



Mandated Reporter Training for Community Providers

State of Connecticut – Department of Children and Families

No Children have been harmed for this production. All photographs used are of studio models.

DCF's Strategic Goals



Sharpening the safety focus through prevention across the child welfare system

Purpose Of Mandated Reporter Training



- Provide information



- To keep you up to date with your roles, responsibilities and changes in the law and possible preventive measures you can take to protect yourselves as well as the children and families you serve




- To hear concerns, answer questions, and develop ways to work together to better protect children



Who Must Report

Connecticut General Statutes (State law) identify professionals who, because their work involves regular contact with children, are mandated by law to report suspected child abuse and neglect.



Who Must Report

- ☐ Any person paid to care for a child in any public or private facility, child day care center, group day care home or family day care home which is licensed by the State.
- ☐ The Child Advocate and any employee of the Office of the Child Advocate
- ☐ Department of Children and Families Employees
- ☐ Department of Public Health / Office of Early Childhood employees responsible for the licensing of child day care centers, group day care homes, family day care homes or youth camps.
- ☐ Chiropractors
- ☐ Domestic Violence Counselor
- ☐ Family Relations Counselor, Family Relations Counselor Trainee, or Family Services Supervisor employed by the Judicial Department
- ☐ Dental Hygienists
- ☐ Dentists
- ☐ Licensed/Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselors
- ☐ Licensed Behavior Analysts
- ☐ Licensed/Certified Emergency Medical Services Providers
- ☐ Licensed Foster Parents
- ☐ Licensed Marital and Family Therapists
- ☐ Licensed or Unlicensed Resident Interns
- ☐ Licensed or Unlicensed Resident Physicians
- ☐ Licensed Physicians
- ☐ Professionals identified in Public Act 14-186
- ☐ Probation Officers (Juvenile or Adult)
- ☐ Licensed Practical Nurses
- ☐ Licensed Professional Counselors
- ☐ Parole Officers (Juvenile or Adult)
- ☐ Licensed Surgeons
- ☐ Medical Examiners
- ☐ Members of the Clergy
- ☐ Optometrists
- ☐ Mental Health Professionals
- ☐ Pharmacists
- ☐ Physical Therapists
- ☐ Physician Assistants
- ☐ Podiatrists
- ☐ Police Officers
- ☐ Psychologists
- ☐ Registered Nurses
- ☐ School Employees (defined in [section 53a-65](#) of CGS)
- ☐ Sexual Assault Counselors
- ☐ Social Workers
- ☐ Youth Camp Staff 21y/o




INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL MANDATED REPORTERS

Inclusion of Additional Mandated Reporters


- (A) persons who have regular contact with children and provide services to or on the behalf of children pursuant to a contract with or credential issued by the Department of Children and Families,
- (B) victims services supervisors employed by the Judicial Department, and
- (C) employees of the juvenile justice program operated by or pursuant to a contract with the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Department

Effective 10.1.2019





PUBLIC ACT NO. 14-186


- (11) any person who holds or is issued a coaching permit by the State Board of Education, is a coach of intramural or interscholastic athletics and is eighteen years of age or older,
 - (12) any individual who is employed as a coach or director of youth athletics and is eighteen years of age or older,
 - (13) any individual who is employed as a coach or director of a private youth sports organization, league or team and is eighteen years of age or older,
 - (14) any paid administrator, faculty, staff, athletic director, athletic coach or athletic trainer employed by a public or private institution of higher education who is eighteen years of age or older, excluding student employees,
 - (35) any paid youth camp director or assistant director.
- 



WHAT MUST BE REPORTED?

Mandated Reporters are required to report or cause a report to be made when, in the ordinary course of their employment or profession, they have reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child under the age of 18 has been abused, neglected or is placed in imminent risk of serious harm (CGS 17a-101a).

A Mandated Reporter must report any suspicion to DCF or law enforcement regardless of the identity of the alleged perpetrator.



