

## Something needs to change

in Hennepin County:

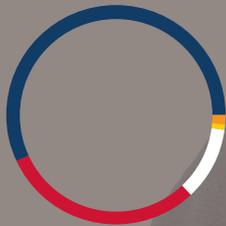
96.3% more child protection reports

99.5% more maltreatment findings

99% more kids in foster care

since 2009

### Most common reports, 2014



- Neglect (12,525)
- Physical abuse (6,623)
- Sexual abuse (2,334)
- Medical neglect (281)
- Mental injury and emotional harm (202)

## Hennepin County Child Protection Oversight Committee

Report  
Fall 2016

Finding a better way to protect and care for kids

# Addressing a serious problem

Several factors led the County Board to create a 12-member committee to look for a better way to protect children.

- Children suffer and die because of maltreatment.
- A county-initiated study found serious systemic faults.
- Governor Mark Dayton's Child Protection Task Force issued its recommendations.

## Child Protection Oversight Committee

Included experts from health care, family court, social work, public policy, child development, law enforcement and nonprofit agencies. Working from October 2015 to October 2016, they heard testimony from staff, key vendors and the general public.

They developed six core recommendations to guide child protection work going forward.

## 1. Adopt a new focus: Child well-being

Children's needs are at the center of the county's efforts, as we work to identify at-risk families earlier and provide practical supports to address the root causes of abuse and neglect. Our goal is to prevent – not just respond to – maltreatment, with the hope of sparing kids the kind of injury that can last a lifetime.

The child well-being approach prioritizes children's:



Physical  
health

+



Emotional/  
social  
health

+



Relational  
health

+



Growth and  
development



## 2. Stabilize workforce

Reasonable caseloads will allow for implementation of the child well-being approach at every level of child and family services.

## 3. Improve professional supports

Co-locating work teams in the same office improves internal and external collaboration and communication, and gives workers the professional support they need.

A more efficient and faster response system also will result in better outcomes for children.

## 4. Offer early and practical help

Help with health and human services needs and providing in-home supports will reduce stress on families and create stability, preventing crises and diverting them from more intensive child protection services.

## 5. Improve data collection and sharing

An independent data group will work with management to report on and improve outcomes for children, so we can measure and monitor achievement of child well-being goals.

## 6. Continue study and maintain accountability

The County Board will create an ongoing oversight group to continue to monitor improvement and ensure sustainability.

# Building a brighter future

Children who do not experience maltreatment are more likely to have:

- Better mental and physical health
- Better success in school
- Less trouble with the law
- Healthier relationships
- Success avoiding teen pregnancy

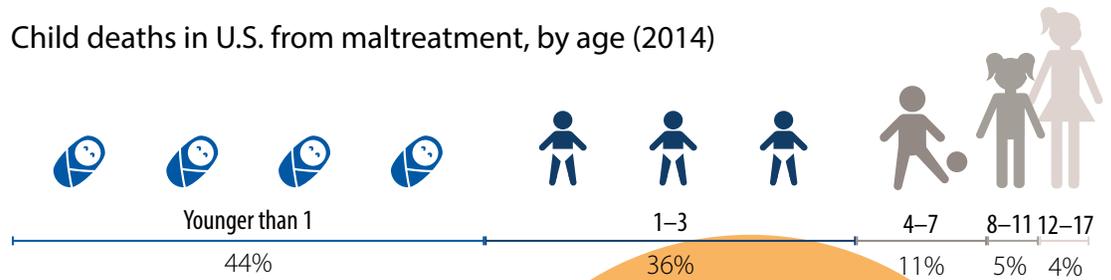


# Child maltreatment is a national problem

**1,580 deaths**  
of abuse or neglect

Experts estimate deaths are underreported by roughly 50%.

Child deaths in U.S. from maltreatment, by age (2014)



**20 years**  
shorter life expectancy

For people with six or more adverse factors, such as abuse, neglect and family dysfunction, compared to those who do not have those experiences.



**\$124 billion**  
national price tag

Lifetime costs from the maltreatment children endure.



**\$83.5 billion**  
Lost productivity when people struggle to maintain employment



**\$25 billion**  
Health care



**\$5 billion**  
Special education



**\$5 billion**  
Child welfare



**\$4 billion**  
Criminal justice

National estimates, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention