

Too little. . .too late!

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When Trauma Begins at Home

University of Maryland, Casey Journalism Center

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*“The tragedy is not what we
don’t know. It’s how we
ignore what we do know.”*



Uri Bronfenbrenner, PhD

Old NEWS!

- We **know** that our systems designed to support families and protect children get involved too little and too late!



How too late?



- Fewer referred than are known.
- More are screened out
- More are unsubstantiated
- Few are provided intervention until too late!

What is the premise for reporting child maltreatment?

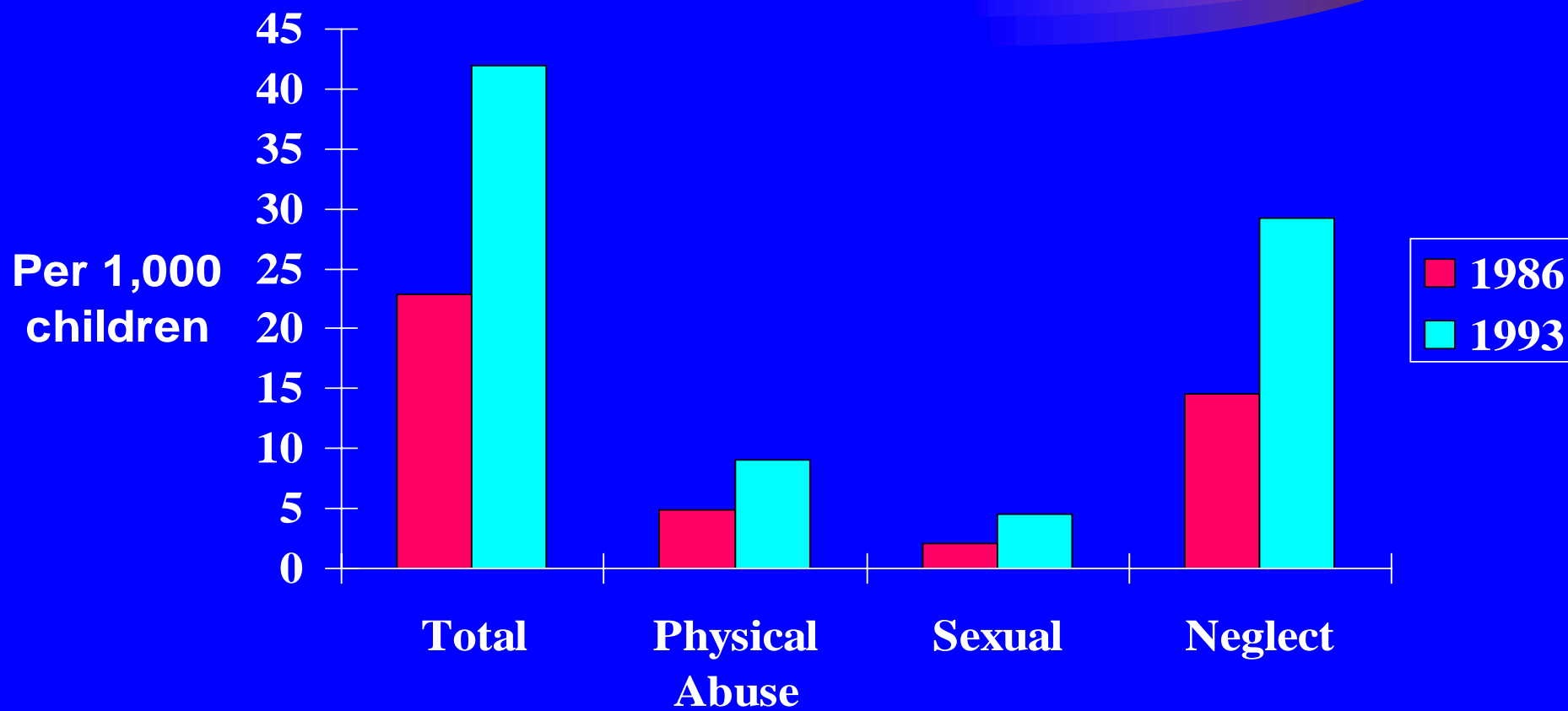


- Children will be protected
- Families will receive interventions to reduce the likelihood of future maltreatment.

