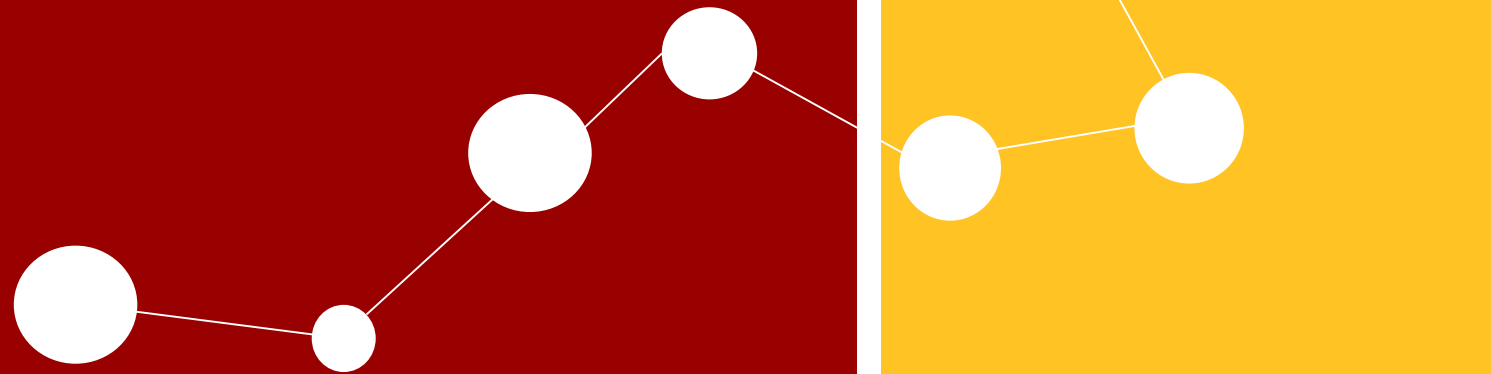


*Child Protection Involvement Among
Homeless Families Accessing Services
from the Los Angeles Homeless
Services Authority (LAHSA)*



Thank you!



Agenda

- Project Overview
- Initial Descriptive Findings
- Implications
- Q & A

Project Overview

Project Overview

Focus:

Family Homelessness



Goal:

- Better characterize the demographics, prevalence, and timing of child protection system (CPS) involvement of families receiving LAHSA between 2013 and 2016

Project Overview

Statewide
Child
Protection
Records
(CWS/CMS)



*abused or
neglected, but
never reported*

reported for
alleged
maltreatment
in California
between 1998
and 2016

*involved with child
protection outside
of California*

*homeless, but not
receiving services*

individuals
receiving
homeless
services in LA
between 2013
and 2016

*receiving homeless
support services, but
not in LA County*

LAHSA
Records
(HMIS)



LAHSA Records



HoHs (i.e., Individuals ages 18 and older)

115,175

Parents (i.e., HoHs with 1+ minor child attached)

12,283



~30K minors were set aside, and then connected to parents once they were identified through the HMIS data

Note: Identification as a Parent was dependent on having a child named in HMIS, so the population of parents does not include parents who do not have physical custody of their children. As such, the total number of parents is likely an undercount.



