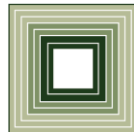


Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services

Child Protective Services Programs in Other States

**Deborah Landry
Fiscal Research Division**

February 11, 2014



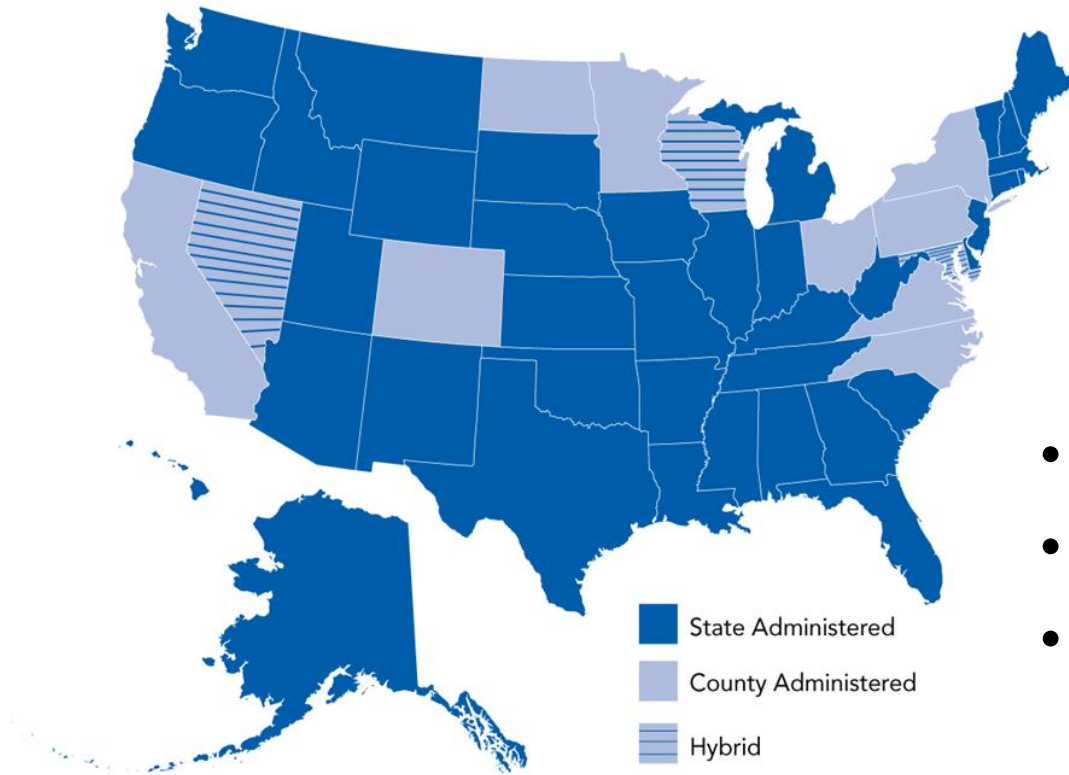
FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION
A Staff Agency of the North Carolina General Assembly

Organization of Child Welfare Systems

- State Administered: The majority of States have established a centralized administrative system
- County Administered: States where the administration of child welfare programs is county administered
- “Hybrid”: States that are partially administered by the State and partially administered by counties

Source: Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2012). State vs. county administration of child welfare services. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau.

Organization of Child Welfare Systems



- State Administered - 39
- County Administered - 9
- Hybrid - 3

Source: Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2012). *State vs. county administration of child welfare services*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau.

The National Local Child Welfare Agency Survey: Report

The Children's Bureau conducted the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being: Local Child Welfare Agency Survey: Report to look at the characteristics of child welfare services as described by child welfare services managers.

Child Welfare Services Agency Structure

- The majority of child welfare agencies (about two-thirds) are within larger agencies rather than freestanding units.
- North Carolina: Within larger agencies at both the state and county level.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children, Youth and Families (June 2001). National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being: Local Child Welfare Agency Survey: Report Washington, D.C.

The National Local Child Welfare Agency Survey: Report

Education and Training

- A college education is required by 90% of child welfare services investigators.
- The vast majority of agencies required new workers to have four or more days of pre-services training, at least 25% required more than two weeks of pre-service training.

