longitudinal dataset that was built from a series of data captures over time. The data analyzed in the present report were all taken from a December 31, 2000 data capture of the DCFS administrative data systems. In the dataset used in earlier analyses, a report with a "Pending" disposition would always remain so. Because the final case disposition is to be made by 60 days after a report, "Pending" cases would be rewritten as "Indicated" or "Unfounded" within the database used here and are accordingly included in the present counts.

Table 1. Six-Year Trends in CANTS Child Reports

	1995 (12/1/94– 11/30/95)	1996 (12/1/95– 11/30/96)	1997 (12/1/96– 11/30/97)	1998 (12/1/97– 11/30/98)	1999 (12/1/98– 11/30/99)	2000 (12/1/99– 11/30/00)
Total Child Reports	185,447	174,140	162,974	158,327	149,890	147,931
Child Reports with Allegations	133,859	124,494	115,705	111,202	104,974	102,439
Child Reports with Indicated Allegations	49,088	43,149	38,892	35,618	32,673	29,725
Children with Protective Custody Taken	8,171	7,057	6,100	7,031	5,660	5,033

As Table 1 shows, all but one count show an overall reduction in service volume as compared to the previous year:

1. A 6.1% decrease in the number of total child reports from 1995 to 1996, a 6.4% decrease from 1996 to 1997, a 2.9% decrease from 1997 to 1998, a 5% decrease from 1998 to 1999, and a 1.3% decrease from 1999 to 2000.
2. A 7.0% decrease in the number of child reports with allegations from 1995 to 1996 and from 1996 to 1997, a 3.8% decrease from 1997 to 1998, a 5.6% decrease from 1998 to 1999, and a 2.4% decrease from 1999 to 2000.
3. A 12.0% decrease in the number of child reports with indicated allegations from 1995 to 1996, a 9.8% decrease from 1996 to 1997, an 8.4% decrease from 1997 to 1998, an 8.2% decrease from 1998 to 1999, and a 9.0% decrease from 1999 to 2000.
4. A 13.6% reduction in the number of children taken into protective custody from 1995 to 1996 and from 1996 to 1997, a 15% *increase* from 1997 to 1998, a 29.5% decrease from 1998 to 1999, and an 11.1% decrease from 1999 to 2000.

However, considered as a *proportion* of total child reports and as a *proportion* of child reports with allegations, the changes over time in child reports with allegations and child reports with indicated allegations, respectively are smaller. The changes in these proportions are displayed in Table 2.

Table 2. Six-Year Percentage Changes

%	1995 (12/1/94– 11/30/95)	1996 (12/1/95– 11/30/96)	1997 (12/1/96– 11/30/97)	1998 (12/1/97– 11/30/98)	1999 (12/1/98– 11/30/99)	2000 (12/1/99– 11/30/00)
Child Reports with Indicated Allegations / Total Child Reports	26.5%	24.8%	23.9%	22.5%	21.8%	20.1%
Child Reports with Indicated Allegations / Child Reports with Allegations	36.7%	34.7%	33.6%	32.0%	31.1%	29.0%
Children with Protective Custody Taken / Indicated Child Reports	16.6%	16.4%	15.7%	19.7%	17.3%	16.9%

As Table 2 shows, the proportion of child reports with indicated allegations to both total child reports and child reports with indicated allegations decreased from 1995 through 2000. Some specific changes over the five years were:

1. An 5.4% decrease in the proportion of child reports with indicated allegations to child reports with allegations in the period from 1995 to 1996, a 3.2% decrease from 1996 to 1997, a 4.8% decrease from 1997 to 1998, a 2.8% decrease from 1998 to 1999, and a 6.8% decrease from 1999 to 2000. (Note: these percentage changes represent the percentage change in percentages, not the raw difference from one percentage to another.)
2. A 1.2% decrease in the proportion of children taken into protective custody to indicated child reports from 1995 to 1996, a 4.2% decrease from 1996 to 1997, a 25% *increase* from 1997 to 1998, a 12.2% decrease from 1998 to 1999, and a 2.3% decrease from 1999 to 2000.

Tables 3 and 4 present the same counts and percentages presented in Tables 1 and 2 but only for the first report received on each child from December 1, 1994 through November 30, 2000. These tables therefore are unduplicated counts for children under investigation during that time period. A report is counted not only if it represents the first recorded investigation of a household ever but any subsequent investigation as long as it was the first investigation of that household to occur during the time period December 1, 1994 through November 30, 2000. The total number of children represented in reports during this five-year time period was 622,910.

Table 3. Six-Year Trends in CANTS Child Reports, First Reports During the Time Period Only

	1995 (12/1/94– 11/30/95)	1996 (12/1/95– 11/30/96)	1997 (12/1/96– 11/30/97)	1998 (12/1/97– 11/30/98)	1999 (12/1/98– 11/30/99)	2000 (12/1/99– 11/30/00)
Total Children	141,237	112,975	99,941	93,238	87,564	87,955
Children with Allegations	100,403	79,493	69,712	64,584	60,338	60,150
Children with Indicated Allegations	35,024	25,762	21,805	19,013	17,338	16,157
Children with Protective Custody Taken	5,269	3,837	3,144	3,447	2,814	2,415

As was true with the overall counts, counts of first reports in the time period have, with two exceptions, decreased over the six years observed, showing:

1. A 20% decrease from 1995 to 1996 in the number of children reported, an 11.5% decrease from 1996 to 1997, a 6.7% decrease from 1997 to 1998, a 6.1% decrease from 1998 to 1999, and a . 5% *increase* from 1999 to 2000.

