



Screening for Neglect Prevention: Can the Community Identify Families at Risk?

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Acknowledgments

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- ∞ Services are provided by MSW interns in faculty field based units in the community.
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Research Questions

- ⌚ Does a screening instrument developed for a community-based neglect prevention program correctly identify families in need of services?
- ⌚ What are the ways in which the families needed help?
- ⌚ Which screening factors predicted what types of help?



Goals for Presentation

- ∩ Define screening
- ∩ Describe referral and screening process for a community-based neglect prevention program
- ∩ Present information on risks identified by community-based referral sources at intake



Goals for Presentation

- ∞ Describe the “needs for help” observed in families who accepted services
- ∞ Describe how screening factors and needs are related
- ∞ Discuss challenges associated with screening and identification of participants for neglect prevention programs



SCREENING:

- ∞ Assessment of the appropriateness of a client, for a specific community service
- ∞ Allows practitioners to identify and target interventions toward children and families at risk for one or more types of child neglect.



Program Eligibility Criteria

- ∞ Live in defined service area
- ∞ No current CPS involvement
- ∞ At least one elementary school-aged child
- ∞ Willingness to participate in services
- ∞ At least one risk factor for neglect
- ∞ Presence of at least two screening factors



Screening Criteria

∞ Caregiver-Related

- Unemployed or over-employed
- Mental health problem
- Alcohol or drug problem

∞ Family-Related

- Homelessness
- Domestic violence
- More than 3 children in home



Screening Criteria

∞ Child Related

- Behavior or mental health problem
- Physical disability
- Developmental disability
- Learning disability

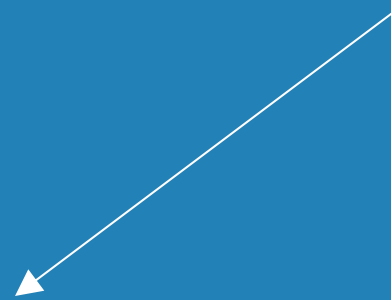
Screening Process

August 1997 - April 2000

Community
Member
Identifies
Concern
(300+)



Eligibility, neglect risk and
existence of at least two
screening factors verified
(228)



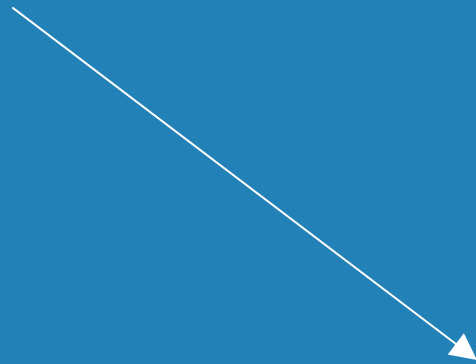
Caregiver
contacted;
identification of
additional
concerns



Identification of Needs

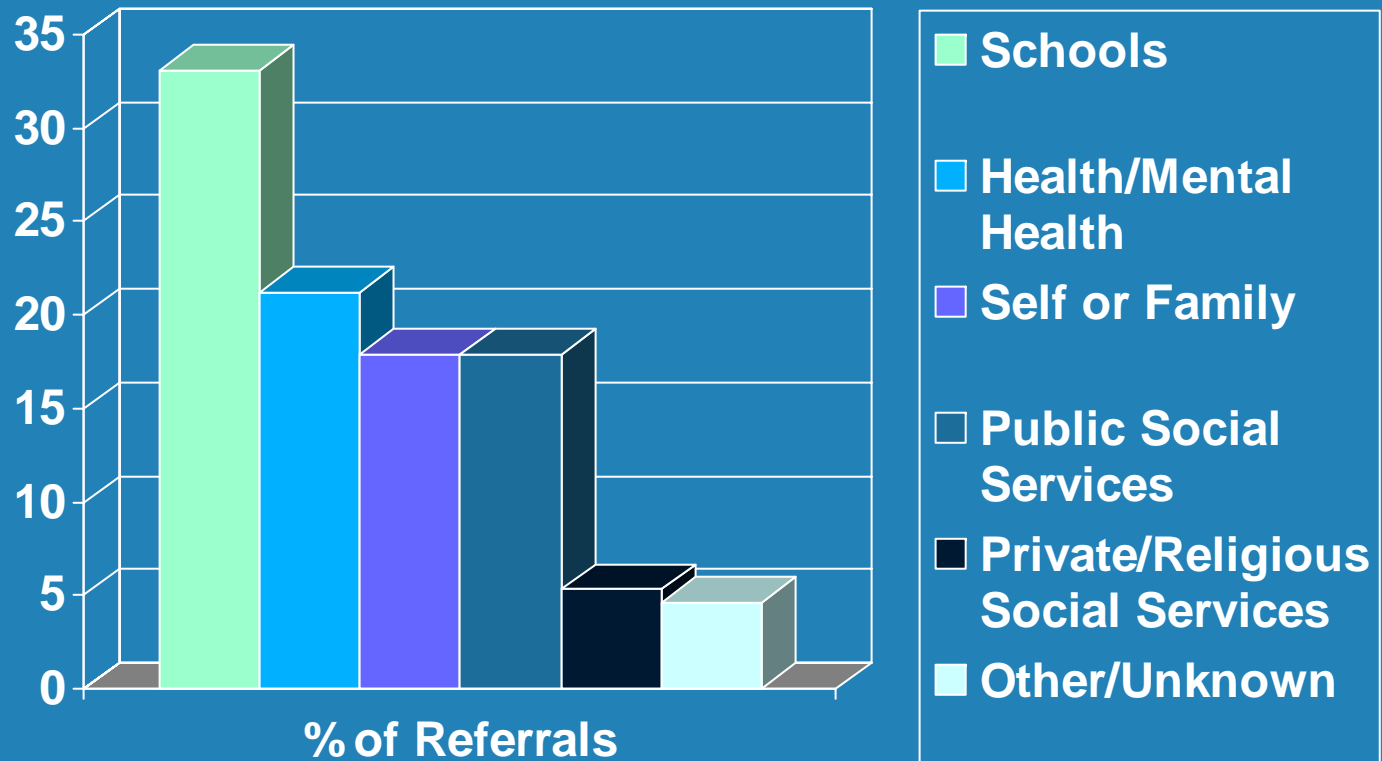


Baseline research
interview completed
(154)



