

6-13-1997

Incidence of Substance Abusing Parents in the Child Welfare System

Kathryn Laura Vaudreuil
Augsburg College

Follow this and additional works at: <https://idun.augsburg.edu/etd>



Part of the [Social Work Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Vaudreuil, Kathryn Laura, "Incidence of Substance Abusing Parents in the Child Welfare System" (1997). *Theses and Graduate Projects*. 267.
<https://idun.augsburg.edu/etd/267>

This Open Access Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by Idun. It has been accepted for inclusion in Theses and Graduate Projects by an authorized administrator of Idun. For more information, please contact bloomber@augsbu.edu.

Incidence of Substance Abusing Parents in the Child Welfare System

Kathryn Laura Vaudreuil

**Submitted in partial fulfillment of the
requirement for the degree of
Master of Social Work**

**AUGSBURG COLLEGE
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA**

June 1997

Master of Social Work

Augsburg College

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Certificate of Approval

This is to certify that the Master's thesis of:

Kathryn Laura Vaudreuil

has been approved by the Examining Committee for the thesis requirements for the Master of Social Work Degree.

Date of Oral Presentation: June 13, 1997

Thesis Committee: _____

Thesis Advisor: Maria Dinis, Ph.D

Thesis Reader: Clarice Staff, D.S.W.

Thesis Reader: Jack Jones, L.I.C.S.W.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I wish to thank and dedicate this thesis to my loving parents who gave me the support and encouragement to pursue this goal. Jack Jones, my mentor and friend who inspired me to take on this endeavor. I appreciate all his expertise and guidance along the arduous path. Thank you Maria Dinis, Ph.D., my professor and advisor for all her sincere efforts in assisting me and motivating me this past year. I would like to also recognize Clarice Staff, Ph.D., for being an inspiration to me throughout my stay at Augsburg.

ABSTRACT OF THESIS
THE INCIDENCE OF SUBSTANCE ABUSING FAMILIES
INVOLVED IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM
KATHRYN LAURA VAUDREUIL
JUNE, 1997

There is a significant increase of substance abusing families involved in the child welfare system nationwide and locally, in Minnesota. Many studies suggest that substance abuse is the contributing factor for children placed in foster care by child welfare workers due to child neglect and/or maltreatment reports. This descriptive study examined twenty-two court cases in a large mid western metropolitan county in efforts to determine the incidence of substance abuse on termination of parental rights cases in 1996. Findings from this research project reveal that substance abusing families are frequently cited in termination of parental rights cases. Implications of this phenomena on the social work profession are explored in detail and offer recommendations for service delivery for workers with substance abusing clients.

Table of Contents

Acknowledgments	i
Abstract	ii
Table of Contents	iii
List of Figures	vi
List of Tables	vii
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
Background of Substance Abuse and the Child Welfare System	3
Purpose of Research	4
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	6
Relationship of Parental Substance Abuse to Increased Numbers of Foster Care Placements	6
Link between Child Abuse and Neglect to Parental Substance Abuse	7
Profile of Families Involved in the Child Welfare System	8
Theoretical and Conceptual Framework of the Ecological Perspective	9
Justification of Research	11
Summary	11
CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY	13
Research Design	14
Key Terms and Operational Definitions	14
Study Population	15
Sampling	15
Data Collection	15

Instrumentation	16
Data Analysis	16
Measurement Issues	17
Human Subjects Protection	18
CHAPTER FOUR: FINDINGS	19
Overview	19
Research Question	20
Research Question	26
Research Question	29
Summary	33
CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION	34
Overview	34
Key Findings	34
Comparison of Findings with Literature Studies	36
Strengths and Limitations of Study	37
Relevance to Research Questions	38
CHAPTER SIX: IMPLICATIONS CONCLUSIONS	40
Implications for Social Work Practice	40
Recommendations for Social Work	42
Suggestions for Future Research	44
Summary	44
REFERENCES	46

APPENDICES

49

- Appendix A Questionnaire
- Appendix B IRB Approval from Augsburg

LIST OF FIGURES

Chapter IV

Figure 1		
Demographic Characteristics: Gender		20
Figure 2		
Demographic Characteristics: Marital Status		21
Figure 3		
Demographic Characteristics: Race		22
Figure 4		
Demographic Characteristics: Age of Mother		23
Figure 5		
Demographic Characteristics: Source of Income		24
Figure 6		
Demographic Characteristics: Age of Children		25
Figure 7		
Reasons for Termination of Parental Rights		27
Figure 8		
Previous Removal of Children from the Home		28
Figure 9		
Frequency of Documented Substance Abuse Issue		29
Figure 10		
Drug of Choice for Substance Abusing Families		30
Figure 11		
Treatment Required in Previous Case Plan		31
Figure 12		
Types of Treatment Required		32
Figure 13		
Incidence of Chemical Dependency Among Those With Mental Health Issues		33

LIST OF TABLES

Chapter IV

Table 1	
Family's Prior Involvement with the Child Welfare System	28

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

There is a need to examine the incidence of substance abusing families involved in the child welfare system. Substance abuse is defined as the pattern of using certain drugs, alcohol, medications and toxins despite their adverse effects (Barker, 1995). For this research project, substance abuse pertains to the misuse of and addiction to drugs and alcohol. This paper will describe the incidence of substance abusing parents involved in the child welfare system, the consequences of using various drugs, its relationship to child maltreatment and abuse, recommendations for assessment, service interventions, and treatment intervention strategies for child welfare and human service workers.

The dramatic increase of the number of drug abusing parents has placed a strain on an already overburdened child protective service system (Kelley, 1992). The number of children in foster-care placements have dramatically increased in the past decade due to a substantial increase in reports of child abuse and neglect reports (Dore, Doris, & Wright, 1995). Many authors speculate that the reason is due to the abuse of crack-cocaine, and the fact that it is a highly addictive and potent chemical. Another reason for this increase is the abuse of other mood-altering substances such as alcohol, marijuana, met amphetamines, to name a few mood altering substances.

With the collective child welfare philosophy of "keeping families together whenever possible," workers need to identify and develop effective intervention strategies that will strengthen and equip families with the skills to overcome dependency issues. Child neglect and maltreatment reports indicating parental substance abuse that are received at child welfare agencies, require a worker to intervene and, at times remove the child/children from the custody of their parent (s). When children are temporarily placed outside the home, the worker is required by law to help assist the family to achieve a reunification plan. According to Beckerman (1994), the P.L. 96-272, the

Adoption Assistance Child Welfare Act of 1980, which calls for caseworkers to make efforts to achieve family reunification or provide children with alternatives that promise permanence. The Act requires child welfare agencies to provide services that prevent unnecessary placement and that, in each case, a court must determine that the state agency has made reasonable efforts to prevent or eliminate the need for placement. Workers are also required to develop a case plan after the child is removed; the plan must include parental involvement in the development of the plan.

When extensive measures have been exhausted in working with parents to overcome their substance abuse problem that interferes with their ability to adequately care for their child/children, the child protection worker is required to petition the court to terminate the parental rights. Azzing-Lessing and Olsen (1996) maintain that where renunciation is not feasible, termination of parental rights is sought so alternative permanent plans for the children are made.

Termination of Parental Rights is defined by Clark and Clark (1989) as the determination that it is in the best interest of an abused or neglected child legally to end all ties between the child and his/her biological parents. The authors further maintain that once the parental rights of the child have been terminated, the child is available for adoption by another family. They give some criteria for termination of parental rights cases, and emphasize that these criteria vary according to geographic location; however, they contend that the following examples of grounds are considered sufficient in many areas:

- Abandonment
- Severe alcohol or drug abuse by the parent (s)
- Parent is mentally retarded or seriously mentally ill
- Repeated abuse or neglect of the child

- Child has been in foster care for a significant period of time and the parents either have not made a serious attempt to improve the conditions that led to the child's removal or have not cooperated with plans for the child to return home (Clark & Clark, 1989, p. 183).

Background of Substance Abuse and the Child Welfare System

Historically, alcoholism has been a primary concern in our society, and thus in the social work profession. Mary Richmond, one of the fore mothers of the social work profession, wrote about the importance of the social worker's role in combating alcoholism (Gregoire, 1994). Finkelstein (1994) reports that throughout history, alcoholic and drug abusing women have encountered blame and anger. She further summarized that as recently as 15 years ago, alcoholism and drug abuse were referred to as "men's diseases," and only in the past years has increasing attention been paid to women's substance abuse and use.

Since its inception, the child welfare system has been confronted with alcoholic parents and acts of violence against their children. Deluca (1981) suggests that although child welfare professionals have been aware of the increased risk of violence toward children of alcoholic parents, it has been only recently that the true dimensions of the interaction between substance abuse and violence against children have begun to surface in the professional literature.

Some researchers support the notion that with the advent of crack cocaine, more attention to the needs and issues of the child victims surfaced. The introduction of crack cocaine in the mid-1980s has severely affected the child welfare system. Dore, Doris, and Wright (1994) add that there are many reasons for the impact of crack on the child welfare system and further maintain that crack has had a much greater acceptance among females than other drugs have been such as heroin. Carten (1996) supports Dore, Doris and Wright by concluding that crack cocaine has devastating consequences because of the

and Wright by concluding that crack cocaine has devastating consequences because of the drug's appeal to women, many of childbearing age. Carten reports that during these past 10 years, crack cocaine quickly escalated to epidemic dimensions, and thus the link between maternal drug abuse and child well-being was reflected by the increased number of child protective service reports resulting from substance abuse.

Purpose of Research

The purpose of conducting this research project was to determine the percentage of families affected by substance abuse who are involved in the child welfare system.

Research Questions: The research questions were: What is the profile of families whose parental rights were terminated in a midwestern, metropolitan county in 1996? What percentage of parents whose parental rights were terminated were the result of substance abuse issues? The literature review will focus on a national view of chemical abuse and its relationship to factors resulting in families entering the child welfare system. The research project will examine the parents in a mid western state county where the parents had their parental rights terminated due to their substance abuse addiction. The profile of families involved in child protection system will be explored and compared to research. After gathering the necessary data linking substance abuse to the increased numbers of families involved in the child welfare system; recommendations for practice will follow. The implications of this issue on the social work profession will be explored and will detail measures workers can take to effectively deal with this growing dilemma.

In summary, this chapter introduced the concept of termination of parental rights as being a severe consequence for substance abusing parents who are abusive, neglectful or who are not adequately caring for their children. Criteria for termination of parental rights cases were outlined according to examples illustrated by Clark & Clark (1989). A historical view of substance abuse and the child welfare system was highlighted in addition to the rapid introduction of illicit chemicals such as crack cocaine.

