



The 2022 Prevention Impact Report

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NEW HAMPSHIRE

Children's Trust

New Hampshire chapter of  **Prevent Child Abuse
America**

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Introduction

In January of 2020, New Hampshire Children’s Trust launched the Family Support Data System (FSDS), built on a QuickBase® platform, to:

1. Provide the only uniform data platform for *Family Resource Centers* (FRCs) across New Hampshire.
2. Elevate and celebrate, through data, the scope, impact, and importance of FRCs as a sector.
3. Expand FRC reporting on new and existing state-funded initiatives, as well as local programming, via a consolidated and streamlined *process*.

In its role as the Facilitating Organization for NH Family Resource Centers, New Hampshire Children’s Trust promotes coordinated outcome measurement and continuous quality improvement within and across family strengthening programs. A common data platform, standardized data collection, and the integration of existing data silos (where possible) are all important functions for New Hampshire’s network of Family Resource Centers.

Opportunity from Prevention



MESSAGE FROM

Becky Berk

Impact Director, NH Children's Trust

In 2022, **Family Resource Centers (FRCs)** around the state provided more than **60,000** hours of services and support to **12,065** individuals in **4,946 families**.¹ While groups and classes are offered to the community and open to the public through every FRC, some families also need more individual support. The collective assessment of those families indicates that many families struggle with basic needs that, when addressed, contribute to the stability of the family, reduce stress, and produce better environments for children. Some of these basic needs include childcare, access to food, housing, utility payments, transportation, dental care, and mental and behavioral health.

Family Resource Centers provide opportunities to build parental resilience in the face of challenges, to connect with other people and resources, to garner tangible and economic supports that bolster stability, to increase their knowledge of parenting and child development, and to help children develop socially and emotionally.

All of this begins, however, with ensuring that families' basic needs for safety and security are met. Most reports to DCYF are for the concern about the neglect of children rather than abuse.² To what extent, though, are parents neglecting their children as opposed to facing challenges associated with poverty and lack of resources? And in such cases, isn't there a better way to support these families?

Finally, what could New Hampshire save, in terms of money and misery, by working with families as early and as far "upstream" as possible? This data report explores these questions to reinforce the importance of providing safe and nurturing environments where our state's children and families can thrive.

1. These numbers include data from the FSDS and data reported by FRCs collected in other data platforms. The hours of encounters also include an adjustment for two FRCs that do not track encounter data in the FSDS.

2. US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2022). Child Maltreatment 2020. Retrieved from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/report/child-maltreatment-2020>

What are the Needs of Families?



Concrete supports for parents (including food, housing, health care, and clothing) are a protective factor that promotes the well-being of children and families and helps prevent child abuse and neglect. When families initially visit their local FRC, support staff administer concrete needs assessments to help identify their immediate needs.³

Of the **1,319 families** who completed a concrete needs assessment⁴ during 2022,

1 in 3 Families



reported **not being able to pay** for these **essential needs** during the previous month:



Groceries and Food

(includes baby formula & diapers)



Utilities or Bills

(includes electric, heat, & phone)



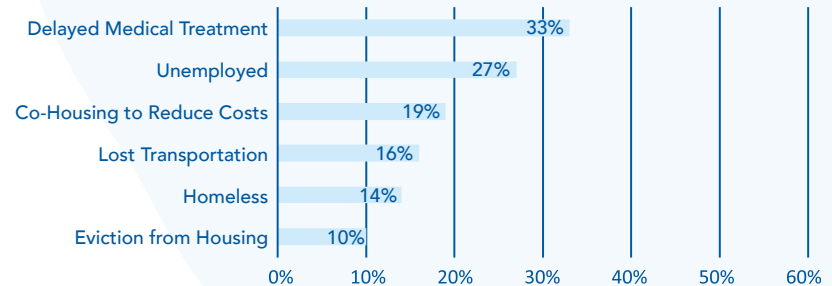
Rent or Mortgage



Transportation

(includes gas and car repairs)

