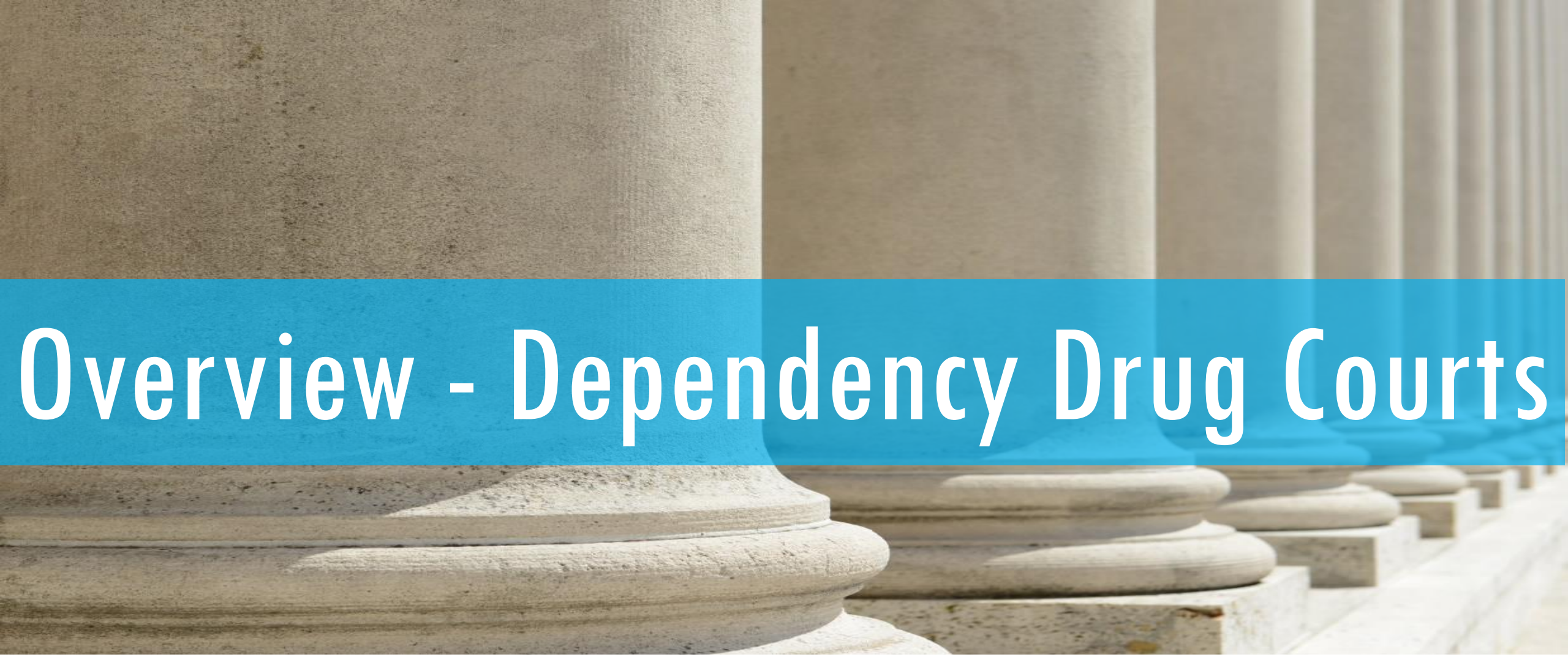
California Child Welfare Council

Dependency Drug Courts

September 10, 2014

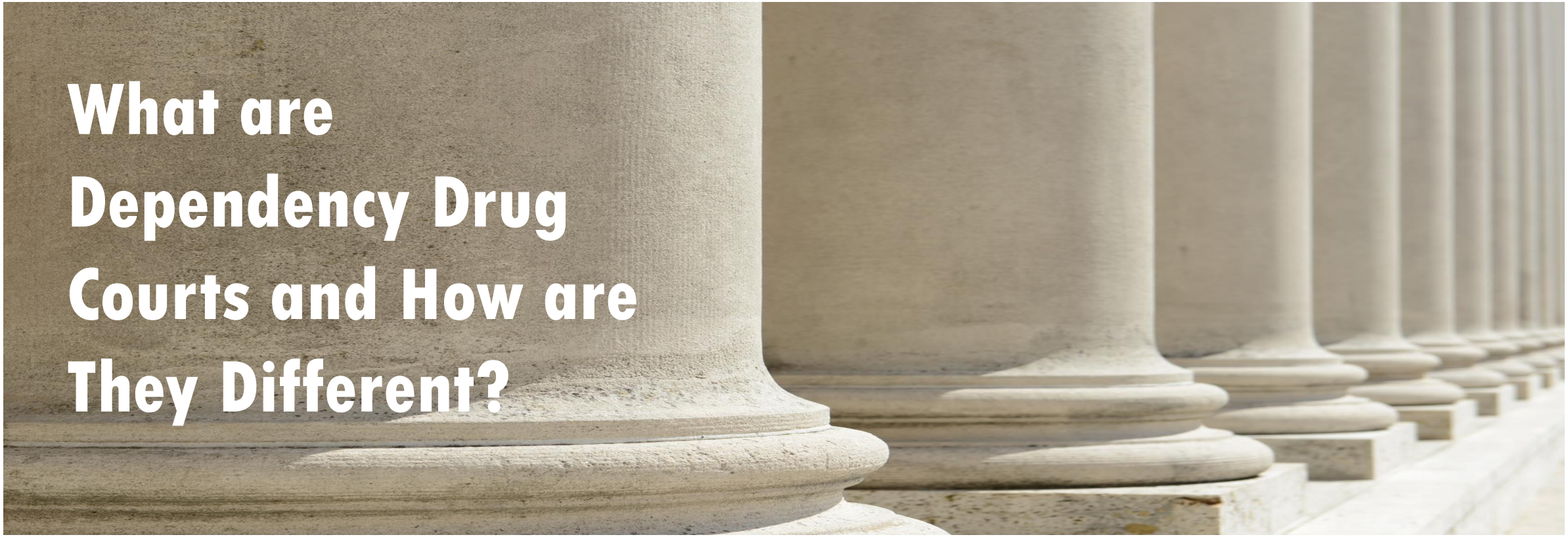
Panel Presenters: Honorable Elizabeth Lee,
Phil Breitenbucher, MSW, and Robert Friend, LCSW



Overview - Dependency Drug Courts

Presenter: Honorable Elizabeth Lee

Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo



What are Dependency Drug Courts and How are They Different?

- Devoted to **cases of child abuse and neglect that involve substance abuse** by the child's parents and/or other caregivers
- Focused on safety and welfare of the child while giving parents tools needed to become sober, responsible caregivers
- Utilizes a **multidisciplinary team approach** to assess the family's situation, devising **comprehensive case plans** that address needs of children and parents

Common Vision
Extraordinary Effort
Shared Leadership

3 Systems with multiple:

- Mandates
- Timing
- Training
- Methods
- Values

Court

Drug Treatment

Child Welfare

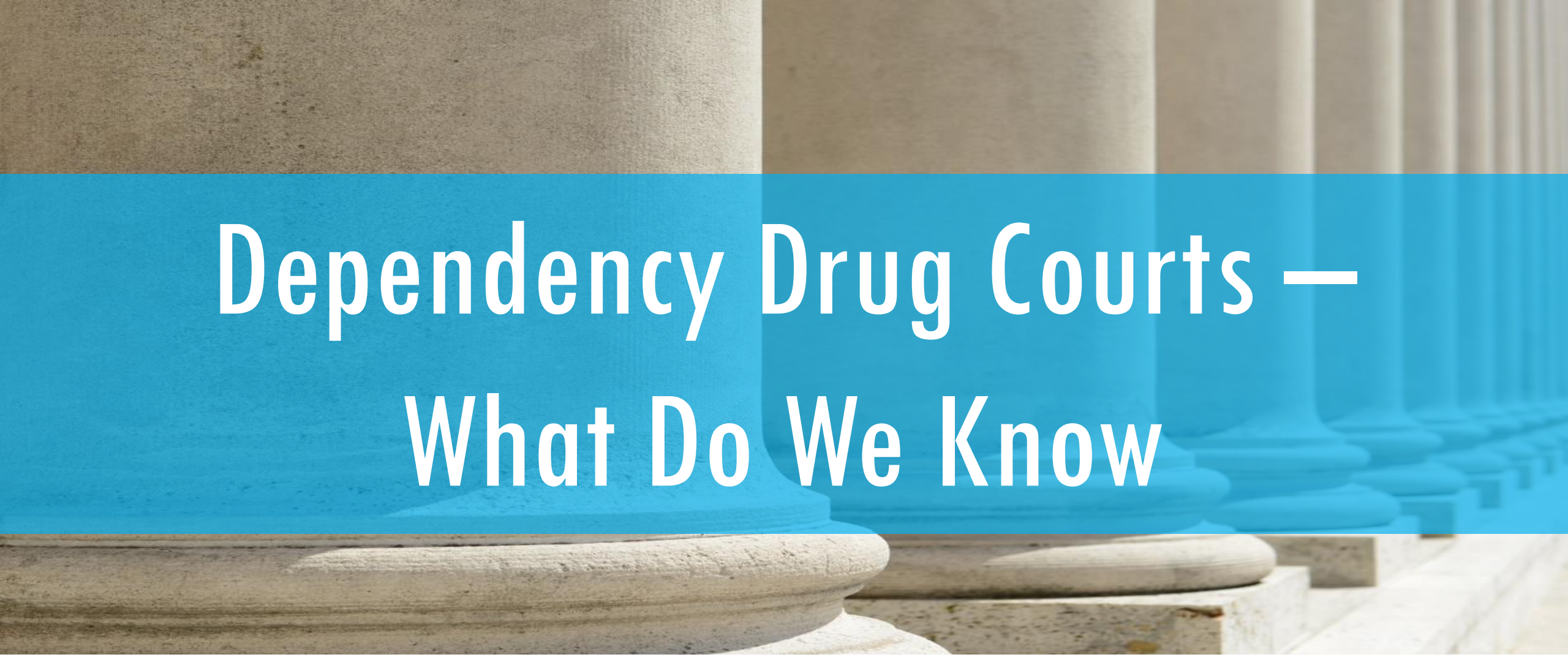
WHAT IS SUCCESS IN DEPENDENCY DRUG COURT? SHARED OUTCOMES

Safety (CWS)	Permanency (Court)	Recovery (AOD)
• Reduce re-entry into foster care • Decrease recurrence of abuse/neglect	• Reduce time to reunification • Reduce time to permanency • Reduce days in care	• Increase engagement and retention in treatment • Increase number of clean UA's • Increase number of graduates • Decrease recidivism

39 Family Drug Courts

346 FDCs nationwide

Source – NADCP, 2014



Dependency Drug Courts — What Do We Know

Presenter: Phil Breitenbucher, MSW

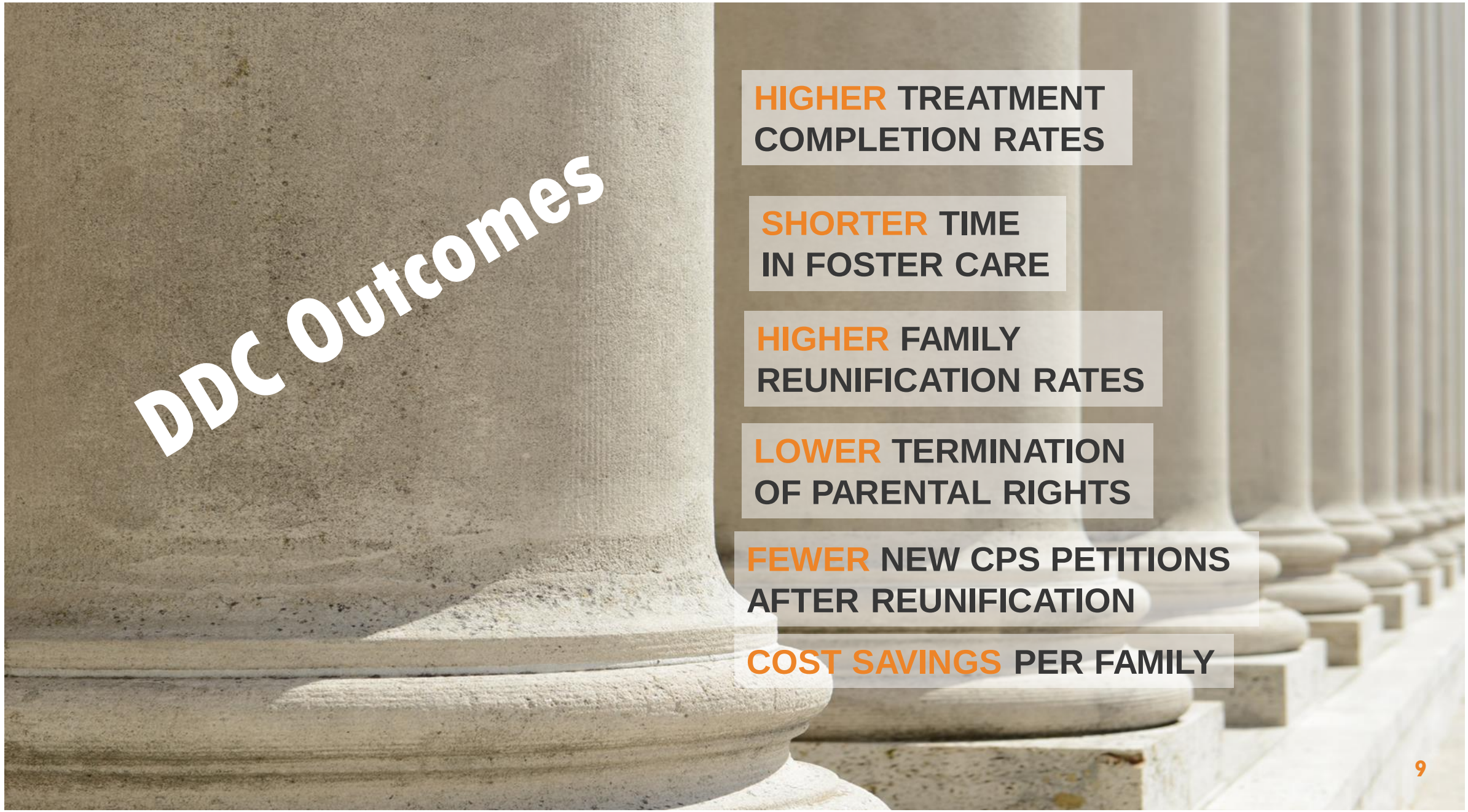
Family Drug Court Project Director, Children and Family Futures