2. A 20.8% decrease from 1995 to 1996 in the number of children with at least one allegation of maltreatment, a 12.3% decrease from 1996 to 1997, a 7.4% decrease from 1997 to 1998, a 6.6% decrease from 1998 to 1999, and a .3% decrease from 1999 to 2000.
3. A 26.4% decrease from 1995 to 1996 in the number of children with at least one indicated allegation of maltreatment, an 15.4% decrease from 1996 to 1997, a 12.8% decrease from 1997 to 1998, a 8.8% decrease from 1998 to 1999, and a 6.8% decrease from 1999 to 2000.
4. A 27.2% decrease from 1995 to 1996 in the number of children taken into protective custody, an 18.1% decrease from 1996 to 1997, a 9.6% *increase* from 1997 to 1998, an 18.4% decrease from 1998 to 1999, and a 14.2% decrease from 1999 to 2000.

Table 4. Six-Year Percentage Changes, First Reports During the Time Period

%	1995 (12/1/94– 11/30/95)	1996 (12/1/95– 11/30/96)	1997 (12/1/96– 11/30/97)	1998 (12/1/97– 11/30/98)	1999 (12/1/98– 11/30/99)	2000 (12/1/99– 11/30/00)
Children with Indicated Allegations / Total Child Reports	24.8%	22.8%	21.8%	20.4%	19.8%	18.4%
Children with Indicated Allegations / Child Reports with Allegations	34.9%	32.4%	31.1%	29.4%	28.7%	26.9%
Children with Protective Custody Taken / Indicated Reports	15.0%	14.9%	14.4%	18.1%	16.2%	14.9%

The changes in the proportions for first reports in the time period December 1, 1994 through November 30, 2000 reveal:

1. A 7.1% decrease in the proportion of children with indicated allegations to children with allegations in the period from 1995 to 1996, a 3.5% decrease from 1996 to 1997, a 5.9% decrease from 1997 to 1998, a .24% decrease from 1998 to 1999, and a 6.5% decrease from 1999 to 2000. (Note: these percentage changes represent the percentage change in percentages, not the raw difference from one percentage to another.)

2. A 1.0% decrease from 1995 to 1996 in the proportion of child reports with indicated allegations that were associated with children taken into protective custody, a 3.2% decrease from 1996 to 1997, a 25.7% *increase* from 1997 to 1998, a 10.7% decrease from 1998 to 1999, and a 7.9% decrease from 1999 to 2000.

Finally, service volume was compared across the five years for children whose first Sequence A report fell within the period December 1, 1994 through November 30, 2000. The total number of such children was 526,521. Tables 5 and 6 present service volumes and percentage changes for these children.

Table 5. Six-Year Trends in CANTS Child Reports, Sequence A Reports During the Time Period

	1995 (12/1/94– 11/30/95)	1996 (12/1/95– 11/30/96)	1997 (12/1/96– 11/30/97)	1998 (12/1/97– 11/30/98)	1999 (12/1/98– 11/30/99)	1999 (12/1/99– 11/30/00)
Total Children	106,939	93,152	86,360	81,864	78,538	79,668
Children with Allegations	76,949	65,363	60,010	56,605	54,111	54,588
Children with Indicated Allegations	23,440	19,177	17,143	15,189	14,371	13,598
Children with Protective Custody Taken	2,794	2,175	1,891	1,945	1,687	1,492

The changes in counts for children involved in Sequence A reports from December 1, 1994 through November 30, 2000 show, with some exceptions, a decrease over the six years, in particular:

1. A 14.8% decrease from 1995 to 1996 in the number of children reported, a 7.9% decrease from 1996 to 1997, a 5.5% decrease from 1997 to 1998, a 4.2% decrease from 1998 to 1999, and a 1.4% *increase* from 1999 to 2000.
2. A 17.8% decrease from 1995 to 1996 in the number of children with at least one allegation of maltreatment, a 8.9% decrease from 1996 to 1997, a 6.0% decrease from 1997 to 1998, a 4.6% decrease from 1998 to 1999, and a .9% *increase* from 1999 to 2000.
3. A 22.2% decrease from 1995 to 1996 in the number of children with at least one indicated allegation of maltreatment, an 11.9% decrease from 1996 to 1997, a 12.9% decrease from 1997 to 1998, a 5.7 % decrease from 1998 to 1999, and a 5.7% decrease from 1999 to 2000.
4. A 28.5% decrease from 1995 to 1996 in the number of children taken into protective custody, a 15.0% decrease from 1996 to 1997, a 2.8% *increase* from 1997 to 1998, a 15.3% decrease from 1998 to 1999, and a 13.1% decrease from 1999 to 2000.

Table 6. Six-Year Percentage Changes, Sequence A Reports During the Time Period

%	1995 (12/1/94– 11/30/95)	1996 (12/1/95– 11/30/96)	1997 (12/1/96– 11/30/97)	1998 (12/1/97– 11/30/98)	1999 (12/1/98– 11/30/99)	2000 (12/1/99– 11/30/00)
Children with Indicated Allegations /Total Child Reports	21.9%	20.6%	19.9%	18.6%	18.3%	17.1%
Children with Indicated Allegations /Child Reports with Allegations	30.5%	29.3%	28.6%	26.8%	26.6%	24.9%
Children with Protective Custody Taken /Indicated Child Report	11.9%	11.3%	11.0%	12.8%	11.7%	11.0%

Changes in proportions for children with Sequence A reports show:

1. A 3.7% decrease in the proportion of children with indicated allegations to children with allegations in the period from 1995 to 1996, a 2.6% decrease from 1996 to 1997, a 6.1% decrease from 1997 to 1998, a 1.0% decrease from 1998 to 1999, and a 6.2 % decrease from 1999 to 2000. (Note: these percentage changes represent the percentage change in percentages, not the raw difference from one percentage to another.)
2. A 4.9% decrease from 1995 to 1996 in the proportion of child reports with indicated allegations that were associated with children taken into protective custody, a 2.7% decrease from 1996 to 1997, a 16.1% *increase* from 1997 to 1998, an 8.3% decrease from 1998 to 1999, and a 6.5% decrease from 1999 to 2000.

Section Two: Recurrence Analysis, Children

Short-term recurrence³ rates decreased over the five years following implementation of the CERAP. Table 7 presents the recurrence rates for the 622,910 children and their first investigation that occurred during the six-year time period observed. As the table shows, there has been a consistent decrease in the recurrence rates over the six-year period. Overall, the percentage reduction in recurrence from 1995 to 2000 was 51.9%.

Table 7. 60-Day Recurrence for First Reports in Time Period

	Total	Number Recurrent ^a	Crude Rate (%)	% Reduction From Prior Year ^b
1995	141,237	3821	2.7%	
1996	112,975	2353	2.1%	22.2%
1997	99,941	1792	1.8%	14.3%
1998	93,238	1629	1.7%	5.6%
1999 ^c	87,564	1402	1.6%	5.9%
2000 ^d	87,955	1103	1.3%	18.8%

^aThe number recurrent is of children with an indicated report occurring within 60 days of their first report in the time period observed.

^bPercentage changes represent the percentage change in percentages, not the raw difference from one percentage to another.

^cNote that both the number recurrent and the crude rate in 1999 differ from those of the previous report. This is because the denominator, first reports, represents all first reports through November 30, 1999. Complete data for the numerator, number recurrent, representing recurrences on December 1, 1999 through January 29, 2000 was not available at the time of the previous report.

^dRecurrence rates for 2000 may be incomplete as data for January 1, 2001 through January 29, 2001 were not available.

The data representing first reports were further refined by selecting only the Sequence A reports and only the cases not associated with protective custody taken. Since the CERAP is targeted at the prevention of future maltreatment and children with multiple investigations have higher rates of indication than those in their first

³This is a measure of investigated children who were subsequently abused or neglected.

investigation, controlling for investigation number by selecting only Sequence A reports provides a clearer picture of the impact of CERAP implementation. Eliminating children with protective custody taken theoretically excludes from analysis those children who spent a portion of time out of the investigated (and CERAP evaluated) household⁴. These 526,521 children without protective custody and with Sequence A reports are the subject of the remainder of analyses presented. The 60-day recurrence rates during the six-year observation period for these children are presented in Table 8.

Table 8. 60-Day recurrence for Sequence A Reports in Time Period, Excluding Cases Associated with Protective Custody Taken

	Total	Number Recurrent ^a	Crude Rate	% Reduction From Prior Year ^b
1995	10,4145	2217	2.13%	
1996	90,977	1594	1.75%	17.7%
1997	84,469	1349	1.60%	8.8%
1998	79,919	1240	1.55%	2.8%
1999 ^c	76,851	1113	1.45%	6.7%
2000 ^d	78,176	878	1.12%	22.5%

^aThe number recurrent is of children with an indicated report occurring within 60 days of their first Sequence A report in the time period observed.

^bPercentage changes represent the percentage change in percentages, not the raw difference from one percentage to another.

^cNote that both the number recurrent and the crude rate in 1999 differ from those of the previous report. This is because the denominator, first reports, represents all first reports through November 30, 1999. Complete data for the numerator, number recurrent, representing recurrences on December 1, 1999 through January 29, 2000 was not available at the time of the previous report.

^dRecurrence rates for 2000 may be incomplete as data for January 1, 2001 through January 29, 2001 were not available.

⁴ Because of questions regarding the inclusion or exclusion of protective custody cases from these recurrence analyses, separate analyses were conducted including cases associated with protective custody cases, excluding cases associated with protective custody, and including only those cases associated with protective custody having been taken. Analyses that included protective custody cases with total reports did not differ from those excluding protective custody cases. The crude recurrence rates and percentage reductions were the same whether protective custody cases were included or not.

As Table 8 shows, for each year observed, there has been a reduction in the recurrence rates relative to the previous year. The overall reduction from pre-implementation to 2000, the fifth year post implementation, is 33.3%.⁵

As was done in prior analyses, we “looked ahead” to see if the CERAP might be associated with lower recurrence rates past 60 days. Table 8b presents the results of a 120-day recurrence analysis for the same children represented in Table 8 that is, children with Sequence A reports without protective custody. As Table 8b shows, for each year observed, there has been a reduction in the recurrence rates relative to the previous year. The overall reduction from pre-implementation to 2000, the fifth year post implementation, is 47.8%.⁵

Table 8b. 120-Day recurrence for Sequence A Reports in Time Period, Excluding Cases Associated with Protective Custody Taken

	Total	Number Recurrent ^a	Crude Rate	% Reduction From Prior Year ^b
1995	10,4145	3313	3.18%	
1996	90,977	2464	2.71%	14.78%
1997	84,469	2025	2.39%	11.54%
1998	79,919	1889	2.36%	1.41%
1999 ^c	76,851	1778	2.31%	2.12%
2000 ^d	78,176	1302	1.66%	28.01%

^aThe number recurrent is of children with an indicated report occurring within 120 days of their first Sequence A report in the time period observed.

^bPercentage changes represent the percentage change in percentages, not the raw difference from one percentage to another.

^cNote that both the number recurrent and the crude rate in 1999 differ from those of the previous report. This is because the denominator, first reports, represents all first reports through November 30, 1999. Complete data for the numerator, number recurrent, representing recurrences on December 1, 1999 on were not available at the time of the previous report.

^dRecurrence rates for 2000 may be incomplete as data for January 1, 2001 through January 29, 2001 were not available.