Percent of families who experienced specific hardships **during the past year**



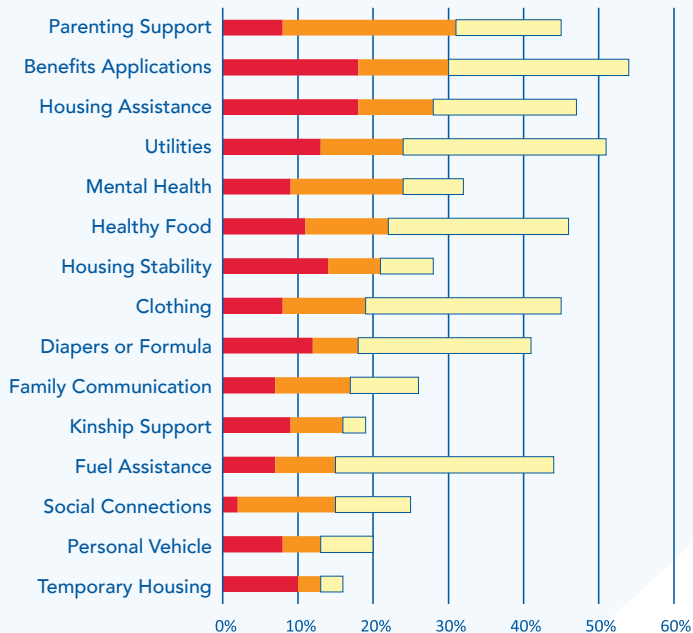
Struggling to pay for **basic concrete needs like food, housing, and health care** can **increase parental stress** and the **risk factors** associated with **child maltreatment**.³

3. Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2020). Protective Factors to Promote Well-Being and Prevent Child Abuse & Neglect. US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau.

4. The Protective Factors Survey, 2nd Edition (PFS-2). (2018). University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships and Research. <https://friendsnrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/PFS-2-User-Manual-10.22.18.pdf>

FRCs also assess families across a broader range of topics that affect family stability and functioning to help determine which economic and family strengthening supports and services would be most beneficial for them. When a need is identified, its urgency is also identified as: **URGENT** (needs within 1 week), **IMPORTANT** (needs within 1 month), or identified as a **need within the next 6 months**.

The chart below includes NH families' top 15 reported needs in 2022 ranked by combined urgent and important needs.



Urgent **Important** **Needs within 6 Months**
1 Week **1 Month** **6 Month**

1 in 2 Families needed or anticipated needing help applying for public benefits and paying for utilities within 6 months.

- Additionally, **40-50%** of families needed parenting support and help paying for housing, fuel, healthy food, clothing, and diapers and formula

1 in 3 Families needed parenting support and help applying for public benefits **within 1 month**.

- Additionally, **25-35%** of families needed mental health services, housing stability, family communication support, and social connections

1 in 6 Families needed help applying for public benefits and housing assistance **within 1 week**.

Topic areas assessed include: Housing, family life, health, income and documentation assistance, employment and education, legal, transportation, and other concrete needs.

All needs by topic area are included in charts on pages 7 and 8 of this report

FRC Work with NH Families

12,076
Service touchpoints to
27,825
People statewide

Service touchpoints (encounters) offered by FRCs fall into one of five major goal areas: parent education, social interaction, early childhood support, economic success and family functioning/health/resilience:



