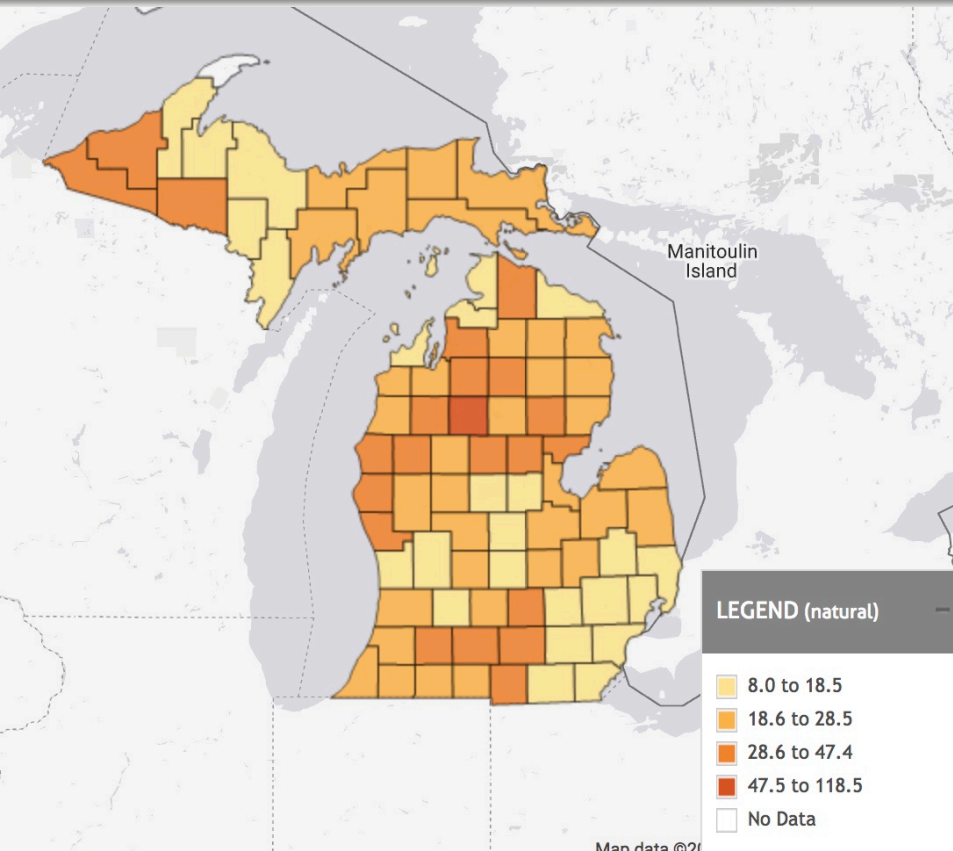


Foster Care in Michigan

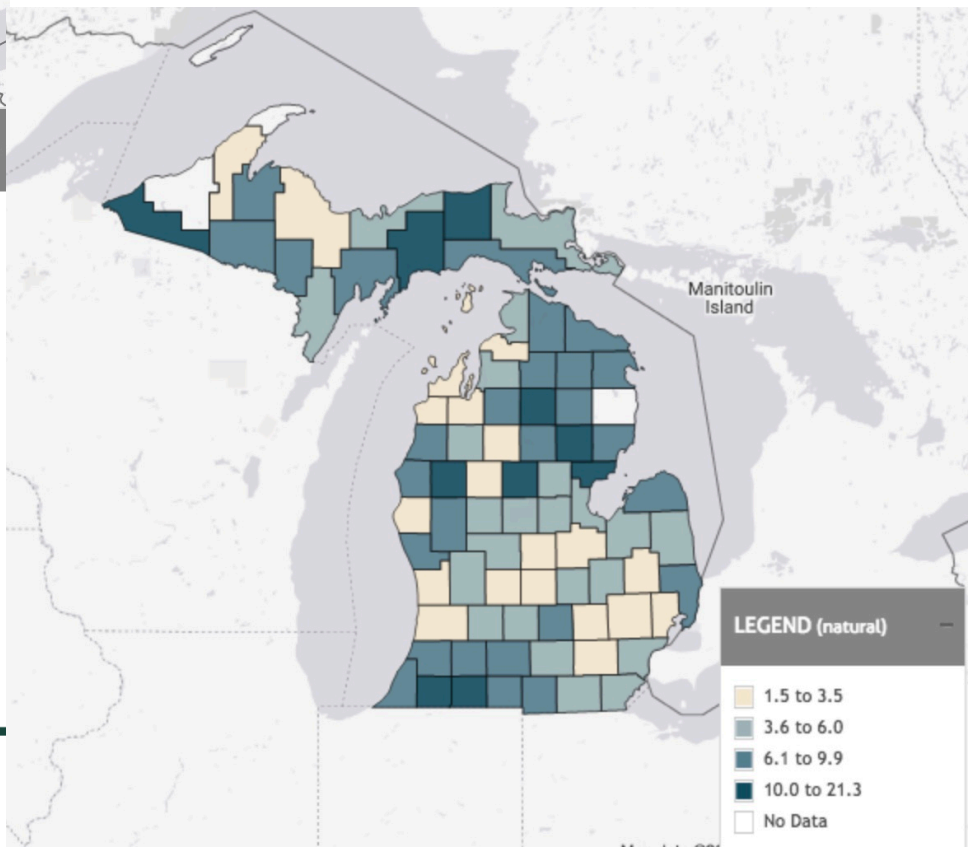
*Michigan State University
Institute for Public Policy & Social Research
Public Policy Forum Series*

