

Connecticut Department of Children and Families

Family Assessment Response

August 28, 2015

Data Prepared by:
Performance Improvement Center, UConn School of Social Work

UConn
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



Family Assessment Response

Connecticut's Differential Response System, Family Assessment Response (FAR), connects low to moderate risk families with no safety factors to community supports and services.

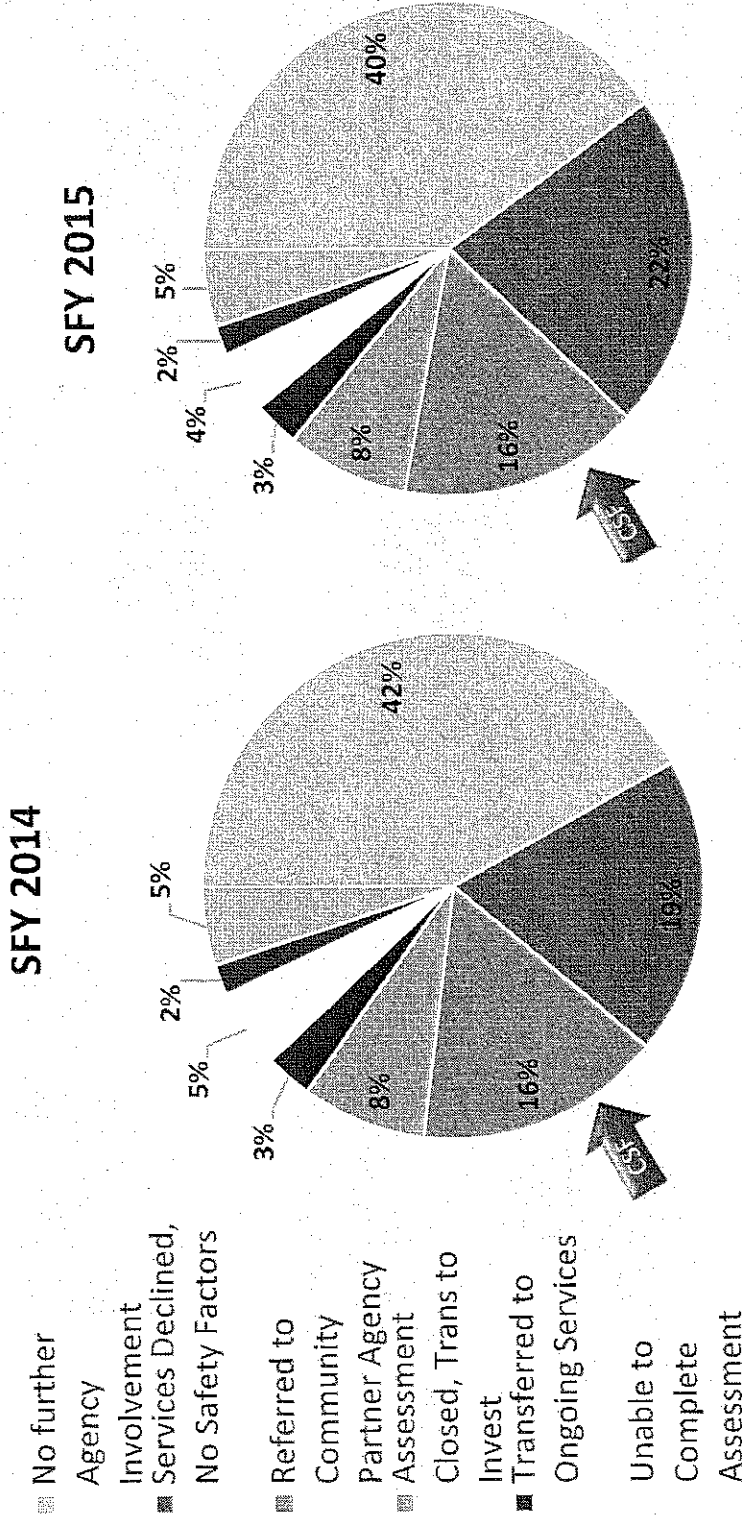
- The Family Assessment Response model is a strength-based, family-centered approach to partnering with families and their supports to protect children and enhance parental capacity.
- The Community Support for Families Program (CSF) is a family driven program designed to connect families to informal/formal supports and resources within their community to meet their individual needs.