⁵ However, this figure may be slightly inflated due to possible recurrences occurring after January 1, 2001.

Summary of Child Analysis

Results of the five-year follow-up of the impact of the Child Endangerment Risk Assessment Protocol indicate that 60-day recurrence of maltreatment for at-risk children has decreased consistently from the year the CERAP was first implemented (1995) - through the year 2000⁶. However, the changes in the rate of recurrence from 1997 to 1999 compared to the each previous year is less pronounced than the difference in recurrence rates between 1995 and 1996. The crude recurrence rate for the year 2000 is based on incomplete data, thus, it cannot be said whether the sharper decreased in the rate of recurrence compared to the rate registered in 1999 reflects an actual decrease or is simply an artifact of the missing data. 120-day recurrence rates show a similar pattern, with, as would be expected, somewhat higher recurrence rates for each year examined.

Analyses of recurrence that have excluded all but Sequence A reports have done so assuming that those reports represent the first report in which a given child ever appears in the CANTS system. However, because sequence assignment is made at the household level, because a child can belong to multiple households, because the membership of any given household often changes within this population, and because the definition of who constitutes the same household over time is subject to judgment, children can and do appear on multiple Sequence A reports in multiple “households.” The fact that a child can appear on multiple sequenced A reports implies that a child who is part of a Sequence A report may have actually been involved in one or more previous reports. Furthermore, even if the Sequence A report is verifiably the first ever for a child, the child may be re-reported as part of other Sequence A reports in other households.

A Sequence A re-report at the child level could mean one of at least two things: 1) the child is in a household that is different from that where she/he was at the prior report;

⁶ Recurrence figures for year 2000 are however, incomplete; data on potential recurrences 33 to 60 days after initial reports made November 2- November 30, 2000 were not available at the time of writing.

or 2) the records of the previous reports on the household are no longer available, thus, a re-report appears as the first report for the household. In either of these two cases there is a possibility that the household as it is now constituted has not been previously assessed by the CERAP. Unless the CERAP is expected to have a protective effect on the individual child even after she/he changes household, sequence A re-reports may more appropriately be counted as first reports within the context of the CERAP evaluation.

Section Three: Comparison of Service Volumes, Households

Analysis of the items on the CERAP instrument (e.g., “Any member of the household ...” “There is reason to believe that the family ...” “The presence of domestic violence...”) underscores the fact that assessment is made at the household level.

Therefore, it is conceptually appropriate to evaluate the CERAP at the level of the entire household rather than at the level of each child.

Tables 9 through 16 present six-year service volumes and recurrence rates presented in terms of households rather than children. “Household” is defined on the basis of SCR number as recorded in the CANTS database, common Central Registry numbers (SCRNUMs) constituting the same household.

Table 9. Six-Year Trends in CANTS Investigations, Households

	1995 (12/1/94– 11/30/95)	1996 (12/1/95– 11/30/96)	1997 (12/1/96– 11/30/97)	1998 (12/1/97– 11/30/98)	1999 (12/1/98– 11/30/99)	2000 (12/1/99– 11/30/00)
Total Households ^a Reported	74,657	70,343	66,629	64,650	62,050	61,448
Households with Indicated Allegations	27,064	23,898	21,989	20,305	18,706	17,258
Households with Children Taken into Protective Custody	5,022	4,446	3,802	4,263	3,600	3,173

^a Households in this context are defined by the SCRNUM assigned to the investigation at the time of the report

As Table 9 shows, for all households reported, all but one count show an overall reduction in service volume as compared to the previous year:

1. A 5.8% decrease in the total number of reports from 1995 to 1996, a 5.3% decrease from 1996 to 1997, a 3.0% decrease from 1997 to 1998, a 4.0% decrease from 1998 to 1999, and a 1.0% decrease from 1999 to 2000.
2. A 11.7% decrease in the number of household with at least one indicated allegation from 1995 to 1996, a 8.0% decrease from 1996 to 1997, a 7.7% decrease from 1997 to 1998, a 7.9% decrease from 1998 to 1999, and a 7.7% decrease from 1999 to 2000.
3. A 11.5% reduction in the number of households with at least one child taken into protective custody from 1995 to 1996, 14.5% decrease from 1996 to 1997, a 12.1% *increase* from 1997 to 1998, a 15.6% decrease from 1998 to 1999, and an 11.9% decrease from 1999 to 2000.

Table 10. Six-Year Percentage Changes, Household Investigations

%	1995 (12/1/94– 11/30/95)	1996 (12/1/95– 11/30/96)	1997 (12/1/96– 11/30/97)	1998 (12/1/97– 11/30/98)	1999 (12/1/98– 11/30/99)	2000 (12/1/99– 11/30/00)
Households with Indicated Allegations /Total Households Reported	36.25%	33.97%	33.00%	31.41%	30.15%	28.09%
%Households with Protective Custody Taken /Indicated Household Reports	18.56%	18.60%	17.29%	20.99%	19.25%	18.39%

Table 10 indicates that the proportion of household reports with indicated allegations has decreased from 1995 through 2000. Specifically...

1. ...there was a 6.3% decrease in the proportion of indicated household reports to total household reports in the period from 1995 to 1996, a 2.9% decrease from 1996 to 1997, a 4.8% decrease from 1997 to 1998, a 4.0% decrease from 1998 to 1999, and a 6.8% decrease from 1999 to 2000. (Note: these percentage changes represent the percentage change in percentages, not the raw difference from one percentage to another.)

There were, however, both increases and decreases in the proportion of households with protective custody taken to indicated households. Specifically...