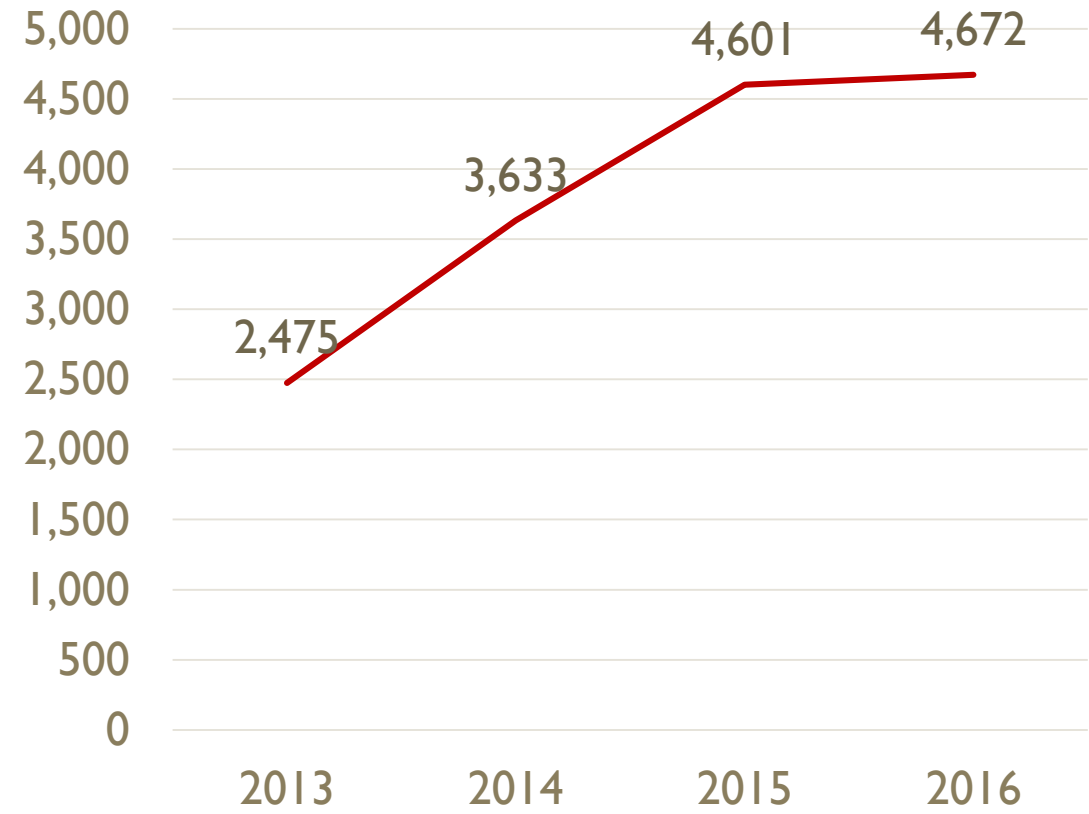
Initial Descriptive Findings

Trends

Number of parents accessing homeless services doubled btwn 2013 & 2016



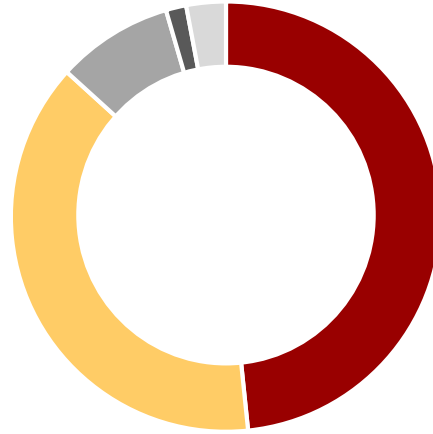
Parents Accessing LAHSA Services



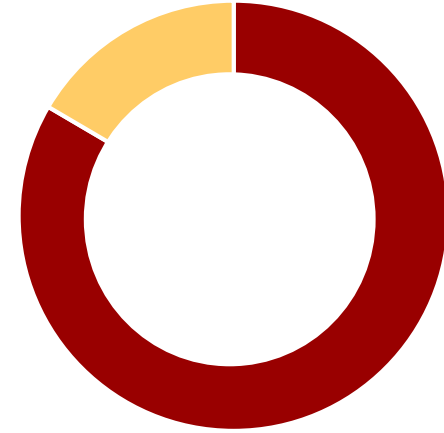
Note: Scale differs between the two graphs!