FAR- Overview

- A total of 26,590 unique families were served by FAR since March 2012.
 - 27% of those families have children under the age of four at index.
 - School personnel and the police were most often the reporters.
- The percentage of Child Protective Service (CPS) reports designated as FAR has increased from 36% to 44% since January, 2014.
- The percentage of FAR cases that change track to investigation has remained relatively stable ranging from 11%-14%.
- FAR case dispositions were stable between SFY 2014 and SFY 2015. The majority of families had no further agency involvement. In both fiscal years, 16% of families were referred to Community Partner Agencies (i.e. Community Support for Families)

FAR Disposition – By State Fiscal Year

LINK Data as of 08/26/15



The majority of FAR dispositions are “No further agency involvement.” In SFY 2014 & 2015 16% of FAR cases were referred to a Community Partner Agency (i.e. the Community Supports for Families program).

Unduplicated FAR Families With Any Subsequent Reports By Region



FAR Data Discussion

- **The families being referred to FAR share many of the same demographic characteristics that are seen in other differential response systems.**
 - Families are concentrated in areas of high poverty.
 - The number of families with prior reports has been decreasing over time, especially those families with three or more prior reports.
 - The majority of prior reports occurred seven or more months before the first FAR.
 - The majority of FAR dispositions are “No further agency involvement”.
 - The type of reporter has remained relatively stable over time, with a slight increase of reports by police.
 - The majority of FAR families do not have subsequent reports.

FAR - Summary

- Overall, referrals to FAR have been appropriate:
 - Only a small percentage of families changing track to investigation;
 - Most of the families who have received a FAR do not have prior history with DCF.
- As expected, those families with a prior history and those who were moderate to high risk were more likely to have subsequent reports than those families without any prior DCF involvement.
- For FAR cases, families with children 0-3 are no more likely to have a subsequent report than families with children over the age of 4.

Community Support for Families

- **The CSF program aims to:**
 - Decrease rate of repeat maltreatment;
 - Reduce likelihood of families being re-referred to DCF;
 - Reduce the number of children entering care.
- **Program Components**
 - Assisting the family in meeting their basic needs
 - Assisting in the development of a Family Team and facilitating Family Team Meetings
 - Developing Plan of Care in partnership with families
 - Identifying and helping facilitate familial and social connections
 - Assisting with conflict resolution as necessary
 - Assisting with connections to concrete, traditional and non-traditional supports and services
 - Assuring that identified services are in place and family needs have been addressed
 - Providing limited parenting skills, education and support

CSF – Demographic Overview

- A total of 4,371 unique families were served by CSF since March 2012.
- Mean age of children is 7.84 years (range 0 - 17).
- 32% of the children served in CSF were ages 0-3.
- Racial breakdown of CSF participants:
 - Black/African American - 17%
 - White - 42%
 - Hispanic/Latino - 35%
 - Other - 6%

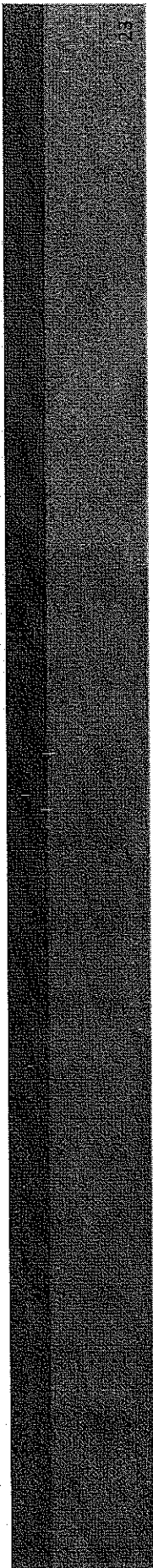
CSF – Number of Families Served Per Year

PIE Extract 3/1/12-5/20/15

	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	TOTAL
2012*	59	115	119	163	141	109	706
2013	134	232	353	309	234	254	1,516
2014	184	196	378	347	248	238	1,591
2015**	73	67	120	147	83	68	558
TOTAL	450	610	970	966	706	669	4,371