The next chapter explores the relationship of substance abuse to increased numbers of foster care placements; the link between child abuse and neglect to substance abuse; the profile of families involved in the child welfare system; and the application of the ecological theory for working with substance abusing parents.

CHAPTER II: LITERATURE REVIEW

In this chapter, the literature review will focus on a national view of chemical abuse and its relationship to factors resulting in families entering the child welfare system. The literature reviewed for this study included three categories. They are:

- Relationship of parental substance abuse to increased numbers of foster-care placements
- Link between child abuse and neglect to substance abuse
- Profile of families involved in the child welfare system

In addition, a theoretical and conceptual framework (i.e., ecological perspective) is discussed.

Relationship of Parental Substance Abuse to Increased Numbers of Foster Care Placements

Recent studies cite substance abuse as the contributing factor for children placed in foster care by child welfare workers due to child neglect and/or maltreatment reports. The Child Welfare League of America (1991) contend that substance abuse is the key factor in the increased number of out-of-home placements, and Gustavsson (1991) asserts that some urban areas have witnessed a substantial increase in children entering foster care because of parental substance abuse.

Curtis and McCullough (1993) reference a research survey conducted by the Child Welfare League of America which surveyed its member agencies to determine the effects that the abuse of drugs and alcohol have on the child welfare system. The workers surveyed indicated that 57% of their clientele have issues of substance abuse issues. The authors discovered that there are severe strains in the family foster care system resulting from parental substance abuse issues. They report that problems related to parental substance abuse contribute to the number of children needing foster care, and further

increases the length of time the children spend in care, and complicate efforts aimed at reuniting the families.

The numbers equated to substance abuse and increased foster-care placements vary due to the geographic locations of research. Feig (1990) contends that local estimates of child protective services involving parental substance abuse range up to 80%, whereas a report conducted by the United States General Accounting Office (1990) identified that the demand for foster care nationwide has increased nearly 30%. Nationally, between 1987- 1989, the number of children in foster care rose from 280,000 to 360,000, an increase of 29% (Dore, Doris & Wright, 1994). The Committee on Children, Youth, and Families (1989) report that during a six year period in the 1980s, Los Angeles County experienced a 500% increase in the number of children entering foster care because of parental drug use, and in other counties, drug exposed children comprise two-thirds of the foster care caseload.

The numbers indicating children in foster care due to parental substance abuse are staggering. Some literature studies suggest that children of color have an increased risk of foster care placements due to parental substance abuse. Gustavsson (1989) reports that data from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) state that whites are more likely to use drugs than blacks or Hispanics, but she further contends that minority children are at an elevated risk for placement due to parental drug use. Systemic inequities will be explored in the proceeding chapters.

Link between Child Abuse and Neglect to Parental Substance Abuse

The role that parental substance abuse plays in cases of child neglect and abuse is gaining more attention in recent studies. Children and families are referred to local child welfare agencies because of reports of neglect and child maltreatment and oftentimes, the perpetrators are documented substance abusers. Murphy, et al (1991) report that a study was conducted in Boston which examined the prevalence and types of parental

substance abuse in a sample of 206 cases of serious child abuse or neglect that were brought before a metropolitan court on care and protection petitions. In 43% of the cases, at least one of the parents had a documented problem with either alcohol or drugs; the figure rose to 50% when alleged instances of parental substance abuse were included. The authors claim that parental substance abuse had been so clearly and consistently associated with child mistreatment that the Boston Juvenile Court, like other family courts, now accepts serious, untreated substance abuse as evidence that parents cannot adequately provide for their children. The authors further concluded in their study that parents with documented substance abuse histories were more likely than other parents to be repeat offenders with regard to child abuse and neglect to fail through on court ordered services and eventually to lose custody of their children.

The National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse estimate that 675,000 children are seriously mistreated annually by an alcoholic or drug abusive caretaker (Kelley, 1992). They further report that state protective agency records indicate that substance abuse is a factor in 80-90% of all reports. Daro and McDurdy (1991) assert that among confirmed cases of child maltreatment, 40% nationwide involved parental substance abuse. Famularo et al (1986) conducted a controlled study of the link between parental alcoholism and severe child maltreatment which required court ordered removal of the child from the home. The authors discovered an over representation of alcoholism in the parent population.

Profile of Families Involved in the Child Welfare System

The profile of families involved in the child welfare system due to substance abuse is repeatedly cited as being: single family households, women of color, low economic status, and women of child bearing years. Carten (1996) contends that through a qualitative, exploratory study examining outcomes of 20 women who had successfully completed a family rehabilitation program as an alternative to placement, the profile of

the 20 women were: 85% women of color, 85% recipients of AFDC, and 65% had completed high school. In a study conducted in one mid-west state, the researchers discovered that the women referred to Child Protective Services (CPS) were more likely to be younger, or minority status, financially stressed, and experiencing problem with the criminal justice system (Gustavsson & Rycraft, 1993).

In another evaluation study based on a community-based program, (Project Connect) targeting families at-risk for out-of-home placement and/or termination of parental rights, a sample of 66 parents and 176 children was conducted. As opposed to the evaluation of New York City's Family Rehabilitation Program, the families involved in the Project Connect Program were primarily white, the ages ranged from 19-38, of low economic status, and with the majority of participants being AFDC recipients.

Theoretical and Conceptual Framework of the Ecological Perspective

This section of the literature review will explore the application of the ecological perspective for working with at-risk, substance abusing families. A common theme cited in literature studies relates to the need for workers to take an ecological perspective when working with substance abusing and at-risk clients. The ecological perspective which was most fully developed by Bronfenbrenner conceived that an individual develops within a network of environmental systems each of which are nested inside the next (Segal & Iverson, 1990). Garbarino (1982) defines the ecological perspective as "viewing individuals and their environments as mutually shaping systems, each changing over time, each adapting to response to change in the other" (p.16).

The environmental, societal and cultural factors influencing an individual's coping is supported by the ecological perspective. Segal & Iverson (1990) concede that the intimate relationship between the parent and child cannot be understood without recognizing the influence that conditions surrounding the family (community, culture, national events, affect the interaction between child and parent.

In terms of viewing the substance abusing family, the ecological framework can be utilized in hopes for fully understanding the external dynamics involved in the family system. Gustavsson & Rycraft (1993) contend that effective worker interventions require an ecological perspective. Through this perspective, the drug dependent mother is seen in the context of her environment, and by taking this view point, workers can identify and consider the stresses and obstacles the clients face, and then can design interventions by acknowledging the external factors. Gustavsson (1991) describes the ecological perspective as one that views chemical abuse as one element in a person's life, and the environment that many families are surrounded by has been unresponsive to their multiple needs and may have negatively contributed to outcomes such as chemical abuse. She recommends that workers utilize interventions that require an assessment of the environment and the capacities, resources, and needs of the individual (1991). With this approach, clients are enabled to work towards their goals because when considering a client's strengths and limitations, a more realistic case plan can be established, and success is easily achieved.

The Emergency Services Child Abuse Prevention Program (ESCAPP), a federally funded research demonstration project adapted Bloom's conceptual framework for working with families affected by parental substance abuse issues (Blau, Whewell, Gullotta & Bloom. 1994).

Bloom's (1990) conceptual framework of the human experience takes on an ecological approach and can be applied to working with substance abusing families. This theory that can be conceived of as a cube defined by its six sides: (1) personal strengths; (2) personal limitations; (3) social supports; (4) social stresses; (5) physical environment resources; and (6) environmental pressures (1990). The authors express that "by putting this model into practice, the ESCAP's fundamental goals were to construct a method for identifying substance-abusing families, allow rapid entrance of the families to services that

seek to stabilize the current situation, and improve the likelihood of positive long-term functioning by linking families to ongoing supports and services" (Blau, Whewell, Gullotta & Bloom, 1994, p. 86). They further state that by assisting substance-abusing families to supportive services, ESCAPP can aim to prevent and arrest potential child abuse and thus increase the resiliency-related skills of the children served.

Justification of Research

As the literature review reveals, a large number of families in the child welfare system have parental substance abuse issues. It has been noted that the increased rates for foster care placements can be attributed to parental substance abuse. These reasons stem from increased neglect and maltreatment reports warranting removal of children from the parents' homes. The research studies did not demonstrate a correlation between parental substance abuse and termination of parental rights. There was scant literature found on termination of parental rights and substance abuse which prompted the researcher to conduct a study in a county where she has interned and experienced the pervasiveness of substance abuse among families that did relinquish their parental rights, both voluntary and involuntary.

Due to the researcher's observation of actual cases involving parents and substance abuse issues, a profound interest was taken in assessing the resources aimed at helping families to become reunited. This search was conducted through literature studies focusing primarily on the West and East Coasts. The recommendations based from studies of various program targeted at families at -risk for losing custodial rights, will be provided to the midwest county where this study was conducted.

Summary

The themes presented in this chapter reflect the serious nature of substance abuse and its impact on families, the system and the community. The theoretical and conceptual framework incorporated the ecological perspective which views clients in

terms of their environment. This theory can be successfully integrated in service delivery for at-risk, substance abusing families. The next chapter will discuss the methods employed in devising a research project on termination of parental rights cases.

CHAPTER III - METHODOLOGY

This chapter discusses the manner in which a survey questionnaire design was developed to collect data that answers the research questions. Operational definitions of key concepts are described in addition to a description of the sampling, instrumentation, data collection and analysis procedures utilized for purposes of this research.

The purpose of this research project was to conduct a descriptive study to provide the statistical rate of custodial parents involved in the child welfare system that lost their parental rights due to parental substance abuse issues. This research study explored the profile of parents whose parental rights were terminated in 1996 in a large, mid western metropolitan area.

The primary focus of this study was to examine the prevalence of parental substance abuse and its correlation to the termination of parental rights. Scant literature reveals a relationship between parental substance abuse and termination of parental rights which prompted the researcher to devise a project utilizing actual court cases to illustrate this issue. Literature studies revealed that parental substance abuse issues was the cause of increased foster care placements resulting from child abuse and neglect. The literature review showed a scarcity of information about the impact that parental substance abuse has on termination of parental rights cases. The gaps or areas not covered in literature studies will be addressed through this project that will focus on the following research questions: Does the profile of custodial parents whose parental rights were terminated coincide with other studies found in the literature? Of the families who lost their parental rights in 1996, what percentage resulted from substance abuse issues? Do the families whose parental rights were relinquished have a prior history with the child protective system? Were the families given an opportunity to seek treatment?

Research Design

The basis for conducting this descriptive research design was to provide a systematic framework for the collection and analysis of the data. Several variables were examined to determine the percentage of cases of termination of parental rights that were impacted by substance abuse issues. A quantitative survey research design was utilized to obtain information through a 12-item survey of data from closed case files regarding termination of parental rights cases.

