

APPENDIX A

CASE STUDY OF ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE SYSTEM: KENTUCKY

During 2002, 62,738 children received dispositions from the CPS system in Kentucky. Seventy-three percent of the reported children with dispositions during 2002 were referred to the investigation track and 27 percent received an alternative response.

Background

In Kentucky, cases referred to the CPS agency are referred to one of four tracks. The investigation track is used for all moderate or high-risk referrals as determined by the level of risk matrix. All sexual abuse and nonfamilial referrals meet the criteria for the investigation track. The emphasis during investigations is on obtaining and documenting evidentiary information that supports a finding of substantiated or unsubstantiated abuse and neglect. In the investigation track, the social service worker collaborates with the family and community partners to obtain the necessary information and comprehensively address the safety needs of all family members. Reports that are referred to the investigation track are given dispositions of substantiated, unsubstantiated, or closed with no finding.

The family in need of services assessment (FINSA) track is used for dependency, status, and referrals determined to be at low-risk for physical abuse or neglect. The emphasis is on partnering with the family and community in order to establish a family support system to meet the needs of the family in a comprehensive manner and prevent future abuse or neglect incidents. All cases in the FINSA track are given the disposition of alternative response–nonvictim in the NCANDS data submission.

The resource linkage track is used for any referrals that do not meet certain criteria defined in legislation. The caller is linked to appropriate community resources in order to meet the needs of the family. The law enforcement track is used for cases involving noncaretakers. For families in this track, the social service worker can also provide assistance, such as interviews of children and referrals to community resources. Children referred to these tracks were reported as other dispositions, and did not count as either investigation or alternative response.

Trends

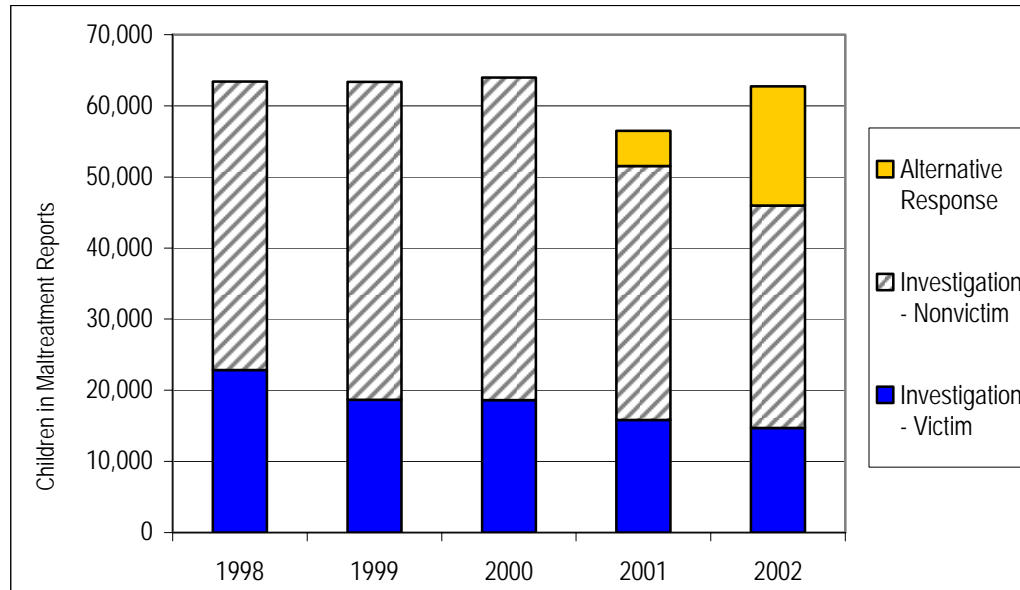
The number of children who received a response from the CPS system in Kentucky remained fairly constant from 1998 to 2002, with a drop during 2001. With the introduction of alternative response, the number of children found to be victims decreased by 36 percent between 1998 and 2002, and the number of nonvictims was reduced by 23 percent. (See figure A–1.)

Characteristics of the Children

While overall in Kentucky, 27 percent of reported children received an alternative response, older children were more likely to be referred to alternative response. Among

reported children older than age 8, 31 percent were referred to alternative response, while 23 percent of children younger than age 8 were referred to alternative response. The race of the child did not strongly distinguish those children who were referred to alternative response from those who received investigations, although the rate of referral to alternative response was higher for African-Americans (29%) and Asian children (29%), than for American Indian (24%), White (25%), and Hispanic (22%) children. Reported children with prior histories of victimization were less likely (16%) than those without prior victimization (28%) to receive alternative response.

Figure A–1. Children in Maltreatment Reports by Response, 1998–2002, Kentucky



Characteristics of the Reported Maltreatment

Children in reports of all types of maltreatment were referred to alternative response, although a higher percentage of children in reports in which the only maltreatment was emotional maltreatment (51%) or neglect (31%) was referred to alternative response, while only 20 percent of reports of physical abuse, 16 percent of multiple maltreatment reports, and 2 percent of sexual abuse reports were referred to alternative response.

Children in reports that included a large number of children were less likely to be referred to alternative response than those with fewer children in the report. Among children with whom 6 or more other children were included in the same report, 12 percent were referred to alternative response, compared with at least 25 percent of children who had fewer additional children in the same report. Reported children were referred to alternative response less frequently when their families had a history of family violence (22%) than when there was no history of family violence (27%).⁹

⁹ The number of children whose families had a reported history of family violence was very small (7% of children), so the percentage of children without such a history who received an alternative response mirrors the percentage in the full dataset.

Service Provision

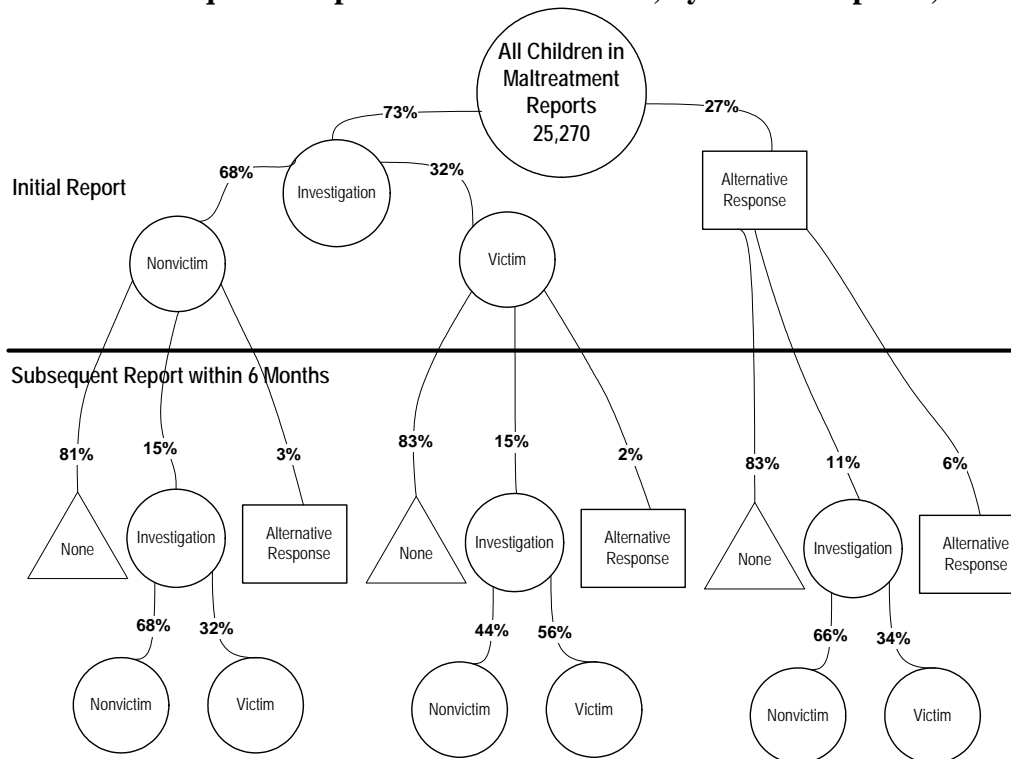
In Kentucky, provision of in-home services was equally likely in families of children who received an alternative response as among those whose children received an investigation. However, children were placed in foster care less often after receiving an alternative response (4%) than after an investigation (10%).

Subsequent Responses by CPS

Figure A–2 shows the trajectory of the 25,270 children who received dispositions from the CPS system during the first 6 months of 2002¹⁰.

In Kentucky, the likelihood of receiving a second response within 6 months was comparable among children whose first response was alternative response (17%), those who received an investigation and had been found to be victims (17%), and those who received an investigation and had not been found to be victims (18%).

Figure A–2. Subsequent Response Within 6 Months, by Initial Response, Kentucky



While 27 percent of children received an alternative response for their initial report, 6 percent of these children received an alternative response after a second report within 6 months. Among those children found to be victims following an investigation, 6 percent

¹⁰ The decision points in the figure indicate whether the child received an alternative response or an investigation in response to his or her first report of maltreatment within the reporting period. Among those in each group, as well as those investigated children who were found to be either victims or nonvictims, the figure separates those who experienced a second response from the CPS system within 6 months of the first report with those who did not. Next, groups split into those for whom this second response was alternative, and those who received an investigation, and finally those who received an investigation were separated into victims and nonvictims.

were referred to alternative response. Among those children found not to be victims following an investigation, 2 percent were referred to alternative response following a second report.

Among children with an initial investigation, 32 percent were found to be victims. Among these victims, 56 percent who experienced a subsequent investigation were found, again, to be victims. The percentage of children who were found to be victims in a subsequent investigation was comparable among children with an initial alternative response (34%) and investigated children who were initially found to be nonvictims (32%).