Common Ingredients of FDCs

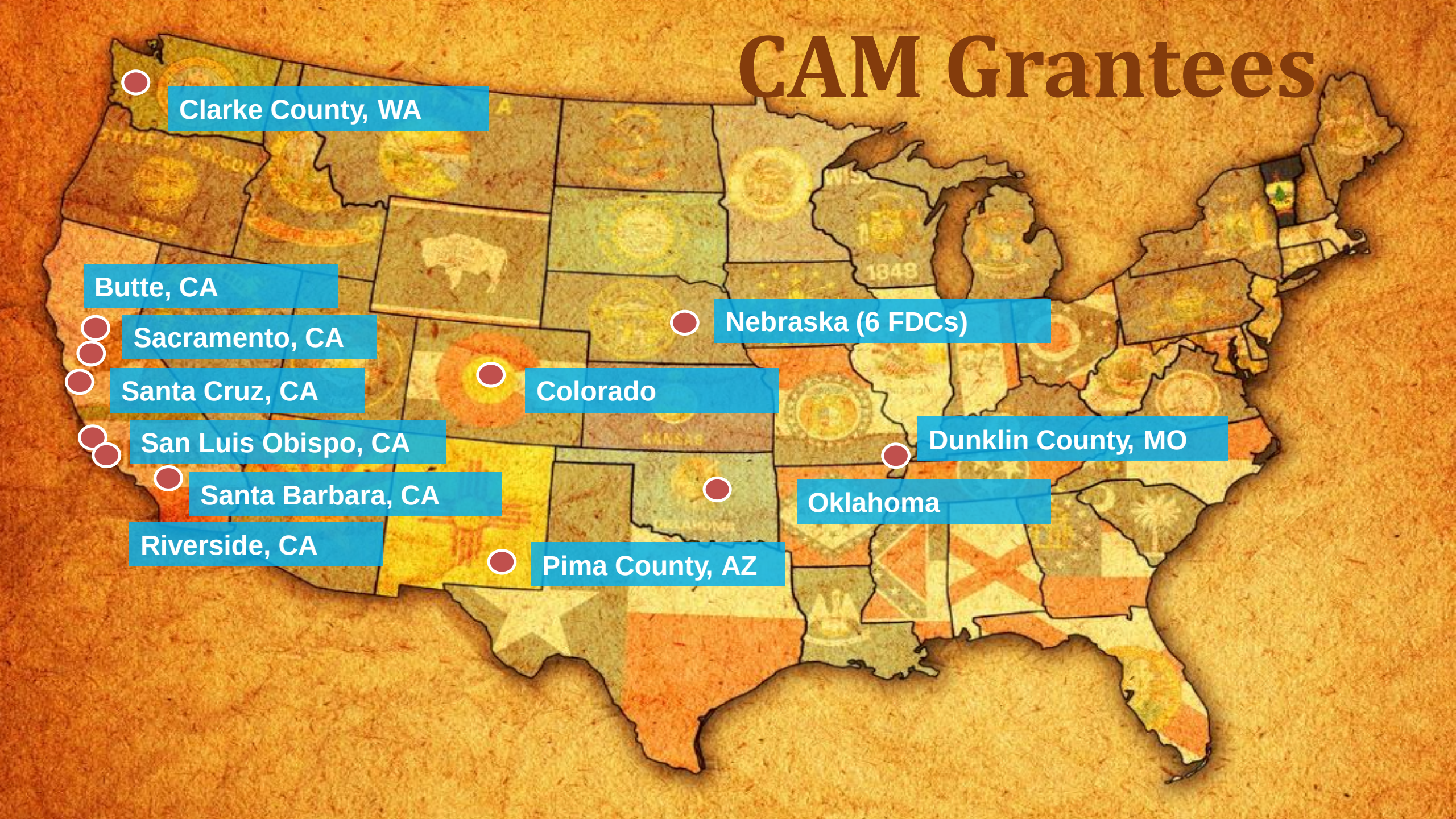
6

- System of identifying families
- Earlier access to assessment and treatment services
- Increased judicial oversight
- Increased management of recovery services and compliance
- Responses to participant behaviors (sanctions & incentives)
- Collaborative approach across service systems and Court