North Carolina:

- The North Carolina Office of Human Resources Class Specifications for local governments sets the educational requirement based on the level of the social worker position. All require a minimum of a bachelors or masters in social work or other human service field.
- G.S. 131D-10.6A requires:
 - New child welfare workers must have 72 hours of pre-service training.
 - Child protective services workers must have and additional 18 hours of training.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children, Youth and Families (June 2001).
National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being: Local Child Welfare Agency Survey: Report Washington, D.C.

The National Local Child Welfare Agency Survey: Report

State-vs. County-Administered Agencies

State Administered Agencies appear to have more structured approach to :

- Risk Assessment
- Training of child welfare workers and caregivers

County Administered agencies provided more training and supervision for their child welfare workers.

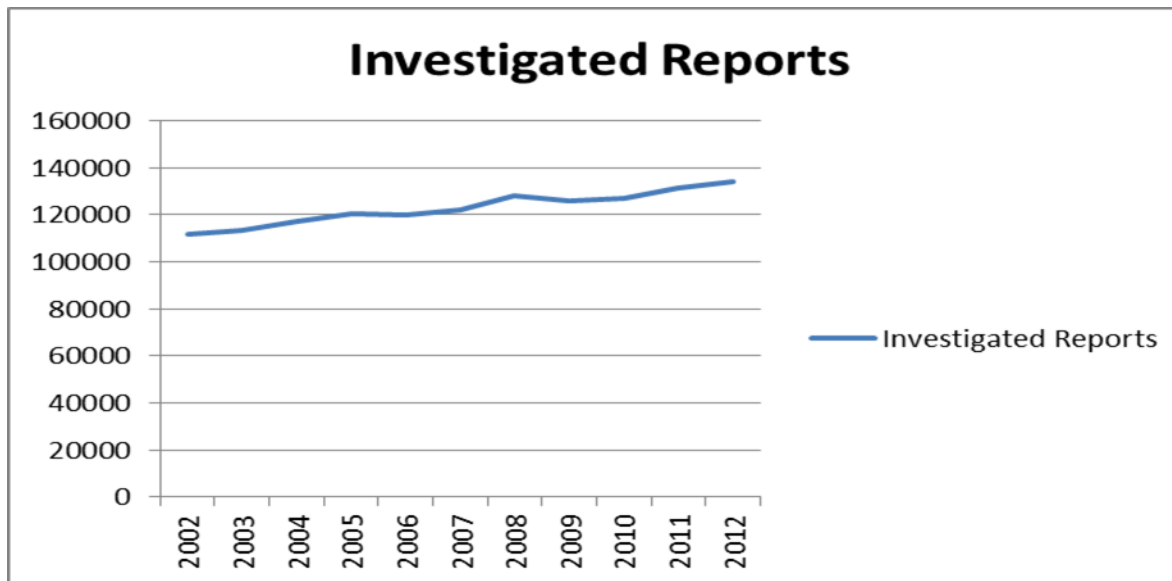
North Carolina:

- Effective June 1, 2003 the Division of Social Service implemented Structured Intake which consists of the following components: Structured Intake Report, Maltreatment Screening Tools, and Response Priority Decision Trees.
- Preservice training is provided by the Division of Social through the Statewide Training Partnership at 4 regional training centers.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children, Youth and Families (June 2001).
National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being: Local Child Welfare Agency Survey: Report Washington, D.C.