**Table A–1. Age of Child by Response, Kentucky
(n = 62,738)**

Age of Child	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Age 1 or Younger	1,040	23%	3,388	77%	4,428	100%
Age 1 to 3	2,734	21%	10,080	79%	12,814	100%
Age 4 to 7	3,911	24%	12,608	76%	16,519	100%
Age 8 to 11	4,156	30%	9,608	70%	13,764	100%
Age 12 to 15	3,712	32%	7,825	68%	11,537	100%
Age 16 or older	1,198	33%	2,478	67%	3,676	100%
Total	16,751	27%	45,987	73%	62,738	100%

**Table A–2. Race of Child by Response, Kentucky
(n = 62,738)**

Race of Child	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
American Indian	10	24%	32	76%	42	100%
African-American	1,916	29%	4,708	71%	6,624	100%
Asian	19	29%	46	71%	65	100%
White	11,446	25%	34,642	75%	46,088	100%
Hispanic	20	22%	70	78%	90	100%
Multiracial	193	25%	574	75%	767	100%
Unknown Race	3,147	35%	5,915	65%	9,062	100%
Total	16,751	27%	45,987	73%	62,738	100%

**Table A–3. Sex of Child by Response, Kentucky
(n = 62,738)**

Sex of Child	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Boys	8,177	27%	22,457	73%	30,634	100%
Girls	8,492	27%	23,171	73%	31,663	100%
Unknown Sex	82	19%	359	81%	441	100%
Total	16,751	27%	45,987	73%	62,738	100%

**Table A–4. Prior Victimization of Child by Response, Kentucky
(n = 62,738)**

Prior Victimization of Child	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Prior Victimization	1,089	16%	5,737	84%	6,826	100%
No Prior Victimization	15,662	28%	40,250	72%	55,912	100%
Total	16,751	27%	45,987	73%	62,738	100%

**Table A–5. Report Source by Response, Kentucky
(n = 62,738)**

Report Source	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Social Services, Medical, or Mental Health Personnel	638	21%	2381	79%	3,019	100%
Legal, Law Enforcement, or Criminal Justice Personnel	942	24%	3023	76%	3,965	100%
Education Personnel	924	30%	2181	70%	3,105	100%
Day Care	0		0		0	
Substitute Care	92	20%	372	80%	464	100%
Alleged Victim	120	24%	372	76%	492	100%
Parent, Other Relative, Friends/Neighbor	2,918	27%	7,743	73%	10,661	100%
Alleged Perpetrator	0		0		0	
Anonymous Reporter	1,867	26%	5,358	74%	7,225	100%
Other, Unknown, or Missing	9,250	27%	24,557	73%	33,807	100%
Total	16,751	27%	45,987	73%	62,738	100%

**Table A–6. Number of Children in Report by Response, Kentucky
(n = 62,738)**

Number of Children in Report	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
1	6,928	25%	20,699	75%	27,627	100%
2	4,680	28%	11,908	72%	16,588	100%
3	3,048	29%	7,614	71%	10,662	100%
4	1,356	28%	3,512	72%	4,868	100%
5	470	27%	1,245	73%	1,715	100%
6	192	29%	462	71%	654	100%
7	42	15%	245	85%	287	100%
8	16	12%	120	88%	136	100%
9 or more	19	9%	182	91%	201	100%
Total	16,751	27%	45,987	73%	62,738	100%

**Table A–7. Maltreatment Type by Response, Kentucky
(n = 62,738)**

Maltreatment Type	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Physical Abuse	2,430	20%	9,847	80%	12,277	100%
Neglect	13,142	31%	28,870	69%	42,012	100%
Sexual Abuse	85	2%	3,322	98%	3,407	100%
Other/Emotional Maltreatment	449	51%	432	49%	881	100%
Multiple Maltreatment	645	16%	3,516	84%	4,161	100%
Total	16,751	27%	45,987	73%	62,738	100%

**Table A–8. Drug and Alcohol Use by Caretaker by Response, Kentucky
(n = 62,738)**

Caretaker Substance Abuse	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Alcohol Abuse	24	27%	66	73%	90	100%
Drug Abuse	5	6%	83	94%	88	100%
Both Drug Abuse and Alcohol Abuse	8	12%	60	88%	68	100%
None or Unknown	16,714	27%	45,778	73%	62,492	100%
Total	16,751	27%	45,987	73%	62,738	100%

**Table A–9. Family Violence by Response, Kentucky
(n = 62,738)**

Family Violence	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Record of Family Violence	927	22%	3,260	78%	4,187	100%
No Record of Family Violence	15,824	27%	42,727	73%	58,551	100%
Total	16,751	27%	45,987	73%	62,738	100%

**Table A–10. Services Provided by Response, Kentucky
(n = 62,738)**

Services Provided	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
In-Home Services	5,170	31%	14,651	32%	19,821	32%
Foster Care	148	1%	1,034	2%	1,182	2%
Both In-Home Services and Foster Care	472	3%	3,762	8%	4,234	7%
No Services Provided	10,961	65%	26,540	58%	37,501	60%
Total	16,751	100%	45,987	100%	62,738	100%

APPENDIX B

CASE STUDY OF ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE SYSTEM: MINNESOTA

In Minnesota, 26,344 children received dispositions from the CPS system during 2002. Eighty percent of reports with dispositions during 2002 received an investigation and 20 percent received an alternative response.

Background

In Minnesota, alternative response began during 2000 as a 4-year demonstration project in 20 counties and became a statewide option during February 2004 for families reported to the child protection system. The option of alternative response enables counties to offer a nonconfrontational, strengths-based assessment to families involved in all but the most serious reports of child maltreatment. Only high-risk reports that allege substantial child endangerment must receive an investigative response. According to the guidelines in Minnesota, each agency determines whether to provide an alternative response or a traditional investigation; however, certain specific circumstances that constitute substantial endangerment require that an investigation be conducted; State policy includes a list of twelve types of such maltreatment, including specific types of sexual abuse, malicious punishment, and neglect that substantially endangers the child's life.

During 2002, a demonstration project was under way in 20 of the 87 counties in Minnesota, yet many other counties had also chosen to implement this approach. The Minnesota Child File included children who received an alternative response in 55 counties in the State. The demonstration project involved random assignment of families who were screened as appropriate for alternative response to either actually receive an alternative response or to receive a traditional investigation. It is important to note that in these 20 counties, due to the random assignment that took place, the observed differences between the children who received alternative response and those who received investigation may not be representative of characteristics of children who received alternative response after that evaluation was completed.

All reports that received an alternative response were given the disposition of alternative response—nonvictim in the NCANDS data submission. Reports that received traditional investigations were given dispositions of substantiated or unsubstantiated.

Trends

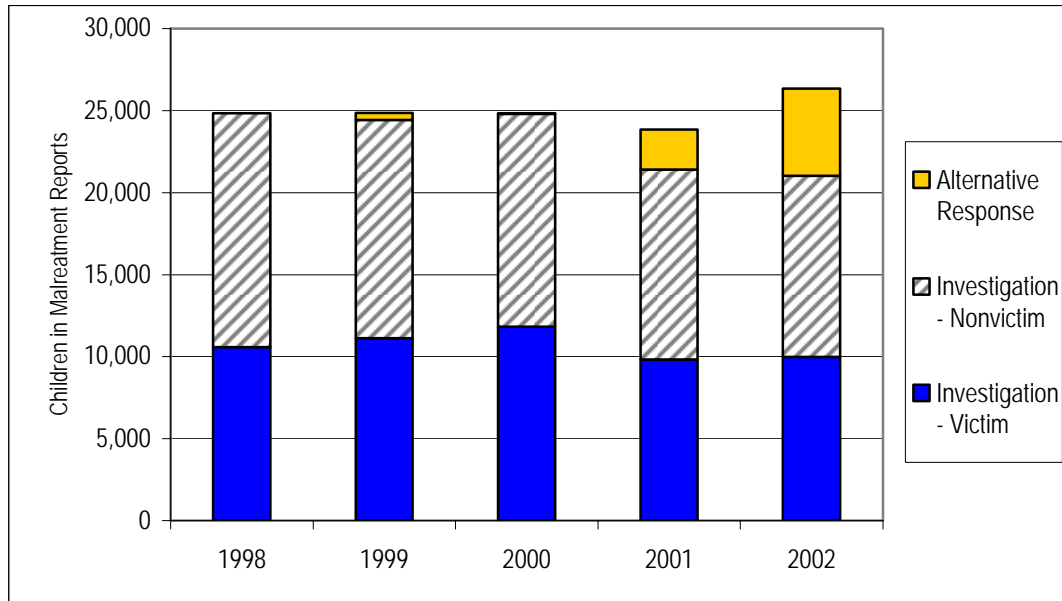
The number of children who received a response from the CPS system in Minnesota remained steady from 1998 to 2000, followed by a slight decrease during 2001 and a slight increase during 2002. (See figure B-1.) The number of victims decreased 6 percent from 1998 to 2002, after an initial increase, and the number of nonvictims decreased 23 percent.

Characteristics of the Children

In Minnesota the proportion of children referred to alternative response increased with each age group, and then decreased slightly for children age 12 and older. Among infants,

15 percent were referred to alternative response; 22 percent for the age 8–11 group were referred to alternative response. Boys and girls were equally likely to be referred to alternative response. While overall 20 percent of reported children were referred to alternative response, the percentage was higher among Asian (23%), Hispanic (23%), and White children (24%), and lower among American Indian (12%), African-American (13%), and multiple-race children (17%). None of the children with histories of prior victimization were referred to alternative response, while 23% of those without prior victimization received alternative response.

Figure B–1 Children in Maltreatment Reports by Response, 1998–2002, Minnesota



Characteristics of the Reported Maltreatment

While overall 20 percent of reported children were referred to alternative response, children were more likely to be referred to alternative response if their maltreatment had been reported by educational personnel (28%), the alleged victim (28%), or the alleged perpetrator (30%). Children were less likely to be referred to alternative response if their reports were from social services, medical or mental health personnel (13%), law enforcement or legal personnel (18%), substitute care providers (14%), or anonymous reporters (15%). Children living with their immediate families at the time of the maltreatment report had the highest chance of being referred to alternative response (22%), while fewer than 10 percent of children living in relative or nonrelative foster care or in institutional settings were referred to alternative response. The likelihood of referral to alternative response declined steadily with the number of children in the report.

In Minnesota, children whose alleged maltreatment included only one type of maltreatment—physical abuse, neglect or medical neglect, or emotional maltreatment—were all referred to alternative response in approximately the same proportions (22%–23%). A much smaller proportion of children whose reports included multiple maltreatments (9%) were referred to alternative response, and no children with reports of sexual abuse were referred to alternative response. While overall 20 percent of reported children in Minnesota received an alternative response, children whose families had a

history of family violence were less likely (17%) to be referred to alternative response than were children with no history of family violence (21%). Reported children whose caretakers had a history of drug abuse were less likely (9%) to be referred to alternative response than children with no history of caretaker drug abuse (21%).