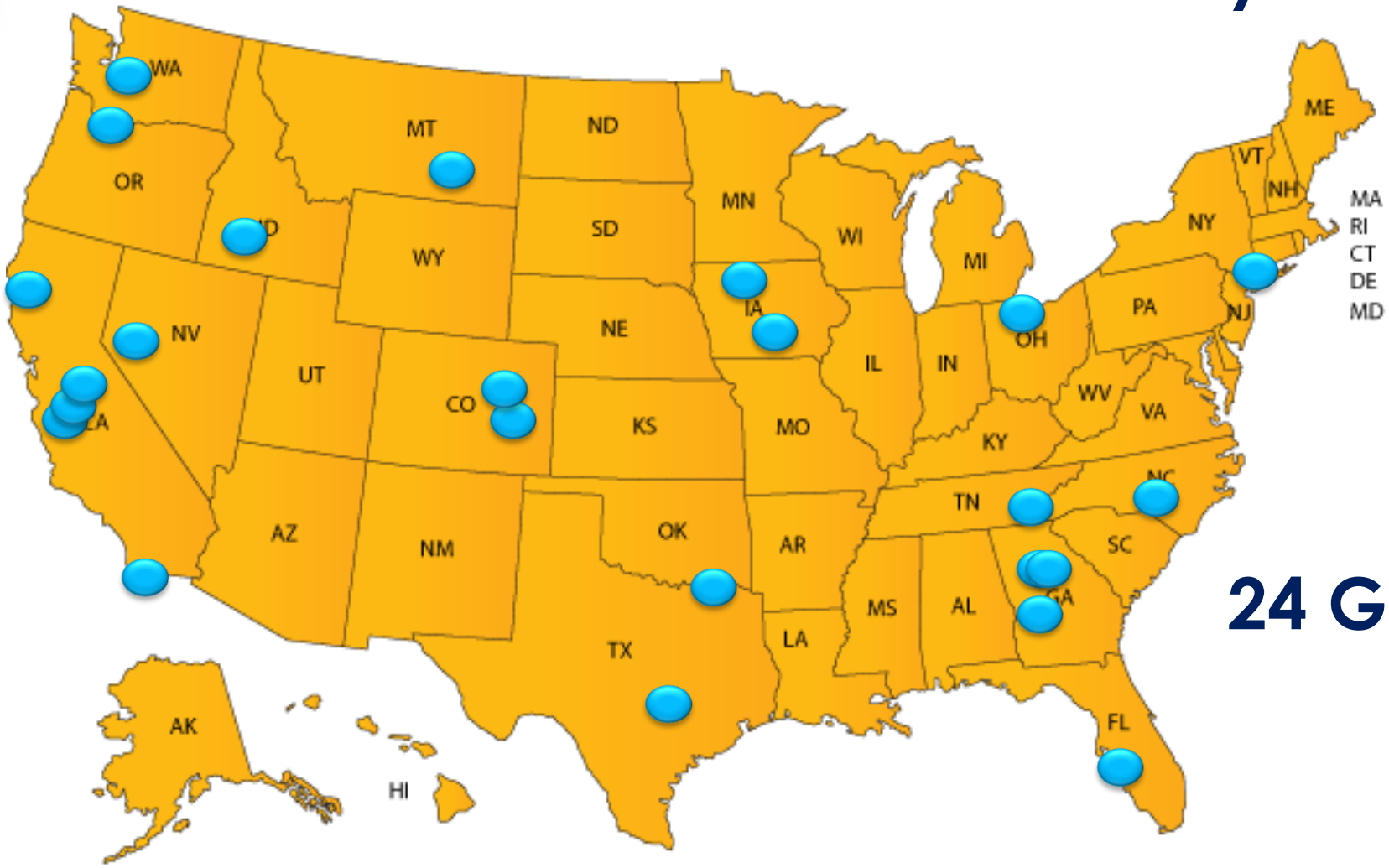
2002 Process Evaluation


DDC Outcomes
HIGHER TREATMENT COMPLETION RATES
SHORTER TIME IN FOSTER CARE
HIGHER FAMILY REUNIFICATION RATES
LOWER TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS
FEWER NEW CPS PETITIONS AFTER REUNIFICATION
COST SAVINGS PER FAMILY