1. ...there was a .3% *increase* in the proportion of households with children taken into protective custody to indicated households from 1995 to 1996, a 7.0% decrease from 1996 to 1997, a 21.4% *increase* from 1997 to 1998, an 8.3% decrease from 1998 to 1999, and a 4.5% decrease from 1999 to 2000.

Table 11. Six-Year Trends in CANTS Investigations, Households, First Reports During the Time Period Only

	1995 (12/1/94– 11/30/95)	1996 (12/1/95– 11/30/96)	1997 (12/1/96– 11/30/97)	1998 (12/1/97– 11/30/98)	1999 (12/1/98– 11/30/99)	2000 (12/1/99– 11/30/00)
Total Households ^a Reported	63,439	51,512	48,097	44,906	43,070	43,105
Households with Indicated Allegations	22,159	16,110	14,216	12,268	11,401	10,564
Households with Children Taken into Protective Custody	3,741	2,457	1,882	1,769	1,528	1,295

^a Households in this context are defined by the SCRNUM assigned to the investigation at the time of the report

As Table 11 shows, for households in which the report was the first in the time period, all but one count show an overall reduction in service volume as compared to the previous year:

1. An 18.8% decrease in the total number of households reported from 1995 to 1996, a 6.6% decrease from 1996 to 1997, a 6.6% decrease from 1997 to 1998, a 4.1% decrease from 1998 to 1999, and a .1% *increase* from 1999 to 2000.
2. A 27.3% decrease in the number of households with at least one indicated allegation from 1995 to 1996, an 11.8% decrease from 1996 to 1997, a 13.7% decrease from 1997 to 1998, a 7.1% decrease from 1998 to 1999, and a 7.3% decrease from 1999 to 2000.
3. A 34.3% reduction in the number of households with at least one child taken into protective custody from 1995 to 1996, an 23.4% decrease from 1996 to 1997, a 6.0% decrease from 1997 to 1998, a 13.6% decrease from 1998 to 1999, and a 15.3% decrease from 1999 to 2000.

Table 12. Six-Year Percentage Changes, First Report of Household During Time Period

%	1995 (12/1/94– 11/30/95)	1996 (12/1/95– 11/30/96)	1997 (12/1/96– 11/30/97)	1998 (12/1/97– 11/30/98)	1999 (12/1/98– 11/30/99)	2000 (12/1/99– 11/30/00)
Households with Indicated Allegations / Total Households Reported	34.93%	31.27%	29.56%	27.32 %	26.47 %	24.51 %
Households with Protective Custody Taken /Indicated Household Reports	16.88%	15.25%	13.24%	14.42%	13.40 %	12.26 %

As Table 12 shows, the proportion of first household reports in the time period with indicated allegations has consistently decreased from 1995 through 2000.

Specifically...

1. ...there was a 10.5% decrease in the proportion of indicated household reports to total household reports in the period from 1995 to 1996, a 5.5% decrease from 1996 to 1997, a 7.6% decrease from 1997 to 1998, a 3.1% decrease from 1998 to 1999, and a 7.4% decrease from 1999 to 2000. (Note: these percentage changes represent the percentage change in percentages, not the raw difference from one percentage to another.)

Likewise, among first household reports in the time period, there was a decrease, with one exception, in the proportion of households with protective custody taken to indicated households from 1995 through 2000. Specifically...

1. ...there was a 9.7% decrease in the proportion of households with children taken into protective custody to indicated households from 1995 to 1996, a 13.2% decrease from 1996 to 1997, an 8.9% *increase* from 1997 to 1998, a 7.1% decrease from 1998 to 1999, and an 8.5% decrease from 1999 to 2000.

Table 13. Six-Year Trends in CANTS Household Reports, Sequence A Reports During the Time Period Only

	1995 (12/1/94– 11/30/95)	1996 (12/1/95– 11/30/96)	1997 (12/1/96– 11/30/97)	1998 (12/1/97– 11/30/98)	1999 (12/1/98– 11/30/99)	2000 (12/1/99– 11/30/00)
Total Households ^a Reported	49,476	45,380	44,848	43,046	42,122	42,643
Households with Indicated Allegations	15,421	13,251	12,749	11,466	11,023	10,395
Households with Children Taken into Protective Custody	2,041	1,647	1,497	1,525	1,414	1,271

^a Households in this context are defined by the SCRNUM assigned to the investigation at the time of the report

As Table 13 shows, for households in which the report was a Sequence A report, all but two counts show an overall reduction in service volume as compared to the previous year:

1. An 8.3% decrease in the total number of households reported from 1995 to 1996, a 1.2% decrease from 1996 to 1997, a 4.0% decrease from 1997 to 1998, a 2.2% decrease from 1998 to 1999, and a 1.2% *increase* from 1999 to 2000.
2. A 14.1% decrease in the number of households with at least one indicated allegation from 1995 to 1996, a 3.8% decrease from 1996 to 1997, a 10.1%

decrease from 1997 to 1998, a 3.9% decrease from 1998 to 1999, and a 5.7% decrease from 1999 to 2000.

3. A 19.3% reduction in the number of households with at least one child taken into protective custody from 1995 to 1996, a 9.1% decrease from 1996 to 1997, a 1.9% *increase* from 1997 to 1998, a 7.3% decrease from 1998 to 1999, and a 10.1% decrease from 1999 to 2000.

Table 14. Six-Year Percentage Changes, Sequence A Reports of Households During Time Period

	1995 (12/1/94– 11/30/95)	1996 (12/1/95– 11/30/96)	1997 (12/1/96– 11/30/97)	1998 (12/1/97– 11/30/98)	1999 (12/1/98– 11/30/99)	2000 (12/1/99– 11/30/00)
% Households with Indicated Allegations of Total Households Reported	31.17%	29.02 %	28.43%	26.64%	26.17%	24.38%
% Households with Protective Custody Taken of Indicated Household Reports	13.24%	12.43%	11.74%	13.30%	12.83%	12.23%

As Table 14 shows, the proportion of Sequence A household reports during the time period with indicated allegations has consistently decreased from 1995 through 2000. Specifically...