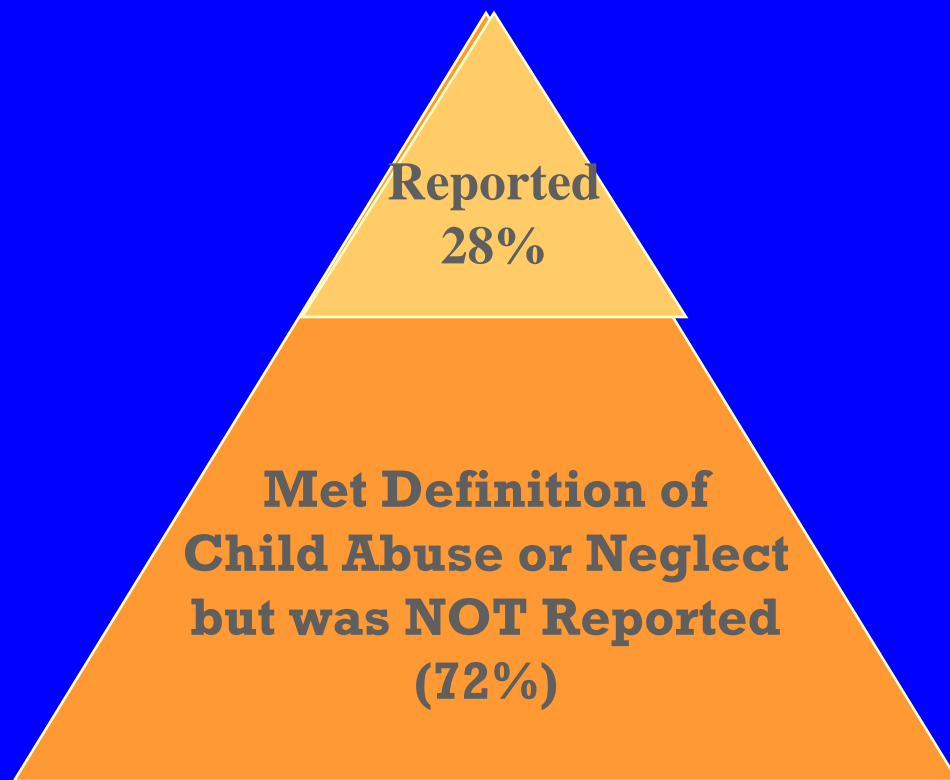
A few statistics...



Incidence of Child Maltreatment 1986 - 1993 (NIS 2 & 3)

