



Alaska Children's Justice Act Task Force

Legislative Lunch and Learn Presentation

February 2014

hss.state.ak.us/ocs/ChildrensJustice/default.htm



Alaska Children's Justice Act Task Force

- ***Mission:** Identify areas where improvement is needed in the statewide response to child maltreatment, particularly child sexual abuse, make recommendations and take action to improve the system.*

ALASKAN CHILDREN IN



UPDATE

Reports to Office of Children's Services

- 28,887 reports of child victims in 2013
- 63% neglect
- 16% mental injury
- 13% physical abuse
- 7% sexual abuse
- Likely significant underestimation

Kids Count Alaska 2011-2012

- Child death rate 31/100,000 (age 1-18)
 - Compared with national average 18/100,000
- Alaska ranked 49th out of all states
- Suicide and homicide were 3rd and 4th most common causes of death

Maternal Infant Mortality Review

Committee

- Evaluates:
 - Preventability
 - Definite, probable, possible abuse, neglect & negligence
- 366 infant deaths 2005-2010
 - 19% maltreatment related
 - Up to 25% if include possible abuse/neglect and probable negligence
- While overall infant mortality has significantly declined, maltreatment related mortality rates are flat

Alaska SCAN

(Surveillance of Child Abuse & Neglect)

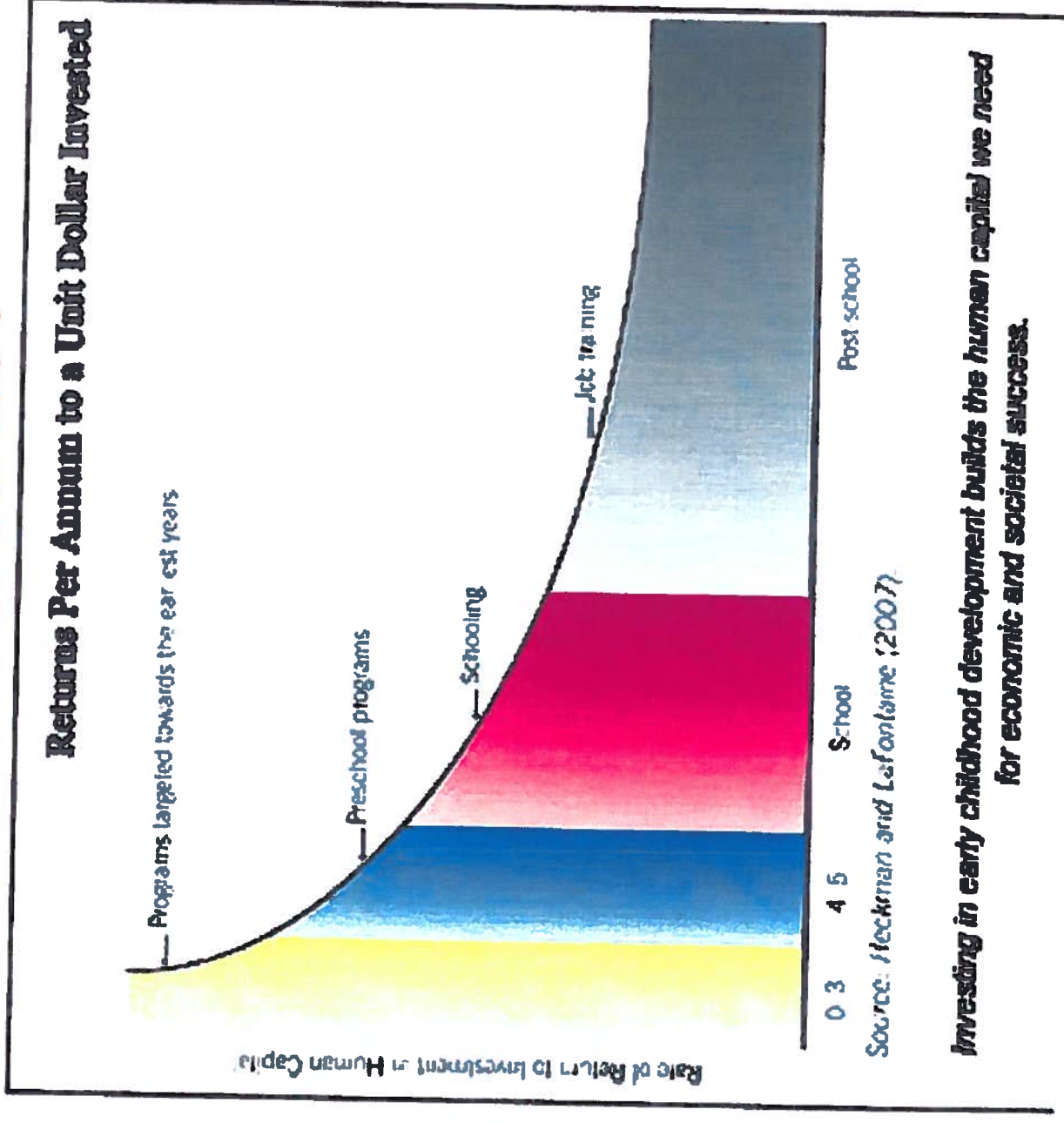
- Maternal report of Intimate Partner Violence in 12 months prior to pregnancy associated with increased risk of child maltreatment report by age 2
- Regardless of marital status, race, maternal educational level, poverty