Child Protective Service Investigations Growth

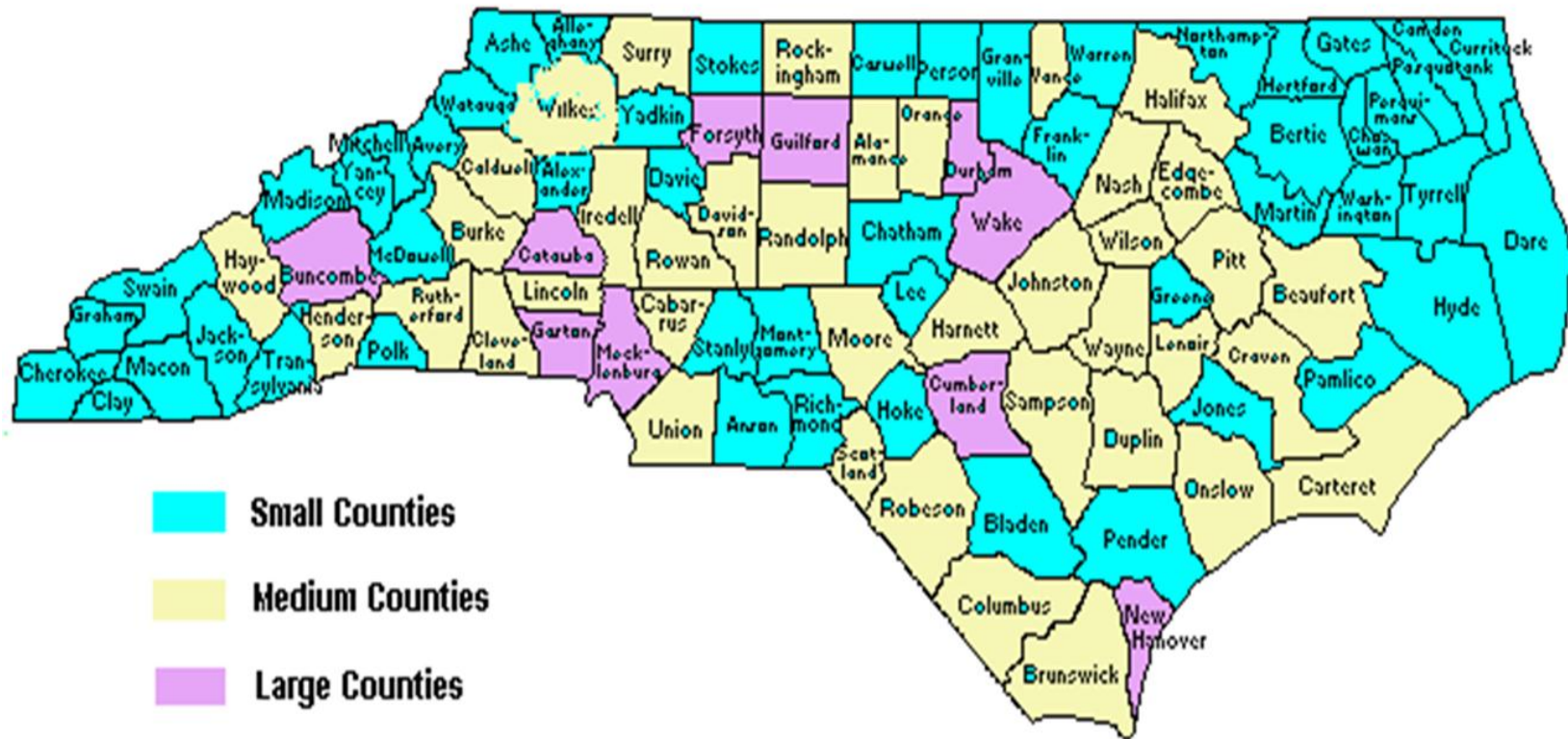
- The **number** of Child Protective Services investigations in North Carolina has grown from 111,720 in fiscal year 2002 to 134,126 in fiscal year 2012, an increase of 20%.



Key Question: Has the number of CPS workers kept up statewide with the growth in number of investigations?

Source: Duncan, D.F., Kum, H.C., Flair, K.A., Stewart, C.J., Vaughn, J., Bauer, R, and Reese, J. (2013). Management Assistance for Child Welfare, Work First, and Food & Nutrition Services in North Carolina (v3.1). Retrieved [December 11, 2013], from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Jordan Institute for Families website. URL: <http://ssw.unc.edu/ma/>