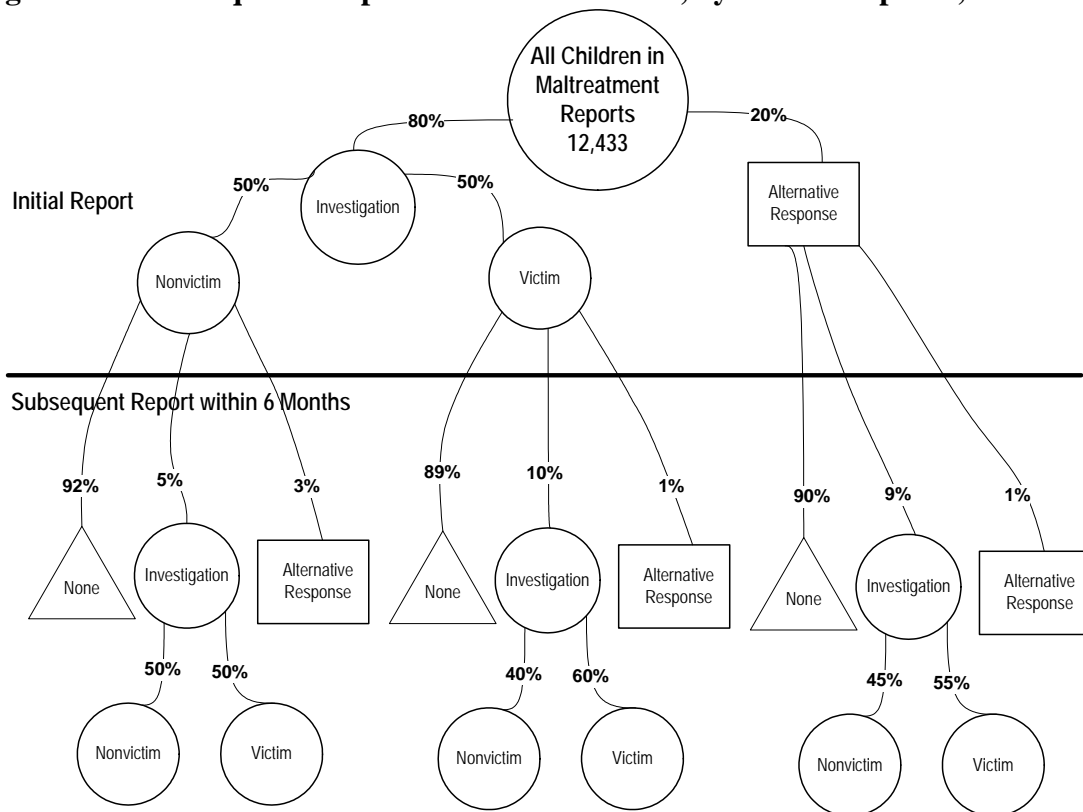
Services

In-home services were provided to the families of nearly all children for whom maltreatment was alleged. The proportion that were referred to foster care was higher among children who received investigations (17%) than among those who received alternative response (6%).

Subsequent Responses by CPS

Figure B–2 shows the track of the 12,433 unique children who received dispositions from the CPS system in Minnesota during the first 6 months of 2002. The likelihood of receiving a second response within 6 months was lower among children who received and investigation and were found not to be victims (8%) than among those who received an investigation and were found to be victims (11%), and those whose first response was alternative response (10%).

Figure B–2. Subsequent Response Within 6 Months, by Initial Response, Minnesota



While 20 percent of children received an alternative response for their initial report, a very small proportion of children received an alternative response following a subsequent report (1% of children who initially received an alternative response, 1% of children who

experienced an initial investigation and were found to be victims, and 3% of children who experienced an initial investigation and were found to be nonvictims).

While 50 percent of children with an investigation were found to be victims, a higher percentage were found to be victims among children with an initial alternative response and subsequent investigation (55%) and victims with a subsequent investigation (60%). Among children who were found not to be victims in an initial investigation, 50 percent who experienced a subsequent investigation were found to be victims.

**Table B-1. Age of Child by Response, Minnesota
(n = 26,344)**

Age of Child	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Age 1 or Younger	262	14%	1,581	86%	1,843	100%
Age 1 to 3	953	19%	4,088	81%	5,041	100%
Age 4 to 7	1,467	21%	5,518	79%	6,985	100%
Age 8 to 11	1,355	22%	4,731	78%	6,086	100%
Age 12 to 15	964	20%	3,789	80%	4,753	100%
Age 16 or older	292	20%	1,143	80%	1,435	100%
Missing Age	173	86%	28	14%	201	100%
Total	5,466	21%	20,878	79%	26,344	100%

**Table B-2. Race of Child by Response, Minnesota
(n = 26,344)**

Race of Child	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
American Indian	189	12%	1,361	88%	1,550	100%
African-American	711	13%	4,785	87%	5,496	100%
Asian	192	23%	651	77%	843	100%
White	3,422	24%	10,934	76%	14,356	100%
Hispanic	490	23%	1,646	77%	2,136	100%
Multiracial	230	17%	1,127	83%	1,357	100%
Unknown Race	87	14%	519	86%	606	100%
Total	5,321	20%	21,023	80%	26,344	100%

**Table B–3. Sex of Child by Response, Minnesota
(n = 26,344)**

Sex of Child Victim	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Boys	2,680	21%	10,371	79%	13,051	100%
Girls	2,641	20%	10,652	80%	13,293	100%
Total	5,321	20%	21,023	80%	26,344	100%

**Table B–4. Prior Victimization of Child by Response, Minnesota
(n = 26,344)**

Prior Victimization of Child	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Prior Victimization	0	0%	3,221	100%	3,221	100%
No Prior Victimization	5,321	23%	17,802	77%	23,123	100%
Total	5,321	20%	21,023	80%	26,344	100%

**Table B–5. Report Source by Response, Minnesota
(n = 26,344)**

Report Source	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Social Services, Medical, or Mental Health Personnel	666	13%	4,543	87%	5,209	100%
Legal, Law Enforcement, or Criminal Justice Personnel	1,231	18%	5,619	82%	6,850	100%
Education Personnel	1,538	28%	3,900	72%	5,438	100%
Day Care	80	20%	319	80%	399	100%
Substitute Care	80	14%	484	86%	564	100%
Alleged Victim	55	28%	142	72%	197	100%
Parent, Other Relative, Friends/Neighbor	1,210	22%	4,289	78%	5,499	100%
Alleged Perpetrator	9	30%	21	70%	30	100%
Anonymous Reporter	127	15%	697	85%	824	100%
Other, Unknown, or Missing	325	24%	1,009	76%	1,334	100%
Total	5,321	20%	21,023	80%	26,344	100%

**Table B–6. Living Arrangement of Child by Response, Minnesota
(n = 26,344)**

Living Arrangement	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
With Family	5,138	22%	17,952	78%	23,090	100%
Relative Foster Care	32	5%	577	95%	609	100%
Non Relative Foster Care	40	2%	1,703	98%	1,743	100%
Institution	9	4%	228	96%	237	100%
Other or Unknown	102	15%	563	85%	665	100%
Total	5,321	20%	21,023	80%	26,344	100%

**Table B–7. Number of Children in Report by Response, Minnesota
(n = 26,344)**

Number of Children in Report	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
1	2,902	23%	9,718	77%	12,620	100%
2	1,222	20%	4,908	80%	6,130	100%
3	747	19%	3,105	81%	3,852	100%
4	320	16%	1,672	84%	1,992	100%
5	90	10%	820	90%	910	100%
6	18	5%	372	95%	390	100%
7	14	7%	182	93%	196	100%
8	8	7%	112	93%	120	100%
9 or more children	0	0%	134	100%	134	100%
Total	5,321	20%	21,023	80%	26,344	100%

**Table B–8. Maltreatment Type by Response, Minnesota
(n = 26,344)**

Maltreatment Type	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Physical Abuse	1,500	23%	4,895	77%	6,395	100%
Neglect	3,631	22%	12,685	78%	16,316	100%
Sexual Abuse	5	0%	1,765	100%	1,770	100%
Other/Emotional maltreatment	29	22%	101	78%	130	100%
Multiple Maltreatment	156	9%	1,577	91%	1,733	100%
No Maltreatment	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	5,321	20%	21,023	80%	26,344	100%

**Table B–9. Drug and Alcohol Use by Caretaker by Response, Minnesota
(n = 26,344)**

Caretaker Substance Abuse	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Alcohol Abuse	277	18%	1,293	82%	1,570	100%
Drug Abuse	55	6%	797	94%	852	100%
Both Drug Abuse and Alcohol Abuse	81	12%	595	88%	676	100%
None or Unknown	4,908	21%	18,338	79%	23,246	100%
Total	5,321	20%	21,023	80%	26,344	100%

**Table B–10. Family Violence by Response, Minnesota
(n = 26,344)**

Family Violence	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Record of Family Violence	829	17%	4,006	83%	4,835	100%
No Record of Family Violence	4,492	21%	17,017	79%	21,509	100%
Total	5,321	20%	21,023	80%	26,344	100%

**Table B–11. Services Provided by Response, Minnesota
(n = 26,344)**

Services Provided	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
In-Home Services	5,002	94%	17,405	83%	22,407	85%
Foster Care	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Both In-Home Services and Foster Care	308	6%	3,612	17%	3,920	15%
No Services Provided	11	0%	6	0%	17	0%
Total	5,321	100%	21,023	100%	26,344	100%

APPENDIX C

CASE STUDY OF ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE SYSTEM: MISSOURI

During 2002, 80,644 children received dispositions from the CPS system in Missouri. Sixty-four percent of these children were referred to the assessment track, and 36 percent were referred to the investigation track.

Background

When a local CPS agency receives a report of child maltreatment, the report is screened to determine the best method of intervention. If the report includes acts of the alleged perpetrator that, if confirmed, constitute criminal violations, the report is subject to an evidentiary, fact-finding investigation. The local agency notifies the appropriate law enforcement agency to assist with the investigation.

If the report contains behaviors that constitute a potential criminal violation, an investigation is conducted. Such reports include child fatality, sexual abuse, and situations in which the alleged perpetrator is not a member of the family/household or in which the maltreatment took place in a foster care or day care facility. Family assessments are conducted for carefully screened reports of suspected maltreatment—reports of mild, moderate, or first-time non-criminal physical abuse, neglect, emotional maltreatment, or educational neglect. The purpose of family assessment is to determine the family's needs for services and to secure child safety. Families coming to the attention of the Division of Family Services have different intervention needs: They require flexible responses from the Division and the community in order to protect their children and meet the needs of the family.

All reports in the family assessment track are given the disposition of alternative response—nonvictim in the NCANDS data submission. Reports in the investigation track are given dispositions of substantiated, unsubstantiated, or closed with no finding.

Trends

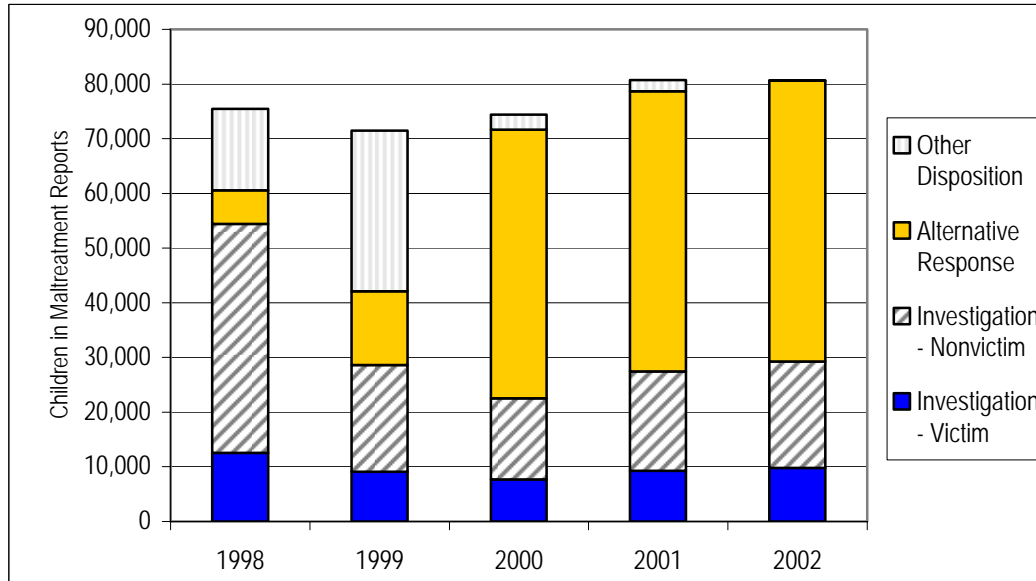
The number of children who received a response from the CPS system in Missouri increased from 1998 to 2002. Alternative response dispositions, as well as other dispositions, were reported in Missouri each year since 1998, although the number of alternative response dispositions increased dramatically during 2000 and, by 2002, the number of other dispositions was negligible. While the number of children found to be victims has been reduced by 22 percent, the number of nonvictims has been reduced by 54 percent. (See figure C-1.)

