TIES Pre-Placement Education and Preparation Series



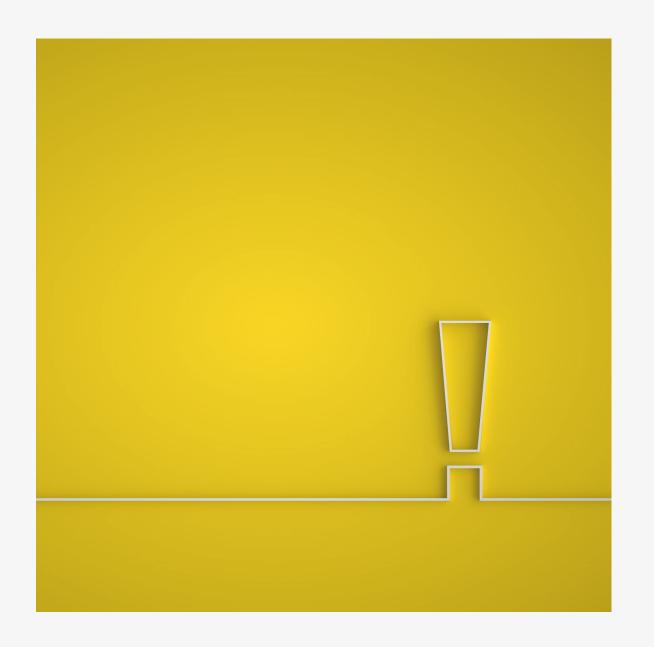
# Session 1

Overview, Trauma Lens, Birth Families, Substance Use

Matthew Ruderman, PhD

**Research Director** 

**TIES for Families** 



#### Rules for the Road

- Attendance
- Survey completion
- Keep yourself on mute
- Keep camera on
- Questions in chat
- Privacy and confidentiality
- Respect

#### **TIES Contacts**



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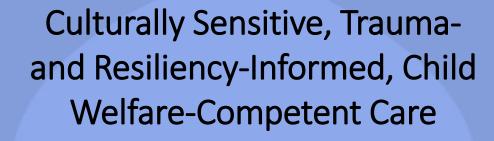
Introductions

# Our Approach

## Background of TIES

- Interdisciplinary program dedicated to optimizing the growth and development of children, from birth to age 25, in foster care, kinship care, or adopted through foster care and their families
- Mental health focus
- Children in foster care, kinship care and adopted through foster care in LA County always our sole focus and only source of referrals
- Preparation and services
- Cumulative risk model
- Interactive process with child and parents
- Building a village







# Culturally Responsive, Trauma and Resilience Informed, Child Welfare Competent

Trauma Lens

A shift in perception from "What is wrong with this child?" to "What has this child been through?"

Within the context of child's history

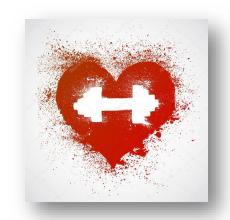
Impact of discrimination/marginalization

Now we can use this lens in our approach to working with children and families



### Resiliency Lens

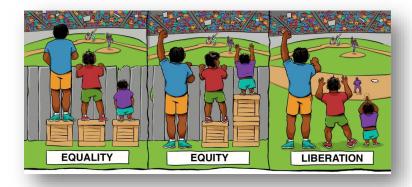
A shift from deficit to **adaptive strength** 



**Social Justice** 



Focus on the wins



Honoring and building connections and belonging



Not just stabilizing but **flourishing!** 

#### Overview of TIES PREP

- Session 1
  - Understanding birth parents and addiction; How to talk with children about challenging topics
- Session 2
  - Prenatal substance exposure; medical and developmental concerns; Temperament and attachment
- Session 3
  - Positive parenting; Substance abuse prevention;
     Openness in adoption; Family presentation



#### Overview of Services

- Outpatient Therapy
  - Individual, Parenting, and Family Services
- Group Therapy (Parents & Children)
- Psychiatric Services
- Educational Advocacy
- Pediatric Consultation
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Child and Parent Mentoring
- Occupational Therapy
- Neurofeedback
- LIFT/HOPES Group



#### Overview of Services

- Infant Mental Health
  - Developmental/Diagnostic assessment
  - Home-based sessions
  - Parent-Infant group
  - Consultation with:
    - Developmental pediatrician
    - Speech and language therapist
    - Occupational therapist
- PPCs



#### Service Locations

- UCLA or TIES South Bay
- Options:
  - In-person
  - Remote
  - <u>Hybrid</u>



## Pre-Placement Consultation (PPC)

PPCs occur when you are matched with a child for potential adoption, and you are a TIES family

Before meeting the child and beginning visits, inform DCFS you are interested in TIES PPC.