Dr. Sacha Klein, MSU School of Social Work
May 2, 2018





- 51% were 0-5 yrs old
- 81% were victims of neglect
- 24% of physical abuse
- 3% of sexual abuse



- 37,293 confirmed victims of child maltreatment in MI in 2016
- 15.7 per 1,000 children



Often involves sudden, 'violent' disruption of child's relationship with:

- his/her **primary attachment figure**
- Other family (e.g., siblings)
- Comfort of home & possessions
- Friends
- School
- Neighborhood



Removal circumstances are often **traumatic** for everyone involved





Disrupted attachment frequently sets the stage for compromised:

- Socio-emotional, language & cognitive development
- Physical health
- Mental health
- Economic self-sufficiency



How Do We Prevent the Need for Foster Care?

Best Practices for Keeping Vulnerable Families Together



Invest in evidence-based **Home Visiting Programs**, especially those shown to reduce child maltreatment

- Child First
- Early Head Start
- Healthy Families America
- Nurse Family Partnership
- Parents as Teachers [PAT]
- SafeCare



CT's statewide home visiting program, which uses the PAT model, found that participation in the program **reduced the likelihood of a substantiated neglect report by 22%.**





- Invest in high quality **Early Care & Education [ECE]**, especially two generation programs
 - Make children in the CWS categorically eligible
 - Prioritize them for enrollment
 - Fund additional slots
- Chicago Parent-Child Centers participants **~half as likely to be abused/neglected by age 18 than controls** (Reynolds & Robertson, 2003)
 - Los Angeles County neighborhoods with higher rates of preschool enrollment & a greater supply of licensed child care relative to demand had **lower rates of early child maltreatment** (Klein, 2011)
 - Young children reported to the CWS who attended Head Start had **93% lower odds of being placed in foster care** 18 months later than peers not receiving ECE (Klein, Fries & Emmons, 2017)



- Expand access to **drug treatment programs**
- Especially models that allow mothers & infants to remain living together and that provide parent education & child care
- **61% of infants & 41% of older children** in out-of-home care are from families with active alcohol or drug abuse (Wulczyn, Ernst & Fisher, 2011)
- Cited reason for removal of **~31%** of children placed in foster care in 2012 (AFCARS, 2012)



How Do We Improve the Experience of Foster Children While They Are in Care?



- Senate currently has the opportunity to bring the bipartisan **Children's Assurance of Quality Foster Care Policy** bills to a vote & support them

OREGON FOSTER CHILDREN'S BILL OF RIGHTS **I HAVE THE RIGHT TO:**



S SAFE HOME WHERE I FEEL PROTECTED



A ATTEND SCHOOL, SPORTS, CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

F FAMILY – LIVE WITH A FAMILY THAT CARES ABOUT ME AND PROTECTS ME



E EAT AND HAVE HEALTHY FOOD AT EVERY MEAL

T THINGS – TO HAVE MY OWN THINGS (TOYS, CLOTHES, BLANKET...)



Y YES, I CAN ALWAYS CONTACT MY ATTORNEY, CASEWORKER, CASA OR FOSTER CARE OMBUDSMAN IF I HAVE QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS



WHO CAN I CALL?

If you wish to make a call and need an adult to help, you can ask a foster parent or caregiver at the home, a teacher, a church member or another adult friend that you trust.

Call or email the Foster Care Ombudsman at the Youth, Empowerment and Safety (Y.E.S) Line at 1-855-840-6036 or FCO.info@state.or.us.

This document can be provided upon request in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities or in a language other than English for people with limited English skills. To request this publication in another format or language, contact 503-378-3486 or 503-378-3523 for TTY.



- Guarantee subsidized **child care for foster parents & relative caregivers** of young children – remove work & income related barriers and provide timely reimbursement
- Children whose foster parents use child care assistance less likely to experience placement disruption (Meloy & Phillips, 2012)





- Screen foster parents for empathy & flexibility
- Require all foster parents/relative caregivers receive evidence-based **training on parenting traumatized children**



How Do We Help Foster Children Transition Successfully to Adulthood?



HOMELESS

65% of youth leaving foster care need immediate housing upon release,



and 22.2% experience homelessness after age 18.



NOMONEY

33.2% of foster alumni have household incomes at or below the poverty line.



INPRISON

Foster youth are 5 to 10 times more likely to enter the juvenile justice system,



and 25% are incarcerated within the first two years of emancipation.



MENTALHEALTH

25.2% of foster alumni are diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder,



which is nearly double the rate of U.S. war veterans.