Engagement
in services

Referral Sources





Setting and Sample

- 154 Caregivers Who Accepted Services
 - 151 women, 3 men
 - 86% African American
 - Mean age = 39
 - Average of 3.1 children in home

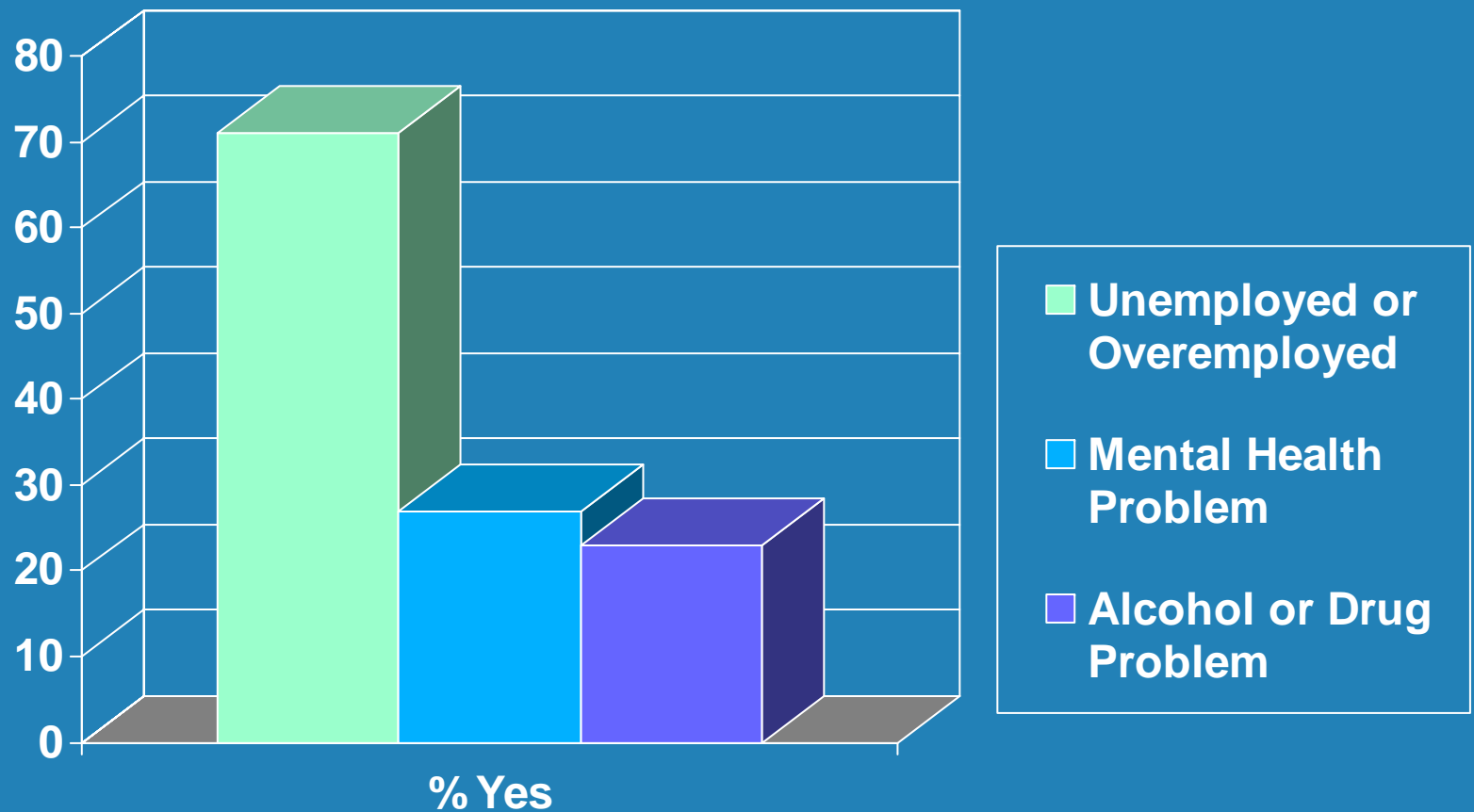


Child Well-Being Scales*

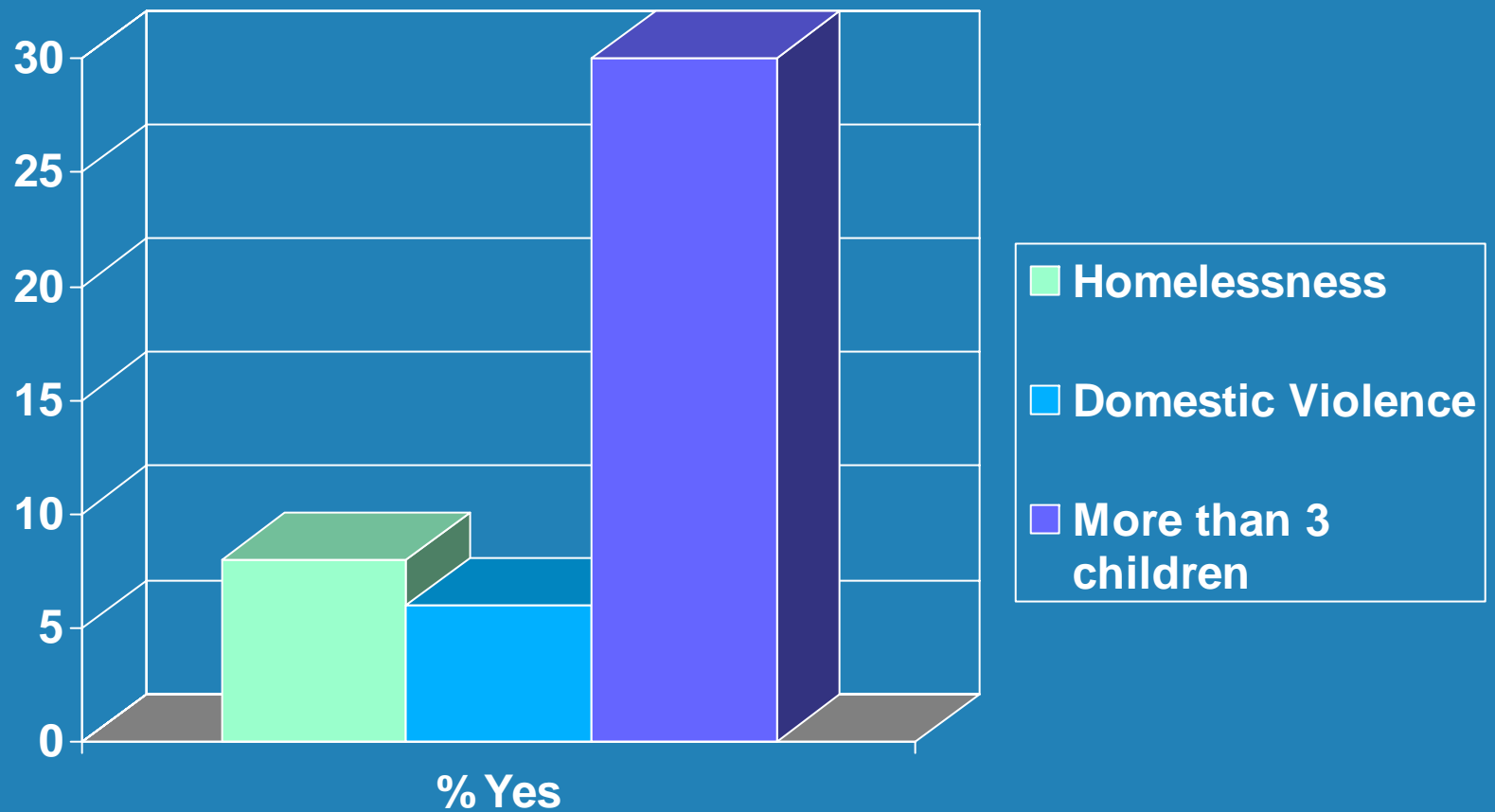