A TIES case coordinator is assigned, reviews records, and pulls together team of consultants (e.g., mental health, medication, education).

The child is assessed using brief psychological evaluation to determine strengths and areas of support. Relevant interviews are conducted.

A report is written, and a feedback session is held with the prospective resource parents and DCFS.

Parent decide how to proceed with the information and what is best for their family.

## Check-In



#### Points to Remember

#### **Voluntary program**

**South Bay and Westwood Locations** 

Mental health services are Medi-Cal funded

**Bilingual Spanish clinicians available** 

**Confidentiality and expectations** 

No visitation for PPCs

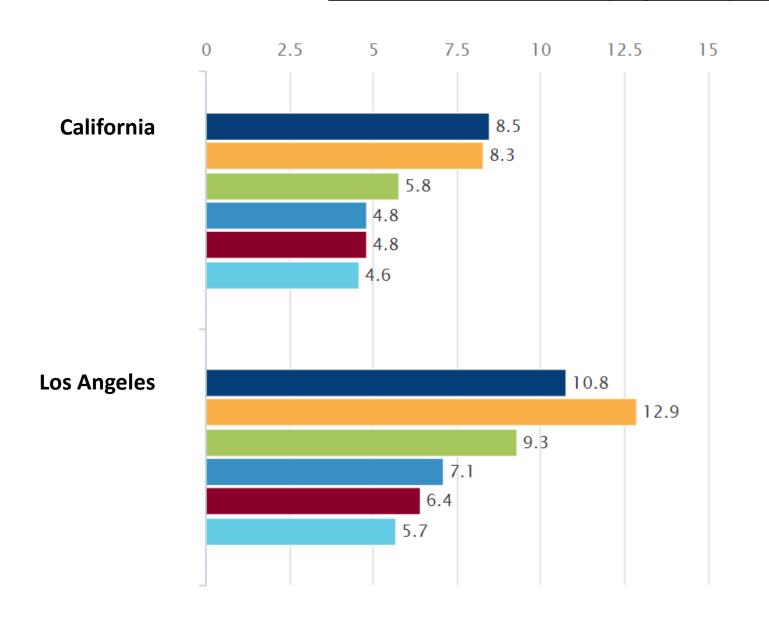
Parents are expected to be a part of services

**Specialty mental health services** 



# Context

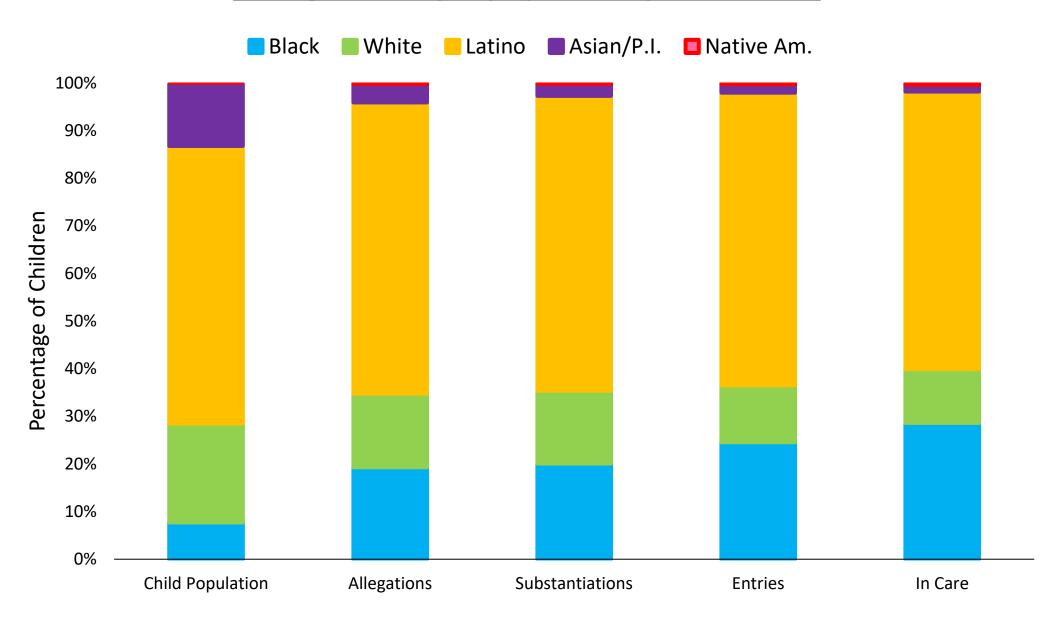
#### **Children in Foster Care, by Age Group: 2018**