REASONABLE CAUSE TO SUSPECT



Observed

Facts or Statements
By a Child, Victim
or Third Party


Allegations

Certainty or Probable Cause is NOT Required



DEFINITIONS: ABUSE

Connecticut General Statutes, **Section 46b-120**, defines an abused child as a child or youth less than 18 years of age who:

- Has had physical injuries inflicted upon him or her other than by accidental means, or
 - Has injuries which are at variance with the history given of them, or
 - Is in a condition which is the result of maltreatment such as, but not limited to, malnutrition, sexual molestation or exploitation, deprivation of necessities, emotional maltreatment, or cruel punishment.
- 

POSSIBLE INDICATORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

Physical

- Chronic gastrointestinal complaints
- Unexplained bruises, lacerations, redness, swelling, or bleeding in the genital, vaginal, or anal areas.
- Complaints of genital or rectal pain
- Sexually transmitted disease
 - Child Under 13 with Venereal Disease
 - a physician or facility must report to Careline upon the consultation, examination or treatment
 - for venereal disease of any child not more than twelve (12) years old
- Pregnancy

POSSIBLE INDICATORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE



- Fire setting
- Cruelty to animals
- Sexually aggressive, manipulative of children
- Truancy
- Withdrawn/ Anxious
- Engages in self-destructive behaviors
 - Substance abuse,
 - Suicide attempts,
 - Cutting
 - Inability to eat
 - Overeating
- Bedwetting or soiling
- Wears an excessive amount of clothing
- Promiscuity or avoidance of sexuality

AGE OF CONSENT FOR SEXUAL ACTIVITY


The general age of consent in Connecticut is 16. This applies in most normal relationships. However, if any of the following apply, then the age of consent becomes 18:

- Where one person is a guardian, or responsible for the general supervision, of the other. See C.G.S. § 53a-71(a)(4).
- Where one person is an athletic coach or an intensive, ongoing instructor (e.g. piano teacher) outside of a school setting, and the other is being coached or instructed. See C.G.S. § 53a-71(9)(B).
- Where one person's professional, legal, occupational or volunteer status gives him/her a role of supervision, power, or authority, over the other's participation in a program or activity, and the older person is at least 20-years-old.
See C.G.S. § 53a-71(a)(4).



AGE OF CONSENT FOR SEXUAL ACTIVITY

Age of consent is irrelevant in the following; as even consensual adult sexual activity is criminalized in these relationships:

- Where one person is a school employee (of the board of education, by extension excluding post-secondary schools) and the other a student. See C.G.S. § 53a-71(a)(8)
 - Where one person is an athletic coach or an intensive, ongoing instructor (e.g. piano teacher) in a secondary (high school) setting and the other a student. See C.G.S. § 53a-71(9)(A)
- 

FEDERAL DEFINITION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING: TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT (TVPA)

The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for...

Sex Trafficking

...a commercial sex act, in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age.

“Commercial Sex Act” means any sex act on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person.

Labor Trafficking

...labor or services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

NEGLECT

- Has been abandoned; or
- Is being denied proper care and attention, physically, educationally, emotionally, or morally; or
- Is being permitted to live under conditions, circumstances, or associations injurious to his well-being.



EDUCATIONAL NEGLECT



Educational Neglect occurs when a child 5 years of age and older and under 18 years of age has excessive absences from school through the intent or neglect of the parent or caregiver.

NOTE: *Excessive absenteeism or school avoidance may be symptoms of other physical, emotional, or medical needs.*

EXCEPTIONS & SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

A child **age 5 or 6** is not required to attend school. Educational neglect only occurs if the child is enrolled at 5 or 6 and does not attend school or receive home instruction.

For children **older than 12**, excessive absences through the child's intent, despite the parents' or caregivers' efforts, is truancy. Truancy is handled through the school district.


A parent or person having control of a child **17 years of age** may consent to the child's withdrawal from school by personally appearing and signing a withdrawal form.



MEDICAL NEGLECT

- The refusal or failure on the part of the person responsible for the child's care to seek, obtain, and/or maintain those services for necessary medical, dental, or mental health care
- Withholding medically indicated treatment from disabled infants with life-threatening conditions.