- ∞ Observational scales
- ∞ Measure of adequacy of child care & quality of parenting role performance
- ∞ Linked to program outcomes - family maintenance and safety, problem solving, social support, & care of children

*Magura & Moses, 1986

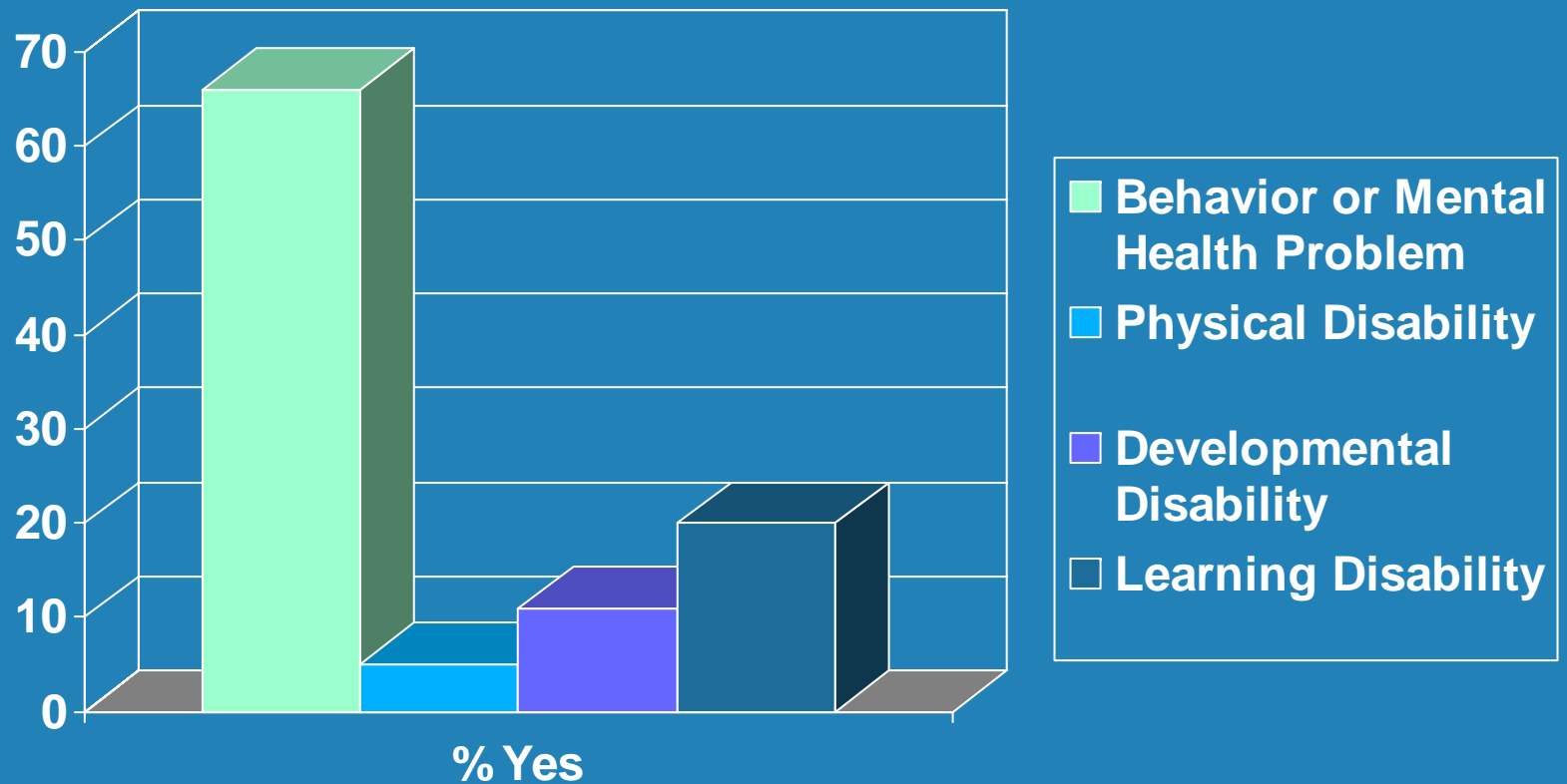
Caregiver-related screening criteria- % Yes