This was a descriptive study which utilized survey research design methods to collect quantitative data to answer the research questions.

Key Terms and Operational Definitions

A number of terms are used when referring to families involved in the child welfare system and who are at-risk for losing their parental rights. For the purpose of this study, the following definitions are provided:

Substance abuse - refers to a maladaptive pattern of using drugs, alcohol, medications for non-therapeutic purposes despite their adverse effects.

Termination of Parental Rights - pertains to the court absolving the parent (s) authority and responsibility for their children due to parent's failure to adhere to proposed case plans, and failure to protect their children from potential danger. In the sample population, the families had lost their parental rights in 1996.

Court Cases- are the documents devised and petitioned by child protection workers and court officials indicating the allegations of failure of parents to protect children from danger.

Midwest County - is comprised of a mid-western and large metropolitan area from which the sample population was selected.

Age - refers to the caregiver's age at his/her last birthday.

Race - connotes the racial/ cultural heritage to which the care giver identifies.

Source of Income -refers to the care giver(s)'method of receiving financial resources.

Study Population

The study population for this research project consisted of 23 individuals from diverse backgrounds, representing the African American, Caucasian, Hispanic/Latino, and Native American groups. The individuals were between the ages of 16 to 45 years of age.

Sampling

The data was collected through a simple single stage sample which was obtained through a list of the 61 parents whose parental rights were terminated in 1996 in a large mid western, metropolitan county. A random sample of 53 cases was drawn by placing a code next to the list of names that were in alphabetical order. Every odd number was selected by the principal investigator. The units of analysis are families who lost their parental rights. The study population for this research project consisted of 23 individuals from diverse backgrounds, between the ages of 16 to 45 years. The sample is not necessarily representative of the population at large. This descriptive study involved reviewing case files by completing a 12-item survey containing both nominal and ordinal variables.

Data Collection

After receiving permission from the officials in the midwestern county, the principal investigator wrote out 53 of the names of the parents listed on a sheet whose rights were terminated in 1996. After each name, a numeric code was assigned to the corresponding name. A random sample table was drawn and 27 cases were selected by a child abuse worker by using this table. The principal investigator then reviewed 22 cases and used a 12-item survey instrument. An internal audit was occurring at the agency during the data collection process limiting the number of cases that were accessible to researcher.

Instrumentation

A 12-item survey instrument was developed consisting of both nominal and interval data. The questions included identifying the number of out-of-home-placements, age of care giver, income source, racial heritage, reason for termination of parental rights, prior removal of children, and ages of children. The survey was developed to help identify the profile of custodial parents whose parental rights had been terminated. Demographic characteristics were included such as age, ethnicity, gender and source of income. The survey consisted of two open-ended questions and ten close-ended questions. Areas explored in the questionnaire included demographic information, the reason parental rights were terminated, whether these families had previously been involved in the child welfare system, and if they had been required to undergo treatment for parental substance abuse as part of their case plan. Descriptive statistics were used to answer each research question. Aggregate data is presented in chart form.

Data Analysis

The survey questionnaire gathered quantitative data. The findings are illustrated in both narrative and chart forms. A spreadsheet was devised as a method to analyze the variables and to view the patterns and trends of the responses.

Measurement Issues

Systematic Error During the data collection process there is always an area of concern for researchers. The potential for systematic error was reduced in this project since the principal investigator was completing a survey by reviewing case files. This procedure involved quantitative methods; however, if qualitative methods had been used, the degree of bias during the collection phase would have been greater. This project involved measuring what was intended through using a survey instrument to facilitate process.

Random Error During this project, the researcher yielded the same results each time a survey was completed. The random error possibility could have been reduced had

another researcher duplicated the data collection procedure in effort to determine if the same results would be achieved.

External Validity Rubin and Babbie (1993) define external validity as "referring to the extent to which we can generalize the findings of a study to settings and populations beyond the study conditions" (p.697). In terms of this research project, the information gathered can not be generalized to other geographical regions. Several factors are involved such as the fact that this study was completed in a metropolitan area and thus consists of a diverse group whereas if the results were applied to a homogeneous population in another county (i.e. rural), they would not be valid or representative of the population.

Internal Validity This research project did not include triangulation of the data which could have included various data collection techniques such as interviews with actual child protection workers and observations. These other methods could have enhanced the meaning and would have provided more of a rounded, in-depth understanding of the substance abuse issue which would have increased the overall validity of this project.

Reliability Since the research method utilized for this project involved reviewing case records, the same results would be yielded each time data was extracted from the cases and placed on a survey questionnaire. Reliability could have been increased by having another researcher cross-check data collection techniques.

Levels of Measurement

Nominal Levels consisted of the categorical data such as marital status, gender, race, income source, and yes/no questions. The interval variable consists of the number of children awarded to the state, found on question six of the survey instrument. The ratio variable included ages. The variables used in this project can be classified as being either discrete or continuous. Age is a continuous, ratio variable, (Rubin & Babbie, 1993). The nominal and interval level variables are discrete.

Human Subjects Protection

The principal researcher did not come into contact with any of the clients served by this county. The study only consisted of reviewing case records. The records of this study are confidential and will not become a part of the parent's case file. In an attempt to protect the anonymity of the participants, no published reports will include the names or any identifying information about the cases. A number was assigned to each case and was used in analysis. The raw data was accessible only to the researcher.

CHAPTER IV - FINDINGS

OVERVIEW

This chapter describes the findings of the survey questionnaire. In 1996, 61 families lost their parental rights. The researcher was given access to 53 cases through a list of case names. The researcher coded every case and randomly selected 27 cases. Of the 27 cases randomly selected, 22 were accessible for reviewing due to an internal audit occurring within the human service agency while the research was being conducted. Findings will be presented first with the characteristics of custodial parents whose rights were terminated in 1996, which consists of demographic information. The remainder of this findings section encompasses the quantitative data for the questions pertaining to the reasons for parental rights being terminated in 1996 and the percentage of custodial parents who had documented substance abuse issues.

Research Question 1. What was the profile of custodial parents whose parental rights were terminated in 1996?

The study was composed of custodial parents whose parental rights were terminated in 1996. Of these parents, 96% were female with 4% being males. (Figure 1)

Figure 1

Demographic Characteristics: Gender N= 23

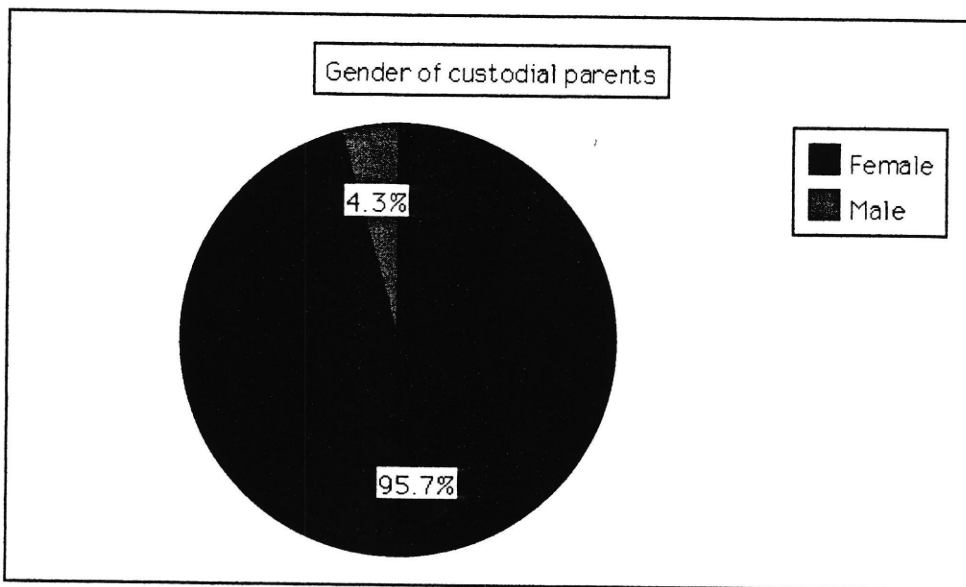


Figure 2 presents the marital status of 23 custodial parents who were surveyed for this study. As the table illustrates, 65% were single, with 4% being married, and 30% being separated or divorced and there were no widowed persons at the time that their parental rights were terminated. There was one married couple surveyed for this project.

Figure 2

Demographic Characteristic: Marital Status N=23

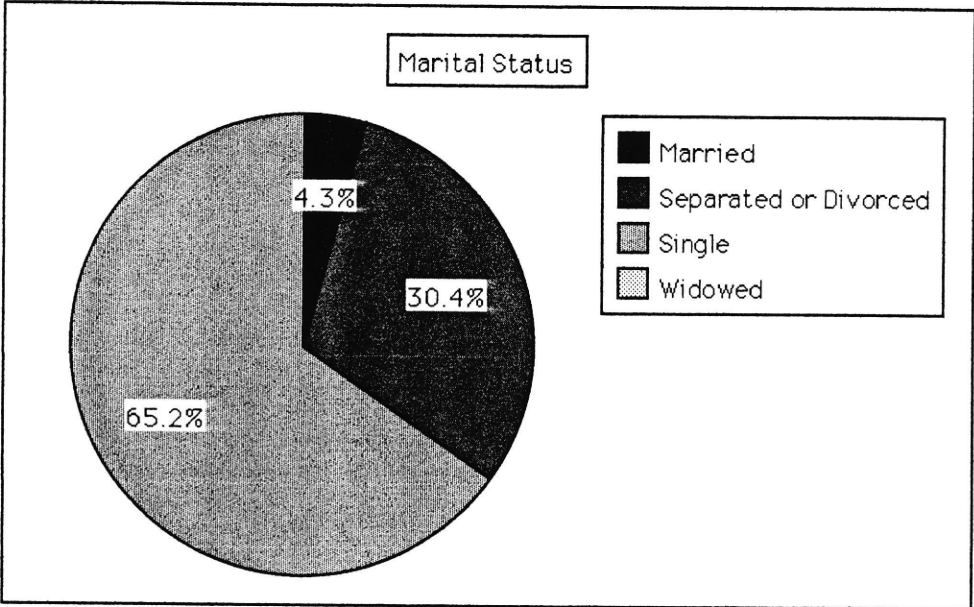


Figure 3 pertains to the ethnicity of the custodial parents whose parental rights were terminated in 1996. As the table demonstrates, 52% of the parents were African American; 39% were Caucasian; 4% were Hispanic/Latino; 4% were Native American. None of the study participants identified themselves as being Southeast Asian or as Bi-racial.