Note: Failure to provide the child with immunizations or routine well childcare in and of itself does not constitute medical neglect.



The LINK Between Child Abuse and Neglect and Animal Cruelty

When animals are abused, people are at risk. When people are abused, animals are at risk.

PUBLIC ACT 14-70 - AN ACT CONCERNING CROSS REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE AND ANIMAL CRUELTY

- Requires DCF and the DOAG to work together to “cross report” animal cruelty and child abuse and neglect.
- Enacted as a result of evidence LINKING animal cruelty and child abuse & neglect.
- When an animal is harmed, it is a predictor and indicator that human victims may be next.
- You can help by reporting animal cruelty when you see it or hear about it.



Report animal cruelty - CT Department of Agriculture: (860) 713 - 2506

For More Information: <https://nationallinkcoalition.org/>

CHILD LEFT ALONE IN MOTOR VEHICLE OR PLACE OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION

Sec. 53-21a. Leaving child unsupervised in place of public accommodation or motor vehicle.

(a) Any parent, guardian or person having custody or control, or providing supervision, of any child under the age of twelve years who knowingly leaves such child unsupervised in a place of public accommodation or a motor vehicle for a period of time that presents a substantial risk to the child's health or safety, shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.






WHOM DOES DCF INVESTIGATE?

The Department will investigate cases where the abuse or neglect has been inflicted by or caused by


a **person responsible or entrusted** for a child's health, welfare, or care;

or by a **person given access** to a child by a person responsible.






“PERSON RESPONSIBLE”

- Parent
 - Guardian
 - Foster parent
 - Staff personnel of child center based, family or group day care settings
 - Staff employees of residential child care settings and that individual responsible for a child's health, welfare, or care and is allegedly responsible for causing or allowing the infliction of physical injury or injuries or imminent risk.
- 



“PERSON ENTRUSTED”

Anyone given access to child or youth by a person who is responsible for the health, welfare, or care of a child or youth for the purpose of providing education, child care, counseling, spiritual guidance, coaching, training, instruction, tutoring, or mentoring of such child or youth.






REPORTING PROCEDURE

The Department of Children and Families has developed an online portal for Mandated Reporters. This online portal will be available for Mandated Reporters to make NON-EMERGENT reports of abuse/neglect. Non-emergent reports are reports where a child(ren) is not; In immediate harm, in need for urgent or emergent medical or mental health needs, expressing fear of further abuse or neglect within the next 24 hours and/or there is concern of a child being inaccessible within the next 24 hours.

Mandated Reporters will continue to call the DCF Careline to submit suspicion of abuse or neglect reports and any child protective situations requiring an urgent response.



REPORTING PROCEDURES EMERGENT REPORTS

When –

As soon as practical, but no later than 12 hours after the mandated reporter becomes aware of or suspects abuse/neglect or imminent risk of serious harm or that a mandated reporter must notify DCF

To Whom – Emergent Reports (Needing Immediate response within the next 24 hours)

DCF Careline: 1-800-842-2288; or calling the local law enforcement agency

- A written report (DCF 136) is required by law to be written and submitted within 48 hours of oral report.
- <http://www.ct.gov/dcf/lib/dcf/policy/pdf/DCF-136.pdf>
- **ORAL REPORT TO CARELINE IS REQUIRED**
- DCF-136 will not be accepted without oral report being made
- A mandated reporter should never complete their own investigation prior to making a report.

REPORTING PROCEDURES NON-EMERGENT REPORTS

Non-Emergent Reports: (Not Needing an Immediate Response within the next 24 Hours)


- All Non-Emergent Reports should be submitted through the Mandated Reporter Portal:
<https://portal.dcf.ct.gov/Portal/Main/#dashboard>
- Training information and user guides are available within the portal.
- During the online process, you will be asked specific questions that will help guide your submission. Making an Online CPS report to DCF is made in substitution of submitting a DCF-136 form and is not required following your submission. You will receive an e-mail receipt with a confirmation number of your portal submission.
- All CAPTA/CARA Notifications and/or all Birthing Hospital CPS Reports regarding a newborn child must continue the submission process within the CAPTA-Newborn Notification Portal.