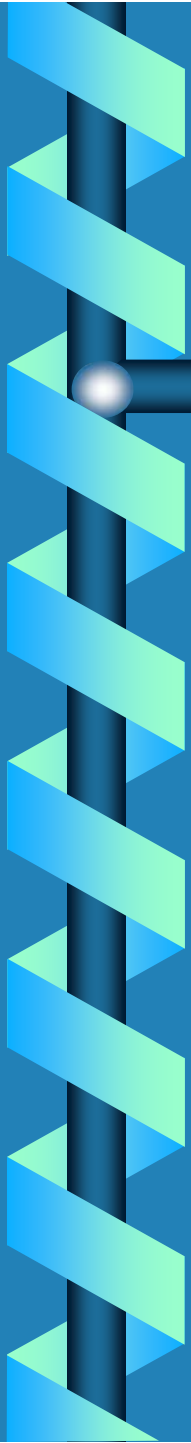


Family-related Screening Criteria - % Yes



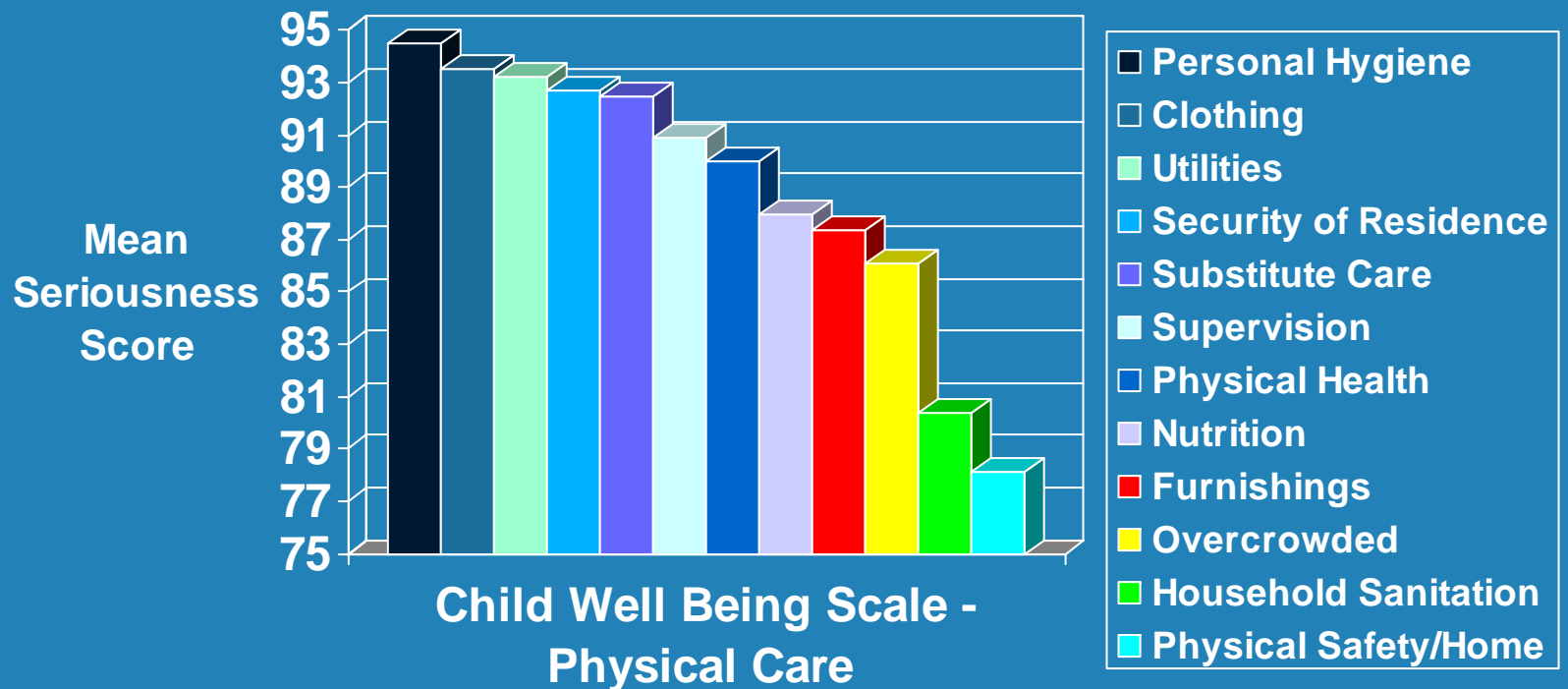
Child-related screening criteria - % Yes