Characteristics of the Children

Among all age groups, between 60 and 70 percent of children were referred to alternative response, with the lowest percentage for infants (64%) and teens older than age 16 (62%), and the highest percentage for children between age 4 and 11 (70%). Among boys, 69 percent were referred to alternative response, while among girls 65 percent were referred to alternative response. In Missouri, reported children with prior victimization

were less likely to receive alternative response. Only 23 percent of children with prior victimization received alternative response, while 69 percent of those without prior victimization received alternative response.

Figure C–1. Children in Maltreatment Reports by Response, 1998–2002, Missouri



Characteristics of the Reported Maltreatment

In Missouri, while overall 64 percent of reported children received an alternative response, the likelihood of referral to alternative response increased with the number of other children in the same report—up to four children—and declines after that. Among children who were the only ones included in the report, 60 percent were referred to alternative response, while 70 percent of children with three or four other children in the same report were referred to alternative response. Among children with seven other children in the report, 58 percent received alternative response.

In Missouri, none of the children who were referred to alternative response cases had any maltreatment type included in their report. Children whose families had a history of family violence were less likely (53%) to be referred to alternative response than were children with no history of family violence (64%). Reported children whose caretakers had a history of drug abuse were less likely (43%) to be referred to alternative response than children with no history of caretaker drug abuse (65%).¹¹

Services

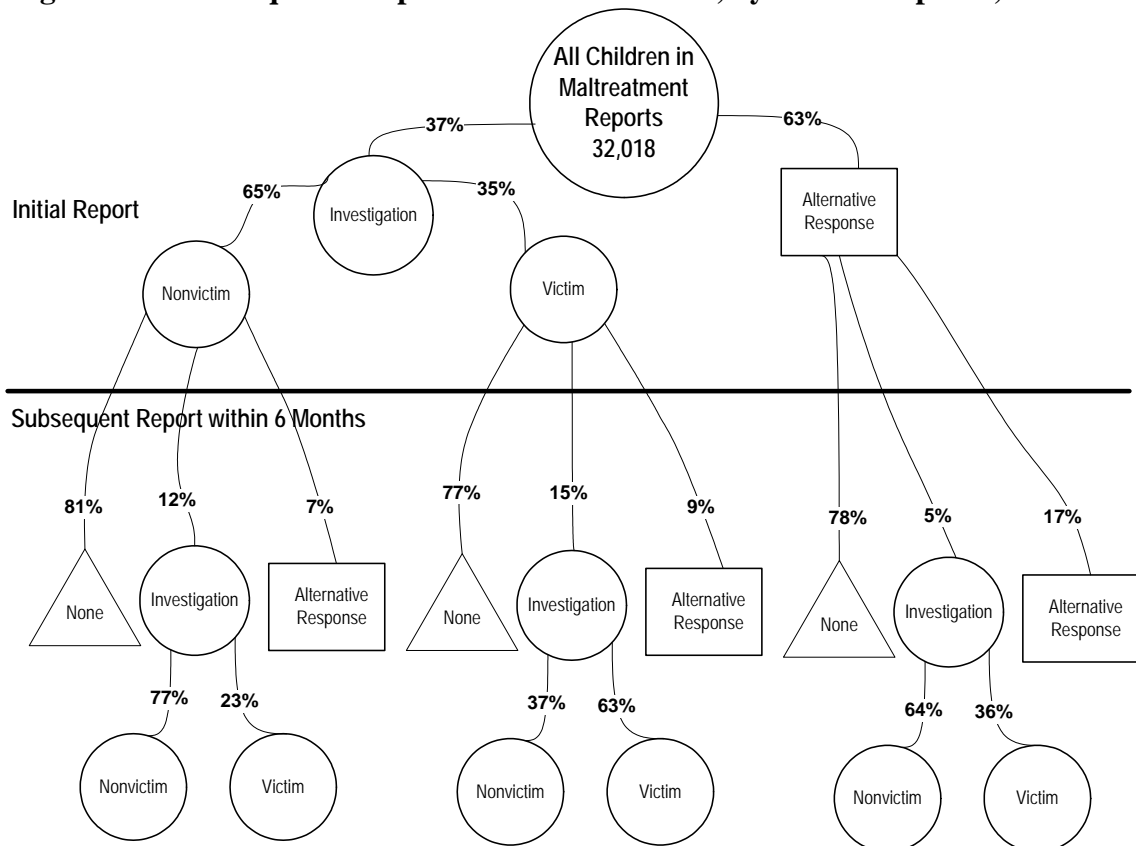
In Missouri, provision of in-home services was more common in families of children who received an alternative response (79%) than among those whose children received an investigation (72%). Children who received alternative response were less likely to be placed in foster care (5%) than were children who received an investigation (13%).

¹¹ Less than 10 percent of children had any of these risk factors, so the percentage of children without such risk factors who received an alternative response mirrors the percentage in the full dataset.

Subsequent Responses by CPS

Figure C–2 shows the trajectory of the 32,018 unique children who received dispositions from the CPS system in Missouri during the first 6 months of 2002. In Missouri, the likelihood of receiving a second response within 6 months was comparable among children whose first response was alternative response (22%) and among those who had received an investigation and had been found to be victims (23%), and lower among those who had received an investigation and were found not to be victims (19%).

Figure C–2. Subsequent Response Within 6 Months, by Initial Response, Missouri



While 63 percent of children received an alternative response for their initial report, 17 percent of these children received an alternative response following a second report within 6 months. Among those children found to be victims following an investigation, 9 percent were referred to alternative response following a subsequent report. Among nonvictims, 7 percent were subsequently referred to alternative response.

Among children with an initial investigation, 35 percent were found to be victims. Among these victims, 63 percent who experienced a subsequent investigation were found, again, to be victims. The percentage of children who were found to be victims in a subsequent investigation was higher among children with an initial alternative response (36%) compared with investigated children who were found to be nonvictims (23%).

**Table C–1. Age of Child by Response, Missouri
(n = 80,644)**

Age of Child	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Age 1 or Younger	2,503	61%	1,621	39%	4,124	100%
Age 1 to 3	9,308	63%	5,498	37%	14,806	100%
Age 4 to 7	12,643	65%	6,710	35%	19,353	100%
Age 8 to 11	12,349	67%	6,215	33%	18,564	100%
Age 12 to 15	11,356	64%	6,449	36%	17,805	100%
Age 16 or older	2,622	60%	1,773	40%	4,395	100%
Missing Age	617	39%	980	61%	1,597	100%
Total	51,398	64%	29,246	36%	80,644	100%

**Table C–2. Race of Child by Response, Missouri
(n = 80,644)**

Race of Child	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
American Indian	99	50%	98	50%	197	100%
African-American	11,912	66%	6,244	34%	18,156	100%
Asian	140	70%	61	30%	201	100%
White	37,408	63%	21,671	37%	59,079	100%
Hispanic	1,075	64%	616	36%	1,691	100%
Multiracial	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Unknown Race	764	58%	556	42%	1,320	100%
Total	51,398	64%	29,246	36%	80,644	100%

**Table C–3. Sex of Child by Response, Missouri
(n = 80,644)**

Sex of Child Victim	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Boys	26,483	66%	13,806	34%	40,289	100%
Girls	24,867	62%	15,292	38%	40,159	100%
Unknown Sex	48	24%	148	76%	196	100%
Total	51,398	64%	29,246	36%	80,644	100%

**Table C–4. Prior Victimization of Child by Response, Missouri
(n = 80,644)**

Prior Victimization of Child	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Prior Victimization	0	0%	2,873	100%	2,873	100%
No Prior Victimization	51,398	66%	26,373	34%	77,771	100%
Total	51,398	64%	29,246	36%	80,644	100%

**Table C–5. Report Source by Response, Missouri
(n = 80,644)**

Report Source	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Social Services, Medical, or Mental Health Personnel	9,863	55%	8,202	45%	18,065	100%
Legal, Law Enforcement, or Criminal Justice Personnel	4,818	48%	5,230	52%	10,048	100%
Education Personnel	5,314	70%	2,234	30%	7,548	100%
Day Care	347	49%	368	51%	715	100%
Substitute Care	101	35%	186	65%	287	100%
Other, Unknown, or Missing	30,955	70%	13,026	30%	43,981	100%
Total	51,398	64%	29,246	36%	80,644	100%

**Table C–6. Number of Children in Report by Response, Missouri
(n = 80,644)**

Number of Children in Report	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
1	21,685	60%	14,725	40%	36,410	100%
2	13,150	66%	6,642	34%	19,792	100%
3	8,550	67%	4,203	33%	12,753	100%
4	4,660	70%	2,008	30%	6,668	100%
5	1,930	70%	835	30%	2,765	100%
6	834	68%	390	32%	1,224	100%
7	301	63%	175	37%	476	100%
8	152	58%	112	42%	264	100%
9 or more children	0	0%	156	100%	156	100%
Total	51,262	64%	29,246	36%	80,508	100%

**Table C–7. Maltreatment Type by Response, Missouri
(n = 80,644)**

Maltreatment Type	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Physical Abuse	0	0%	2,156	100%	2156	100%
Neglect	0	0%	3,843	100%	3843	100%
Sexual Abuse	0	0%	2,435	100%	2435	100%
Other/Emotional Maltreatment	1	0%	508	100%	509	100%
Multiple Maltreatment	0	0%	1,479	100%	1479	100%
No Maltreatment	51,397	73%	18,825	27%	70222	100%
Total	51,398	64%	29,246	36%	80,644	100%

**Table C–8. Drug and Alcohol Use by Caretaker by Response, Missouri
(n = 80,644)**

Caretaker Substance Abuse	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Alcohol Abuse	749	52%	680	48%	1,429	100%
Drug Abuse	1,023	43%	1,363	57%	2,386	100%
Both Drug Abuse and Alcohol Abuse	111	43%	147	57%	258	100%
None or Unknown	49,515	65%	27,056	35%	76,571	100%
Total	51,398	64%	29,246	36%	80,644	100%

**Table C–9. Family Violence by Response, Missouri
(n = 80,644)**

Family Violence	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Record of Family Violence	1,521	53%	1,364	47%	2,885	100%
No Record of Family Violence	49,877	64%	27,882	36%	77,759	100%
Total	51,398	64%	29,246	36%	80,644	100%

**Table C–10. Services Provided by Response, Missouri
(n = 80,644)**

Services Provided	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
In-Home Services	40,830	79%	21,145	72%	61,975	77%
Foster Care	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Both In-Home Services and Foster Care	2,327	5%	3,678	13%	6,005	7%
No Services Provided	8,241	16%	4,423	15%	12,664	16%
Total	51,398	100%	29,246	100%	80,644	100%

APPENDIX D

CASE STUDY OF ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE SYSTEM: NEW JERSEY

During 2002, 70,786 children received dispositions from the CPS system in New Jersey. Twenty-nine percent of these children were referred to the assessment track, and 71 percent were referred to the investigation track.