Number of children and youth ages 0-20 in foster care on July 1, per 1,000 children/youth, by age group (e.g., on July 1, 2018, 8.5 per 1,000 California children under age 1 were in foster care).

#### **Los Angeles County Disproportionality Rates for 2019**



#### **Disproportionality Rates - 2019**

	Allegations	Substantiations	Entries	In Care
Black	2.495	2.595	3.043	3.697
White	0.745	0.738	0.554	0.545
Latino	1.049	1.062	1.011	1.000
Asian/P.I.	0.301	0.194	0.131	0.107
Native Am.	0.800	0.879	1.144	1.811

#### **Example Data Interpretation:**

"Black children are nearly 4 times as likely to be in care compared to their representation in the general child population."

#### **Disparity Indices for - 2019**

Comparison Group = White Children

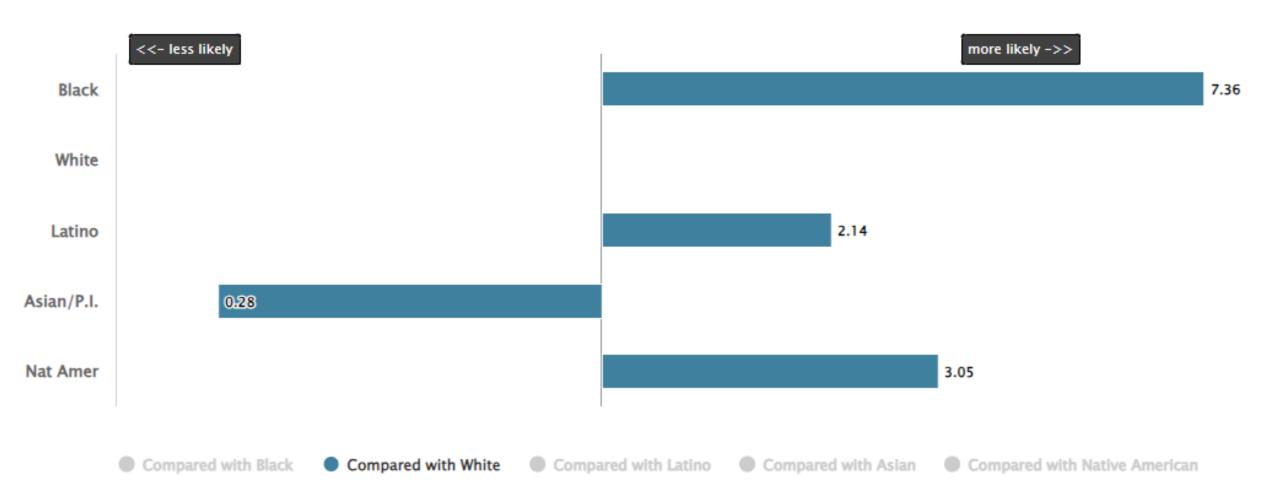
	Allegations	Substantiations	Entries	In Care
Black	3.346	3.515	5.489	6.787
White	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Latino	1.407	1.438	1.824	1.836
Asian/P.I.	0.404	0.263	0.236	0.196
Native Am.	1.073	1.190	2.064	3.324

#### **Example Data Interpretation:**

"Black children are nearly 7 times as likely to be in care compared to White children."