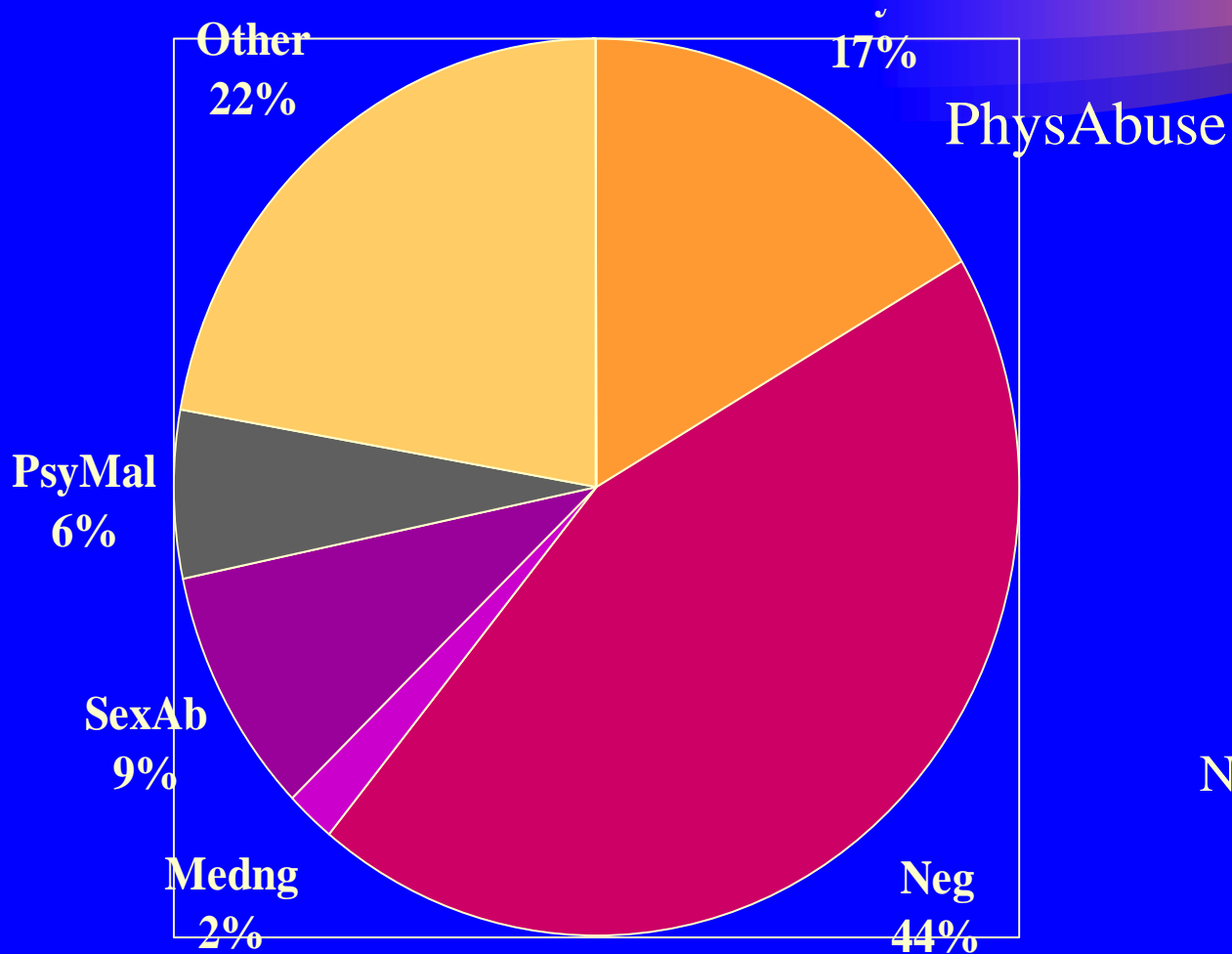


National Incidence Study

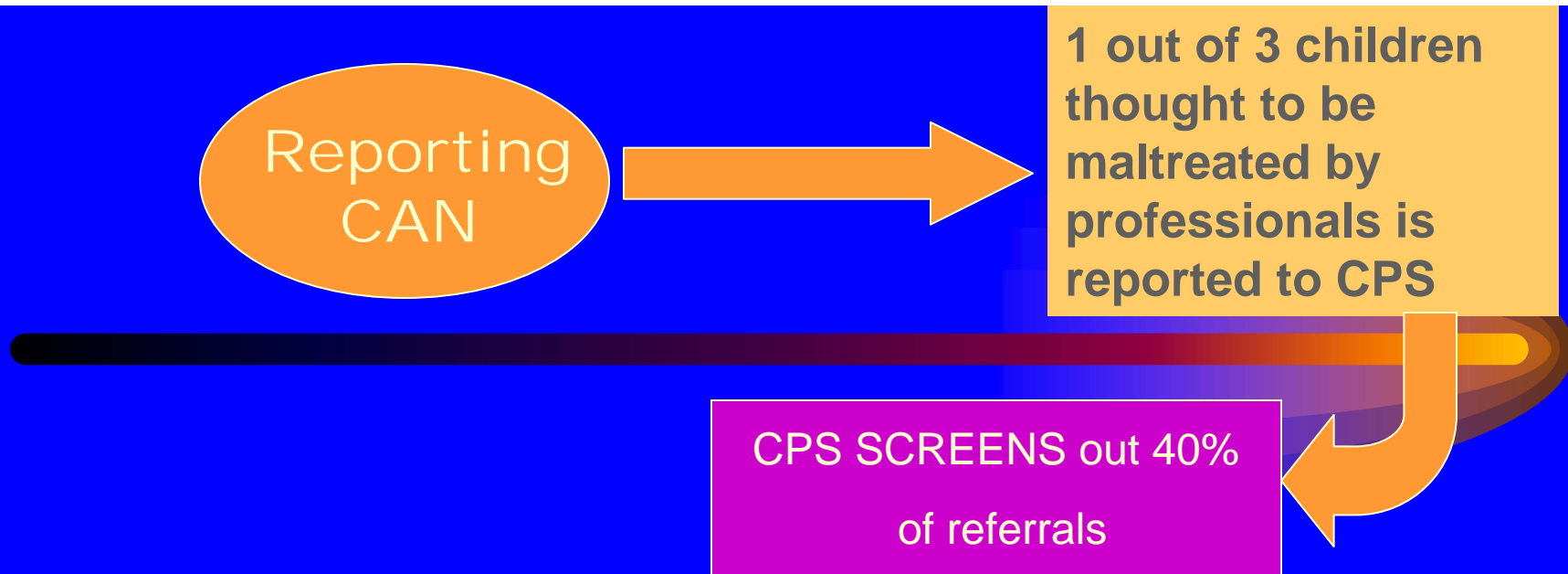


- For every report of child abuse and neglect, at least two others are known by community professionals but not reported.

What types of maltreatment are reported to CPS?