CAM Grantees



Regional Partnership Grants
Family Drug Courts

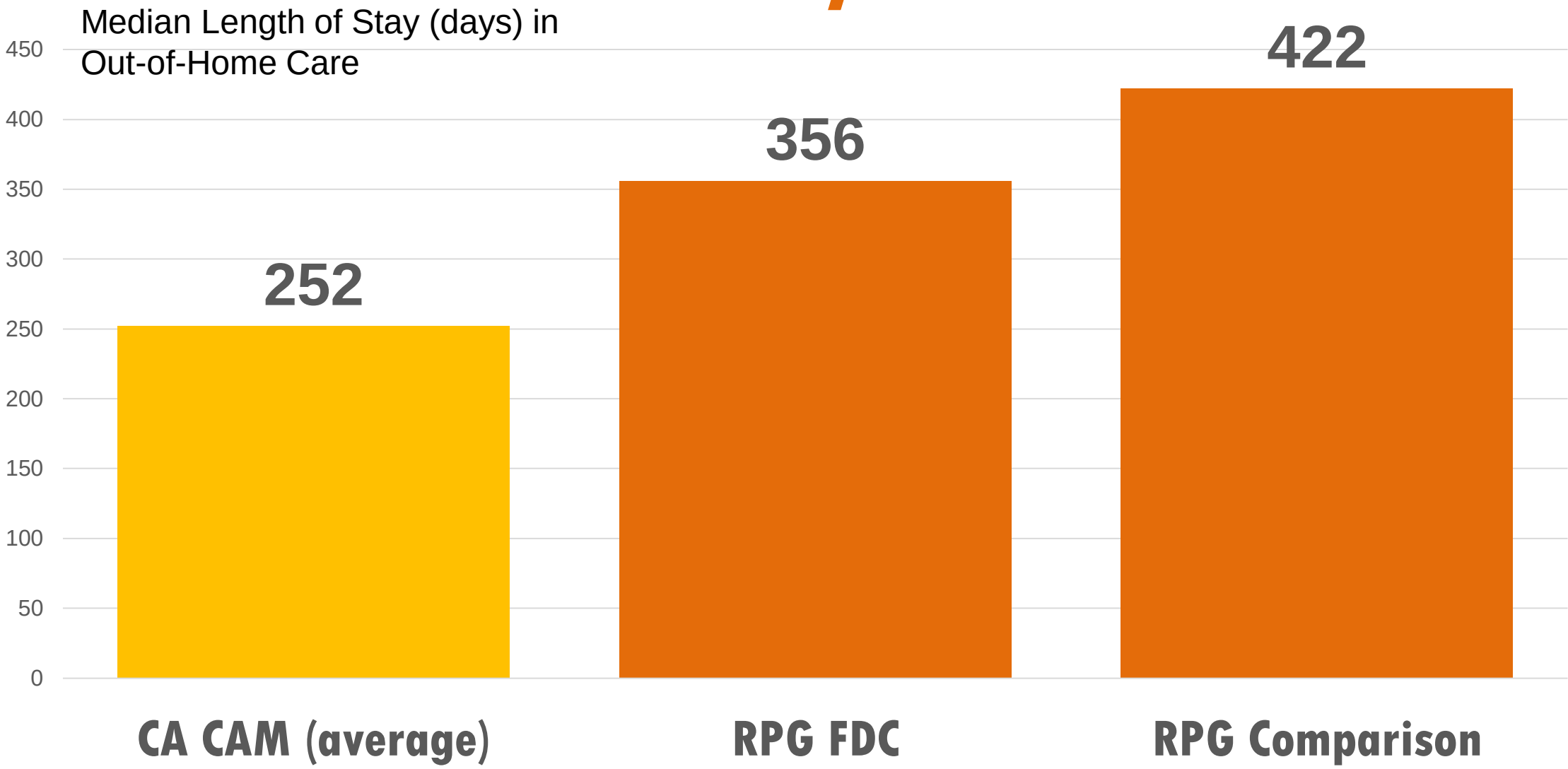


24 Grantee Sites

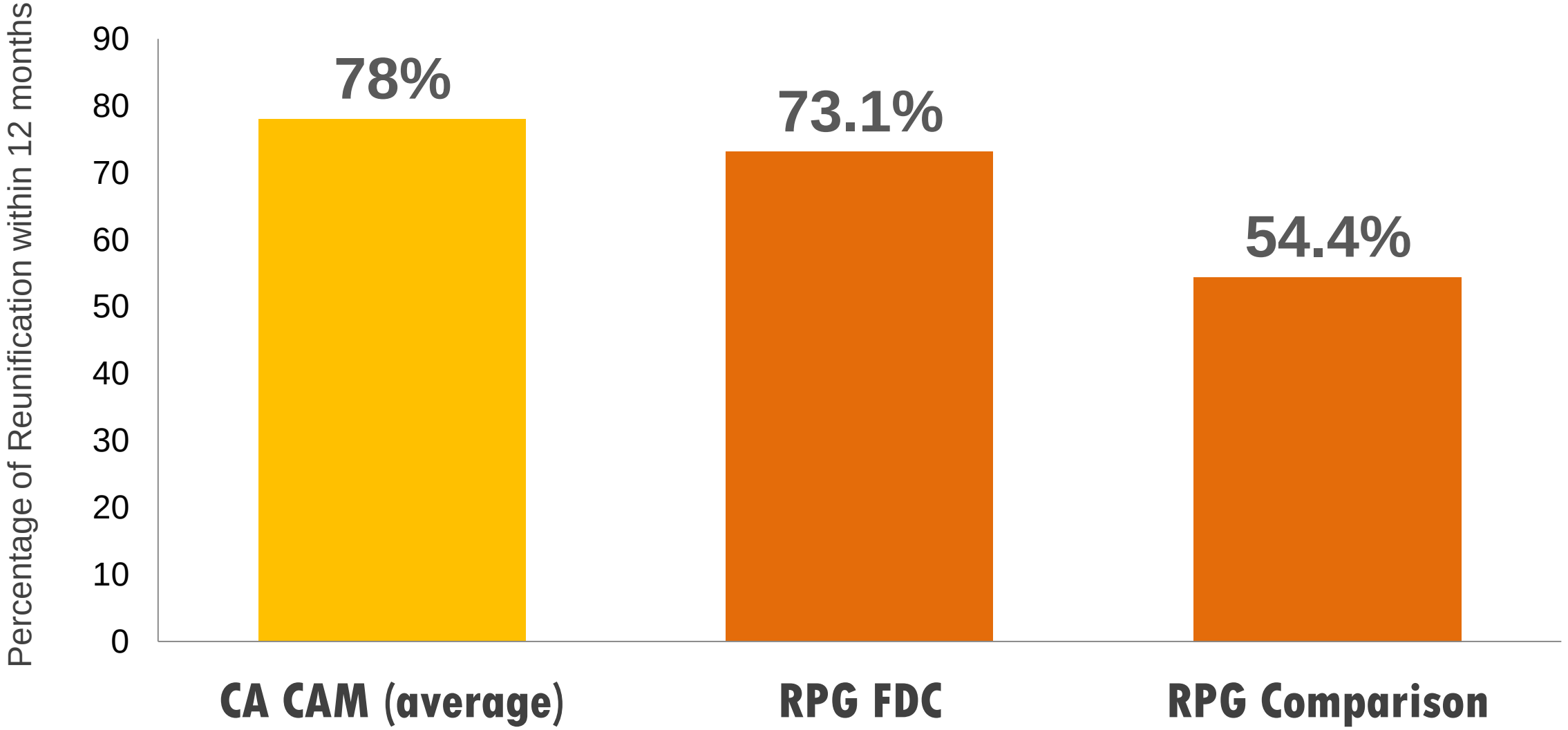
RPG FDC

- **5,200 children**
- **8,000 adults**

Days in Foster Care