Figure 3

Demographic Characteristic: Race N=23

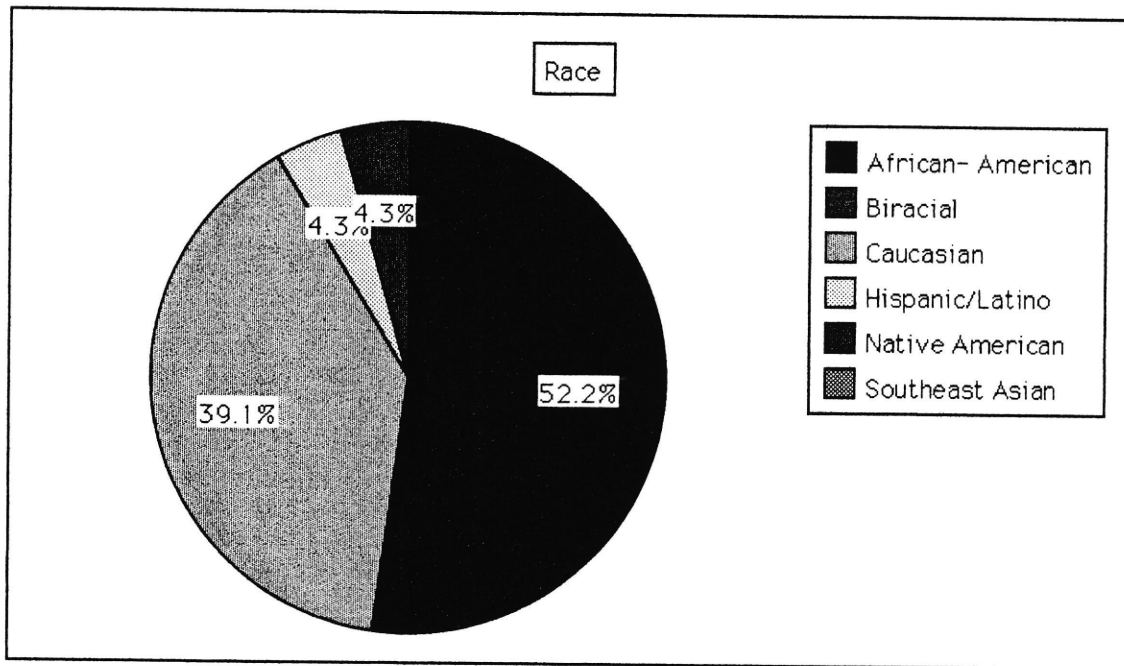


Figure 4 represents the ages of the custodial mothers at birth of their first child. Of the 22 women surveyed, only 19 of the cases had the age of mother at birth of first child available to researcher. As indicated on the table, 47% of the women were between 20-23; 21% of the women gave birth between the ages of 12 - 15; 16% gave birth between 16 - 19; and 16% were between 28-35 years of age at birth of their first child. None of the women surveyed were between 24 - 27 or between 36-40.

Figure 4

Demographic Characteristic: Age of mother at birth of first child. N= 19

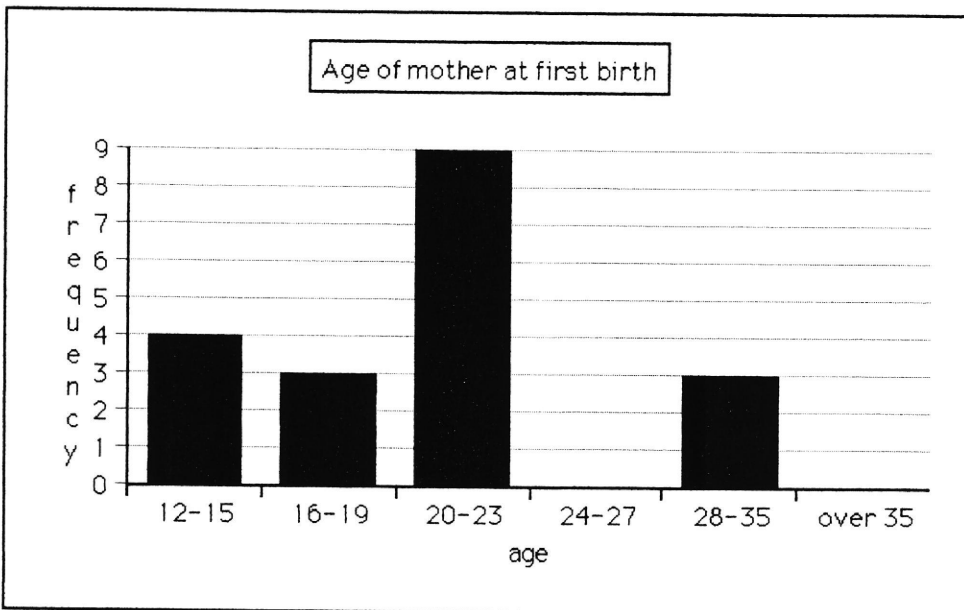


Figure 5 represents the income source that the custodial parents had when their parental rights were terminated in 1996. Of the 22 cases survey, 16 contained income information. Of the clients surveyed, 56% were on AFDC; 18% received income from employment; equal proportions from Supplemental Security Income and Social Security, 6%; and 12% from selling drugs and/or engaging in prostitution. There were no reports of source of income from alimony or trust funds.

Figure 5

Demographic Characteristics: Source of Income N=16

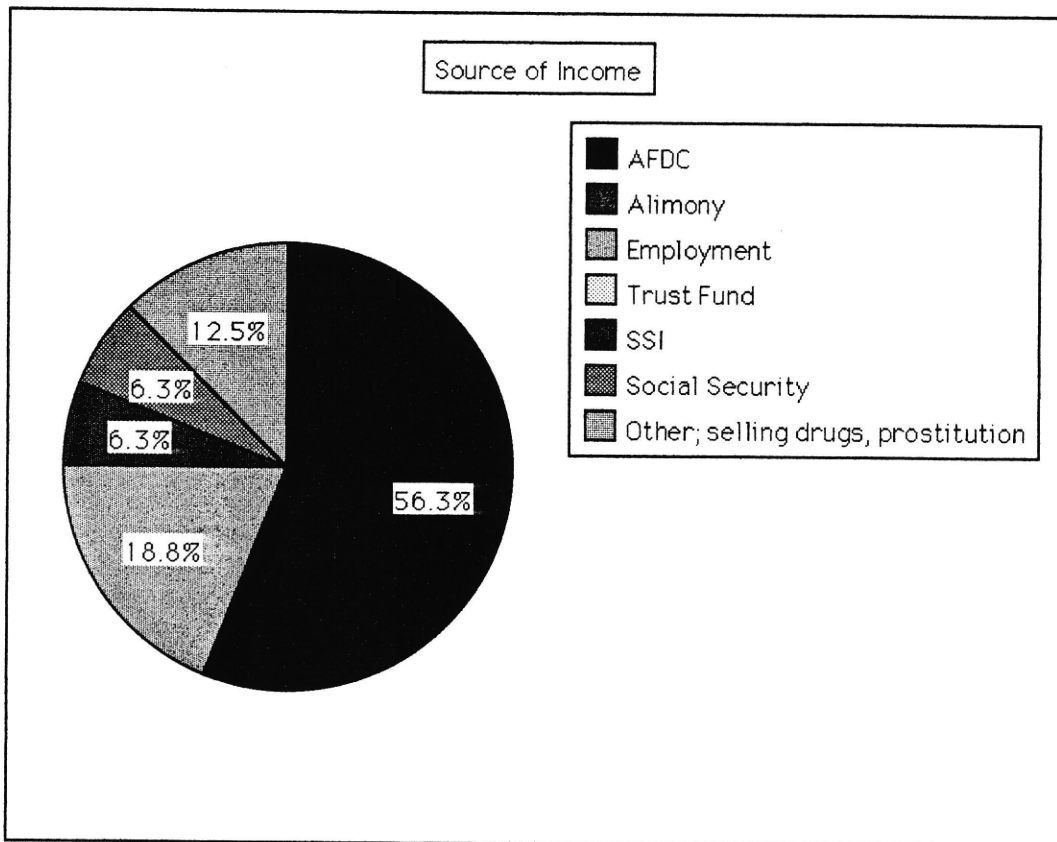
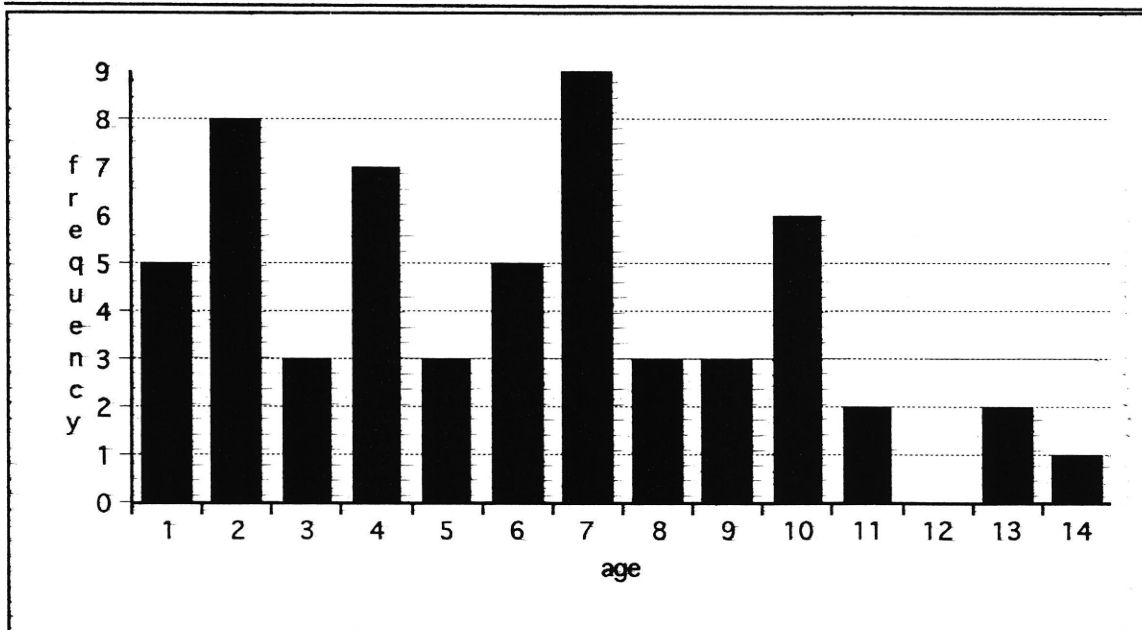


Figure 6 illustrates the number and ages of the children that were awarded to the state as a result of termination of parental rights cases in 1996. Of the 22 cases, 57 children were awarded to the state. Of the 22 cases, 57 children were awarded to the state. These ages included 5-age 1; 8-age 2; 3-age 3; 7-age 4; 3-age 5; 5-age 6; 9-age 7; 3 age 8; 3-age 9; 6-age 10; 2-age 11; 0-12; 2-age 13; and 1-age 14.