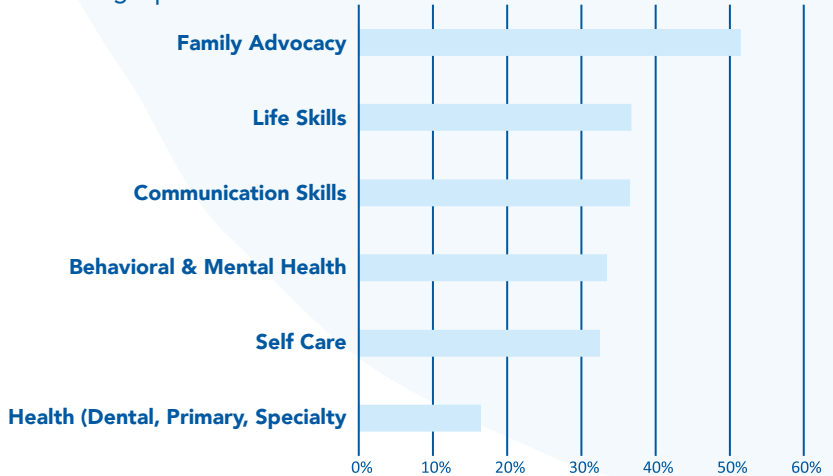
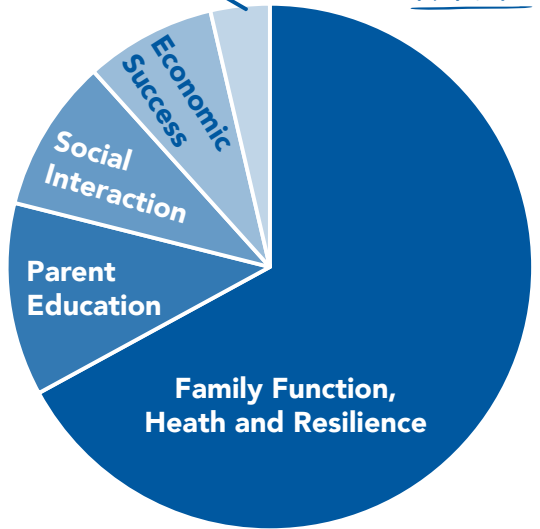
For **groups and classes**, social interaction (45%) and parent education (27%) constituted the majority of encounters and attendees.



For encounters with **single families** (e.g., case management or home visiting), family functioning/health/resilience was the focus of nearly 75% of the encounters.

When focusing attention on the provision **Family Functioning/Health/Resilience**, the following topics were covered most often:

Early Childhood Support



Direct Economic Supports to NH Families

The Trestle Fund

New Hampshire Charitable Foundation (NHCF), NHCT, and NH's Family Resource Center Network established a partnership to support the growing number of families experiencing financial hardship. **The Trestle Fund Concrete Supports for NH Families pilot project**, launched statewide in January 2022, provided low-barrier financial assistance to NH families in need. The total budget for the pilot project was \$650,000.

77% of Trestle Fund dollars supported families with housing, transportation, and childcare in 2022.

1 in 3 families in the U.S struggles to afford diapers for their babies, according to a frequently cited study on diaper needs in the U.S. published in 2013 in Pediatrics.⁶

41% of NH families needed assistance paying for diapers and formula in 2022, according to data compiled in the Family Support Data System.

Baby2Baby is a Los Angeles-based non-profit that provides essential items to low-income children and families across the U.S. In 2022, NHCT partnered with Baby2Baby to distribute bulk shipments of diapers, wipes, and formula through the NH FRC network. These essential supplies were then distributed to low income NH families at no cost. During the year, NHCT coordinated 46 distributions to FRCs with a total of 53,625 diapers, 1,907 packs of wipes, 85 cases of formula and 450+ toy sets for infants and toddlers.

Baby2Baby In 2022, FRCs distributed:



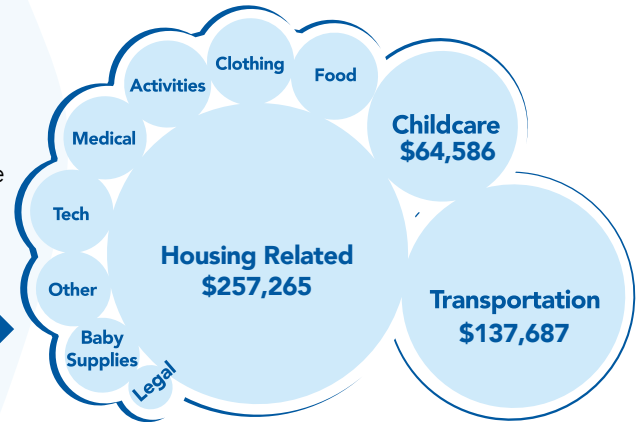
53,625 Diapers



1,907 Packs of Wipes



85 Cases of Formula



6. Smith, M. V., Kurse, A., Weird, A., & Goldblum, J. (2013). Diaper Needs and its Impact on Child Health. Pediatrics, 132(2), 253-259. <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2013-0597>

NH Family Outcomes

Families report improvements after receiving supports and services from FRCs

Of the families in service in 2022 that completed a Protective Factors retrospective survey⁴, more than half of caregivers reported improvement in the following areas, with the highest rates of improvement featured to the right:

- Family functioning/resiliency
- Social supports
- Nurturing and attachment
- Caregiver/practitioner relationships

Impact limitations

While the caregiver retrospective survey results suggest strong improvements in family functioning and social supports for families that receive services and supports from FRCs, it is currently not possible to make direct correlations between FRC activity and NH child welfare system reports of child maltreatment. However, the FSDS shed important light on the concrete needs of children and families across the state.