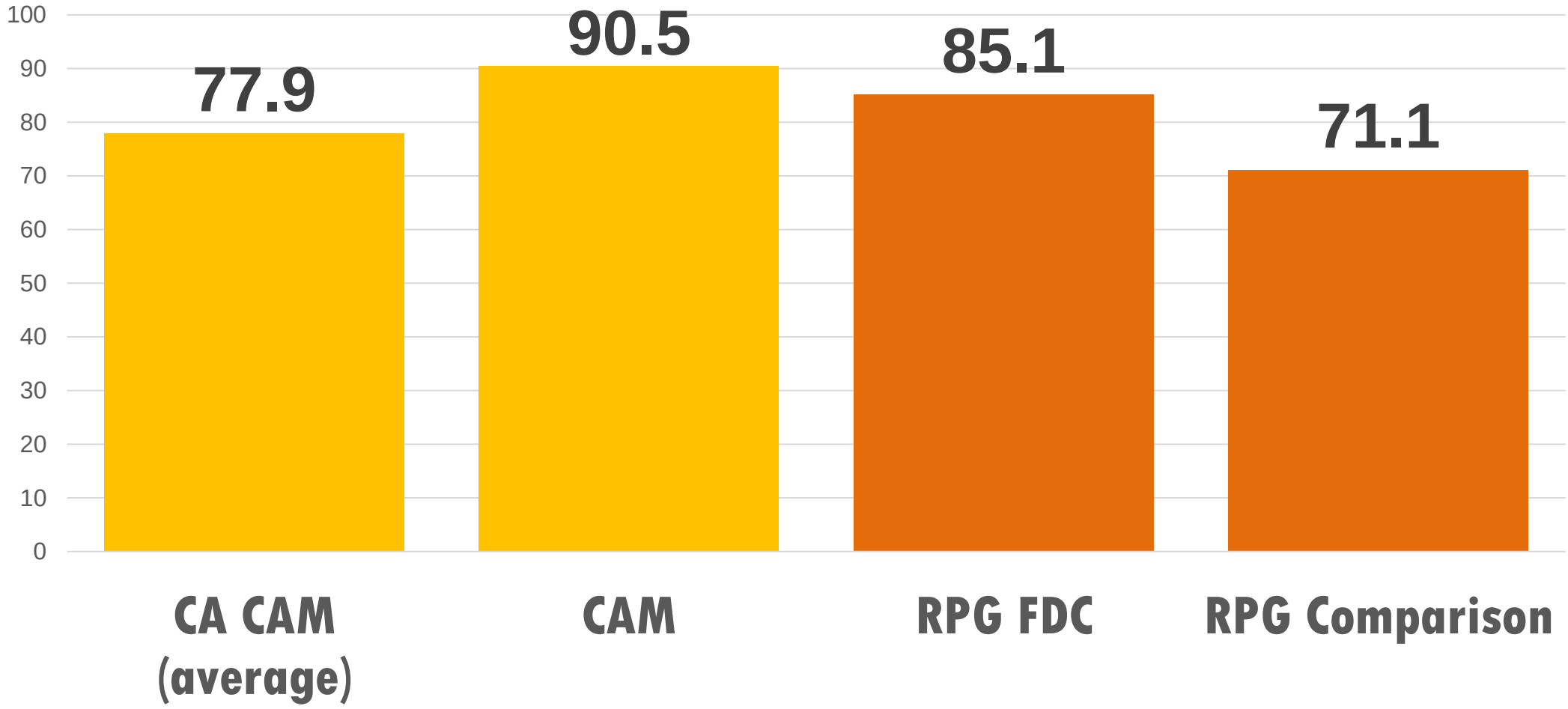


Reunification Rates within 12 Months

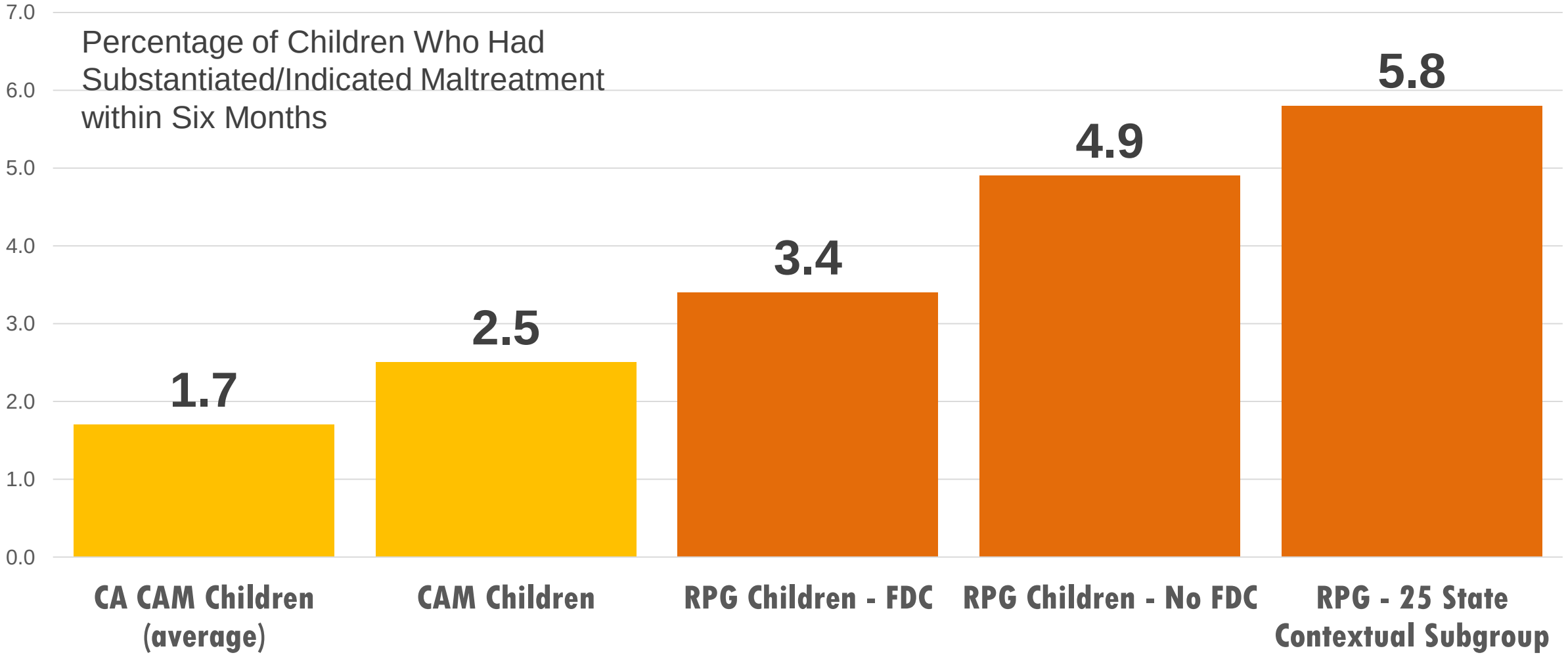


Remained in Home

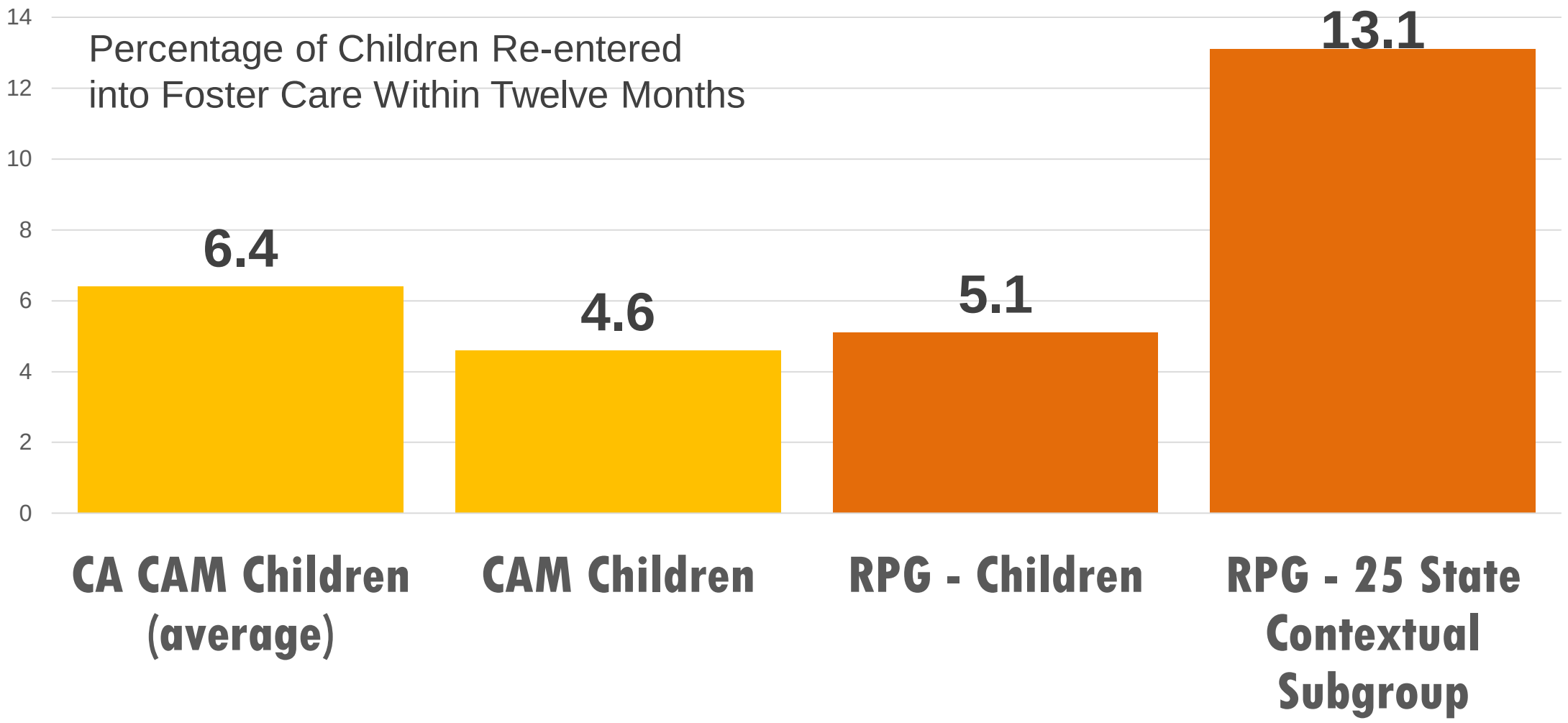
Percentage of Children Who Remain at Home Throughout Program Participation