The median age was 6 years old.

Figure 6

Demographic Characteristics: Age of Children Awarded to State N= 57



Research Question 2: What were the reasons for parental rights to be terminated in 1996?

As figure 7 exemplifies, the primary reason for termination of parental rights includes parental substance abuse issues. There were several reasons for parents to lose their custodial rights and a combination of factors was commonly indicated in case files. Of the cases surveyed 15/22 (68%) involved substance abuse as reason parents rights were terminated; 7/22 (32%) of the cases involving the parent's mental health issues; an additional 32% of cases revealed that the reason for termination resulted from child neglect; physical abuse was cited as being involved in 6/22 (27%) of the cases; parenting deficits occurred in 4/22 (18%) of the cases; and parents being incarcerated affected 3/22 (14%) of families; and finally the criminal activity of parents, prostitution, selling drugs were 9% of reported to impact the cases with sexual abuse resulting in 2/22 (9%) of families.

Figure 7

Reasons for Termination of Parental Rights N=22

- A. Chemical dependency
- B. Mental Health Issues
- C. Neglect
- D. Physical Abuse
- E. Parenting Deficits
- F. Parents Incarcerated
- G. Criminal Activity of Parents
- H. Prostitution
- I. Selling Drugs
- J. Sexual Abuse
- K. Failure to Thrive
- L. Parents Unable to Cope

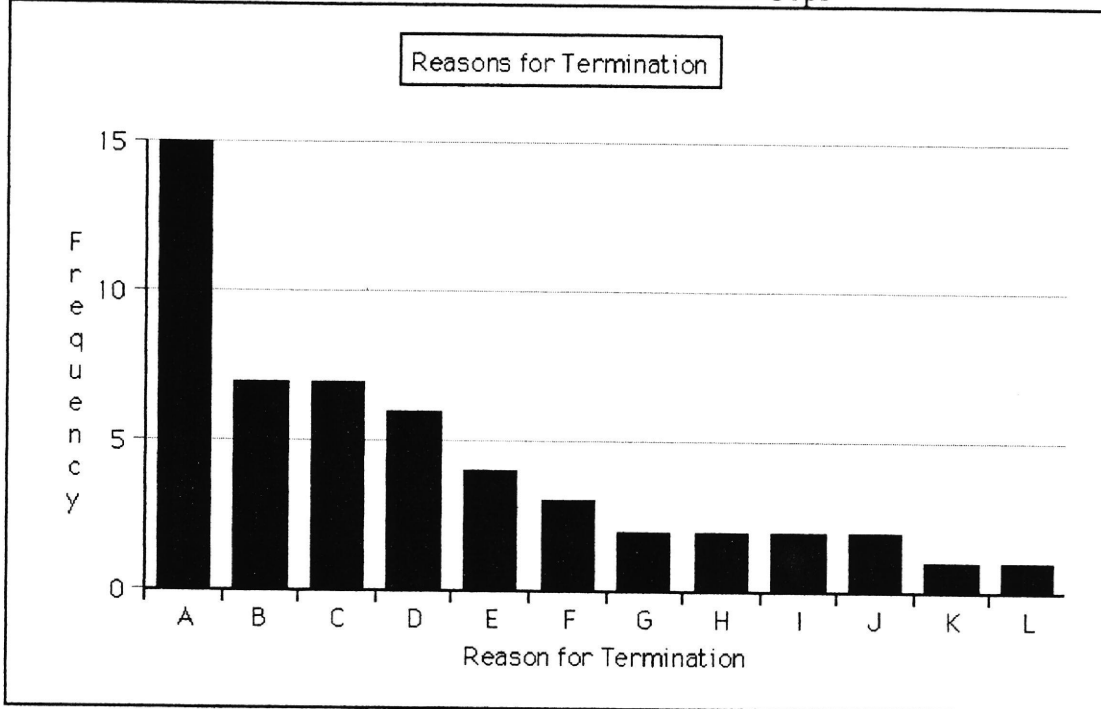


Table 1

Family's Prior Involvement with the Child Welfare System N= 22

Table 1 represents the number of cases that had previous involvement with the child welfare system before having parental rights taken away. Of the 22 cases surveyed, a great percentage, (91%) of the families had a history with the Child Welfare System and 9% had no previous involvement.

Table 1

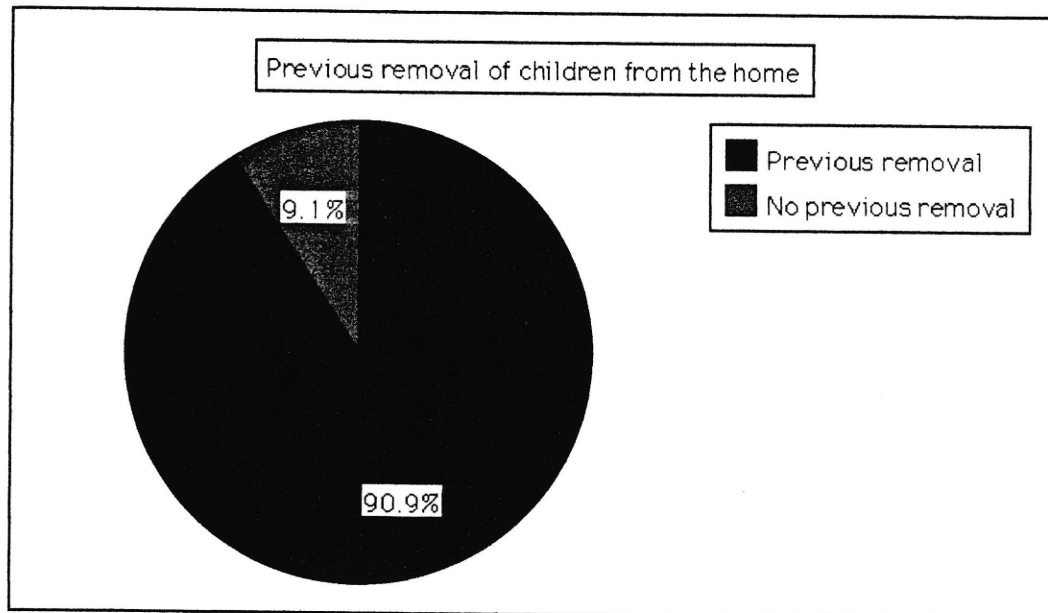
Family's Prior Involvement with the Child Welfare System N= 22

<u>Study Population</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Prior Involvement	20	91
No Prior Involvement	2	9

As figure 8 demonstrates, 91% of the families previously had their children removed from the home, and 9% did not have a history of having children removed from the home.

Previous Removal of Children From the Home N=22

Figure 8



Research Question 3: What percentage of custodial parents that lost their parental rights in 1996 had documented substance abuse issues?

Figure 9 shows that 68% of the custodial parents that were surveyed for this project had substance abuse issues, and 32% were indicated as having other reasons for losing their parental rights in 1996.

Figure 9
Frequency of Documented Substance Abuse Issues N=22

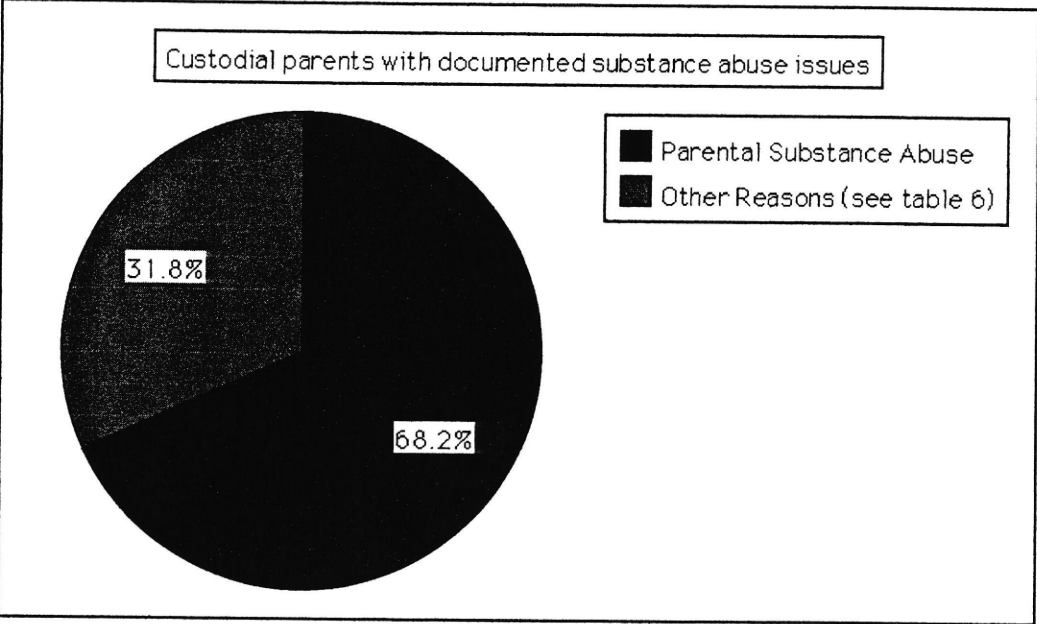


Figure 10 demonstrates the prevalence of crack cocaine as the drug of choice for families whose parental rights were terminated, (40%). As this table specifies, crack is the major drug cited in termination of parental rights cases, 40%; alcohol abuse is found in 13.3% of cases; marijuana constitutes 6.7%; and 40% of cases did not specify the type of substance that the custodial parent was abusing. Alcohol was a substance indicated in twice as many of the cases as marijuana.