What does this mean for Alaskans?

- **Cost**
- Prevent Child Abuse America 2012 estimate of national annual cost
 - At least 1.25 million child victims of child maltreatment
 - Includes direct and indirect costs
 - Lifetime costs >\$210,000/child
 - Costs per maltreatment related child death \$1,272,900
 - =>\$80,000,000 each year

What do we need to do?

- Improve prevention efforts in early childhood
- “Genetics is not destiny”

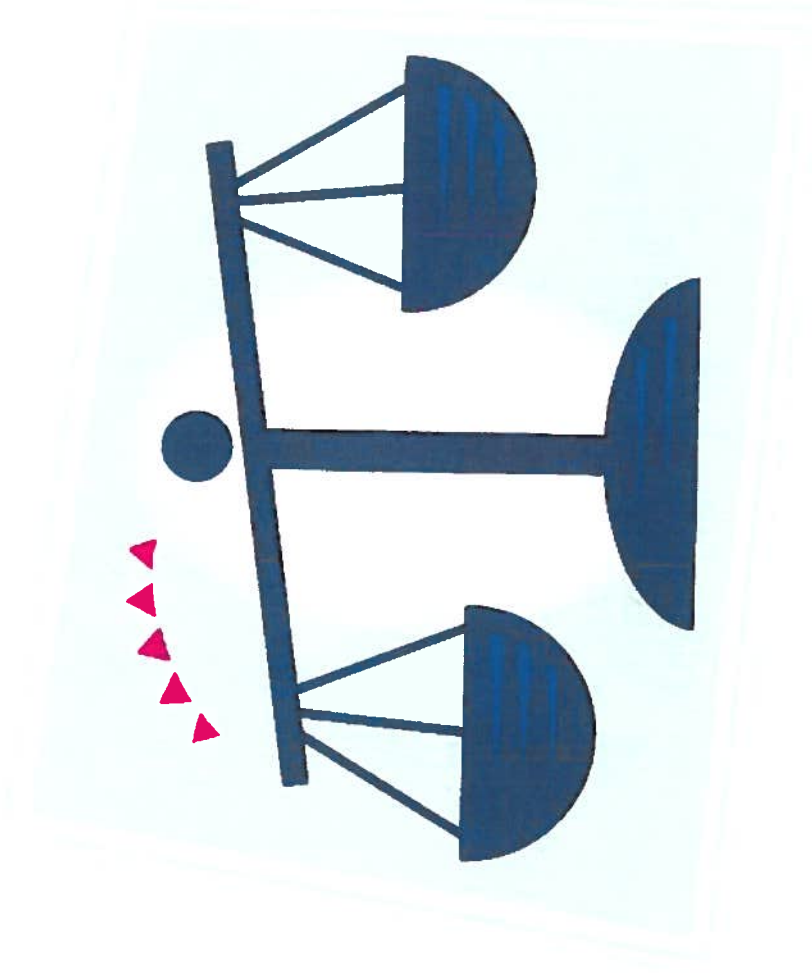


What do we need to do?