1. ...there was a 6.3% decrease in the proportion of indicated household reports to total household reports in the period from 1995 to 1996, a 2.7% decrease from 1996 to 1997, a 6.3% decrease from 1997 to 1998, a 1.8% decrease from 1998 to 1999, and a 6.9% decrease from 1999 to 2000. (Note: these percentage changes

represent the percentage change in percentages, not the raw difference from one percentage to another.)

Likewise, among Sequence A household reports in the time period, there was a decrease, with one exception, in the proportion of households with protective custody taken to indicated households from 1995 through 2000. Specifically...

2. ...there was a 6.1% decrease in the proportion of households with children taken into protective custody to indicated households from 1995 to 1996, a 5.5% decrease from 1996 to 1997, a 13.3% *increase* from 1997 to 1998, a 3.6% decrease from 1998 to 1999, and a 4.69% decrease from 1999 to 2000.

Section Four: Recurrence Analysis, Households

Short-term recurrence⁷ rates at the household level decreased over the five years following implementation of the CERAP. Table 15 presents the recurrence rates for the 294,129 households and their first investigation that occurred during the six-year time period observed. As the table shows, there has been a consistent decrease in the recurrence rates over the six-year period. Overall, the percentage reduction in recurrence from 1995 to 2000 was 55.9%.

⁷This is a measure of investigated children who were subsequently abused or neglected.

Table 15. 60-Day Indicated Re-Reports for Household's First Report in Time Period: Indicated Re-Reports Relative to Total Number of First Reports

	Total	Number Recurrent ^a	Crude Rate (%)	% Reduction From Prior Year ^b
1995	63,439	1767	2.79%	
1996	51,512	1024	1.99%	28.63%
1997	48,097	865	1.80%	9.53%
1998	44,906	775	1.73%	4.03%
1999 ^c	43,070	604	1.40%	18.74 %
2000 ^d	43,105	531	1.23%	12.16 %

^aThe number recurrent is of children with an indicated report occurring within 60 days of their first report in the time period observed.

^bPercentage changes represent the percentage change in percentages, not the raw difference from one percentage to another.

^cNote that both the number recurrent and the crude rate in 1999 differ from those of the previous report. This is because the denominator, first reports, represents all first reports through November 30, 1999. Complete data for the numerator, number recurrent, representing recurrences on December 1, 1999 through January 29, 2000 was not available at the time of the previous report.

^dRecurrence rates for 2000 may be incomplete as data for January 1, 2001 through January 29, 2001 were not available

We next limited analyses to only Sequence A household reports. These 267,515 households are the subject of the remainder of analyses presented. The 60-day recurrence rates during the six-year observation period for these households are presented in Table 16.

Table 16. 60-Day Indicated Re-Reports for Household’s First Sequence A Report in Time Period: Indicated Re-Reports Relative to Total Number of First Reports

	Total	Number Recurrent ^a	Crude Rate (%)	% Reduction From Prior Year ^b
1995	49,476	976	1.97%	
1996	45,380	759	1.67%	15.21%
1997	44,848	759	1.69%	-1.19%
1998	43,046	718	1.67%	1.44%
1999 ^c	42,122	645	1.53%	8.20%
2000 ^d	42,643	524	1.23%	19.76%

^aThe number recurrent is of children with an indicated report occurring within 60 days of their Sequence A report in the time period observed.

^bPercentage changes represent the percentage change in percentages, not the raw difference from one percentage to another.

^cNote that both the number recurrent and the crude rate in 1999 differ from those of the previous report. This is because the denominator, first reports, represents all first reports through November 30, 1999. Complete data for the numerator, number recurrent, representing recurrences on December 1, 1999 through January 29, 2000 was not available at the time of the previous report.

^dRecurrence rates for 2000 may be incomplete as data for January 1, 2001 through January 29, 2001 were not available.

Summary of Household Analysis

The overall pattern of short-term recurrence at the household level is similar to the pattern found when the analysis is done at the child level, that is, for all first reports in the time period. However, the pattern changes when looking only at Sequence A first reports. As can be seen in Table 16, the household recurrence rate decreases from 1995 to 1996, remains relatively flat from 1996 to 1998, then noticeable declines in 1999 compared to the previous years. (Because the recurrence rate for the year 2000 is based on incomplete data, it is premature to make any conclusions since 1999.) Overall, the percentage reduction from 1995 to 2000 is 37.7%.

The recurrence analysis at the household level is an initial attempt to examine the effect of the CERAP implementation on recurrence at the same conceptual level at which the CERAP was constructed and is administered. However, the preliminary effort leaves a number of issues unresolved. First, the analysis at the household level assumes that the composition of the household remains relatively constant from the first to the second report. It does not seem inconceivable to expect that the composition of the household might change as a result of the initial investigation. There might be other factors that interact with the event of the initial investigation that propel changes in the composition and/or dynamics of the household, which in turn may have positive or negative effects on the risks for the children at a given time. It is necessary to find out the proportion of households that change composition over a given period of time and take those changes into account when computing recurrence rates. At that point the question becomes: How do we evaluate the effect of the CERAP on risk within a household when the composition of that household has changed between report dates?