Figure 10

Drug of Choice for Substance Abusing Families N=15

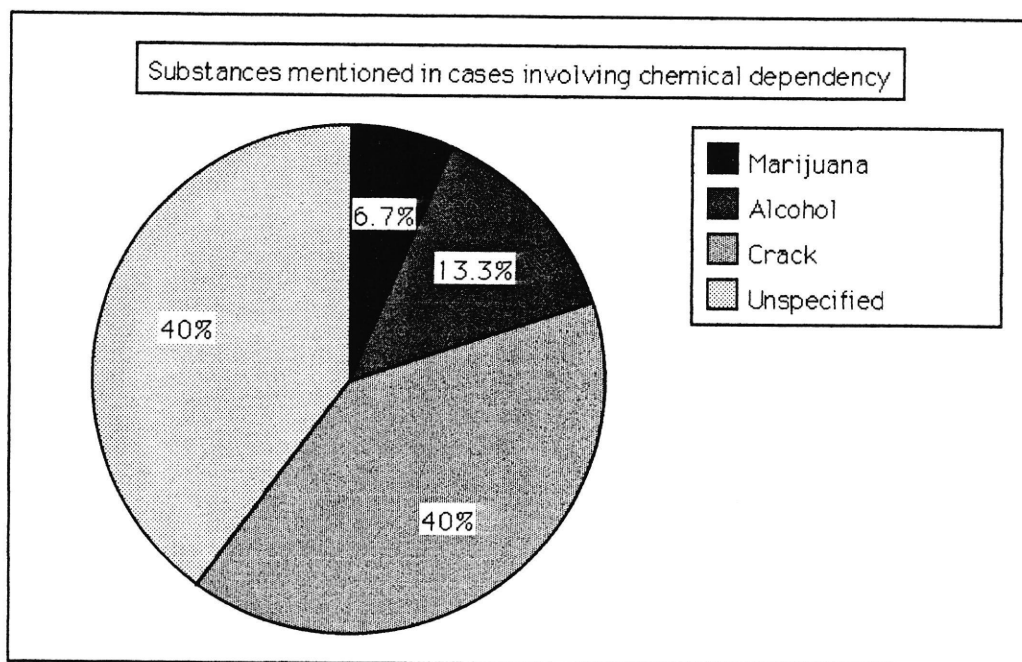


Figure 11 shows that in 19/22 (83%) were previously required to under-go treatment for chemical dependency, mental health, parenting, criminal and maltreatment issues to name a few. Only 2 (9%) of the custodial parents surveyed were not required to go to treatment and 2 of the cases did not indicate as to whether or not the individuals were required to go to some form of treatment.

Figure 11

Treatment Required in Previous Case Plan N=23

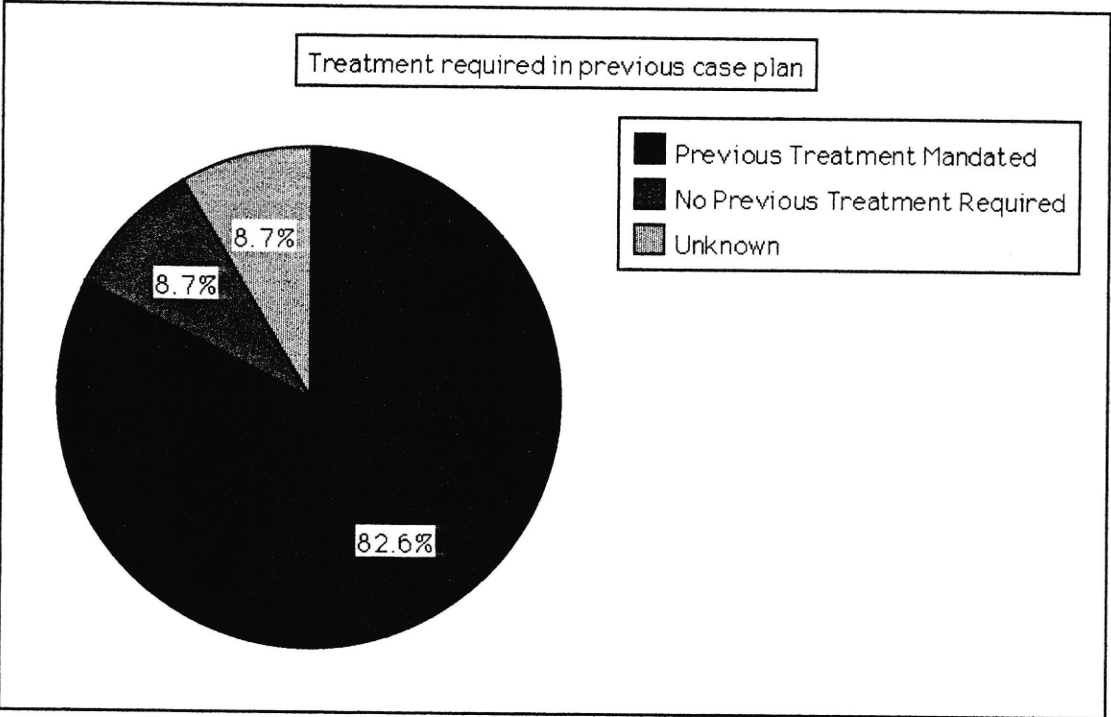


Figure 12 outlined the types of treatment required for families who were monitored by child protection workers and given a case plan to make efforts towards reunification with their children. Among the treatment required for 22 families, (62%) were mandated to undergo chemical dependency treatment; (29%) were referred for mental health treatment; and (19%) were referred for parenting classes and programs. The numbers here are redundant because some of the clients were required to attend both parenting in conjunction with chemical dependency treatment.

Figure 12

Types of Treatment Required N=22

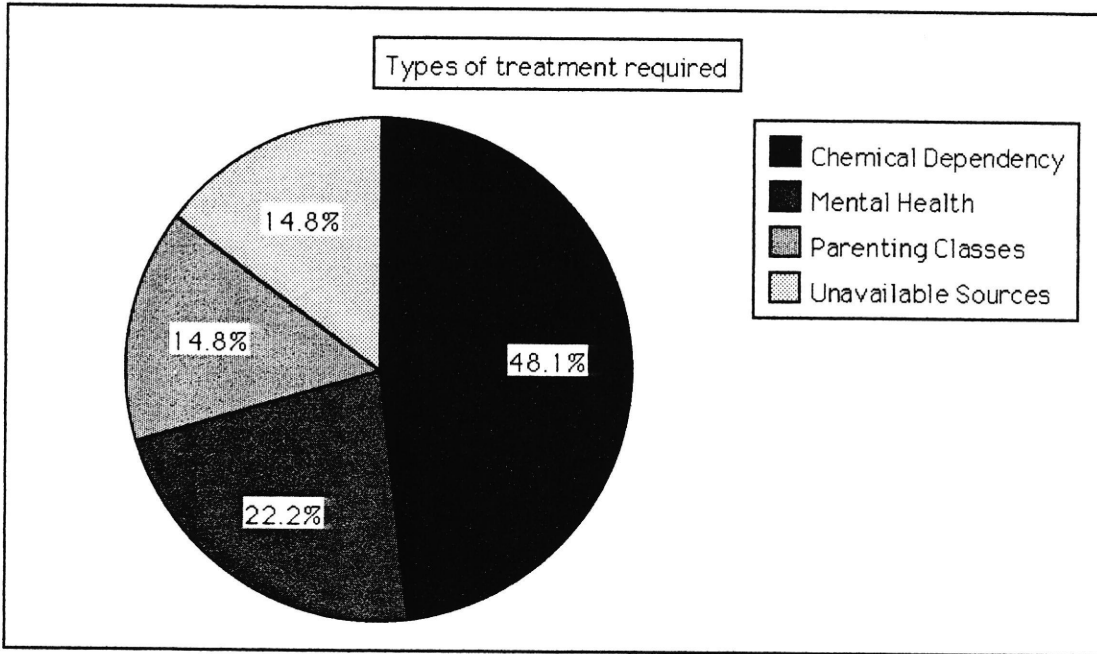
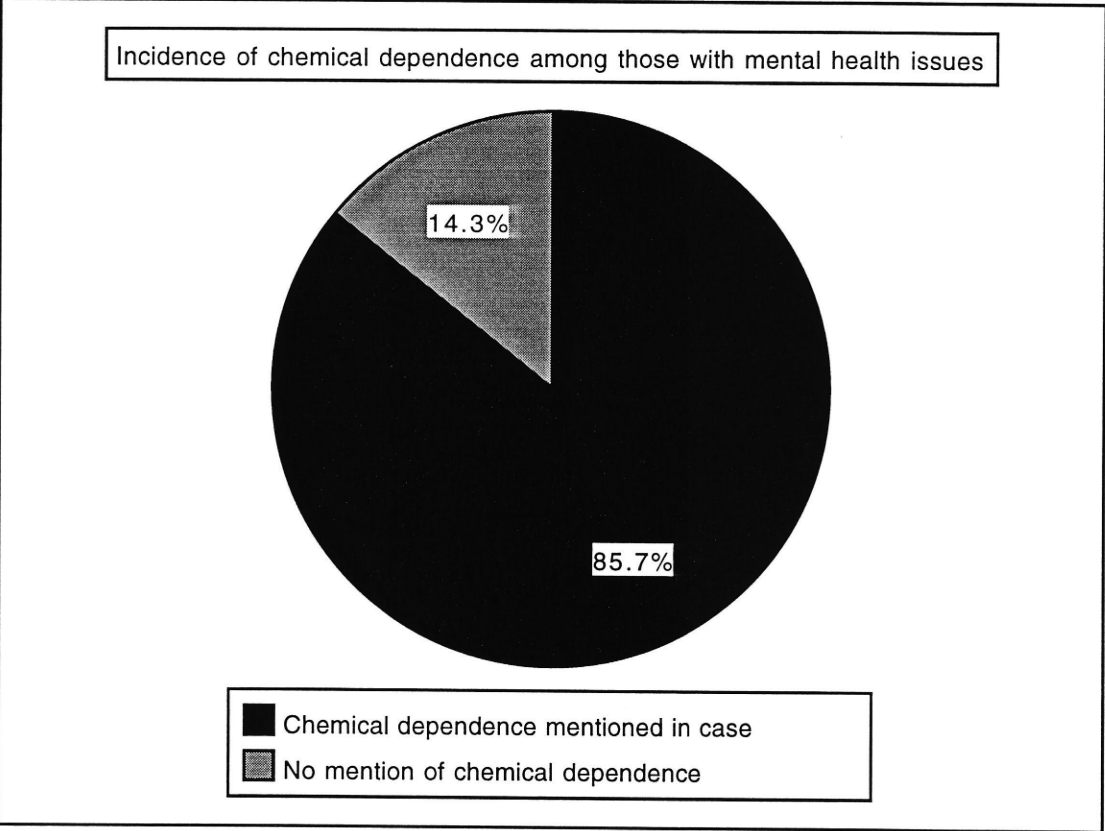


Figure 13 illustrates the dual diagnosis phenomenon in that chemical dependency and mental illness occur together. This table reflects that incidence of chemical dependence is 85% among those with mental health issues.

Figure 13

Incidence of chemical dependence among those with mental health issues N= 7



Summary

This chapter presented the findings of the survey questionnaire. In the next chapter, a discussion of the findings and the correlation of the findings to the research question and literature review will be presented. The limitations of the research will be assessed.

