



Substance Use Disorders and Child Welfare

Substance-Exposed Infants

According to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services' (DCFS) Child Abuse and Neglect Statistics Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2002:

- 1,102 cases of substance-exposed infants were reported in 2002, and 1,062 of those reported were indicated.* The rate of reported cases of substance-exposed infants in Illinois decreased 58% between state fiscal years 1992 and 2002.
- 17% of the reported cases occurred in suburban Cook County; 53% occurred in Chicago; 13% occurred in the urban counties, and fewer than 10% occurred in each of the collar and rural counties of Illinois.

* *Indicated* means an investigation of suspected child abuse/neglect has revealed credible evidence that the abuse/neglect occurred.

Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services' Child Abuse and Neglect Statistics. (2002). Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2002. Retrieved January 21, 2005 from, http://www.state.il.us/DCFS/library/com_communications_cants2002.shtml

Abuse and Neglect

According to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services' Child Abuse and Neglect Statistics Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2002:

- 1,036 reports of abuse for substance misuse were reported in Illinois for 2002 and 16.7% of these reported abuses indicated harm.
- 1,517 reports of neglect for substance misuse were reported in Illinois for 2002 and 79.4 % of these reports of neglect indicated harm.

Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services' Child Abuse and Neglect Statistics. (2002). Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2002. Retrieved January 21, 2005 from, http://www.state.il.us/DCFS/library/com_communications_cants2002.shtml

Foster Care

The following data were collected in a special study using a simple random sample of foster care cases in Illinois that were in the system as of June 1, 1997, and had been open since at least March 1, 1997, as reported in the General Accounting Office's (GAO) 1998 *Foster Care* report to the chairman of the Committee on Finance in the U.S. Senate.

- About 74% of children in foster care had at least one parent who was required to undergo drug or alcohol treatment as part of a family reunification case plan. The father was required to undergo drug or alcohol treatment in about 40% of these cases, while over 90% of these cases required that the mother undergo treatment.

- Two-thirds (2/3) or more of substance-abusing parents used cocaine, methamphetamines, or heroin.
- About 50% of substance-abusing mothers used more than one substance.
- More than 80% of substance-abusing mothers had been abusing drugs or alcohol for 5 years or more.
- In over 80% of foster care cases that involved parental substance abuse, neglect was the primary cause of entry into foster care.
- Over 80% of foster children with parents who abused drugs or alcohol had one or more sibling also in foster care as of September 15, 1997.
- In more than one third of the foster care cases in which there was parental substance abuse, at least one parent committed criminal activity of some type around the same time as the foster care episode.
- Among mothers with children in foster care for at least 1 year, about 40% of those who abused drugs or alcohol had entered, but failed, to complete treatment programs.
- Among mothers with children in foster care for at least 1 year, fewer than 20% who abused drugs or alcohol were currently in, or had completed, a treatment program.

Source: General Accounting Office. (1998). *Foster Care*. Report to the Chairman, Committee on Finance, U.S. Senate. Retrieved December 22, 2004, from <http://www.ncsacw.samhsa.gov/files/508/GAOFosterCare.htm>.