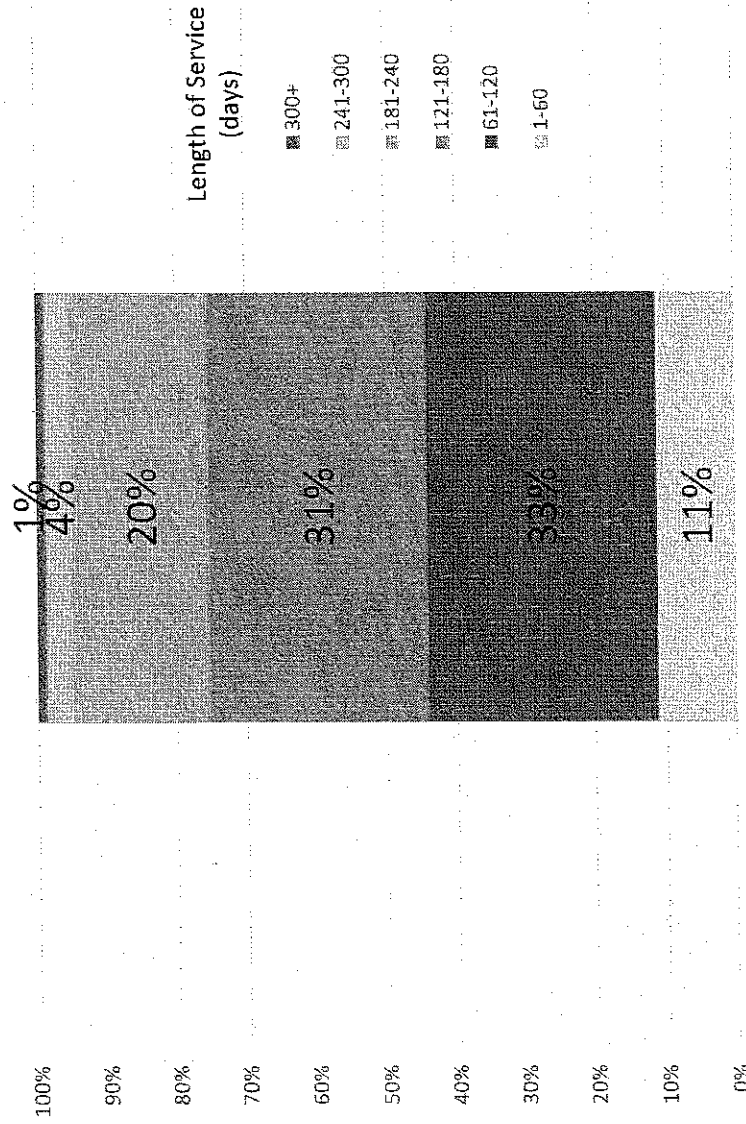
Not complete fiscal years

* 3/5/2012 – 6/30/2012 ** 7/1/2014 – 4/14/2015



CSF – Subsequent Reports by Length of Service

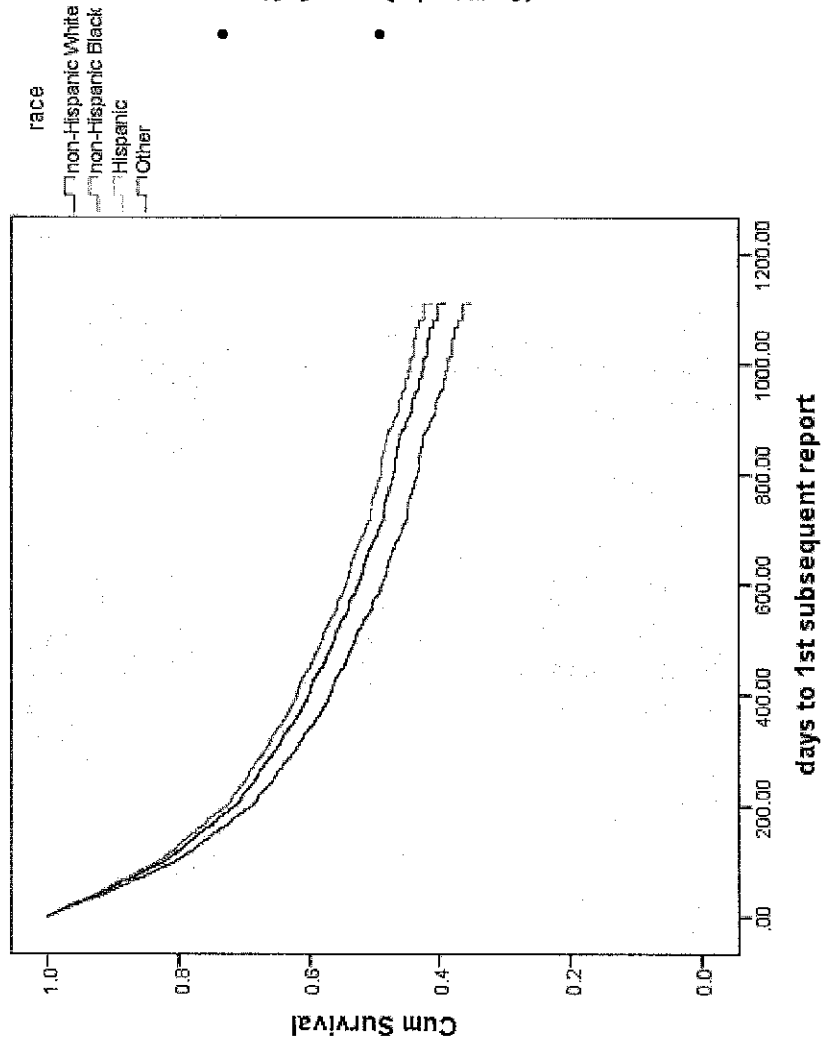
PIE Extract 3/1/12-5/20/15; LINK Data Extract 3/5/12-4/14/15