CHAPTER V - DISCUSSION

Overview

In this chapter, the researcher will summarize and examine the significant findings research as they apply to the research questions. A comparison of the findings with the literature will be explored in addition to the limitations of this study. The impact that the findings of this study have on the child welfare and social work system will be discussed in detail.

Key Findings

This descriptive study examined the incidence that parental substance abuse has on custodial parents whose parental rights were terminated in 1996. The profile of these custodial parents was explored in addition to the reasons that their custodial rights were terminated. The findings reveal that the characteristics of the 96% of the custodial parents whose rights were terminated consisted of females between the ages of 20-23; 56% were recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC); 65% of the custodial parents represented single-head of household; 68% lost their parental rights due to substance abuse; 91% had prior involvement with the child welfare system; and 91% previously had their children removed from the home; 83% were required to under-go some form of treatment; 52% were African American, with 39% were Caucasian.

In terms of the gender of the parents surveyed, (96%) were identified as being female. The study focused on the custodial parents whose parental rights were terminated in 1996, therefore, the fathers that did not have primary custody were not included in this research project. A larger percentage of the fathers' rights may also have been terminated, but they were not indicated in court cases as being the primary custodian, therefore, they were underrepresented in the results.

A disconcerting statistic relates to the disproportionate number of parents surveyed that were identified as being African American (52%) while Caucasians comprised (39%)

of the families. Native Americans and Hispanics each consisted of (4%) of the cases. A question that will be included in subsequent chapters relates to the race issue and the over representation of minorities involved in the child welfare system.

An interesting finding included the average ages of the mothers at the birth of their first child. Literature studies cite the women that are involved in the child welfare system as being younger, but this project indicated the majority of the women had their first child between the ages of 20-23, (47%); but the second highest age group was between the ages of 12-15, (21%). More teens are becoming pregnant at younger ages and for various reasons are not equipped to adequately provide for the child as exemplified in this study. Of the nineteen women surveyed in this project, (84%) were under age 24 at the time of first birth of their children, and (37%) were under age 20.

The income source of families revealed that (56%) receiving AFDC, and (19%) were employed. Literature studies support this profile of families involved in the child welfare system. Carten (1996) reports that statistics about clients at risk for termination of parental rights who participated in a family rehabilitation program were most frequently recipients of AFDC (85%). This greatly differs from the families surveyed in this research project.

The results of this research project indicate that the majority of custodial parents whose parental rights were terminated in 1996 were due to numerous reasons, but substance abuse was the factor most frequently cited. An overwhelming 68% of the parents had substance abuse issues causing them to lose their parental rights. Sixty eight percent of families with substance abuse issues, (32%) were identified as being addicted to crack cocaine. Many families had dual reasons for losing custodial rights such as mental illness, criminal activity, incarceration, parenting deficits, in conjunction with parental substance abuse issues. Seven out of the twenty two cases (32%) identified mental illness in conjunction with chemical dependency issues as reasons for termination of parental

studies often cite substance abuse as a contributing factor for children to be removed from the home, but neglect to add that incidence of mental illness as being compounded by the substance abuse or another factor involved. Physical abuse and neglect are the reasons children are removed from the homes, but they often are the result of the parent's inability to properly care for their children because of other issues such as chemical dependency or mental illness.

Comparison of Findings with Literature Review

The findings correspond with literature studies in that parental substance abuse plays a significant role in families involved in the child welfare system. Clark & Clark (1989) give criteria for termination of parental rights cases, and add that they vary according to geographic location, but maintain that the following are considered sufficient in many areas:

Abandonment, severe alcohol or drug abuse by the parent (s); parents is mentally or seriously mentally ill; repeated abuse or neglect of the child; child has been in foster care for a significant period of time and parents have not made a serious attempt to improve the conditions that led to the child's removal or have not cooperated with plans for the child to return home (p.183).

The results of this research correlate with Clark & Clark's reasons for parents to lose their parental rights and further cite parental substance abuse as being most common reason for termination of parental rights, (68%); mental illness consisting of (32%); neglect was reported in (32%) of cases; physical abuse (27%) of the reasons parental rights were indicated as being terminated. Other reasons found through this study also included criminal activity of parents, failure to thrive cases, parenting deficits, parents inability to cope, parents being incarcerated, prostitution, sexual abuse and selling drugs. A combination of factors were frequently cited in the cases for the termination of parental rights.

The profile of the families developed through this research project are consistent with literature studies in regards to some variables such as source of income, age range, but differ in terms of race/ethnicity. In a New York City Family Rehabilitation Program, Carten (1996) describes the clients who had completed a rehabilitation program as an alternative to having their children placed as being 85% women of color. The statistics from this research project reveal that 52% of the parents were African American, and 39% being Caucasian. This disparity among the two studies could potentially be the result of population differences in two different geographic locations.

Strengths and Limitations of Study

This descriptive study provided a profile of parents whose rights were terminated in 1996 in a large, mid western county. The study did not intend to reveal a cause and effect relationship, but rather described a relationship between parental substance abuse issues and termination of parental rights cases. This study illustrated the pervasiveness of substance abuse as being a contributing factor to termination of parental rights cases, and also provided information of the frequency of dual diagnosis (mental illness and chemical dependency) in cases of termination of parental rights. This dual diagnosis area was not discovered in literature studies on substance abuse and child maltreatment. This exemplifies a need for further research on the subject, and also recommendations for effective treatment techniques for workers to employ to effectively work with this at-risk population of clients with dual diagnosis. The profile of families whose parental rights were terminated was gathered and provides a basis for future social work practice and training. This was one of the greatest strengths of this descriptive study.

There are several limitations to this study including the lack of qualitative data and the lack of use of triangulation. Although this study described the incidence profile of substance abuse families whose parental rights were terminated, it was limited because key

informants were not included and they could have provided a more in-depth understanding of the obstacles experienced by substance abusing families experience.

Another limitation of this research involved the external validity, since a small sample was drawn and it can not be transferable to another geographic area. The generalizability of the results is limited as the sample was selected from only one midwest child welfare agency. Reliance on case records for data collection presents a challenge for the researchers in terms of the validity of the results. Case records were not designed for research and data gathering, and therefore lack some necessary information. With this research project, the case records were utilized to construct a profile of families whose parental rights were terminated and give information on the percentage of families who had documented parental substance abuse issues. The sample was comprised of a diverse population, but caution needs to be applied when transferring these results to another geographical area.

Relevance to Research Questions

The first research question was: What is the profile of families whose parental rights were terminated in 1996? The findings of the study described the characteristics of families whose rights were terminated as being consistent with various literature studies. The profile of the families provides some insight and understanding of families involved in the child welfare system.

The second research question relates to the reasons that the custodial parents lost their parental rights in 1996. As the findings indicate, the primary reasons cited were: issues related to parental substance abuse, mental health issues, parenting deficits, abuse and neglect, and parents engaged in illegal activities to name a few reasons.

The third research question pertains to the percentage of families with substance abuse issues whose parental rights were terminated in 1996. Findings revealed that parental substance abuse was cited in the majority of termination of parental rights cases.

the reason their parental rights were terminated in 1996. This statistic helps workers learn of the pervasiveness of substance abuse affecting families and interfering with their ability to adequately parent their children. The incidence of crack cocaine indicated in the case records demonstrates an urgent need for the public to respond to the needs of families with addictions to crack cocaine. Treatment is one area that needs to be modified and catered to meet the special needs of this drug dependent population. As the literature indicate, crack cocaine is on the rise and has devastating effects on families and children thus increasing the child abuse and neglect reports at child welfare agencies.

CHAPTER VI-IMPLICATIONS FOR SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE AND POLICY

Overview

Substance abusing families affect the social work profession in a multitude of arenas; these being schools, hospitals, child protective agencies, and daycare facilities. The implications that substance abuse has on the child welfare system is especially taxing. The child welfare system is becoming more and more stressed by the increased incidence of parental substance abuse. As noted in the preceding pages, parental substance abuse has and continues to be linked with increased foster-care placements and child maltreatment cases. Based on the Child Welfare League of America's survey, the respondents representing public welfare agencies concluded that the impact of substance abuse on the ability of the child welfare system to deliver services is profound and adversely affects the system by compounding problems, such as personnel shortages and the decreased availability of foster-care placements (Curtis & McCullough, 1993).

Many literature studies maintain that the increased parental drug use is to blame for the break-down of families and their ability to care for their children. Sabol (1994) refers to the increase numbers of drug-affected families entering the child welfare system as being more complex and challenging to caseworkers. The heightened use of crack-cocaine creates a newer environment for workers to intervene. Dore, Doris & Wright (1995) recognize crack use as being associated with heightened interpersonal violence, criminal activity, sexual exploitation of children as well as adults, and transmission of the AIDS virus. the authors further maintain that these cases are not like yesterday's in which child maltreatment was attributed to lack of parenting knowledge and skill and where family members, friends or neighbors frequently functioned as informal surrogates for a dysfunctional parent. They also suggest that whole families may be involved in the drug culture so that fewer stable adults are available to support and nurture their children.

Systemic Inequities

Early research did not support the advancement of policies to preserve families and rehabilitate addicted mothers, subsequent court litigations have prompted new policies that encouraged program development to help mothers overcome their substance abuse addiction and maintain her role as primary caretaker (Carton, 1996).

As this research project coupled with results from literature studies indicate, people of color and low-income families are over represented in child welfare caseloads and in termination of parental rights cases. Gustavsson (1991) suggests that minority children are at increased risk for placement due to parental drug use. She further states that this may be due to the two tiered social service system. She asserts that the affluent chemical user is able to avoid the public sector and receive rehabilitation services from the private sector, whereas the lower income user is oftentimes referred to child welfare agencies (1991).

Carten supports Gustavsson's claim that low-income women, due to systemic inequities in drug-testing policies give birth in public hospitals that have mandatory drug screening. These clients will come into the attention of child protection workers and consequently their children are at increased risk for foster-care placement (1996). Middle and upper class women are less subject to the scrutiny in the private hospital settings.

Gustavsson (1996) recommends that the disincentives for substance abusing women to seek drug treatment and prenatal care be addressed. She concedes that for many women, the fear of prosecution, incarceration and termination of parental rights of their children, can discourage these women from accessing much needed services, which exacerbates the negative outcomes for both mother and child. She believes that "the punitive policy of prosecution may serve political purposes but is inconstant with social work goals of supporting families" (1991). Women are to be given an opportunity to be rehabilitated before losing custody of their children.