Opportunity from prevention

Recent studies confirm that **providing economic support to families** can:

- Produce positive outcomes for children's health, safety, educational attainment and workforce preparedness;
- Build the resilience of children and families by helping them to better weather challenges; and
- Significantly reduce involvement with child welfare, reduce the number of children entering foster care, and offer significant savings to federal, state, and county budgets;

Providing economic supports to families is a **primary prevention strategy** to reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect.



87%

Improvement in **Family Functioning and Resiliency**



78%

Improvement in **Social Supports**

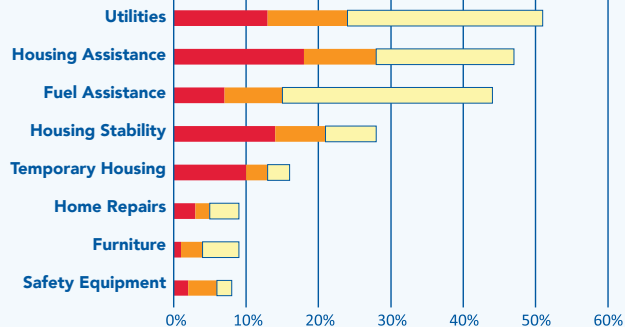
4. The Protective Factors Survey, 2nd Edition (PFS-2). (2018). University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships and Research. <https://friendsnrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/PFS-2-User-Manual-10.22.18.pdf>

Urgency By Need

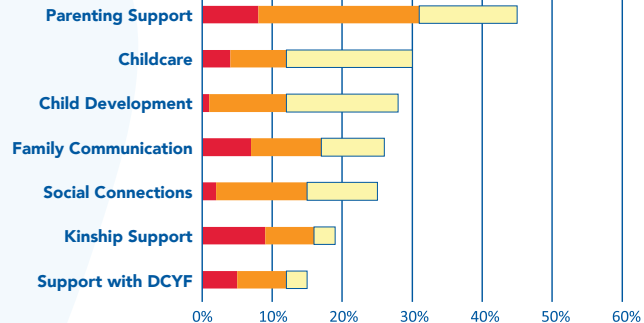
Urgent
 Important
 Needs within 6 Months
 1 Week 1 Month 6 Month