Background

When a report of child maltreatment is made in New Jersey, the intake screener either screens in the report and refers it for CPS investigation, screens out the report, opens a child welfare services case if the report was made by a professional and the family needs services but the legal criteria for CPS aren't met; or refers the reporter to a community agency without opening a case.¹² Cases that receive child welfare assessments are reported as alternative response disposition—not a victim on the NCANDS report, and are described in this report as having been referred to alternative response. The types of situations that may lead to such a classification include homelessness; domestic violence; unresolved child-related medical, emotional, or substance abuse problems; children with disabilities needing assistance; problems that affect the ability of parents to provide basic care for their children; and cases in which parents lack the skills to parent adequately. When reported to NCANDS, an “unknown” maltreatment type is recorded.

In instances where there was a family problem and an alleged maltreatment, an investigation is conducted, but if the allegations are not substantiated, these cases are considered to be family problem cases and are reported to NCANDS with an alternative response—nonvictim disposition.

Trends

The number of children who received a response from the CPS system in New Jersey dropped between 1998 and 2000, and then remained steady until 2002. While the number of children found to be victims was reduced by 18 percent from 1998 to 2002, the number of nonvictims was reduced by 57 percent. During 1998 and 1999, New Jersey reported 46 percent of cases as other dispositions; after 2000, alternative response accounted for 70 percent of dispositions. (See figure D-1.)

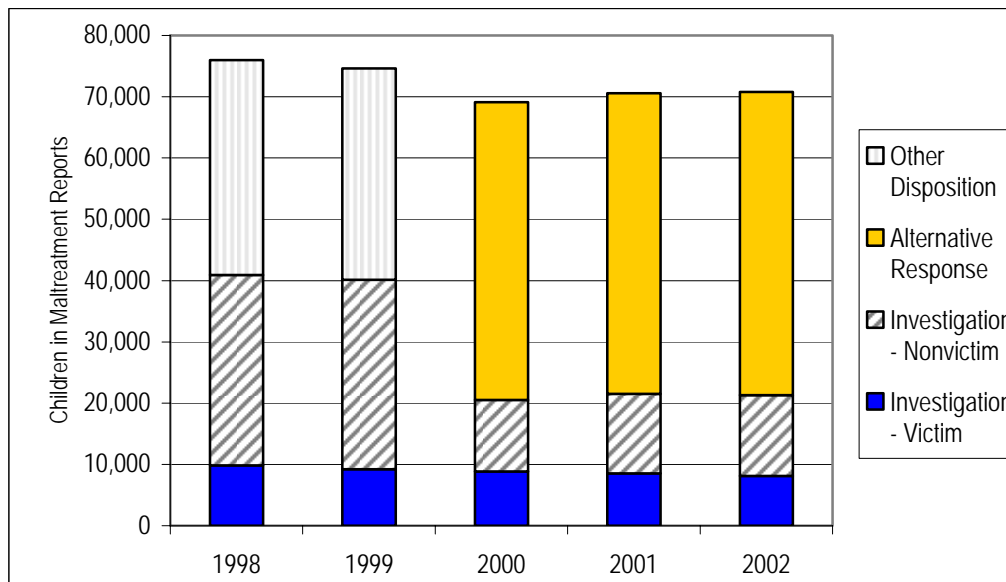
Characteristics of the Children

In New Jersey, the proportion of children referred to alternative response increased with the age of the child. Sixty-seven percent of reported infants younger than age 1 were referred to alternative response, while 73 percent of children age 16 and older were referred to alternative response. Differences among the races in their likelihood of being referred to alternative response were not large. White (73%) and Hispanic (72%) children were more likely to be referred to alternative response, while the likelihood of referral to alternative response was lower for African-American (67%), Asian (69%), and for American Indian children (61%). In New Jersey, children with a history of prior

¹² This is considered an information and referral call.
Alternative Responses to Child Maltreatment
Findings from NCANDS

victimization were equally likely to receive alternative response as children with no prior victimization.

Figure D–1. Children in Maltreatment Reports by Response, 1998–2002, New Jersey



Characteristics of the Reported Maltreatment

In New Jersey, where the overall rate of alternative response was 71 percent, children whose maltreatment was alleged by law enforcement or legal personnel (63%) or substitute care providers (47%) were less likely to be referred to alternative response. Children whose maltreatment was alleged by parents, other relatives, or friends were slightly more likely (75%) than others to be referred to alternative response. Reported children living in either family or relative foster care had the highest chance of being referred to alternative response (both at 71%), while a lower percentage of children living in nonrelative foster care or in institutional settings were referred to alternative response (60% and 53%, respectively). Among children who were the only subject of the report of maltreatment, 61 percent were referred to alternative response, while 75 percent of children who were not alone in the report were referred to alternative response.

More than 90 percent of children whose maltreatment reports included only unknown maltreatment were referred to alternative response. Thirty-nine percent of children whose reports included only physical abuse were referred to alternative response. New Jersey’s rate of alternative response referral for sexual abuse cases was 16 percent. Only 6 percent of children who were reported for neglect or medical neglect were referred to alternative response. In New Jersey, families that are reported for parenting issues that pose a risk for the child are given a family assessment (alternative response) and reported to NCANDS as having an “unknown” maltreatment type rather than neglect.

In New Jersey, the presence of family violence or caretaker substance abuse was associated with a greater likelihood that a child would be referred to alternative response which is consistent with the focus of New Jersey’s alternative response system on families with these issues. Children whose families had a history of family violence were

more likely (91%) to be referred to alternative response than were children with no history of family violence (70%). Reported children whose caretakers had a history of drug abuse were more likely (81%) to be referred to alternative response than children with no history of caretaker drug abuse (69%).¹³

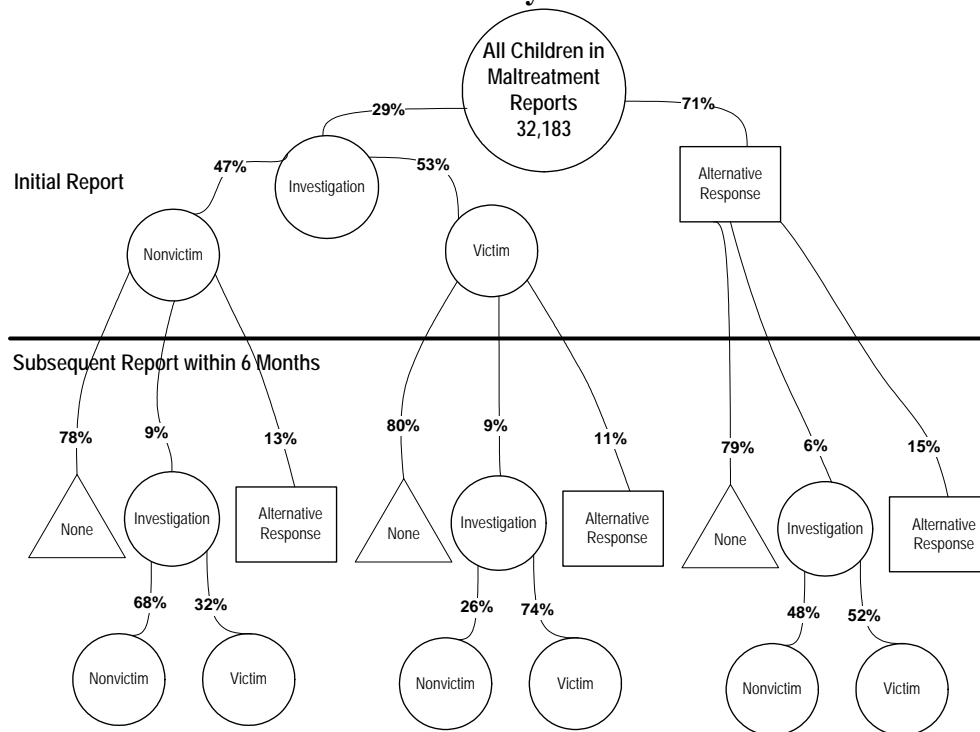
Services

Among children who received alternative response, 73 percent received only in-home services, 5 percent were placed in foster care, and 22 percent had no services provided. In comparison, among children who received investigations, 34 percent received only in-home services, 13 percent were placed in foster care, and 53 percent had no services provided.

Subsequent Responses by CPS

In New Jersey, the likelihood of receiving a second response within 6 months was comparable among children whose first response was alternative response (21%), those who received an investigation and had been found to be victims (20%), and those who received an investigation and had not been found to be victims (22%). (See figure D–2.)

Figure D–2. Subsequent Response Within 6 Months, by Initial Response, New Jersey



While 71 percent of children received an alternative response for their initial report, 15 percent of these children received an alternative response following a second report within 6 months of the first. Among those children found to be victims following an

¹³ Approximately 6 percent of children had a history of family violence and 15 percent had evidence of caretaker substance abuse, so the percentage of children without such risk factors who received an alternative response mirrors the percentage in the full dataset.

investigation, 11 percent were referred to alternative response following a subsequent report. Among those children found not to be victims following an investigation, 13 percent were subsequently referred to alternative response.

While 53 percent of children with an investigation were found to be victims, among these victims, 74 percent of those with a subsequent investigation within 6 months were again found to be victims. Among children with an initial alternative response, 52 percent who experienced a subsequent investigation were found to be victims, while only 32 percent of nonvictims were found to be victims following a subsequent investigation.