Counties by Size

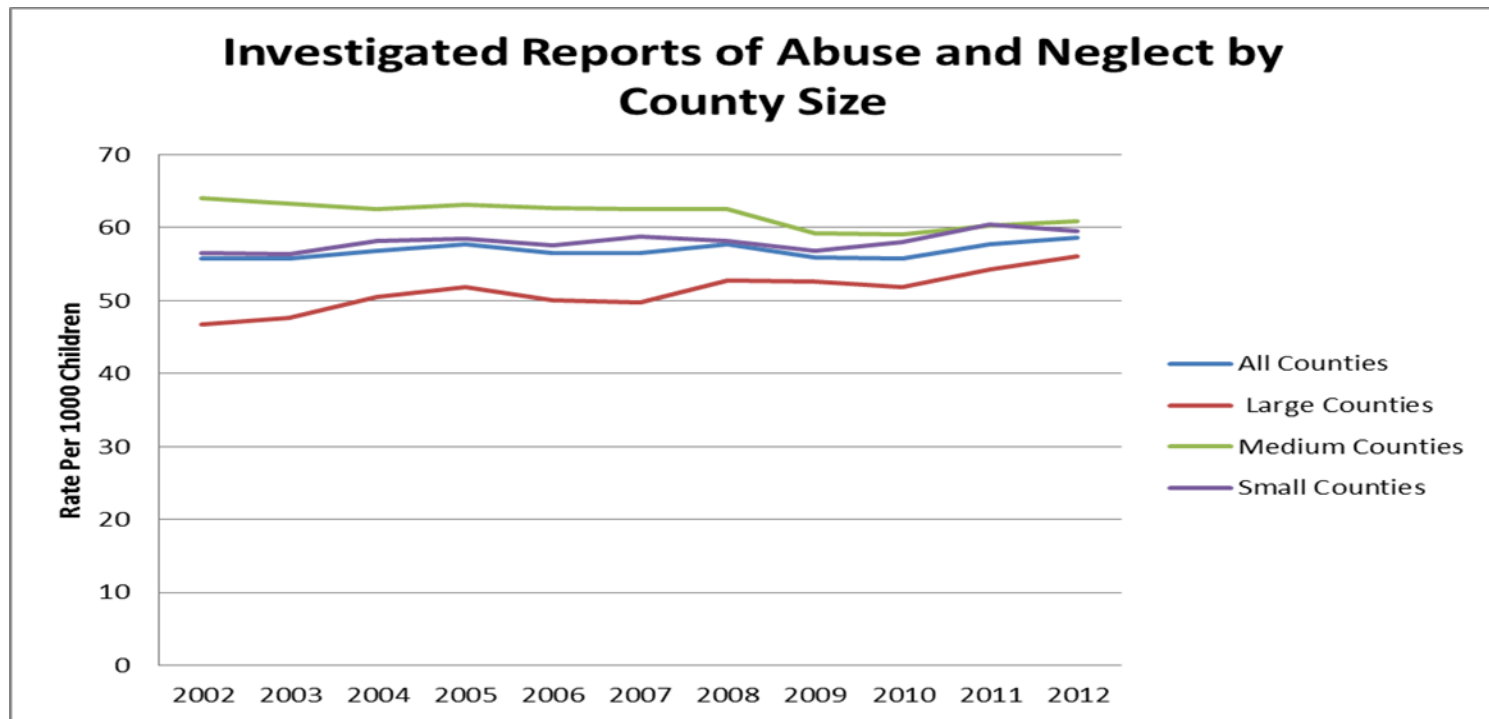


There are 10 large counties, 39 medium counties and 51 small counties

Source: Duncan, D.F., Kum, H.C., Flair, K.A., Stewart, C.J., Vaughn, J., Bauer, R, and Reese, J. (2013). Management Assistance for Child Welfare, Work First, and Food & Nutrition Services in North Carolina (v3.1). Retrieved [January, 2014], from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Jordan Institute for Families website. URL: <http://ssw.unc.edu/ma/>