Recommendations for Social Work Practice and Research

A common theme noted in literature studies pertains to the need for social workers to develop assessment, intervention, treatment, evaluation and case management skills in the area of chemical dependency. Continuing education is frequently cited in literature as a vehicle to enhance and further develop expertise in the area of substance abuse treatment, intervention and prevention. Grequoire (1994) reports through research on continuing education for child welfare workers in the areas of substance abuse that finds include: 1) staff gain an increased acceptance that addiction is a frequently contributor to child abuse and neglect, and 2) addiction manifests itself in a variety of ways, and thus may heighten their alertness for signs of addictions.

In order to effectively intervene on a substance abuse related issue, a worker needs to have the expertise in the areas of assessment, treatment, evaluation and follow-up. Without receiving formal training the area of chemical dependency, a worker can not adequately service the client in a competent and professional manner. Dore, Doris & Wright (1995) concede that despite increasing evidence of the often devastating effects on children in substance abusing families, they believe that those most likely to come into contact with families with serious drug and alcohol abuse are often ill-prepared to identify and intervene in this problem. Pecora (1989) describes a survey involving 315 front-line and supervisory workers in two states. The lack of knowledge about the identification of substance abuse and treatment ranked by staff as the third most significant hindrance to their effective intervention with families who maltreat their children.

Workers need to understand that chemically dependent mothers have special service needs. Their extensive service needs require the skills of case managers who can help them build upon and develop necessary self-sufficiency skill. Finkelstein (1994) adds that the chemically dependency prevention and treatment system must provide the supports necessary for treatment access and success, such as transportation, housing, parenting

support, child care, and must cease to consider such supports as enabling. The chemically dependent parent challenges the expertise and resources for the child protection system, and failure for workers to act pro actively and offer accessible and coordinated services will prove costly for the system.

The majority of literature studies recommend that intervention strategies employed by child welfare workers consist of collaborative and comprehensive services. Gustavsson (1991) remarks that a collaborative arrangement between drug treatment agencies and child welfare agencies is essential, especially for chemically dependent women. Gustavsson & Rycraft (1993) assert that there is a need for multiple and coordinated services which should be gender specific and address the special needs of women in treatment.

Many researchers recommend that staff representing the child welfare system attain training on substance abuse treatment and recovery to better assist their clients. Assing-Lessing & Olsen (1996) assert that training for child welfare worker's include developing a better understanding of the addiction and recovery process, including relapse. They conclude that such training should enable workers to base decisions on a variety of factors, such as social supports and parenting ability, which as likely to exacerbate or ameliorate risk in a substance abuse affected family.

In addition to creating and promoting gender specific treatment services to help mitigate the problems facing the system, culturally appropriate services need also to be considered. Assing-Lessing and Olsen (1996) suggest that in order to ensure a culturally competent approach to service, staff recruitment should be reflective of the clientele being served. Bilingual staff should also be present to better meet the needs of non-English speaking clients (Assing-Lessing & Olsen, 1996).

The themes presented in this chapter reflect the serious nature of substance abuse and its impact on families, the system and the community. The need for workers dealing

with substance abusing families to be more prepared with their assessment, intervention, treatment and evaluation skills was emphatically stated. The implications of this problem on the social work and child welfare fields were explored.

Suggestions for Future Research

Based on the findings gathered through this research project and the literature review, parental substance abuse issues are prevalent and destructive to families. Research needs to focus on the dual diagnosis client and effective treatment and intervention strategies that can be employed to better assist this population. Since we have information about the prevalence of crack cocaine, we still lack the expertise in treating the addicted clients. Without considering the effects that the drugs have on the clients and without exploring potential therapeutic responses, we are going to continue with the band-aide approach to this family emergency by covering the problem up and not examining the true nature of the disease. Research can also be used to measure the impact of the family preservation programs that are intended to keep families together. Future research studies could investigate the effectiveness of Family Preservation programs and their ability to reduce the number of termination of parental rights cases.

Summary

This research study examined the prevalence of substance abusing families involved in the child welfare system. The literature review focused on the relationship of substance abuse to increased foster care placements; link between substance abuse and child abuse and neglect cases; and the profile of families serviced through the country by child welfare agencies. The research project described the characteristics of families whose parental rights were terminated in a mid western county and the percentage of cases involving substance abuse issues. The ecological theory was presented and thus provided a framework for workers to establish their intervention strategies for working with at-risk,

substance abusing families. the intent of this study was to demonstrate the insidious nature of substance abuse on families and their ability to adequately care for their children. More research is needed on the multiple issues families at-risk for termination of parental rights face in addition to the prevalence of dual disorders.

REFERENCES

- Azzing -Lessing, L., Olsen, L., (1996). Substance abuse-affected families in the child welfare system: New challenges, new alliances. Social Work, 41 (1), 15-23.
- Babcock, M., Connor, B., (1981). Sexism and treatment of the female alcoholic: A review. Social Work, 233-238.
- Barker, R. (1995). The social work dictionary. Washington, D.C.: N.A.S.W. Press.
- Beckerman, A. (1994). Mothers in prison: Meeting the prerequisite conditions for permanency planning. Social Work, 39, 1, 9-14.
- Blau, G., Whewell, M., Gullotta, Bloom, M. (1994). The prevention and treatment of child abuse in households of substance abusers: A research demonstration progress report. Child Welfare, 73, 83-94.
- Bloom, M. (1990). Introduction to the drama of social work. Itasca, IL: Peacock Publishers.
- Carten, A., (1996). Mothers in recovery: Rebuilding families in the aftermath of addiction. Social Work, 41, 214-223.
- Child Welfare League of America. Crack and other addiction: Old realities and new challenges. Washington, DC: Author.
- Curtis, P., McCullough, C., (1993). The impact of alcohol and other drugs on the child welfare system. Child Welfare, LXXII, (6), 533-542.
- Daro, D., McDurdy in Tracey and Farkas
- Deluca, J.R., Fourth special report to the United States Congress on alcohol and health. Washington, D.C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1981. (U.S. Public Health Service, DHHS Public No. ADM 81-1080).
- Dore, M., Doris, J., Wright, P. (1995) Identifying substance abuse in maltreating families: A child welfare challenge. Child Abuse & Neglect, 19, (5). 531-543.
- Famularo, R., Stone, K., Barnum, R., Wharton, R., (1986). Alcoholism and severe child maltreatment. American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 56, (3), 481-485.
- Feig, L. (1990). Drug exposed infants and children: Service needs and policy questions. Washington, DC: United States Department of Health and Human Services.

Finkelstein, N., (1994). Treatment issues for alcohol and drug dependent pregnant women. Health and Social Work, 19, 7-14.

Gregoire, T., (1994). Assessing the benefits and increasing the utility of addiction training for public child welfare workers: A pilot study. Child Welfare, LXXIII, (1), 69-81.

Gustavsson, N. (1991). Chemically exposed children: The child welfare response. Child and Adolescent Social Work, 8, (4) 297-307.

Gustavsson, N., Rycraft, J., (1993). The multiple service needs of drug dependent mothers. Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal, 10, 141-151.

Iverson, T., Segal, M. (1990). Child abuse and neglect: An information and reference guide. New York: Garland Publishing.
317-327.

Kelley, S., (1992), Parenting stress and child maltreatment in drug-exposed children. Child Abuse & Neglect, 16, 197-211.

Murphy, J., Jellinek, M., Quinn, D., Smith, G., Poitras, F., Goshko, M., (1991). Substance abuse and serious child mistreatment: Prevalence, risk, and outcome in a court sample. Child Abuse and Neglect, 15, 197-211.

National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse (1989). Substance abuse and child abuse fact sheet. Chicago, IL: National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse.

Olsen, L. (1995). Services for substance abuse-affected families: The Project Connect Experience. Child and adolescent Social Work Journal, 12, (3) 183-196.

Pecora, P. (1989). Improving the quality of child welfare services: Needs assessment for staff training. Child Welfare, 68 (4), 403-419.

Ratterman, D., 1986. Judicial determination of reasonable efforts. Children Today.
Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families. (1989). Born hooked: Confronting the impact of perinatal substance abuse. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

Tracy, E., Farkas, K., (1994). Preparing practitioners for child welfare practice with substance-abusing families. Child Welfare, LXXIII, (1), 57-68.

United States General Accounting Office (1990). Drug exposed infants: A generation at risk. Washington, DC: GAO/HRD - 90-138.

APPENDIX A

This form will be used to collect data from Termination of Parental Rights, case records.

DATA COLLECXTION FORM/INTERVIEW GUIDE:
TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS COURT CASES

Characteristics of Custodial Parents.

- (1) Marital status of Custodial Parent:
Married ()
Separated or Divorced ()
Single ()
Widowed ()
- (2) Gender of Custodial Parent:
Male () Female ()
- (3) Race:
African American ()
Biracial ()
Caucasian ()
Hispanic/Latino ()
Native American ()
SouthEast Asian ()
- (4) Age of Mother at Birth of First Child:
12-15 ()
16-19 ()
20-23 ()
24-27 ()
28-35 ()
36-40 ()
41-45 ()
33-35 ()
33-41 ()
42-50 ()
- (5) Parent's Source of Income:
AFDC (Aid to Families with dependent children) ()
Alimony ()
Employment ()
Trust Fund ()
SSI ()
Social Security ()

(6) Ages of Children Awarded to the State.

Check x all childrens' ages.

1 ()	5 ()	9 ()	13()	17 ()
2 ()	6 ()	10()	14()	
3 ()	7 ()	11()	15()	
4 ()	8 ()	12()	16()	

(7) Reason for Termination of Parental Rights?

(8) Family had prior involvement with child welfare system?

YES () NO ()

(9) Previous removal of child from the home?

YES () NO ()

(10) Previous treatment mandated through case plan?

YES () NO ()

(11) If yes to item #11, what treatment facility?

APPENDIX B

AUGSBURG



C • O • L • L • E • G • E

May 14, 1997

TO: Kati Vandreuil
3420 Golfview Drive #221
Eagan MN 55123

FROM: Rita R. Weisbrod, Ph.D.
Chair
Institutional Review Board
(612) 330-1227 or FAX 330-1649.

RE: Your IRB application: "Incidence of Substance Abuse in families where parental rights are terminated"

Your application qualifies as exempt from full review under category 4 because you are using records from the Ramsey County Human Services Department.

I have received your additions and corrections and am pleased to approve your application.

Your IRB approval number is # 96-68-1.

If there are substantive changes to your application which change your procedures regarding the use of human subjects, you should report them to me by phone (612-330-1227) or in writing so that they may be reviewed for possible increased risk.

Good luck to you in your research project!

Copy: Maria Dinis, Thesis Adviser