NCCANDS, 1999

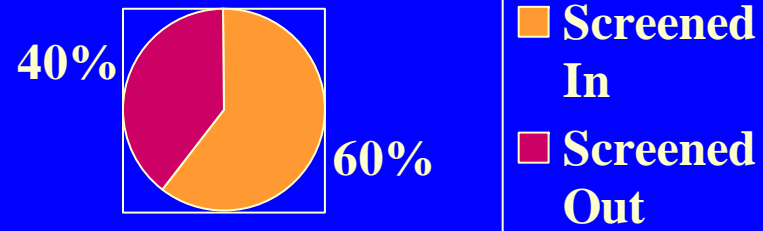


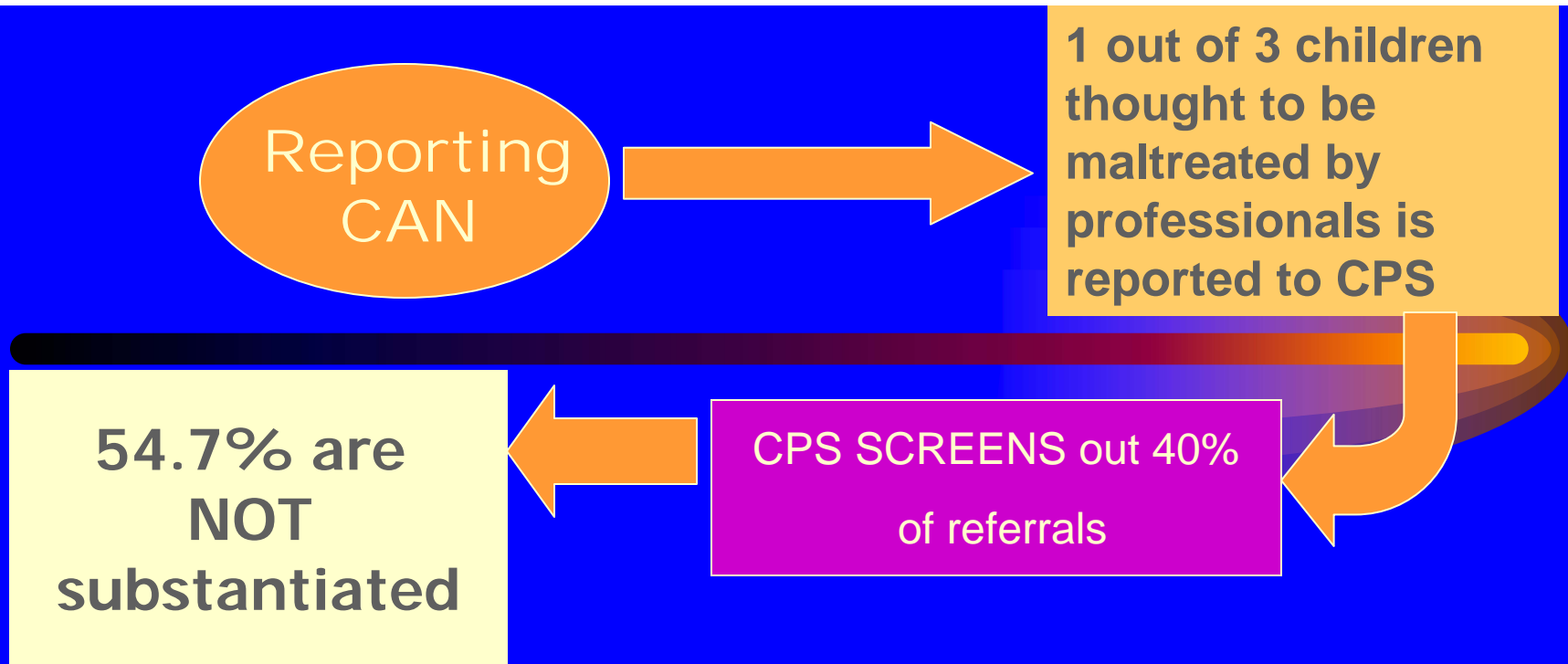
- In 1999, CPS received 2,974,000 referrals of child maltreatment
- 60.4% were screened in for an investigation
- 40.6% were screened out without a face-to-face contact