Child Protective Services Investigation Rate By County Size

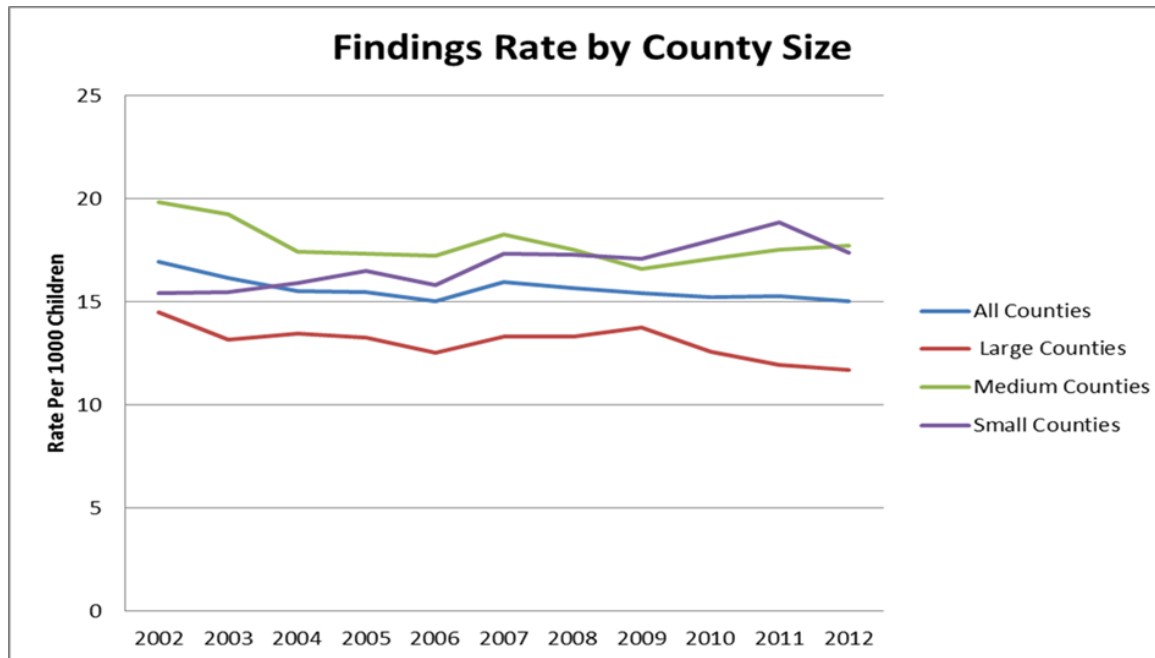
- The statewide investigation rate for 2012 was 58.63 investigations per 1,000 children.



Source: Duncan, D.F., Kum, H.C., Flair, K.A., Stewart, C.J., Vaughn, J., Bauer, R, and Reese, J. (2013). Management Assistance for Child Welfare, Work First, and Food & Nutrition Services in North Carolina (v3.1). Retrieved [December 11, 2013], from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Jordan Institute for Families website. URL: <http://ssw.unc.edu/ma/>

Child Protective Services Findings Rate by County Size

- Findings include: findings of abuse and neglect, abuse, neglect, dependency, services needed, and services provided, no longer needed.
- The statewide findings rate for 2012 was 15.04 per 1,000 children.



Environmental Factors:

- Poverty
- Unemployment
- Social Isolation
- Community Characteristics

Source: Duncan, D.F., Kum, H.C., Flair, K.A., Stewart, C.J., Vaughn, J., Bauer, R, and Reese, J. (2013). Management Assistance for Child Welfare, Work First, and Food & Nutrition Services in North Carolina (v3.1). Retrieved [December 11, 2013], from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Jordan Institute for Families website. URL: <http://ssw.unc.edu/ma/>

North Carolina Child Protective Services - Caseload Size

The Division of Social Services Child Protective Service policy recommends that the average CPS caseloads shall be no greater than 10 families at any time for workers performing CPS assessments, and 10 families at any time for staff providing In-Home services.

- Average number of Child Protective Service Assessment cases per social worker - 11.66
- Range: Low - less than 1, High - 30.75
- Number of counties with an average of over 10 assessment cases per social worker – 43
- Number of counties with an average of over 15 assessment cases per social worker – 21
- Number of counties with an average of over 20 assessment cases per social worker – 9

Source: Department of Health and Human Services, Child Protective Services Workers by County.pdf

Time to Begin Investigation in Hours

Median Time 2011	Number of States
≤ 24 hours	13
> 24 but ≤ 48 hours	18
> 48 but ≤ 72 hours	8
> 72 but ≤ 96 hours	4
> 96 but ≤ 120 hours	1
> 120 but ≤ 144 hours	1
Total States Reporting	45

North Carolina	2008	2009	2010	2011
Mean	44.6	46.8	41.7	48.8
Median	>24 but< 48	>24 but< 48	>24 but< 48	>24 but< 48

G.S. 7B-302 requires that assessments of reports of abuse be initiated immediately, but no later than 24 hours after the receipt of the report; neglect or dependency reports the assessment must be initiated within 72 hours following the receipt of the report.

The Structured Intake policy provides for evaluation to determine whether a report should be investigated immediately, within 24 hours or 72 hours depending on the type of maltreatment and other circumstances such as the age of the child.

Source: Child Welfare Outcome 2008-11 report to Congress, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau.

Child Protective Services Information and Data Needed

- Comprehensive statewide evaluation of the administrative structure, performance and funding of child protective services.
- Evaluation of requirements versus recommendations regarding caseload sizes for Child Protective Services (CPS) workers.

Questions?

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