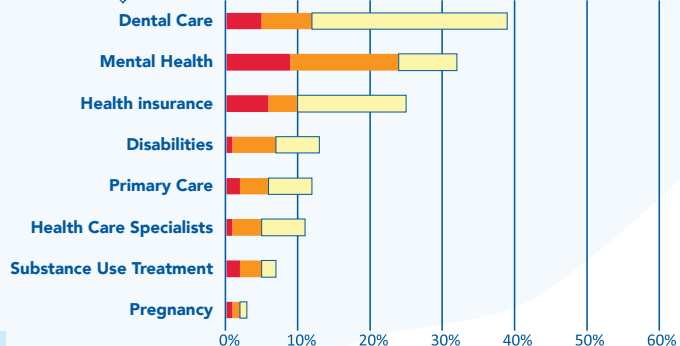
Housing



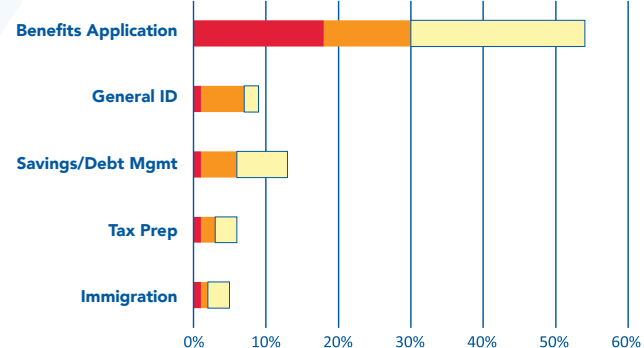
Family Life



Medical Expenses



Income and Documentation Assistance

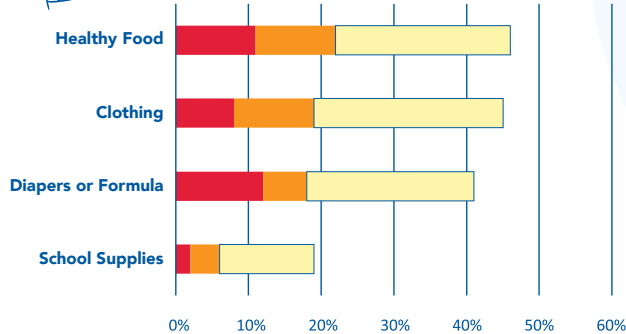


Urgency By Need Continued

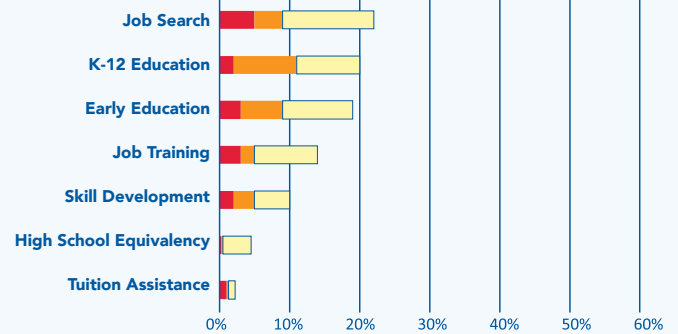
Urgent
 Important
 Needs within 6 Months
 1 Week 1 Month 6 Month



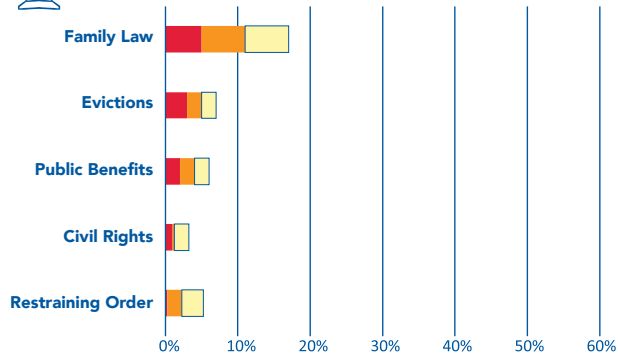
Other Concrete Supports



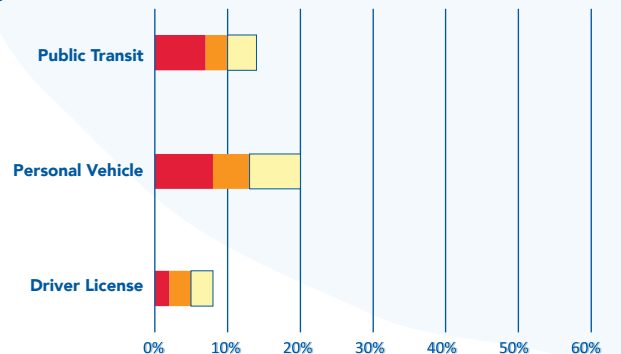
Employment and Education



Legal Expenses



Transportation



Discussion

What could NH save, in terms of **money** and **misery**, by working with families as far **upstream** as possible?

Reaching families early, providing them a stable foundation upon which to build stability and strength, providing safe and nurturing environments where families and children can thrive?

Further, how can we best disentangle “**neglect**” from “**poverty**”?



What We Know



According to the ACF Child Maltreatment Report for 2020, NH had **1,182** children with substantiated cases of child abuse or neglect. Of these, **1,010** were substantiated for neglect (85%).

The lifetime cost of a single victim of child abuse and neglect is estimated to be **\$830,928** according to “The economic burden of child maltreatment in the United States, 2015”, a research article in the International Journal of Child Abuse and Neglect and vetted by the CDC.

Using these statistics, the lifetime economic burden associated with just one year (2020) of substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect in NH is **\$982 million**.

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