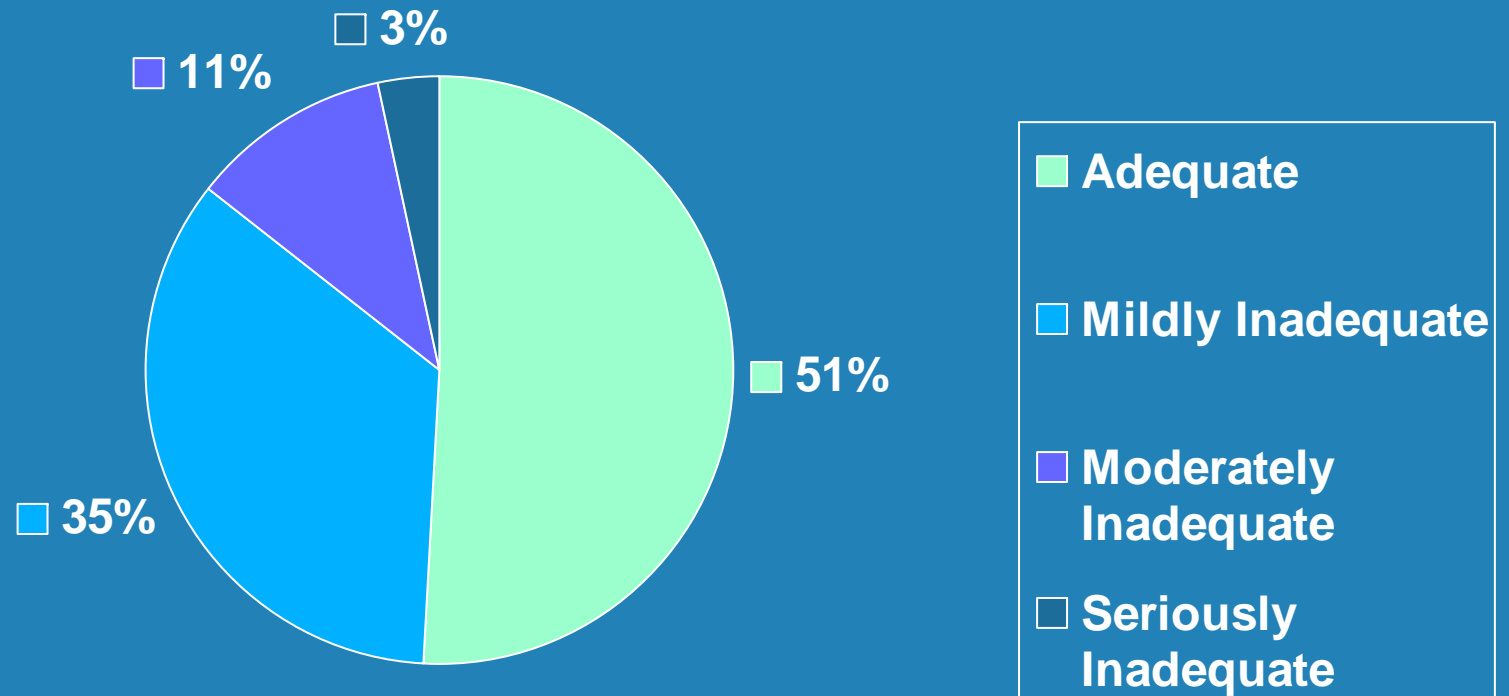


WHAT ARE THE WAYS IN
WHICH FAMILIES
NEEDED HELP?

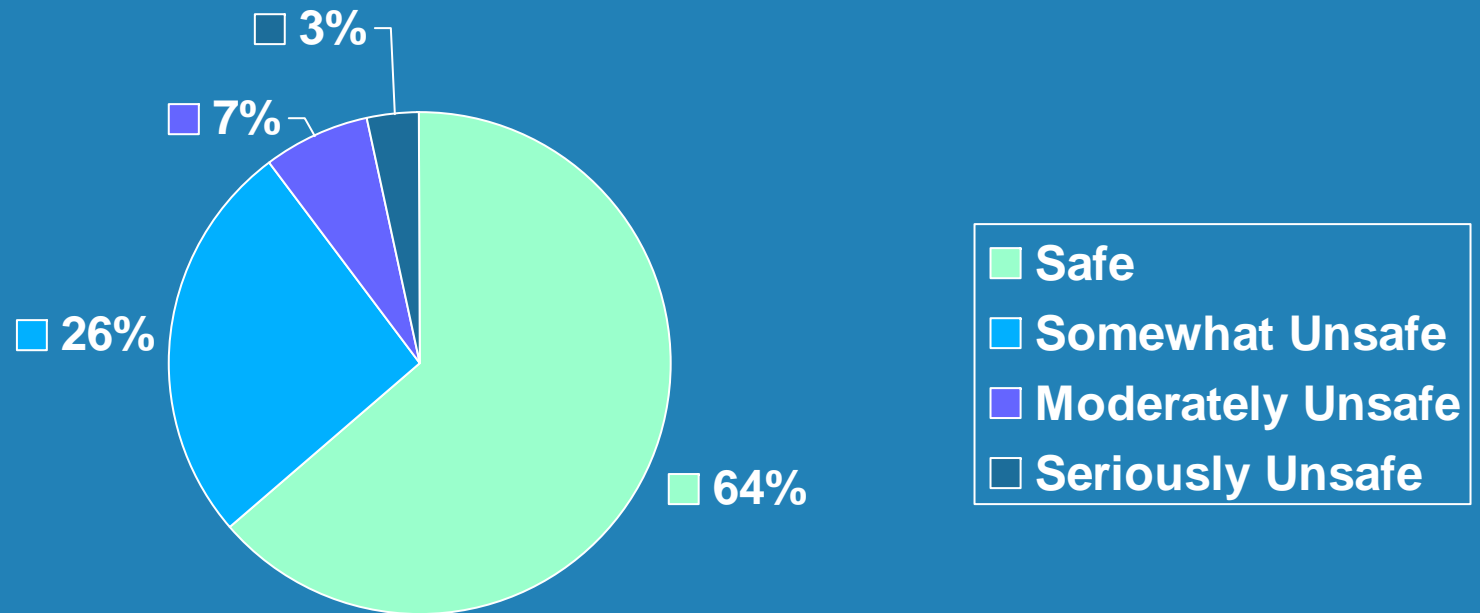
CWBS Mean Seriousness Scores - Physical Care