National Reporting Study

- 42.4 per 1000 children nationally were referred to CPS agencies
- 25.6 per 1000 children received a face to face contact
- 16.8 per 1000 children were screened out

1999 Referrals per 1000 children





- In 1999, CPS investigated 1,797,000 referrals of child maltreatment
- 29.2% resulted in a finding of indicated or substantiated

Reporting
CAN

1 out of 3 children
thought to be
maltreated by
professionals is
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54.7% are
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CPS SCREENS out 40%
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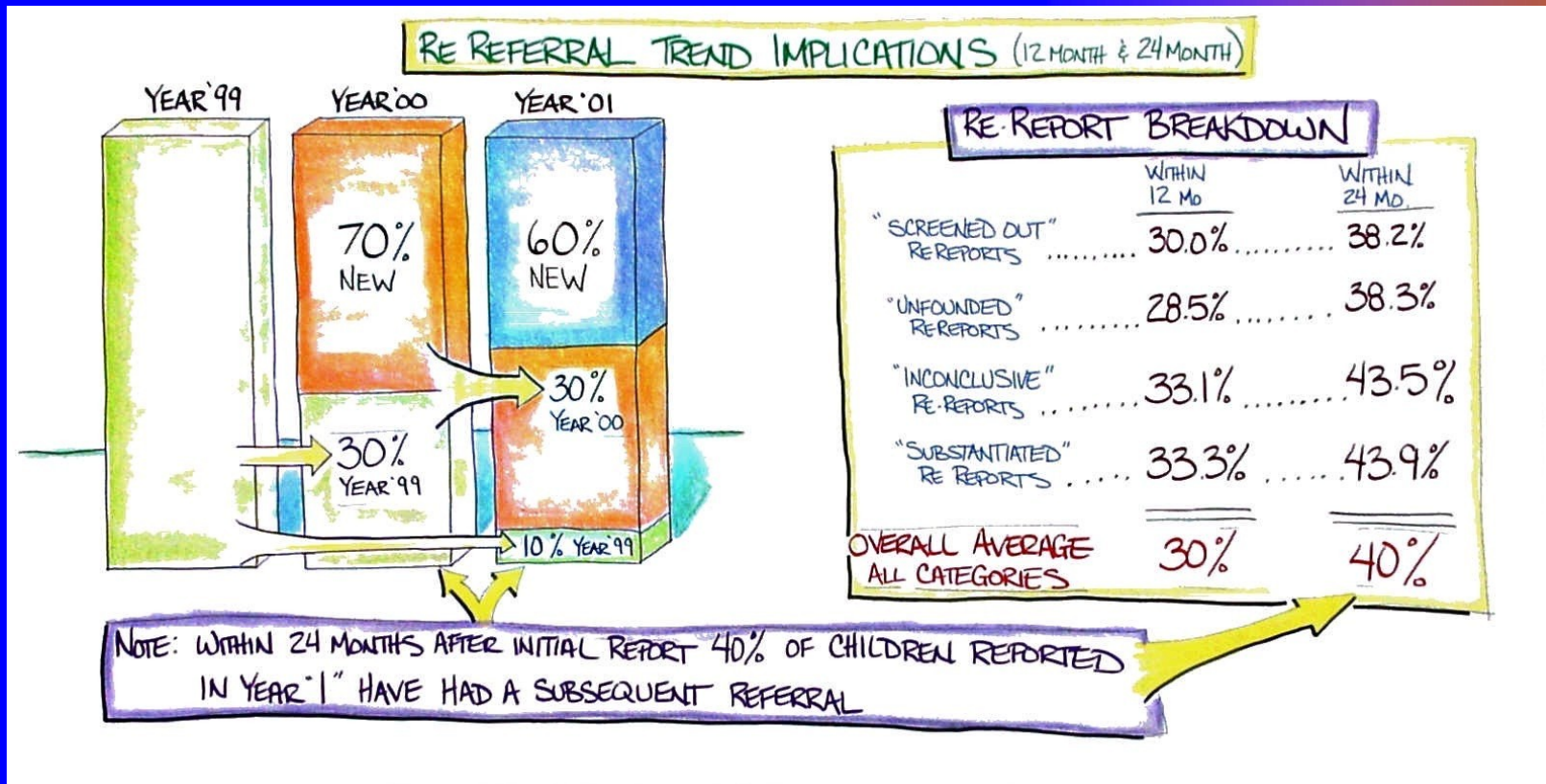
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7.5% of children are re-reported
with a substantiated
incident of maltreatment within
6 months of the initial report