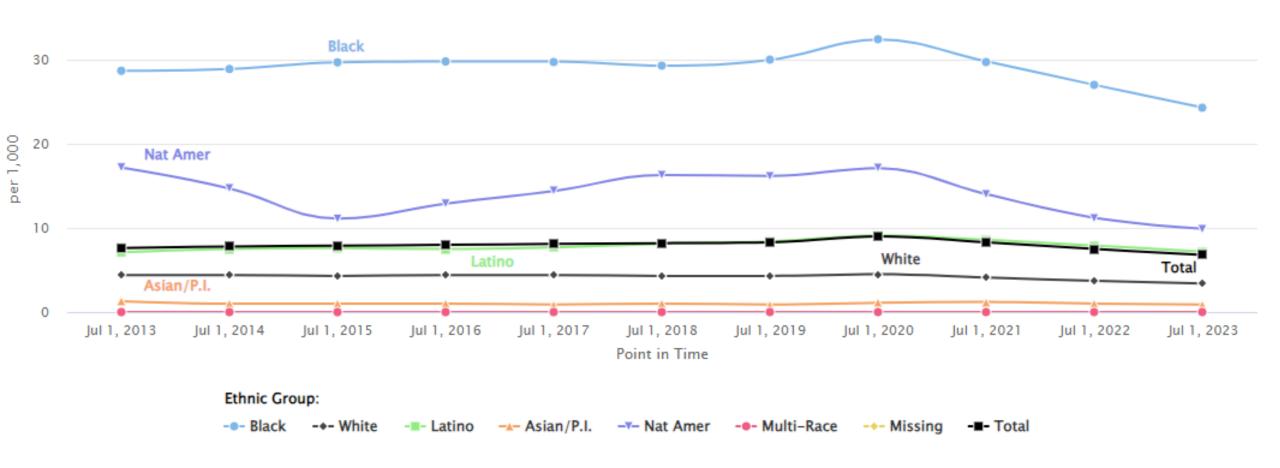
## Los Angeles County Disproportionality Rates - 2022 Children in Care

Los Angeles



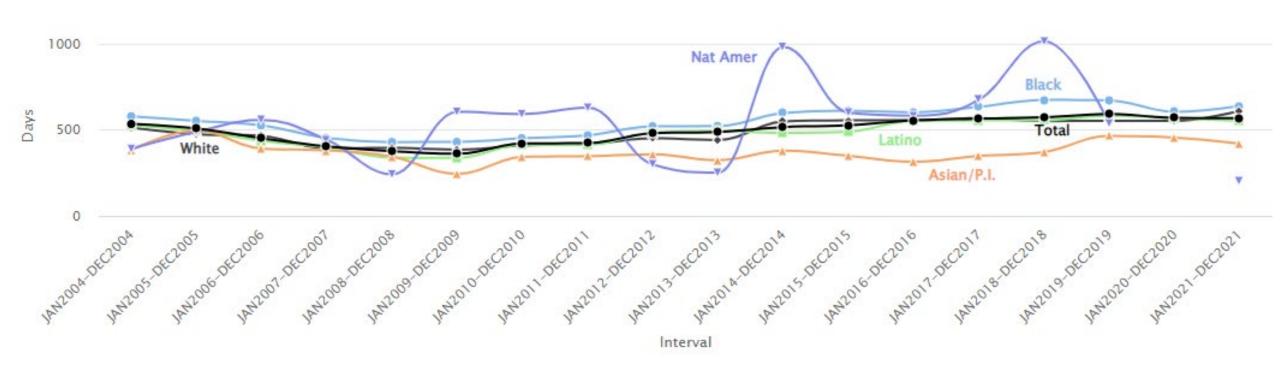
#### **Los Angeles County Disproportionality Rates for Over Time**