Parent Demographics

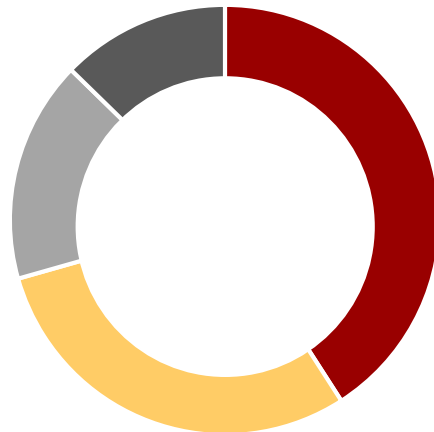
Parents were predominantly Black and Latino, female, with young children



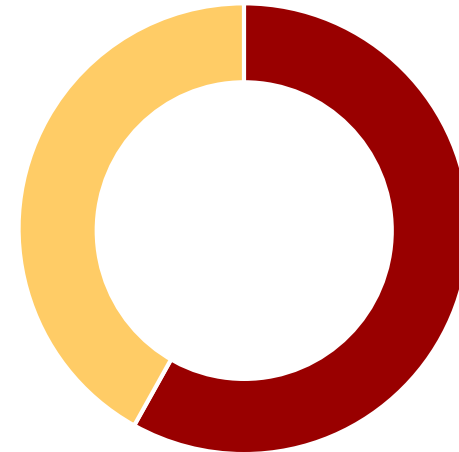
■ Black ■ Hispanic ■ White ■ API ■ Other