**Table D–1. Age of Child by Response, New Jersey
(n = 70,786)**

Age of Child	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Age 1 or Younger	3,756	67%	1,816	33%	5,572	100%
Age 1 to 3	7,602	69%	3,461	31%	11,063	100%
Age 4 to 7	11,632	70%	5,041	30%	16,673	100%
Age 8 to 11	12,205	72%	4,771	28%	16,976	100%
Age 12 to 15	11,010	72%	4,185	28%	15,195	100%
Age 16 or older	3,889	73%	1,404	27%	5,293	100%
Missing Age	11	79%	3	21%	14	0%
Total	50,105	71%	20,681	29%	70,786	100%

**Table D–2. Race of Child by Response, New Jersey
(n = 70,786)**

Race of Child	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
American Indian	70	61%	44	39%	114	100%
African-American	16,901	67%	8,226	33%	25,127	100%
Asian	405	69%	186	31%	591	100%
White	21,359	73%	8,067	27%	29,426	100%
Hispanic	2,558	72%	981	28%	3,539	100%
Multiracial	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Unknown Race	8,812	74%	3,177	26%	11,989	100%
Total	50,105	71%	20,681	29%	70,786	100%

**Table D-3. Sex of Child by Response, New Jersey
(n = 70,786)**

Victim Sex of Child	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Boys	25,082	71%	10,337	29%	35,419	100%
Girls	24,842	71%	10,282	29%	35,124	100%
Unknown Sex	181	74%	62	26%	243	100%
Total	50,105	71%	20,681	29%	70,786	100%

**Table D-4. Prior Victimization of Child by Response, New Jersey
(n = 70,786)**

Prior Victimization of Child	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Prior Victimization	25,497	71%	10,508	29%	36,005	100%
No Prior Victimization	24,608	71%	10,173	29%	34,781	100%
Total	50,105	71%	20,681	29%	70,786	100%

**Table D-5. Report Source by Response, New Jersey
(n = 70,786)**

Report Source	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Social Services, Medical, or Mental Health Personnel	7,554	69%	3,472	31%	11,026	100%
Legal, Law Enforcement, or Criminal Justice Personnel	7,261	63%	4,311	37%	11,572	100%
Education Personnel	11,820	73%	4,276	27%	16,096	100%
Day Care	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Substitute Care	457	47%	513	53%	970	100%
Alleged Victim	652	73%	244	27%	896	100%
Parent, Other Relative, Friends/Neighbor	11,018	75%	3,690	25%	14,708	100%
Alleged Perpetrator	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Anonymous Reporter	6,862	72%	2,693	28%	9,555	100%
Other, Unknown, or Missing	4,481	75%	1,482	25%	5,963	100%
Total	50,105	71%	20,681	29%	70,786	100%

**Table D–6. Living Arrangement of Child by Response, New Jersey
(n = 70,786)**

Living Arrangement	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
With Family	45,515	71%	18,363	29%	63,878	100%
Relative Foster Care	2,603	71%	1,038	29%	3,641	100%
Non Relative Foster Care	474	60%	321	40%	795	100%
Institution	585	53%	515	47%	1,100	100%
Other or Unknown	928	68%	444	32%	1,372	100%
Total	50,105	71%	20,681	29%	70,786	100%

**Table D–7. Number of Children in Report by Response, New Jersey
(n = 70,786)**

Number of Children in Report	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
1	12,308	61%	7,925	39%	20,233	100%
2	15,846	75%	5,152	25%	20,998	100%
3	11,934	75%	3,906	25%	15,840	100%
4	7,212	75%	2,412	25%	9,624	100%
5	1,635	70%	690	30%	2,325	100%
6	690	69%	306	31%	996	100%
7	245	64%	140	36%	385	100%
8	128	62%	80	38%	208	100%
9 or more children	107	60%	70	40%	177	100%
Total	50,105	71%	20,681	29%	70,786	100%

**Table D–8. Maltreatment Type by Response, New Jersey
(n = 70,786)**

Maltreatment Type	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Physical Abuse	1,175	39%	1,831	61%	3,006	100%
Neglect	339	6%	5,134	94%	5,473	100%
Sexual Abuse	132	16%	701	84%	833	100%
Other/Emotional Maltreatment	43,597	94%	2,840	6%	46,437	100%
Multiple Maltreatment	4,862	95%	280	5%	5,142	100%
No Maltreatment	0	0%	9,895	100%	9,895	100%
Total	50,105	71%	20,681	29%	70,786	100%

**Table D–9. Drug and Alcohol Use by Caretaker by Response, New Jersey
(n = 70,786)**

Caretaker Substance Abuse	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Alcohol Abuse	2,679	87%	402	13%	3,081	100%
Drug Abuse	5,690	79%	1,536	21%	7,226	100%
Both Drug Abuse and Alcohol Abuse	480	85%	83	15%	563	100%
None or Unknown	41,256	69%	18,660	31%	59,916	100%
Total	50,105	71%	20,681	29%	70,786	100%

**Table D–10. Family Violence by Response, New Jersey
(n = 70,786)**

Family Violence	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Record of Family Violence	3,842	91%	383	9%	4,225	100%
No Record of Family Violence	46,263	70%	20,298	30%	66,561	100%
Total	50,105	71%	20,681	29%	70,786	100%

**Table D–11. Services Provided by Response, New Jersey
(n = 70,786)**

Services Provided	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
In-Home Services	36,475	73%	6,948	34%	43,423	61%
Foster Care	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Both In-Home Services and Foster Care	2,620	5%	2,703	13%	5,323	8%
No Services Provided	11,010	22%	11,030	53%	22,040	31%
Total	50,105	100%	20,681	100%	70,786	100%

APPENDIX E

CASE STUDY OF ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE SYSTEM: OKLAHOMA

During 2002, 68,971 children received dispositions in Oklahoma. Eighty percent of these children had been referred to the investigation track and 20 percent had received an alternative response.

Background

When a report of child maltreatment is made in Oklahoma, child welfare workers, with supervisor approval, make a decision about whether a report is handled as an assessment or an investigation. If there is doubt whether an assessment or investigation is more appropriate, then an investigation is conducted. Assessments and investigations are given equal priority. An assessment is conducted when the allegations in the report do not indicate a serious and immediate threat to a child's health or safety, but rather suggest inadequate parenting or life management. An assessment is intended to encourage families to participate in addressing safety concerns. An investigation is conducted when the allegations in the report indicate there is serious and immediate risk of harm to the child as indicated by dangerous parenting practices or actions. If a worker begins an assessment and then determines that the family situation falls within the guidelines for an investigation, then that same worker immediately initiates an investigation.

All reports in the assessment track are given the disposition of alternative response—nonvictim in the NCANDS data submission. Reports in the investigation track are given dispositions of substantiated, unsubstantiated, or closed with no finding.

Trends

The annual number of children who experienced reports of maltreatment to the CPS system in Oklahoma increased from 2000 to 2002, after remaining constant between 1998 and 2000. (See figure E-1.) The percentage of children who were found to be victims decreased between 1998 and 2000, and then remained constant in the subsequent 2 years, with an overall decrease of 17 percent. The number of children found not to be victims increased 30 percent during this same period. During 1998 and 1999, Oklahoma reported approximately 12,000 children with other dispositions.¹⁴ Beginning in 2000, when alternative response was introduced on the NCANDS reporting form, Oklahoma reported between 11,000 and 14,000 as receiving alternative response each year.

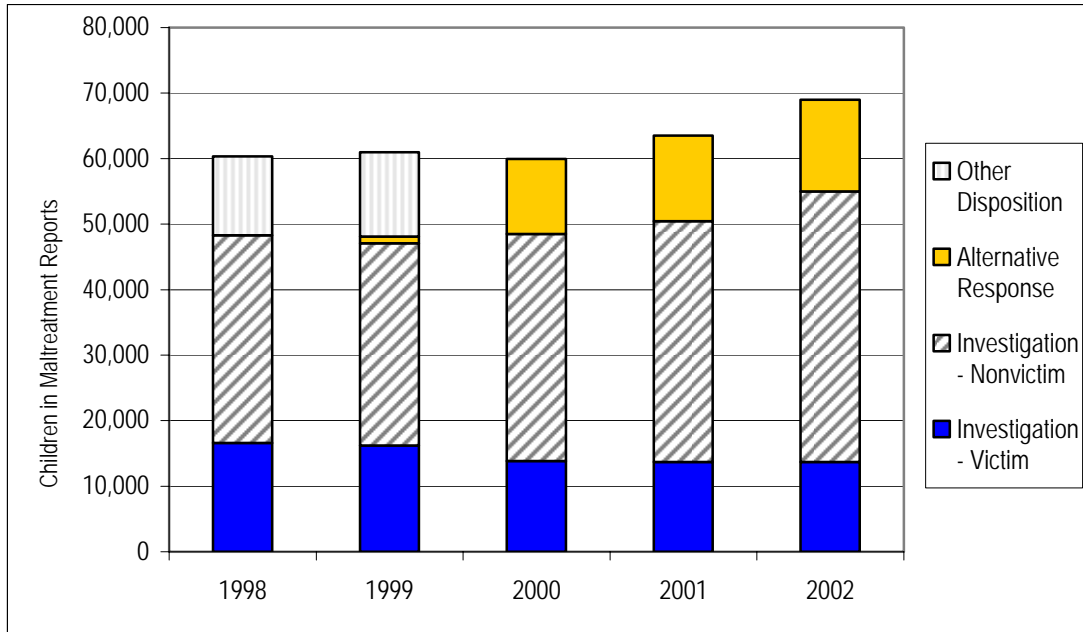
Characteristics of the Children

In general age, sex, and race did not distinguish those Oklahoma children who were referred to alternative response from those who received investigations. While the overall rate of referral alternative response was approximately 20 percent, 22 percent of infants younger than age 1, and 25 percent of children age 16 or older, were referred to

¹⁴ These other dispositions were not alternative response; they included "uncertain," a disposition made when an investigation was completed, but there was still insufficient information to confirm or rule out the maltreatment.

alternative response. Approximately 25 percent of Asian children were referred to alternative response, compared with 18 percent of African-American and 18 percent of Hispanic children.

Figure E–1. Children in Maltreatment Reports by Response, 1998–2002, Oklahoma



Characteristics of the Reported Maltreatment

While overall 20 percent of reported children received an alternative response, children whose maltreatment was alleged by their parents (24%) and anonymous reporters (27%) were more likely than others to be referred to alternative response. Children were less likely to be referred to alternative response if their maltreatment was reported by social services, medical or mental health personnel (16%), law enforcement or legal personnel (16%), day care workers (14%), or alleged victims (15%).

Children with all types of reported maltreatment were referred to alternative response, although a higher percentage of children for whom the only reported maltreatment was emotional maltreatment (28%) or neglect or medical neglect (25%) was referred to alternative response, while 15 percent of children for whom physical abuse was the only reported maltreatment were referred to alternative response. Among children with reports of multiple types of maltreatment, 11 percent were referred to alternative response. Only 4 percent of children with reported sexual abuse were referred to alternative response. Children whose caretakers had a history of drug abuse were less likely to be referred to alternative response (7%) than children with no history of caretaker drug abuse (20%).¹⁵

¹⁵ Less than 1 percent of children had a recorded history of caretaker substance abuse, so the percentage of children without this risk factor who received an alternative response mirrors the percentage in the full dataset.