Revolving Door Over Time



*Abstracted from California referral data

Options to change this picture

- Change nature of HOTLINE to a place for families to be matched with services earlier
- Eliminate substantiation decision since it doesn't lead to services anyway
- Provide greater opportunities to receive intervention earlier, reducing the numbers of families that are reported over and over again – each time more seriously.

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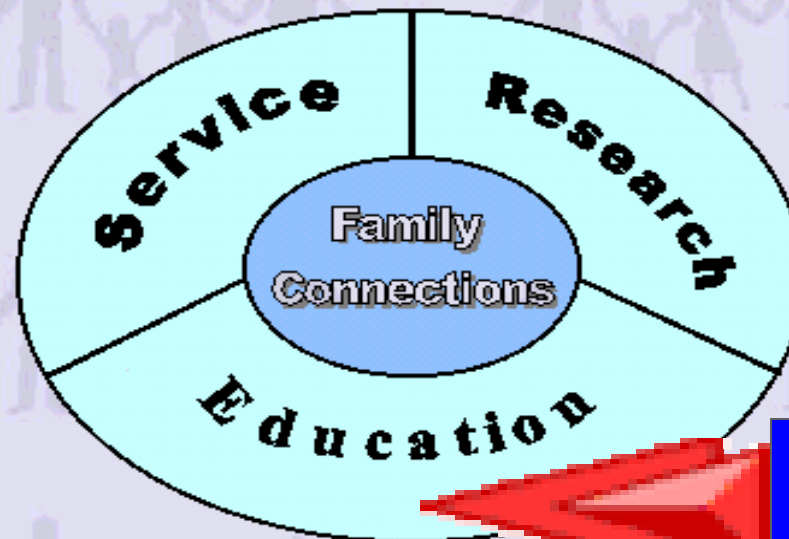
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Combining Service, Education, and Research to
promote safety and well being for children, families, and
communities.



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Copies of reports

- You can obtain copies of the National Incidence Study Report (NIS-3) and the National Study of Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCCANDS) report at the Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information:
<http://www.calib.com/nccanch/stats/index.cfm>