Another issue that remains troublesome is the uncertainty in the definition of “household” and the degree to which household membership and common SCRNUM overlaps. Generally, DCFS defines a household in terms of caretaker-child constellations. Thus, a household reported for a second time would retain the same SCRNUM and be given a sequence code of B if the investigation revealed the same caretakers and children to be members of that household at both times. However, our examination of the data revealed that a number of common caretaker-child pairs had multiple SCRNUMs with multiple Sequence A reports⁸. Therefore using SCRNUM as the indicator of a “household” and only coding as a recurrence for that household those subsequent investigations in which the same SCRNUM appeared potentially undercounts household recurrences. The issue remains and must be resolved whether caretakers and children who are part of one household in which the CERAP is administered should be

⁸ Thus, our intentional reference to first Sequence A reports above.

counted as part of a “recurrence” when they are technically labeled as part of a different household. Likewise, should we, as we have done in this and every previous CERAP recurrence analysis, count as recurrences child reports that are associated with different SCRNUMs? Relative to the potential undercounting across common SCRNUMs, counting recurrence across common child id numbers but not taking into account changes across SCRNUMs may result in a kind of overcounting of recurrence thereby underestimating the ability of the CERAP assess household risk..

Section Five: Recurrence Analysis, Household Level By Allegation Type and Cook County vs Not Cook Counties

In the last section of this report we present recurrence analysis by factors hypothesized to be associated with recurrence. We first looked at household recurrence rates by the most severe allegation associated with the initial report and then at recurrences reported within Cook County versus those reported within other Illinois counties.

Households were categorized into allegation types based on the single most severe allegation⁹ made in the first investigation. Therefore, a given household is counted only once – under one allegation group only - regardless of any other allegation made in that investigation of that household.

Type of allegation may influence recurrence in a number of ways. Households with more severe allegations may be more likely to have children taken into protective custody and eventually placed in substitute care, potentially reducing the likelihood of recurrence in that original household. Households in which the most severe allegation is relatively less severe may display the opposite pattern, making it more likely that children

⁹ The severity of allegation index used was constructed by Lucy Mackey Bilaver of the Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago and Mark Testa of the University of Illinois and IDCFS.

will be left in the household and therefore, be at a potentially greater likelihood to be abused and/or neglected again. The results presented in Table 17 and displayed graphically in Figure 1 bear this out. Households with sexual or physical abuse allegations have consistently lower rates of recurrence each year compared to the overall rate. On the other hand, households with lack of supervision and environmental neglect allegations have higher rates of recurrence than the overall rate for each year.

TABLE 17. 60-DAY INDICATED RE-REPORT RATE FOR HOUSEHOLD'S FIRST SEQUENCE A REPORT IN TIME PERIOD BY ALLEGATION GROUP: INDICATED RE-REPORTS IN RELATION TO THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FIRST REPORTS

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
All Allegation Types	49476	45380	44848	43046	42122	42643
Indicated Re-reports ^b	976	759	759	718	645	524
Crude Rate (%)	1.97	1.67	1.69	1.67	1.53	1.23
% Reduction ^c From Prior		15.21	-1.19	1.44	8.20	19.75
Sexual Abuse	6608	6002	5605	5217	5373	5273
Indicated Re-reports	98	65	73	61	61	36
Crude Rate (%)	1.48	1.08	1.30	1.17	1.14	0.68
% Reduction ^a From Prior		36.94	-16.85	11.39	2.99	66.29
Physical Abuse	11697	10853	11249	10598	10170	10875
Indicated Re-reports	191	140	172	133	135	131
Crude Rate (%)	1.63	1.29	1.53	1.25	1.33	1.20
% Reduction ^a From Prior		26.58	-15.63	21.84	-5.46	10.20
Substance Exposed	1961	1743	1486	1449	1227	1220
Indicated Re-reports	49	51	33	27	26	15
Crude Rate (%)	2.50	2.93	2.22	1.86	2.12	1.23
% Reduction ^a From Prior		-14.60	31.76	19.18	-12.06	72.34
Emotional Abuse	434	426	417	384	349	409
Indicated Re-reports	20	9	10	11	1	4
Crude Rate (%)	4.61	2.11	2.40	2.86	0.29	0.98
% Reduction ^a From Prior		118.13	-11.90	-16.29	899.74	-70.70

^aThe single most severe allegation of all allegations made against all caretakers in the household.

^bIndicated re-reports within 60 days of initial report.

^cA negative value indicates an *increase* relative to the previous year.

Table 17 (continued)

Lack of Supervision	12602	10714	10757	10735	10705	10462
Indicated Re-reports	311	232	234	237	224	174
Crude Rate (%)	2.47	2.17	2.18	2.21	2.09	1.66
% Reduction ^a From Prior		13.97	-0.46	-1.47	5.51	25.81
Environmental Neglect	4746	4721	4306	4248	4076	3805
Indicated Re-reports	98	95	78	84	74	55
Crude Rate (%)	2.06	2.01	1.81	1.98	1.82	1.45
% Reduction ^a From Prior		2.61	11.09	-8.39	8.92	25.60
Other Neglect	3148	2855	2870	2898	2810	2810
Indicated Re-reports	67	60	48	55	40	38
Crude Rate (%)	2.13	2.10	1.67	1.90	1.42	1.35
% Reduction ^a From Prior		1.27	25.66	-11.88	33.32	5.26
Substantial Risk of Harm	8280	8066	8158	7517	7412	7789
Indicated Re-reports	142	107	111	110	84	71
Crude Rate (%)	1.71	1.33	1.36	1.46	1.13	0.91
% Reduction ^a From Prior		29.28	-2.50	-7.02	29.12	24.33

^aThe single most severe allegation of all allegations made against all caretakers in the household.

^bIndicated re-reports within 60 days of initial report.

^cA negative value indicates an *increase* relative to the previous year.