■ Female ■ Male

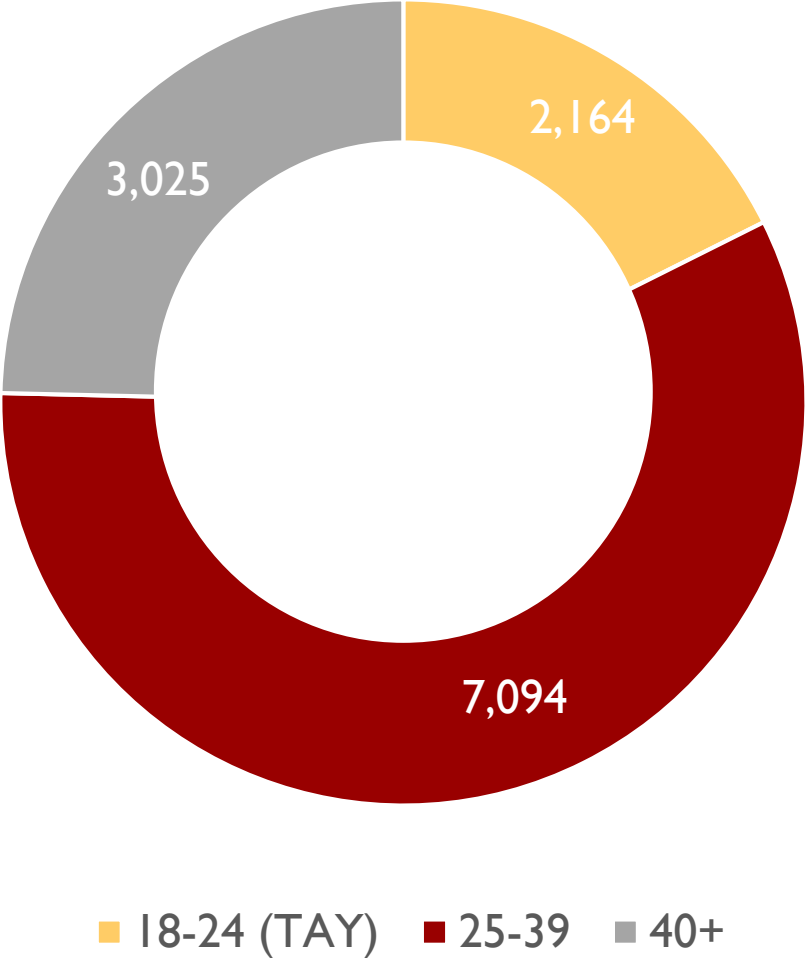


■ 1 ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4+

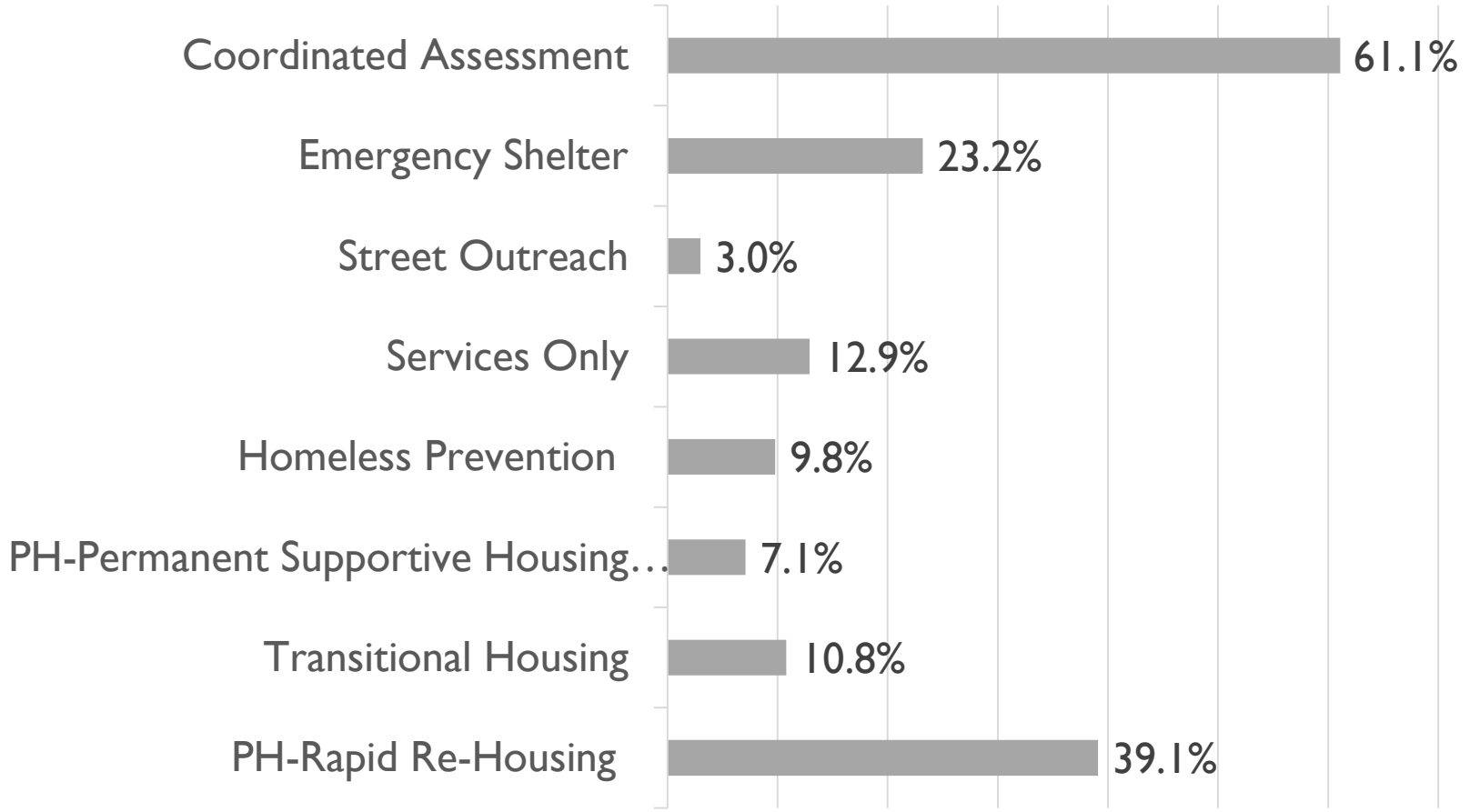


■ Parents with children under 5 at first encounter
■ Parents without children under 5 at first encounter