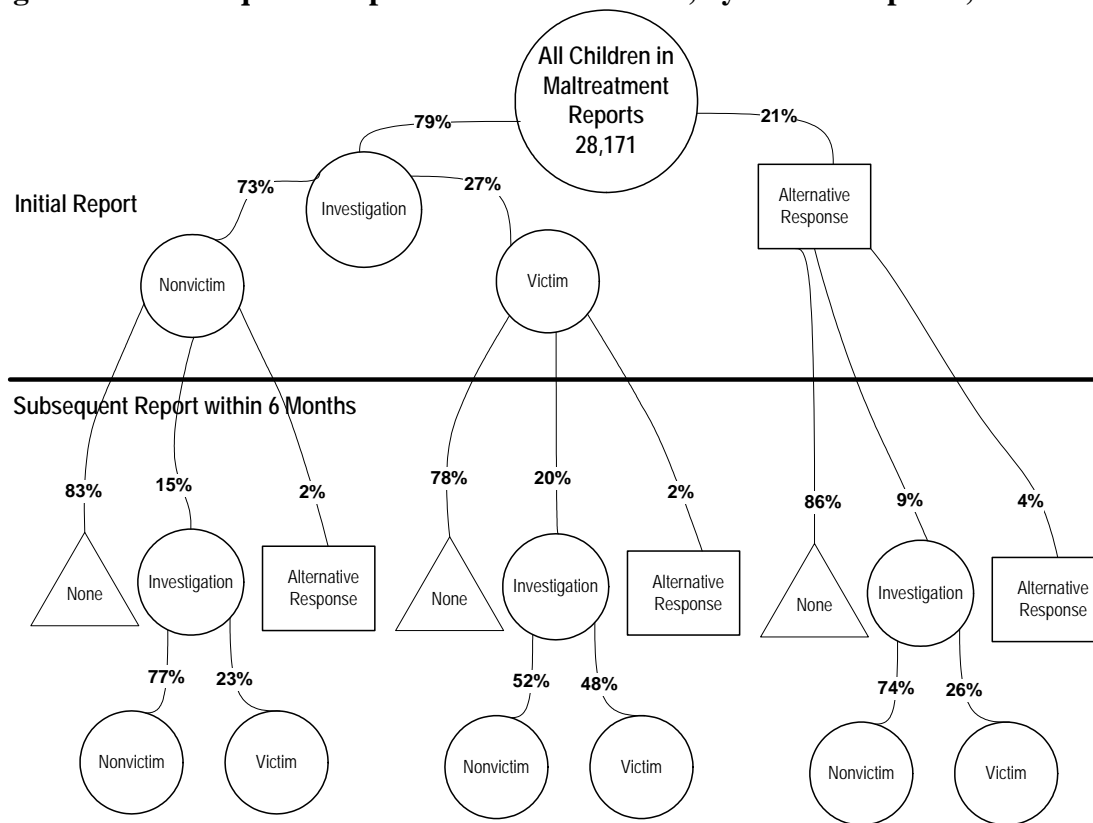
Services

In Oklahoma, provision of in-home services was almost equally likely in families who received an alternative response (56%) and those who received an investigation (57%). Only a small percentage of children were referred to foster care; these were almost all children for whom investigations had been conducted.

Subsequent Responses by CPS

In Oklahoma, the likelihood of receiving a second response within 6 months of the first was lower among children whose first response was alternative (13%) than among those who received an investigation and were found to be victims (22%) and those who received an investigation and were found not to be victims (17%). (See figure E-2.)

Figure E-2. Subsequent Response Within 6 Months, by Initial Response, Oklahoma



While 21 percent of children received an alternative response for their initial report, 4 percent of these children received a second alternative response within 6 months. Among those children found to be either victims or nonvictims following an investigation, 2 percent were referred to alternative response following a subsequent report.

While 27 percent of children with an initial investigation were found to be victims, 48 percent of these victims who experienced a subsequent investigation were again found to be victims. A comparable percentage were found to be victims among children with an

initial alternative response and subsequent investigation (26%) and nonvictims with a subsequent investigation (23%).

**Table E-1. Age of Child by Response, Oklahoma
(n = 68,971)**

Age of Child	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Age 1 or Younger	1,828	22%	6,315	78%	8,143	100%
Age 1 to 3	2,721	19%	11,766	81%	14,487	100%
Age 4 to 7	3,133	19%	13,449	81%	16,582	100%
Age 8 to 11	3,005	21%	11,540	79%	14,545	100%
Age 12 to 15	2,475	21%	9,453	79%	11,928	100%
Age 16 or older	808	25%	2,478	75%	3,286	100%
Missing Age	1,828	22%	6,315	78%	8,143	100%
Total	13,970	20%	55,001	80%	68,971	100%

**Table E-2. Race of Child by Response, Oklahoma
(n = 68,971)**

Race of Child	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
American Indian	1,898	21%	7,346	79%	9,244	100%
African-American	1,456	18%	6,840	82%	8,296	100%
Asian	98	25%	302	76%	400	100%
White	9,082	21%	34,418	79%	43,500	100%
Hispanic	994	18%	4,534	82%	5,528	100%
Multiracial	127	12%	903	88%	1,030	100%
Unknown Race	315	32%	658	68%	973	100%
Total	13,970	20%	55,001	80%	68,971	100%

**Table E-3. Sex of Child by Response, Oklahoma
(n = 68,971)**

Victim Sex of Child	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Boys	7,071	21%	27,009	79%	34,080	100%
Girls	6,815	20%	27,856	80%	34,671	100%
Unknown Sex	84	38%	136	62%	220	100%
Total	13,970	20%	55,001	80%	68,971	100%

**Table E-4. Prior Victimization of Child by Response, Oklahoma
(n = 68,971)**

Prior Victimization of Child	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Prior Victimization	287	7%	3,862	93%	4,149	100%
No Prior Victimization	13,683	21%	51,139	79%	64,822	100%
Total	13,970	20%	55,001	80%	68,971	100%

**Table E-5. Report Source by Response, Oklahoma
(n = 68,971)**

Report Source	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Social Services, Medical, or Mental Health Personnel	3,028	16%	15,679	84%	18,707	100%
Legal, Law Enforcement, or Criminal Justice Personnel	1,270	16%	6,746	84%	8,016	100%
Education Personnel	1,313	20%	5,146	80%	6,459	100%
Day Care	175	14%	1,080	86%	1,255	100%
Substitute Care	12	4%	277	96%	289	100%
Alleged Victim	69	15%	382	85%	451	100%
Parent, Other Relative, Friends/Neighbor	5,195	24%	16,259	76%	21,454	100%
Alleged Perpetrator	6	8%	74	93%	80	100%
Anonymous Reporter	493	27%	1,367	73%	1,860	100%
Other, Unknown, or Missing	2,409	23%	7,991	77%	10,400	100%
Total	13,970	20%	55,001	80%	68,971	100%

**Table E-6. Number of Children in Report by Response, Oklahoma
(n = 68,971)**

Number of Children in Report	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
1	4,408	20%	17,848	80%	22,256	100%
2	4,236	22%	15,142	78%	19,378	100%
3	2,946	20%	11,427	80%	14,373	100%
4	1,408	19%	6,084	81%	7,492	100%
5	610	19%	2,610	81%	3,220	100%
6	192	14%	1,164	86%	1,356	100%
7	91	16%	462	84%	553	100%
8	40	23%	136	77%	176	100%
9 or more children	39	23%	128	77%	167	100%
Total	13,970	20%	55,001	80%	68,971	100%

**Table E–7. Maltreatment Type by Response, Oklahoma
(n = 68,971)**

Maltreatment Type	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Physical Abuse	828	15%	4,677	85%	5,505	100%
Neglect	11,195	25%	34,221	75%	45,416	100%
Sexual Abuse	76	4%	1,683	96%	1,759	100%
Other/Emotional Maltreatment	225	28%	575	72%	800	100%
Multiple Maltreatment	1,646	11%	13,845	89%	15,491	100%
No Maltreatment	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	13,970	20%	55,001	80%	68,971	100%

**Table E–8. Drug and Alcohol Use by Caretaker by Response, Oklahoma
(n = 68,971)**

Caretaker Substance Abuse	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Alcohol Abuse	27	16%	147	84%	174	100%
Drug Abuse	8	5%	153	95%	161	100%
Both Drug Abuse and Alcohol Abuse	17	9%	163	91%	180	100%
None or Unknown	13,918	20%	54,538	80%	68,456	100%
Total	13,970	20%	55,001	80%	68,971	100%

**Table E–9. Services Provided by Response, Oklahoma
(n = 68,971)**

Services Provided	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
In-Home Services	7,840	56%	27,183	49%	35,023	51%
Foster Care	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Both In-Home Services and Foster Care	38	0%	4,614	8%	4,652	7%
No Services Provided	6,092	44%	23,204	42%	29,296	42%
Total	13,970	100%	55,001	100%	68,971	100%

APPENDIX F

CASE STUDY OF ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE SYSTEM: WYOMING

During 2002, 4,355 children in reports of maltreatment received dispositions in Wyoming. Of these children, 42 percent received investigations and 58 percent received an alternative response.

Background

In Wyoming, cases referred to the CPS agency are referred to one of three tracks. The investigation track is used to determine if abuse or neglect took place and provide interventions designed to stop abuse when it's discovered. The prevention track is used for referrals in which there are no allegations of abuse or neglect, but there are identified risk factors that might indicate the need for services to prevent abuse or neglect. The assessment track is used for cases that do not involve a major injury, fatality, sexual abuse, criminal charges, or situations in which children are in imminent danger and need to be removed from the home. Assessment services are used to evaluate family strengths and needs, determine whether there are safety issues to be resolved, and to provide services to families to increase their ability to resolve foreseeable risks to the child.

All reports in the assessment track were given the disposition of alternative response—nonvictim in the NCANDS data submission. Reports in the investigation track were given dispositions of substantiated or unsubstantiated.

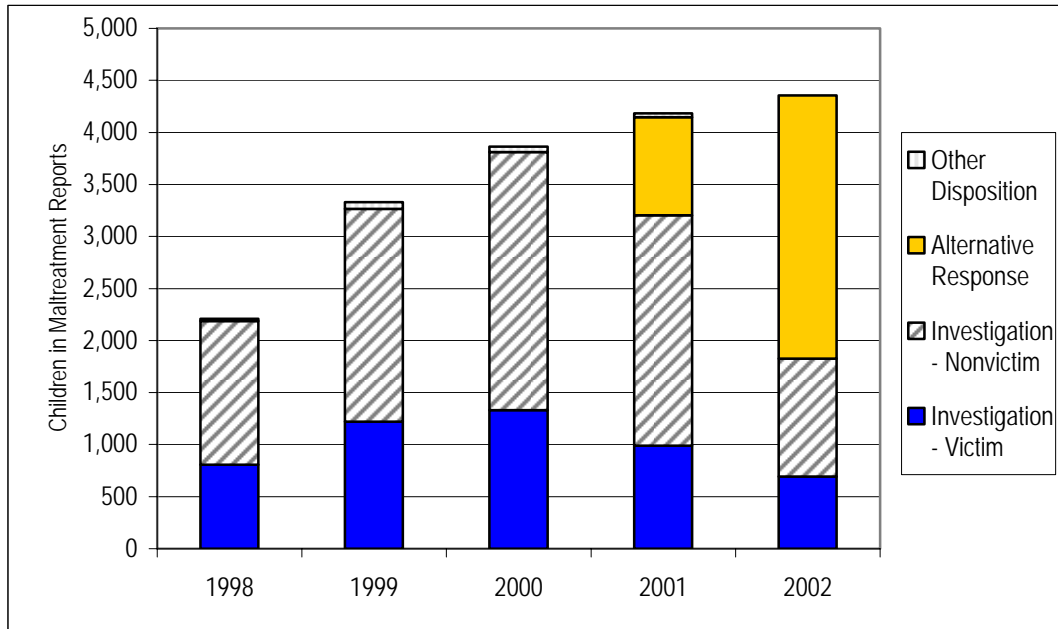
Trends

The number of children who were the subjects of maltreatment reports in Wyoming increased from 1998 to 2002. With the introduction of alternative response in the NCANDS reporting during 2001, the number of victims and nonvictims resulting from investigation—which had increased between 1998 and 2000—decreased in 2002 to a level below the 1998 level; The number of victims decreased by 14 percent and nonvictims by 18 percent. (See figure F-1.)