Households with the single most severe allegation of emotional abuse represent a relatively small portion of the total number of households investigated each year and the recurrence rate shows dramatic changes from year to year with no clear pattern. The pattern for households categorized by an allegation of substance-exposed infants tend to have a consistently higher rate of recurrence compared to the overall rate of recurrence in a given year. Households categorized by an allegation type of “other neglect” or “substantial risk of harm” showed a pattern of consistent decline over time with the exception of the year 1998 when rate for both categories goes up from the previous year.

Figure 1. Recurrence Rates by Allegation Group by Year

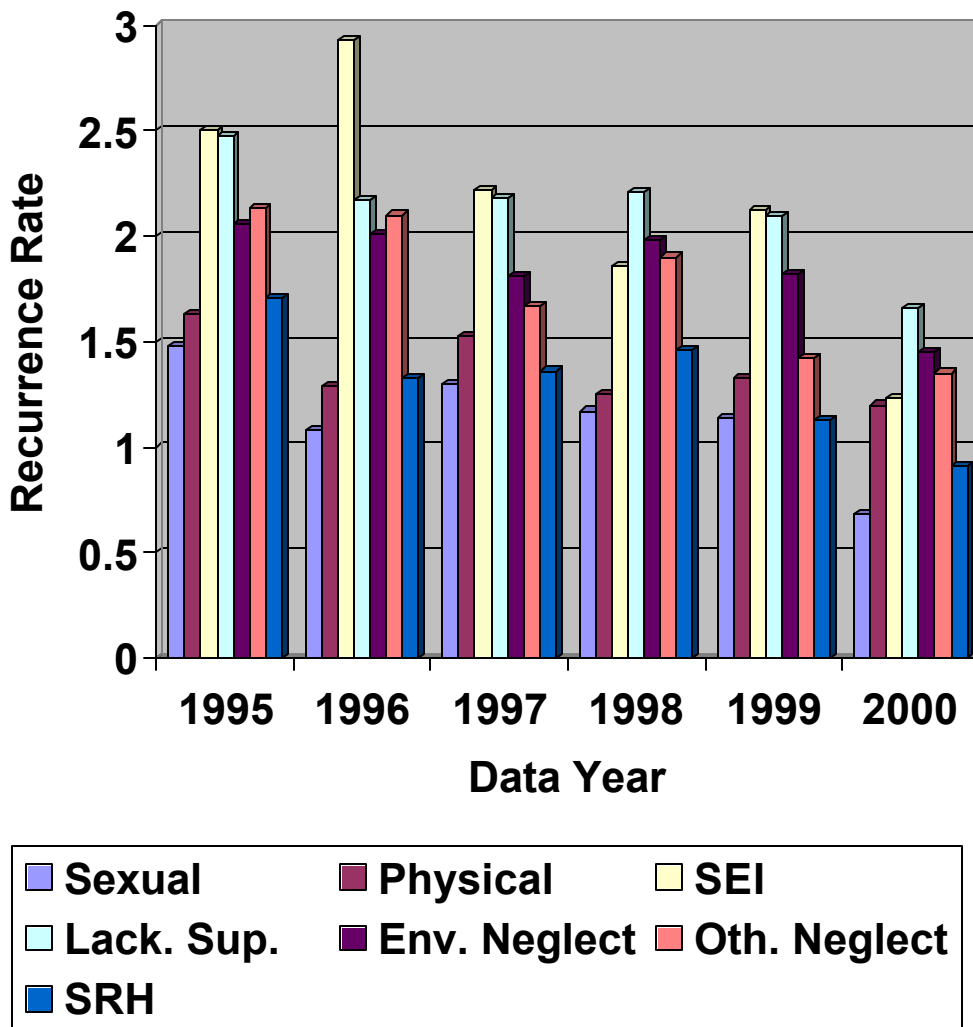


Table 18 shows the recurrence rate of abuse and neglect by Cook versus all other Illinois Counties. Cook County is consistently lower compared to the rest of the state for each of the years examined in this report. Data available to us at present limit our identification of factors that may explain this consistent difference, however.

Table 18. 60-Day Indicated Re-Report Rate for Household’s First Sequence A Report in Time Period by Cook and Non-Cook Counties

	Region	Total	Re-Reports (n)	Crude Rate (%)	% Reduction ^a From Prior Year
1995	All Regions	49476	976	1.97	
	Cook	21109	397	1.88	
	Non-Cook	28367	579	2.04	
1996	All Regions	45380	759	1.67	15.21
	Cook	18995	260	1.37	27.22
	Non-Cook	26385	499	1.89	7.34
1997	All Regions	44848	759	1.69	-1.19
	Cook	18101	266	1.47	-7.36
	Non-Cook	26747	493	1.84	2.54
1998	All Regions	43046	718	1.67	1.44
	Cook	17400	233	1.34	8.88
	Non-Cook	25646	485	1.89	-2.60
1999	All Regions	42122	645	1.53	8.20
	Cook	16800	208	1.24	7.54
	Non-Cook	25322	437	1.73	8.74
2000	All Regions	42643	524	1.23	19.75
	Cook	16799	161	0.96	22.59
	Non-Cook	25844	363	1.40	18.61

^a Note: A negative value indicates an *increase* relative to the previous year.

GENERAL SUMMARY

Overall, this analysis demonstrates that approaching the evaluation of the CERAP from the perspective of recurrence of either child or household recurrence yields similar results. However, because the CERAP is conducted at the level of the entire household, for conceptual consistency, it is suggested that future evaluations of recurrence be conducted at the same level.

This report further suggests that any evaluation of recurrence also consider factors that may interact with potential risk of recurrence. Two factors analyzed in this report – the severity of the initial allegation and the locale of the initial abuse/neglect – reveal important relationships with recurrence. No doubt other factors relate to recurrence as well.