Parent Demographics

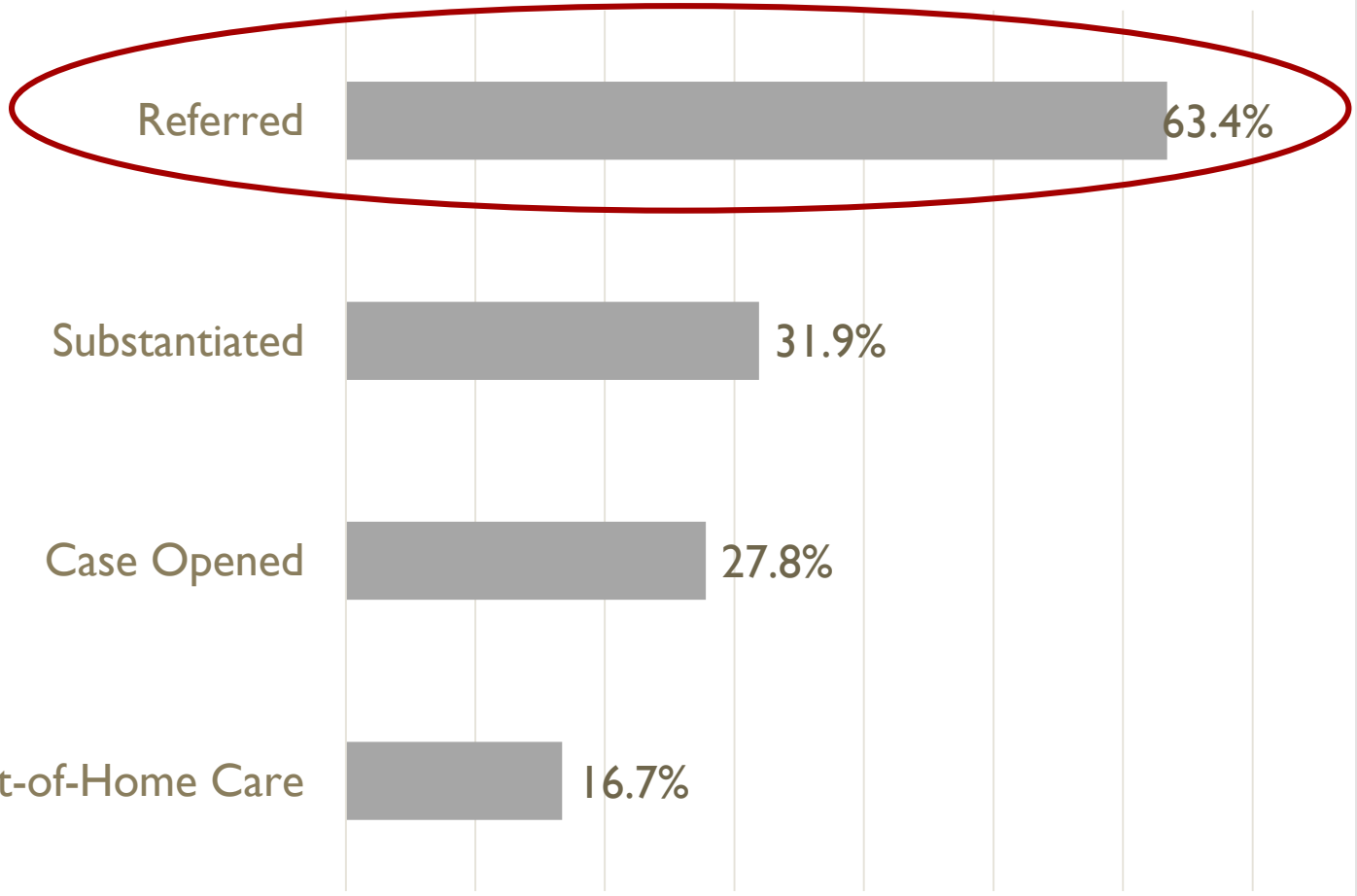


LAHSA Services



CPS Involvement

Two-thirds of families accessing LAHSA services had been referred for alleged maltreatment