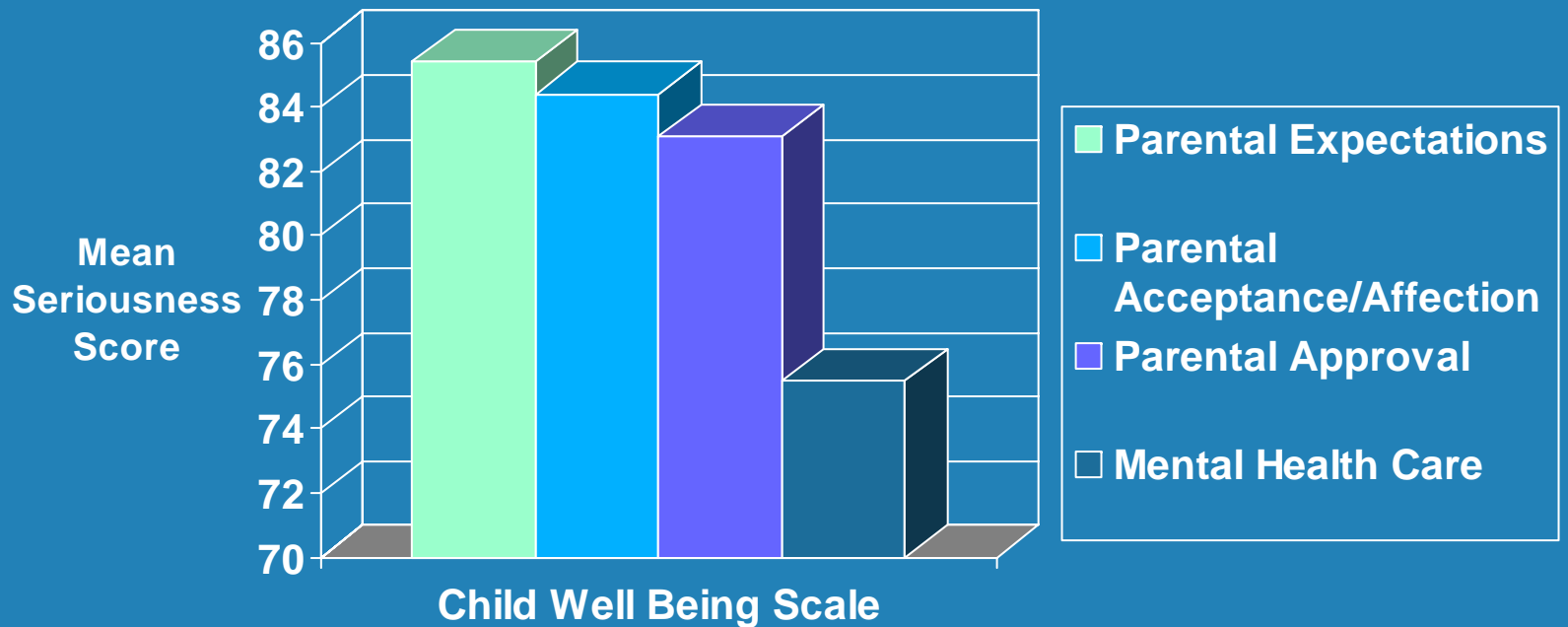
Example: Household Sanitation



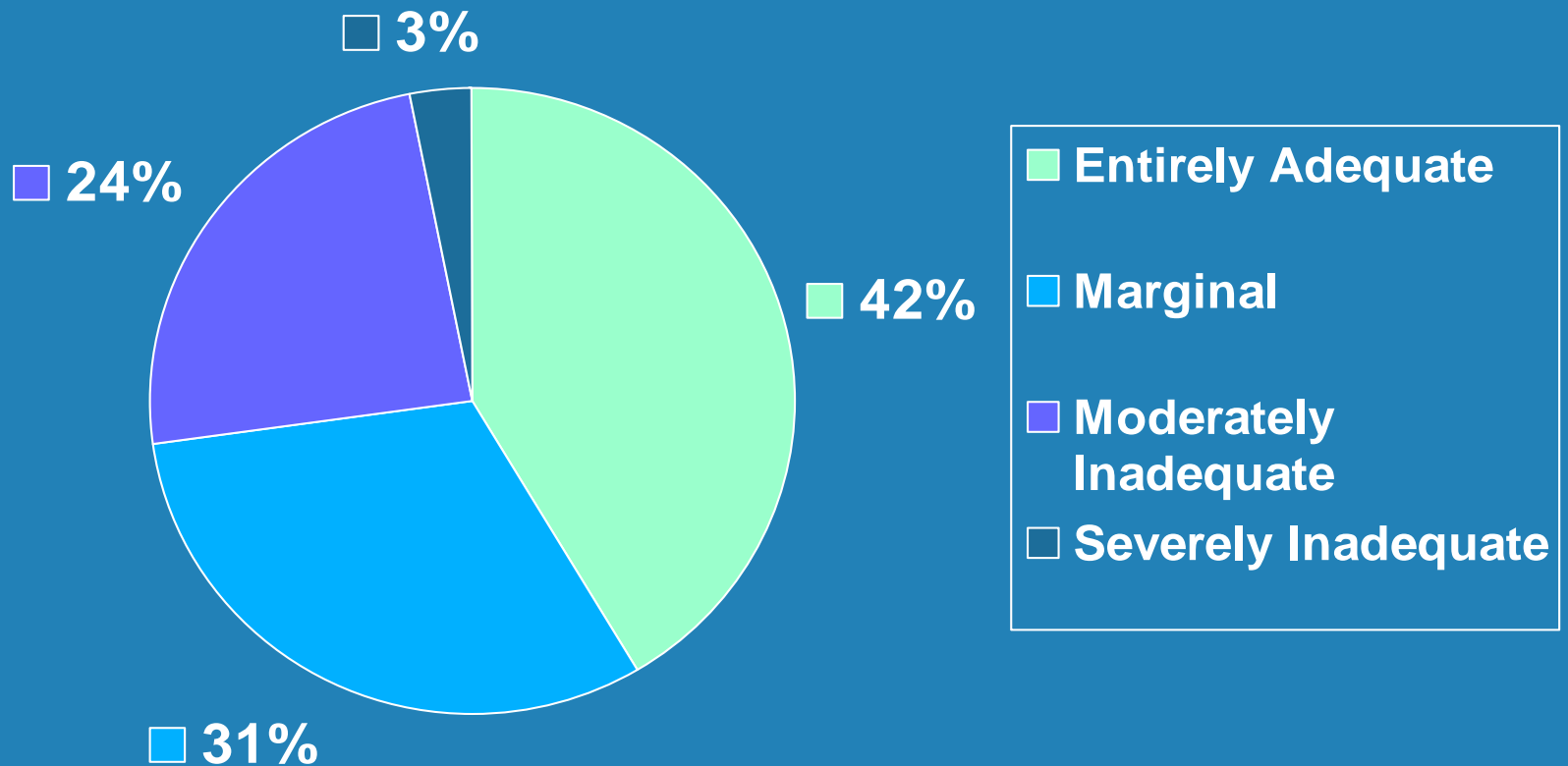
Example: Physical Safety in Home

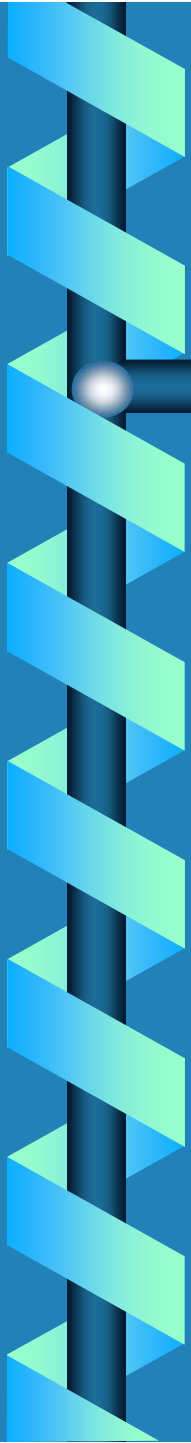


CWBS Mean Seriousness Scores - Psychological Care



Example: Mental Health Care for Children





Which screening factors
predicted which types of
help?