When –

As soon as practical, but no later than 12 hours after the mandated reporter becomes aware of or suspects abuse/neglect or imminent risk of serious harm or that a mandated reporter must notify DCF




ALL ORAL AND PORTAL REPORTS SHALL CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, IF KNOWN:

1. The names and addresses of the child and his parents or other person responsible for his care;
 2. The age of the child;
 3. The gender of the child;
 4. The nature and extent of the child's injury or injuries, maltreatment or neglect;
 5. The approximate date and time the injury or injuries, maltreatment or neglect occurred;
 6. Information concerning any previous injury or injuries to, or maltreatment or neglect of, the child or his siblings;
 7. The circumstances in which the injury or injuries, maltreatment or neglect came to be known to the reporter;
- 



ALL ORAL AND PORTAL REPORTS SHALL CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, IF KNOWN:

8. The name of the person or persons suspected to be responsible for causing such injury or injuries, maltreatment or neglect;
 9. The reasons such person or persons are suspected of causing such injury or injuries, maltreatment or neglect;
 10. Any information concerning any prior cases in which such person or persons have been suspected of causing an injury, maltreatment or neglect of a child;
 11. Whatever action, if any, was taken to treat, provide shelter or otherwise assist the child (PA 11-93 §15).
- 

REPORT OF SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT: FORM DCF - 136

*This is only needed for oral reports. Portal reports no longer require the form DCF-136

Child's Name		<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	Age Or DOB	<i>Please print or type</i> Race: <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaskan Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American (not of Hispanic Origin) <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> White (not of Hispanic origin) <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
Child's Address					
Name Of Parents Or Other Person Responsible For Child's Care			Address		Phone Number
Name Of Careline Worker To Whom Oral Report Was Made			Date Of Oral Report		Date And Time Of Suspected Abuse/Neglect
Name Of Suspected Perpetrator, If Known			Address And Phone Number, If Known		Relationship To Child
Nature And Extent Of Injury(ies), Maltreatment Or Neglect					
Describe The Circumstances Under Which The Injury(ies), Maltreatment Or Neglect Came To Be Known					
Describe the Reasons Such Persons(s) Are Suspected Of Causing Such Injuries, Maltreatment of Neglect					
Information Concerning Any Previous Injury(ies), Maltreatment Or Neglect Of The Child Or His/Her Siblings					
Information Concerning Any Prior Cases(s) In Which The Person(s) Have Been Suspected Of Causing An Injury(ies), Maltreatment Or Neglect Of A Child					
List Names And Ages Of Siblings, If Known					
What Action, If Any, Has Been Taken To Treat, Provide Shelter Or Otherwise Assist The Child?					
Reporter's Name And Agency		<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaskan Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American (not of Hispanic Origin) <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> White (not of Hispanic origin) <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer Not to Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		Address :	
Reporter's Signature				City:	Phone Number
				Position	Date

CARELINE CONTACT INFORMATION



Child Abuse and Neglect Careline

505 Hudson Street

Hartford, CT 06106


Phone: 1-800-842-2288

(FAX): 860-560-7073



WHEN DCF NOTIFIES THE POLICE

When DCF receives a report alleging sexual abuse or serious physical abuse, including, but not limited to, a report that a child has:

- Died;
 - Been sexually assaulted;
 - Suffered brain damage, loss, or serious impairment of a bodily function or organ;
 - Been sexually exploited; or
 - Suffered serious non-accidental physical injury
- 

ANONYMITY


The name of the reporter of child abuse/neglect shall be kept confidential upon his/her request. However, it shall be disclosed to:

- A DCF Employee
- A Law Enforcement Officer
- An Appropriate State's Attorney
- An Appropriate Assistant Attorney General
- A Judge and all necessary parties in a Juvenile Court proceeding or criminal prosecution involving child abuse and neglect
- A State Child Care Licensing Agency, Executive Director of any institution, school or facility, or Superintendent of Schools.


Mandated Reporters are required to give their name when they make a report to DCF, however, reporters may request anonymity to protect their privacy.