Families who received a subsequent report

Those families with the longest length of service were less likely to receive a subsequent report.

CSF Survival Time to First Subsequent Report By Race/Ethnicity



- Non-Hispanic Blacks are 15% less likely to have a subsequent report than Non-Hispanic Whites.
- After adjusting for race/ethnicity, the survival time to an investigation subsequent report between Region 5 & 3 becomes non-significant.

Community Support for Families – Data Summary

- The top 5 needs assessed were: resource management/basic needs, social support system, parenting skills, household relationships, and coping skills.
- Average length of service statewide for CSF was 4 months.
- Those with a longer length of services have higher incidences of meeting treatment goals.
- 74% (N=3,150) of families were discharged having met treatment goals. This did not vary substantively by race. Overall, families were satisfied with services received.
- 60% of families did not have a subsequent report.
 - Families with a prior child welfare history were more likely to have subsequent reports.
 - Families with a longer length of service were less likely to have subsequent reports.

*Referral Only: Potential families that were referred to CSF by DCF, but elected not to engage in the CSF program.

**Evaluation Only: Families that had an episode of care open less than 45 days and/or there was no Plan of Care (POC) established.

CSF Data Discussion

- ◆ The outcome analysis has indicated that there are a number of risk and protective factors that influence outcomes.
 - Factors that positively influenced outcomes included:
 - Employment,
 - Length of service,
 - Increase in protective factors.
 - Factors that negatively influenced outcomes included:
 - Having younger children,
 - CPS history,
 - Substance abuse issues.
- ◆ More information is needed to fully understand the influence of these factors in order to develop program strategies to capitalize on the protective factors and mitigate the risk factors.

Conclusions

- Overall, families assigned to the FAR track remain on the FAR track.
- Prior history and risk factors are related to the occurrence of subsequent reports.
- The services being delivered by the Community Partner Agencies through Community Supports for Families (CSF) match the services needed.
- Longer length of service in the CSF program is related to fewer subsequent reports.
- Most families are discharged from CSF because they meet treatment goals.
- For FAR cases, families with children 0-3 are no more likely to have a subsequent report than families with children over the age of 4.

Next Steps:

- Increased access to demographic variables to allow for further analysis of FAR data
- NCFAS-G roll-out
- Site visits

Future analysis: continue to widen the scope of the outcome analysis:

- ✓ Identify and match demographic and background variables to various data levels: i.e., victim/children, perpetrator, and family primary care givers, to allow for developing profiles of children/families with risk of subsequent reports.
- ✓ Closely examine services/programmatic factors, e.g., FTM, "length of service", and how they are related to subsequent reports during and after CSF episodes.
- ✓ Evaluation of CSF vs non-CSF families (adjusted for various confounding factors to obtain "unbiased" estimate of CSF "treatment effect").
- ✓ Utilize the NCFAS-G to explore family interactions, well-being, and social and community connections.
- ✓ Evaluation of FAR vs. Investigation tracks (pending available resources).