- Improve the multidisciplinary team response
- Improve protection for child victims



Recommendations



Improving protection for victims

Problem #2: Inadequate protection of sensitive victim information



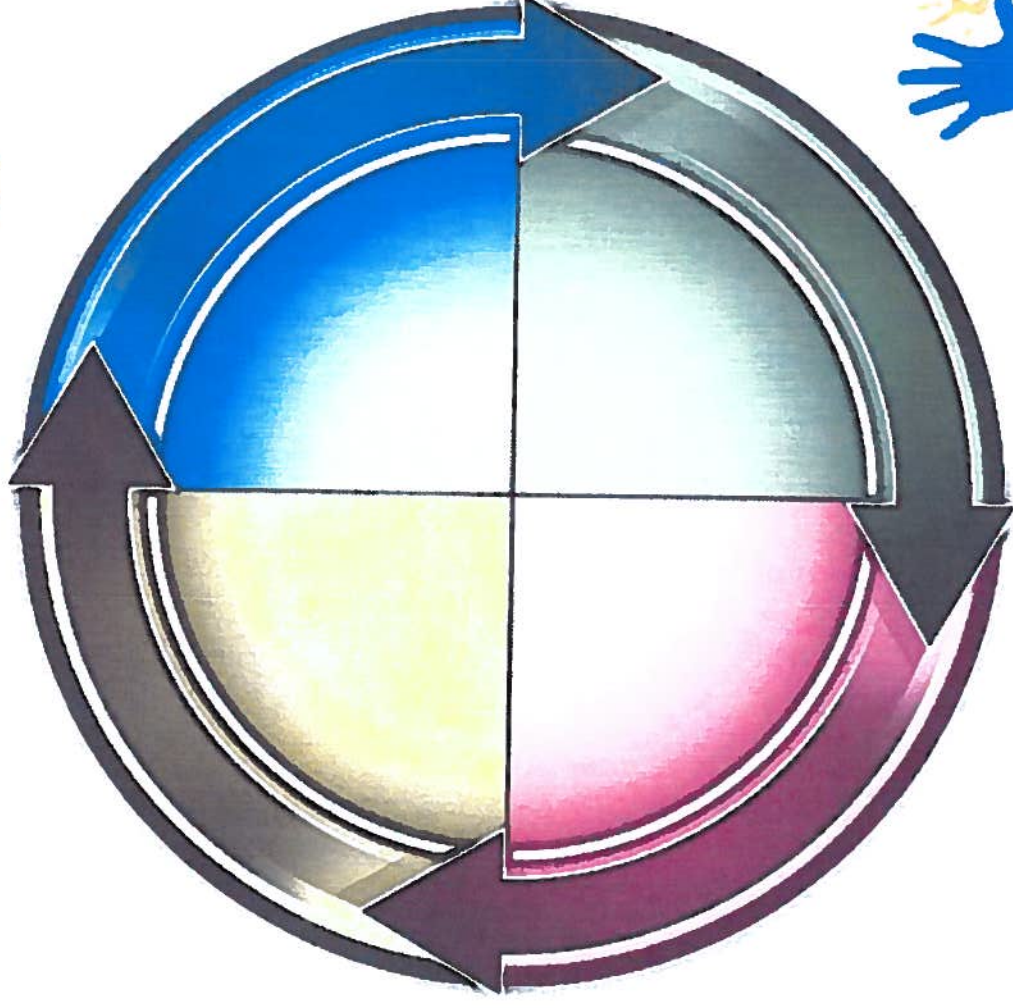
Example 1

- Young child had a videotaped forensic interview at CAC, disclosed multiple types of abuse
- Both criminal and child protection cases
- Copy of DVD released to parent attorneys through discovery process
- Copy of DVD given to parent
- Portions of child's interview posted on YouTube and an internet site

Example 2

- Medical-forensic exam records that include details of child disclosure, exam findings, graphic diagrams, exam photos
- Released through discovery process
- Copy of medical records provided to jailed suspect
- Allows perpetrator to relive experience over and over and share with fellow inmates

Children are re-victimized over and over again



Recommendation: Amend Criminal and Child Protection Discovery Rules

- Prohibits redistribution of:
 - Audio and video recordings of victim interviews
 - Photographs and videos generated during medical exam related to incident
 - Medical records
- Except by court order
- Criminal sanctions for violation