DCF would not disclose their name or identity unless mandated to do so by the law.

(CGS 17a-28 and 17a-101)



Legal Protections for Reporting and Consequences for Failing to Report






IMMUNITY AND FALSE REPORTING - CGS 17a-101

Immunity –

Any person, institution, or agency which in good faith makes a report pursuant to sections 17a-101a to 17a-101d, inclusive, and 17a-103, or provides professional medical intervention or assistance in any proceeding involving child abuse and neglect, shall be immune from any liability, civil or criminal.

False Reporting –

Any person who knowingly makes a false report of child abuse or neglect shall be fined not more than \$2000 or imprisoned not more than one year or both.





FAILING TO REPORT AND/OR DELAYED REPORTING

Any person required by the law to report a case of suspected child abuse/neglect who fails to make such report or fails to do so within the required time period shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

*If the violation is a) a subsequent violation, b) willful or intentional or due to gross negligence, or c) such person had actual knowledge of the abuse or neglect, such person shall be guilty of a class E felony.

*Public Act 15-205 – Effective 10/1/2015

A person found guilty of failure to report shall also be required to participate in an educational and training program.

DCF Is Required To Notify The Chief State's Attorney If It Suspects That A Person Has Failed To Report Or Did Not Report Within The Required Time-frames.



REPORTING PROCEDURES



Any person who intentionally and unreasonably interferes with or prevents the making of a report, *or attempts or conspires to do so*, shall be guilty of a class D felony.