Characteristics of the Children

In Wyoming, the proportion of children being referred to alternative response increased with each age group from infants (39% referred to alternative response) to age 8–11 years olds (66%), and then leveled off for children age 12 and older. Among boys, 60 percent were referred to alternative response, as were 56 percent of girls. In Wyoming, an overall 58 percent of children were referred to alternative response; the percentage was slightly lower for White (57%), African-American (52%), and Hispanic (54%) children. The likelihood of referral to alternative response was highest for American Indian children (77%) and lowest for Asian children (22%).

Figure F–1. Children in Maltreatment Reports by Response, 1998–2002, Wyoming



Characteristics of the Reported Maltreatment

Children whose maltreatment was alleged by law enforcement or legal personnel (44%), day care workers (38%), or alleged perpetrators (40%) were less likely to be referred to alternative response. Children whose maltreatment was alleged by educational personnel were more likely than others (70%) to be referred to alternative response. Children living with their immediate families had the highest chance of being referred to alternative response (64%), while lesser proportions of children living in relative foster care (47%), nonrelative foster care (35%), or in institutional settings (40%), were referred to alternative response. The likelihood of referral to alternative response increased steadily with the number of children in the report; children who were alone in the report had the lowest likelihood of being referred to alternative response (27%).

Only children for whom the reported maltreatment was “other” were referred to alternative response; all children with other maltreatment were referred to alternative response. All other children were referred to investigation. The small number of children whose reports indicated a history of family violence, or a history of caretaker substance abuse, were all referred to investigation.

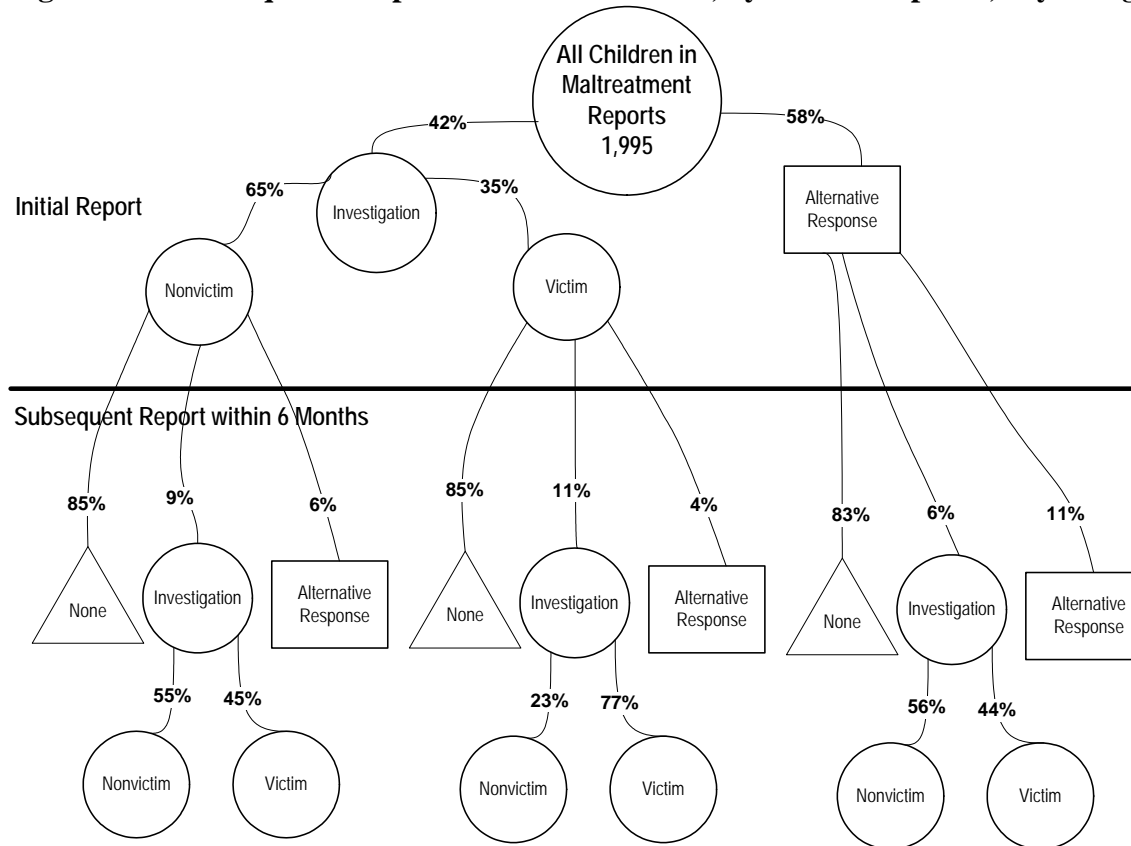
Services

In Wyoming, for the majority of children and all of the children who received alternative response, no provision of services beyond the alternative response itself was reported. In a small percentage of investigation cases, provision of in-home services or foster care services were reported.

Subsequent Responses by CPS

In Wyoming, the likelihood of receiving a second response within 6 months of the first was comparable among children whose first response was alternative response (17%), those who received an investigation and were found to be victims (15%), and those who received an investigation and were found not to be victims (15%). (See figure F-2.)

Figure F-2. Subsequent Response Within 6 Months, by Initial Response, Wyoming



While 58 percent of children received an alternative response for their initial report, 11 percent of these children received a subsequent alternative response within 6 months. Among those children found to be victims following an investigation, 4 percent were subsequently referred to alternative response. Among those children found not to be victims following an investigation, 6 percent were referred to alternative response.

While 35 percent of children with an initial investigation were found to be victims, 77 percent of these victims who experienced a subsequent investigation were again found to be victims. A comparable percentage were found to be victims among children with an initial alternative response and subsequent investigation (44%) and nonvictims with a subsequent investigation (45%).

**Table F–1. Age of Child by Response, Wyoming
(n = 4,355)**

Age of Child	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Age 1 or Younger	124	39%	191	61%	315	100%
Age 1 to 3	441	50%	447	50%	888	100%
Age 4 to 7	622	58%	450	42%	1,072	100%
Age 8 to 11	662	66%	340	34%	1,002	100%
Age 12 to 15	514	62%	309	38%	823	100%
Age 16 or older	164	64%	91	36%	255	100%
Missing Age	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	2,527	58%	1,828	42%	4,355	100%

**Table F–2. Race of Child by Response, Wyoming
(n = 4,355)**

Race of Child	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
American Indian	115	77%	34	23%	149	100%
African-American	38	52%	35	48%	73	100%
Asian	2	22%	7	78%	9	100%
White	1,967	57%	1,494	43%	3,461	100%
Hispanic	160	54%	136	46%	296	100%
Multiracial	6	60%	4	40%	10	100%
Unknown Race	239	67%	118	33%	357	100%
Total	2,527	58%	1,828	42%	4,355	100%

**Table F–3. Sex of Child by Response, Wyoming
(n = 4,355)**

Sex of Child	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Boys	1,308	60%	873	40%	2,181	100%
Girls	1,213	56%	951	44%	2,164	100%
Unknown Sex	6	60%	4	40%	10	100%
Total	2,527	58%	1,828	42%	4,355	100%

**Table F–4. Report Source by Response, Wyoming
(n = 4,355)**

Report Source	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Social Services, Medical, or Mental Health Personnel	277	53%	249	47%	526	100%
Legal, Law Enforcement, or Criminal Justice Personnel	321	44%	407	56%	728	100%
Education Personnel	642	70%	281	30%	923	100%
Day Care	34	38%	55	62%	89	100%
Substitute Care	2	67%	1	33%	3	100%
Alleged Victim	21	58%	15	42%	36	100%
Parent, Other Relative, Friends/Neighbor	754	61%	479	39%	1,233	100%
Alleged Perpetrator	2	40%	3	60%	5	100%
Anonymous Reporter	218	66%	111	34%	329	100%
Other, Unknown, or Missing	256	53%	227	47%	483	100%
Total	2,527	58%	1,828	42%	4,355	100%

**Table F–5. Living Arrangement of Child by Response, Wyoming
(n = 4,355)**

Living Arrangement	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
With Family	2,140	64%	1,189	36%	3,329	100%
Relative Foster Care	66	47%	73	53%	139	100%
Non Relative Foster Care	221	35%	411	65%	632	100%
Institution	95	40%	145	60%	240	100%
Other or Unknown	5	33%	10	67%	15	100%
Total	2,527	58%	1,828	42%	4,355	100%

**Table F–6. Number of Children in Report by Response, Wyoming
(n = 4,355)**

Number of Children in Report	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
1	348	27%	955	73%	1,303	100%
2	720	64%	406	36%	1,126	100%
3	732	72%	282	28%	1,014	100%
4	372	76%	116	24%	488	100%
5	200	80%	50	20%	250	100%
6	96	89%	12	11%	108	100%
7	42	86%	7	14%	49	100%
8	8	100%	0	0%	8	100%
Total	2,527	58%	1,828	42%	4,355	100%

**Table F–7. Maltreatment Type by Response, Wyoming
(n = 4,355)**

Maltreatment Type	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Physical Abuse	0	0%	164	100%	164	100%
Neglect	0	0%	382	100%	382	100%
Sexual Abuse	0	0%	82	100%	82	100%
Other/Emotional Maltreatment	2,527	100%	2	0%	2,529	100%
Multiple Maltreatment	0	0%	62	100%	62	100%
No Maltreatment	0	0%	1,136	100%	1,136	100%
Total	2,527	58%	1,828	42%	4,355	100%

**Table F–8. Drug and Alcohol Use by Caretaker by Response, Wyoming
(n = 4,355)**

Caretaker Substance Abuse	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Alcohol Abuse	0	0%	96	100%	96	100%
Drug Abuse	0	0%	103	100%	103	100%
Both Drug Abuse and Alcohol Abuse	0	0%	102	100%	102	100%
None or Unknown	2,527	62%	1,527	38%	4,054	100%
Total	2,527	58%	1,828	42%	4,355	100%

**Table F–9. Family Violence by Response, Wyoming
(n = 4,355)**

Family Violence	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Record of Family Violence	0	0%	152	100%	152	100%
No Record of Family Violence	2,527	60%	1,676	40%	4,203	100%
Total	2,527	58%	1,828	42%	4,355	100%

**Table F–10. Services Provided by Response, Wyoming
(n = 4,355)**

Services Provided	Alternative Response		Investigation		Total Responses	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
In-Home Services	0	0%	101	6%	101	2%
Foster Care	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Both In-Home Services and Foster Care	0	0%	247	14%	247	6%
No Services Provided	2,527	100%	1,480	81%	4,007	92%
Total	2,527	100%	1,828	100%	4,355	100%