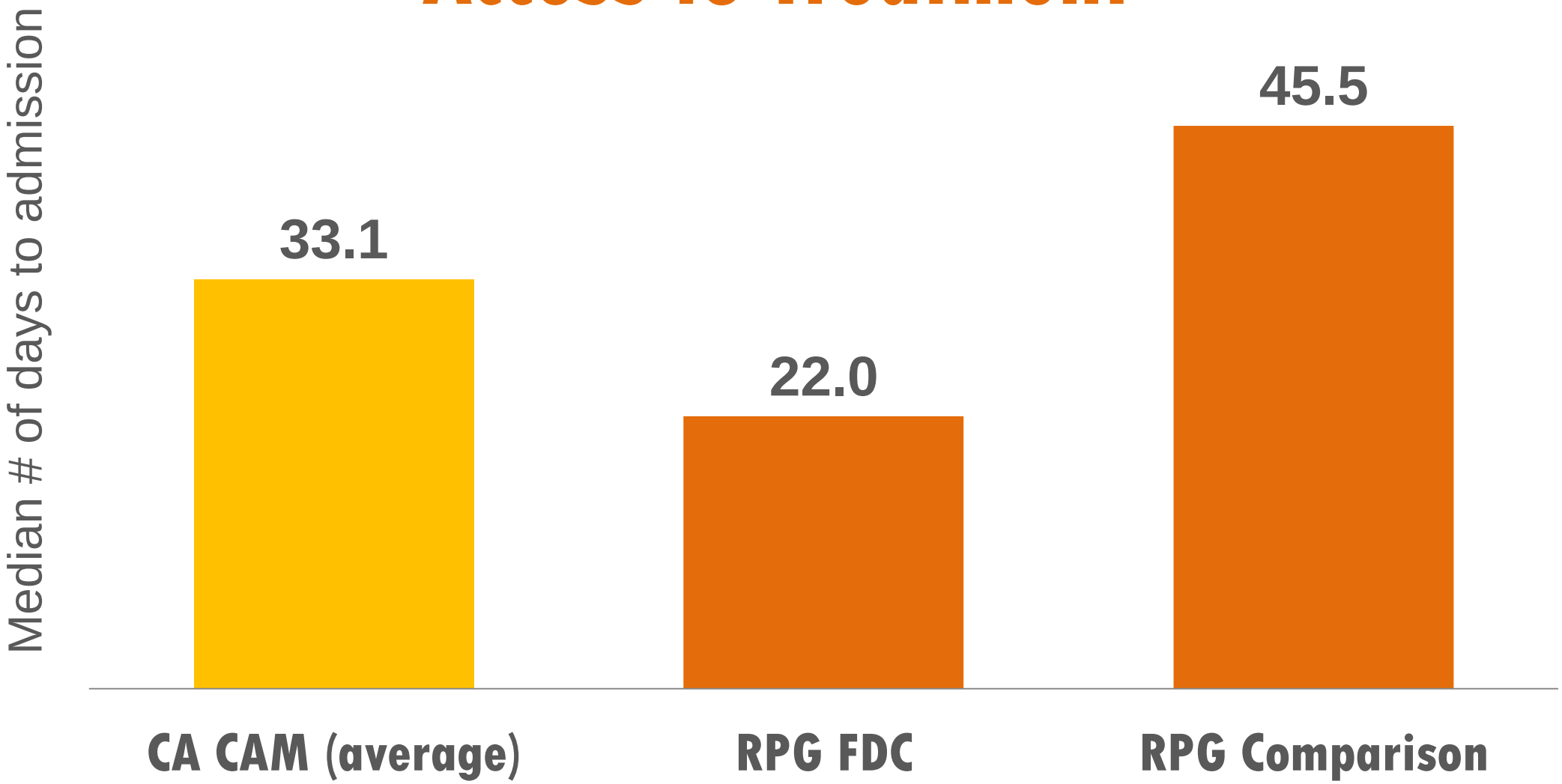
Recurrence of Child Maltreatment



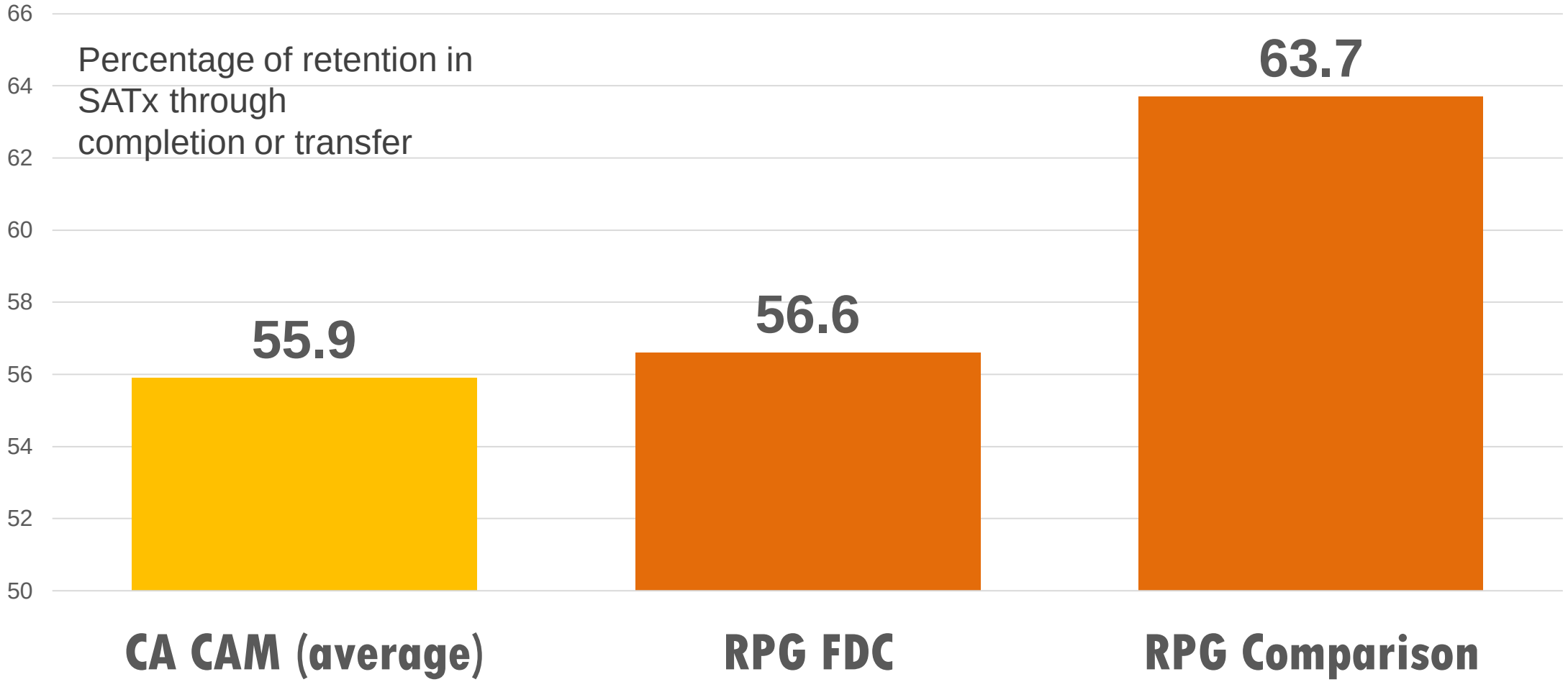
Re-entries into Foster Care



Access to Treatment



Treatment Completion Rates



No magic wands, but a range of tools

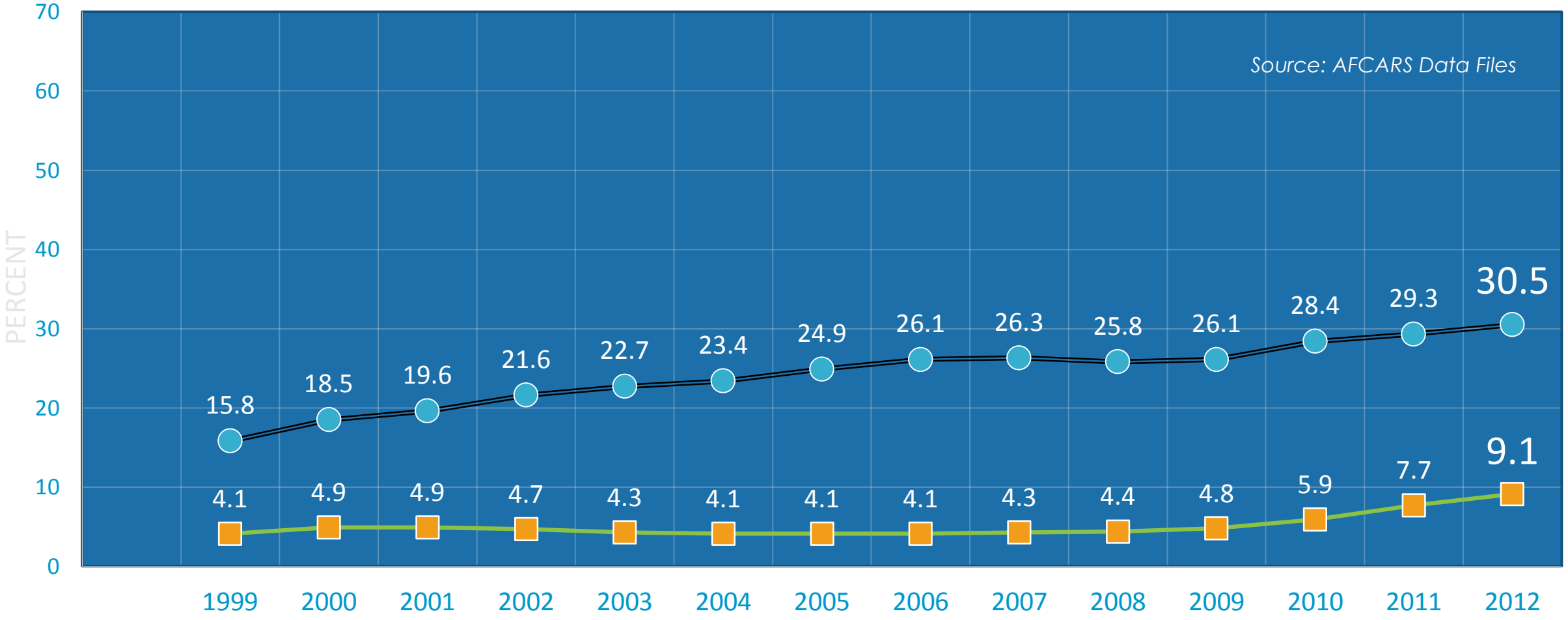
- Leadership and champions
- Information systems
- Screening, assessment and engagement strategies
- Best practice
- Resources and Finances

Prevalence of the Issue

How many children in the child welfare system have a parent in need of treatment?

- Between 60–80% of substantiated child abuse and neglect cases involve substances by a custodial parent or guardian (Young, et al, 2007)
- 61% of infants, 41% of older children who are in out-of-home care (Wulczyn , Ernst and Fisher, 2011)
- 87% of families in foster care with one parent in need of treatment; 67% with two parents in need (Smith, Johnson, Pears, Fisher, DeGarmo, 2007)

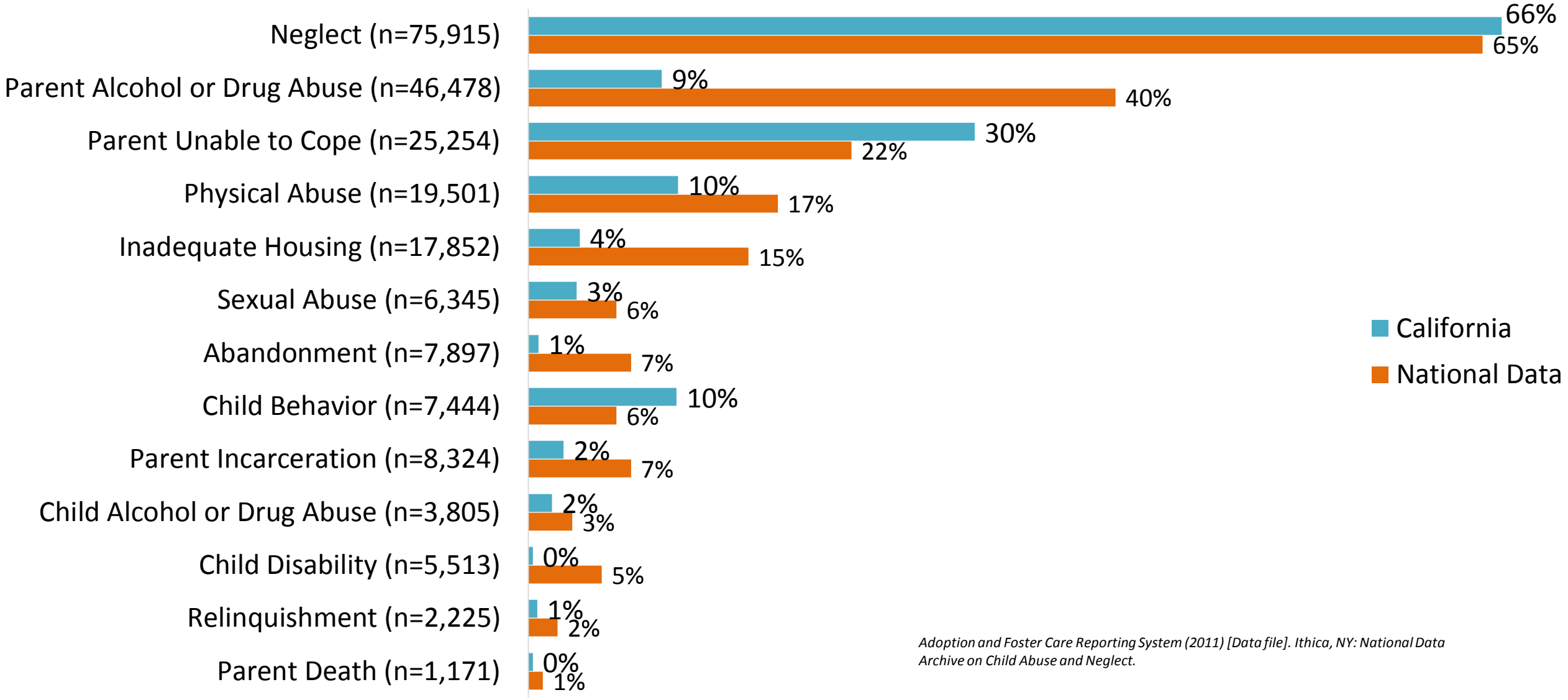
PARENTAL AOD AS REASON FOR REMOVAL IN THE UNITED STATES 1998-2012



= National Data

= California Data

Percent and Number of Children with Terminated Parental Rights by Reason for Removal – 2011



Adoption and Foster Care Reporting System (2011) [Data file]. Ithica, NY: National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect.

Financing Dependency Drug Courts

- **Child Welfare Finance Reform**
- **Title IV-E Waivers**
- **Title 19 Waivers**
- **Affordable Care Act (Medi-Cal Expansion)**
- **Realignment**

Opportunities to Expand Dependency Drug Courts

- Improve data collection for Dependency Drug Courts
- Identify finance opportunities
- Strengthen the collaborative leadership

Child Welfare Council Committees

Presenter: Robert Friend, LCSW

California Child Welfare Council's Permanency Committee

Child Welfare Council Committees

Permanency

Data

Sub-Committee

Dependency Drug Court

Early Intervention and Prevention

Transition to Adulthood

Questions & Discussion