Public Act 15-205 – Effective 10/1/2015




EMPLOYEE PROTECTION

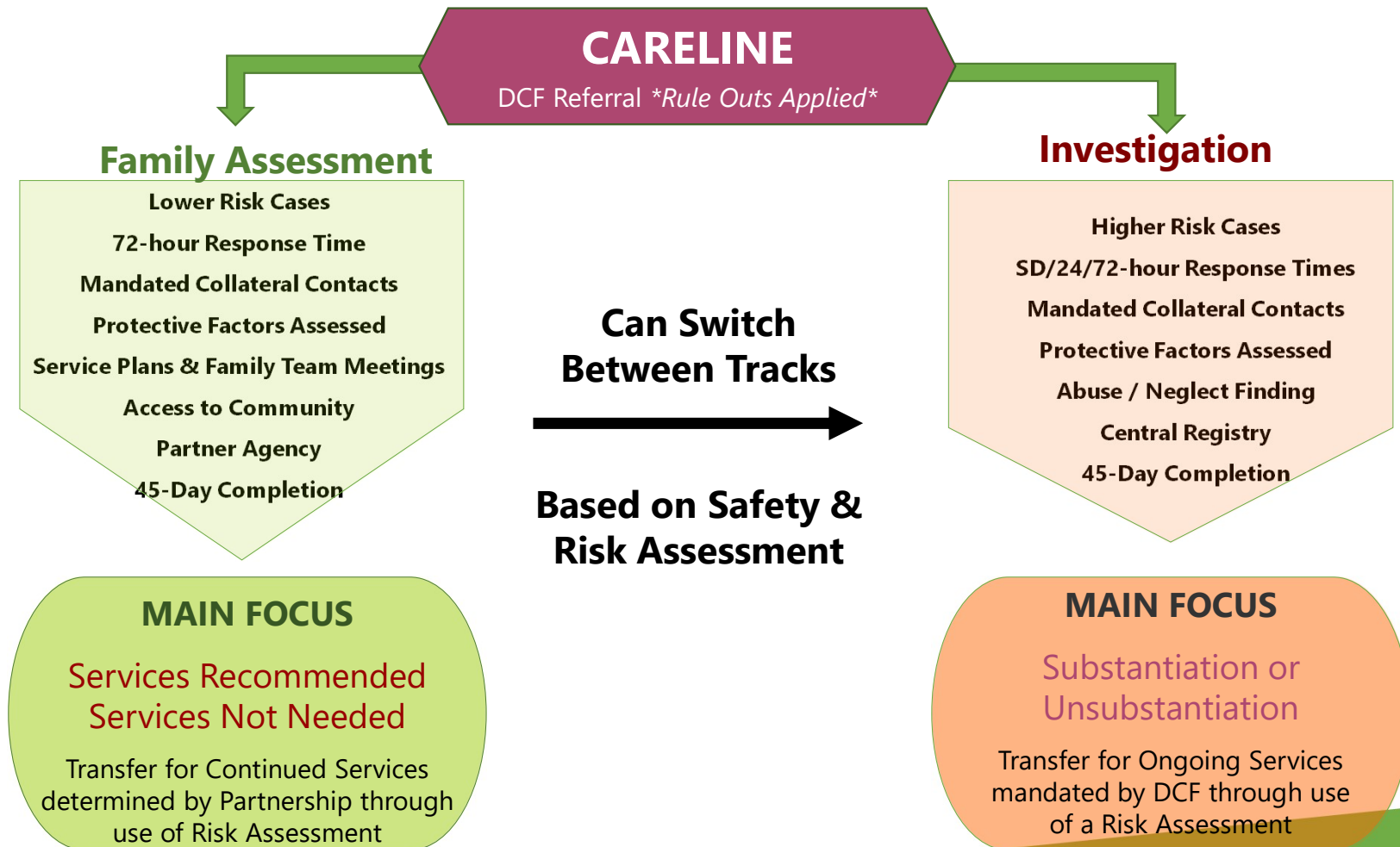
No employer shall

- (1) discharge, or in any manner discriminate or retaliate against, any employee who in good faith makes a report pursuant to sections 17a-101a to 17a-101d, inclusive, and 17a-103, testifies or is about to testify in any proceeding involving child abuse or neglect, or
- (2) hinder or prevent, or attempt to hinder or prevent, any employee from making a report pursuant to sections 17a-101a to 17a-101d, inclusive, and 17a-103, or testifying in any proceeding involving child abuse or neglect.

The Attorney General may bring an action in Superior Court against an employer who violates this subsection. The court may assess a civil penalty of not more than two thousand five hundred dollars and may order such other equitable relief as the court deems appropriate.




DRS: Two Track Response System





WHY TWO TRACKS?

- Be more flexible in the response to child abuse and neglect reports
 - Better understand the family issues that lie beneath maltreatment reports
 - Engage parents more effectively to use services that address their specific needs
 - Increase sharing responsibility and accountability for families and communities
- 