Data analysis

- ∩ 18 MANOVAs
- ∩ 2 sets of dependent variables
 - Set 1: Physical Needs
 - Set 2: Psychological Needs
- ∩ 9 screening factors were independent variables
- ∩ 4 of 18 were significant



Significant Differences

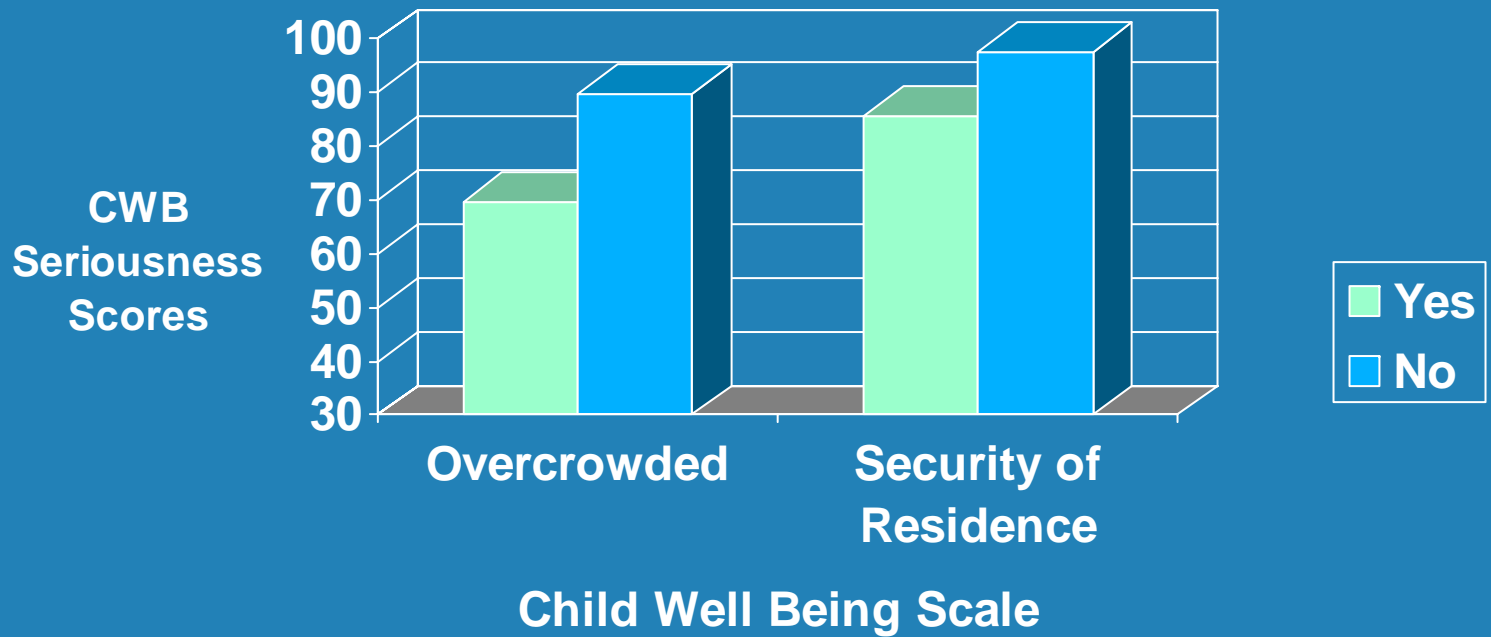
∞ Physical Needs

- Homelessness
- Child Behavior Problem

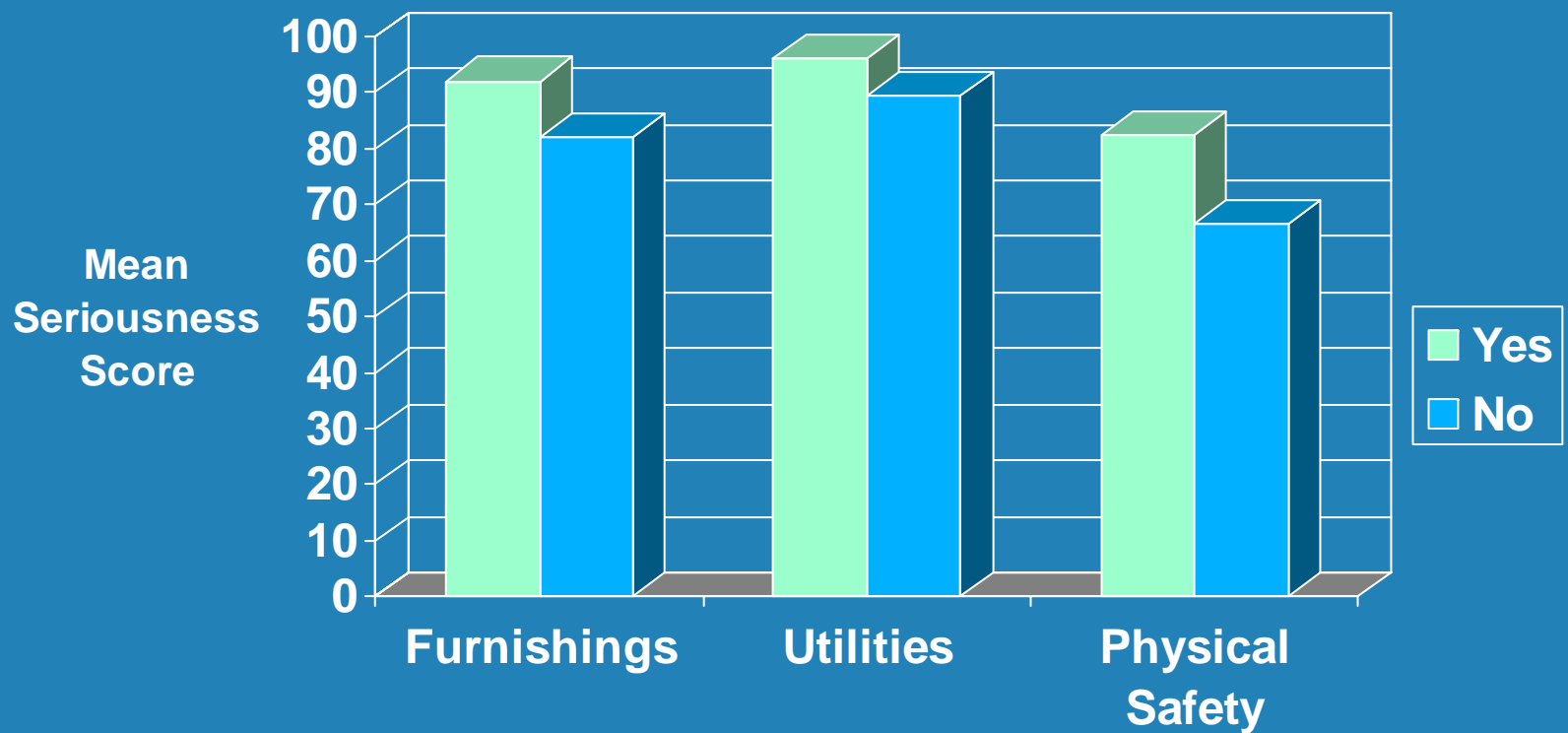
∞ Psychological Needs

- Caregiver AOD Concern
- Child Behavior Problem

Homelessness



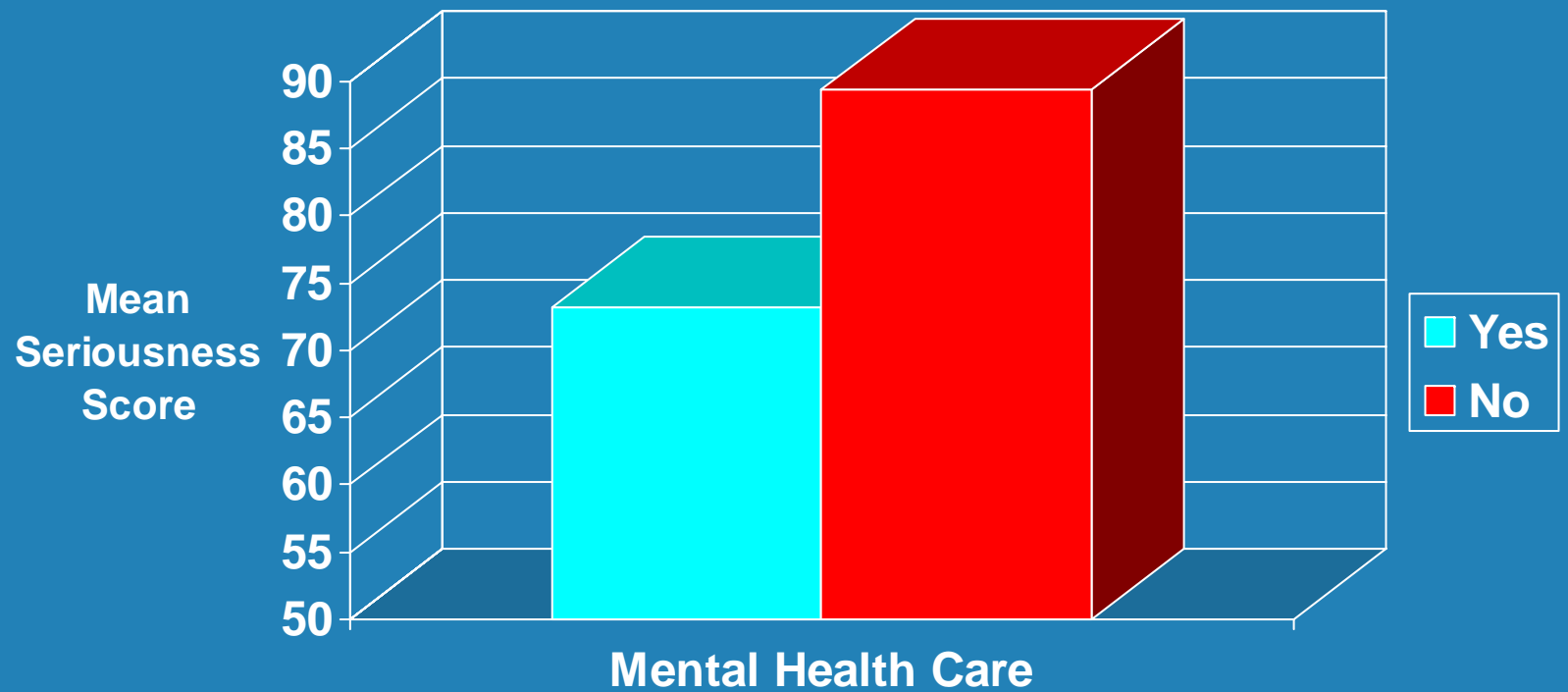
Child Behavior Problem



Caregiver AOD Concerns



Child Behavior Problem





Conclusion: Questions Raised

- ⌚ Are the ten screening factors enough?
- ⌚ To identify families for neglect prevention programs, what can we reasonably ask of referrers?



Questions Raised

- ⌚ What are the measures of “need for help” that we might consider?
- ⌚ Are the CWBS a useful indicator of “need for help” in a neglect prevention program?

Further Information

∞ Copies of these slides and other information about Family Connections is available at:
<http://family.umaryland.edu>