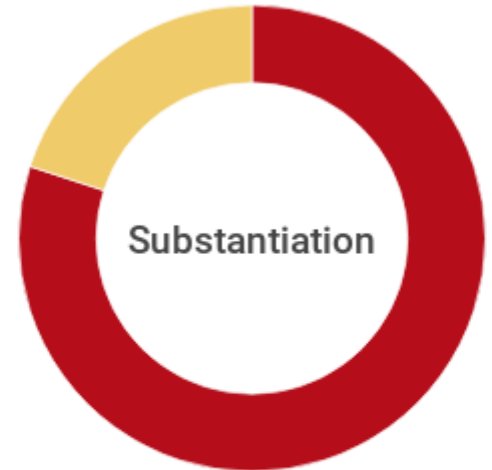
CPS Involvement

For most CPS-involved families, their 1st referral or substantiation occurred *before* their 1st LAHSA encounter



● Occurred before 1st LAHSA Encounter

● Occurred contemporaneously with or after 1st LAHSA Encounter



● Occurred before 1st LAHSA Encounter

● Occurred contemporaneously with or after 1st LAHSA Encounter

Implications

Implications

Two-thirds of homeless families were CPS-involved

CPS involvement was mostly before their first LAHSA encounter

- *prevention-oriented family support in CPS could potentially prevent later entry into homelessness*

Implications

Number of parents accessing homelessness services in LA appears to be increasing

- *Better data collection through the Family Solutions Centers and other means?*

Implications

Should spark a conversation about the about the appropriateness of earlier CPS response

- *Among CPS-involved families, more than half had not had any case opened for services.*
 - *Were responses adequate?*
- *If CPS is not opening cases or providing services to these families, who should bear the responsibility?*

Questions?

Thank you!

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<http://www.datanetwork.org/research/an-exploration-into-the-characteristics-service-needs-and-child-protection-involvement-of-families-accessing-services-through-the-los-angeles-county-homeless-services-authority/>

Appendix A:
Parent Demographic Information

Parent Demographics

Table I

Number of parents seeking homeless services (i.e., individuals ages 18 and older with one or more minor child attached to them at any point during the study window), by year

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Individuals	31,325	36,118	51,708	66,819
Heads of Household (Individuals 18 and older)	25,474	27,156	39,831	54,245
Parents	2,475	3,633	4,601	4,672

Parent Demographics

Table 2a

Demographics of parents seeking LAHSA services between 2013 and 2016

		Overall (n=12,283)	
		Frequency	Percent
Parent Age			
	18-24 (i.e., Transitional Age Youth)	2164	17.60%
	25-39	7094	57.80%
	40+	3025	24.60%
Parent Race/Ethnicity			
	Non-Hispanic Black	5,940	48.40%
	Hispanic	4,714	38.40%
	Non-Hispanic White	1,076	8.80%
	Non-Hispanic Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	188	1.50%
	Other(I)	365	3.00%

Parent Demographics

Table 2b

Demographics of parents seeking LAHSA services between 2013 and 2016

		Overall (n=12,283)	
		Frequency	Percent
Parent Gender (2)			
	Female	10,220	83.20%
	Male	2,032	16.50%
	Missing/Unknown/Other	31	0.30%
Number of Distinct Children Per Parent			
	1	5,024	40.90%
	2	3,649	29.70%
	3	2,053	16.70%
	4+	1,557	12.70%
Child Age			
	Parents with children under 5 at first encounter	7,134	58.10%
	Parents without children under 5 at first encounter (3)	5,149	41.90%

Parent Demographics

Table 3

Types of homeless services provided

	Overall (n=12,283)	
	Frequency	Percent
PH-Rapid Re-Housing	4,800	39.1%
Transitional Housing	1,321	10.8%
PH-Permanent Supportive Housing (Disability req. for entry)	871	7.1%
Homeless Prevention	1,204	9.8%
Services Only	1,579	12.9%
Street Outreach	374	3.0%
Emergency Shelter	2,847	23.2%
Coordinated Assessment	7,511	61.1%

Parent Demographics

Table 4

Child protection involvement of families seeking homeless services between 2013 and 2016

	Overall (n=12,283)	
	Frequency	Percent
Referred	7,832	63.4%
Substantiated	3,935	31.9%
Case Opened	3,429	27.8%
Placed in Out-of-Home Care	2,057	16.7%