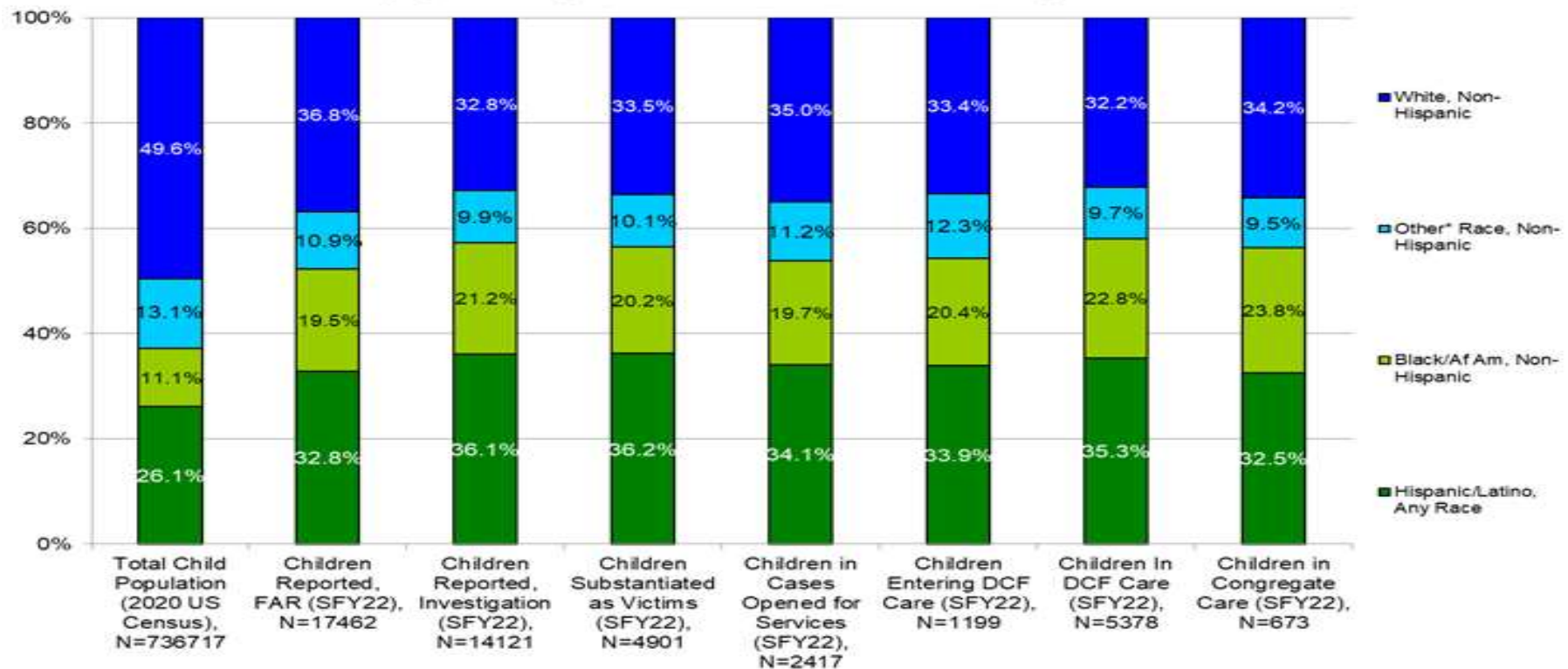
DISPARATE OUTCOMES RESULT FROM OVERT & UNCONSCIOUS DECISIONS

Lower the rate of disproportionality

- In CPS cases, people of color are over-represented relative to the general population.
- The DRS approach is to begin addressing these inequities and disparities as early as possible by using the assessment track to focus on service delivery to ameliorate such issues.
- These disparities and inequities by race and culture are seen at every decision point within the DCF system.
- The first decision making point comes from assessing “reasonable suspicion”- simply ask, “Is my suspicion (or lack of) based on the race of this family?”

Disproportionality and Disparity in CPS 2022

Racial/Ethnic Disproportionality Across The CT Child Protection System SFY22: STATEWIDE



*Other Race includes: American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Other, Multi-Racial, and Missing/Unknown/UTD

Data Run Date:
Statewide: 9/26/22

SAFE HAVEN ACT

An act that creates a safe alternative to leaving infants in unsafe places

A parent may voluntarily surrender physical custody of an infant age thirty (30) days or younger to the nursing staff of a hospital emergency room. Parent is not required to provide his or her name or medical history.



PROTECTING INFANTS, TODDLERS & PRESCHOOLERS



- For our agency this is our invisible population
Early Assessment and Intervention is essential
- Call 211
- 3-5 year olds deserve quality child care
- Unsafe sleep related deaths are the leading cause of preventable deaths of infants in Connecticut
- Educating families about safe sleep environments is key
- DCF has embarked on campaign to educate staff, providers and the families we serve about safe sleep

Resources:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DCF/Safe-Sleep-Campaign/Safe-Sleep>

<http://www.nichd.nih.gov/sts/about/Pages/default.aspx>

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DCF/Safe_Sleep/SSbookletEngpdf.pdf

<https://www.ctoec.org/safe-sleep-for-babies/>



DCF STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

DCF recognizes that strengthening Connecticut families requires partnership with the immediate family, the extended family, and community providers.

Thank you for being part of this team.





ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Still Have Questions?

Please visit our website to view additional information regarding mandated reporting or to find out who to speak with from our staff.

If you have any concerns of abuse or neglect, please call our Careline at **800-842-2288**

BE A HERO, BE A FOSTER PARENT

If you are interested in being a foster parent or would like information on how to become one, please call

1-888-KID-HERO