#### Prevalence per 1,000 children

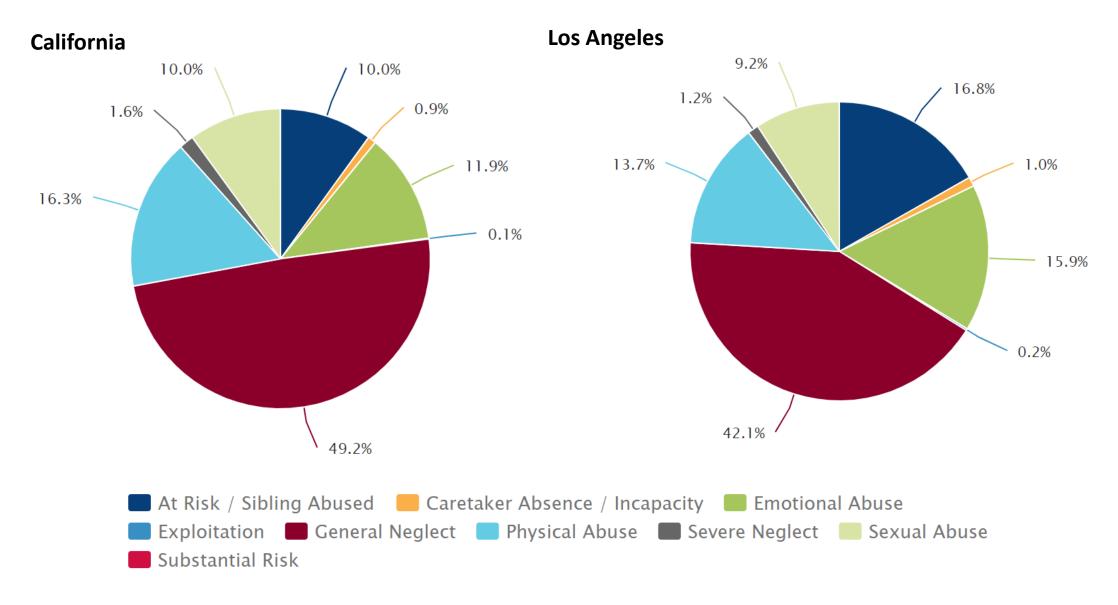


## Los Angeles County Disproportionality Rates Length of Stay

#### Los Angeles



#### Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect, by Type of Abuse: 2020



# Unpacking neglect

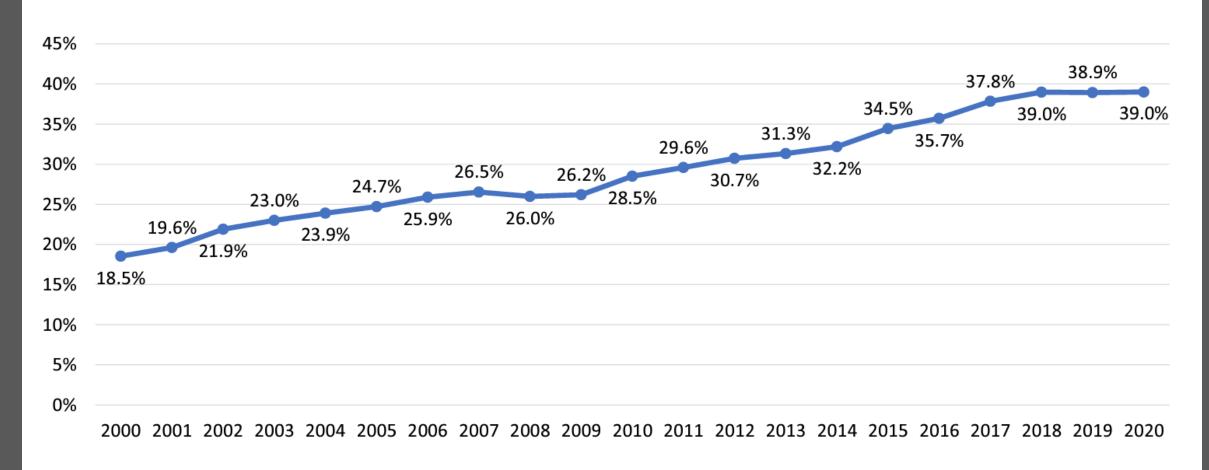




- Surveillance
- Reporting myths
- Substance use

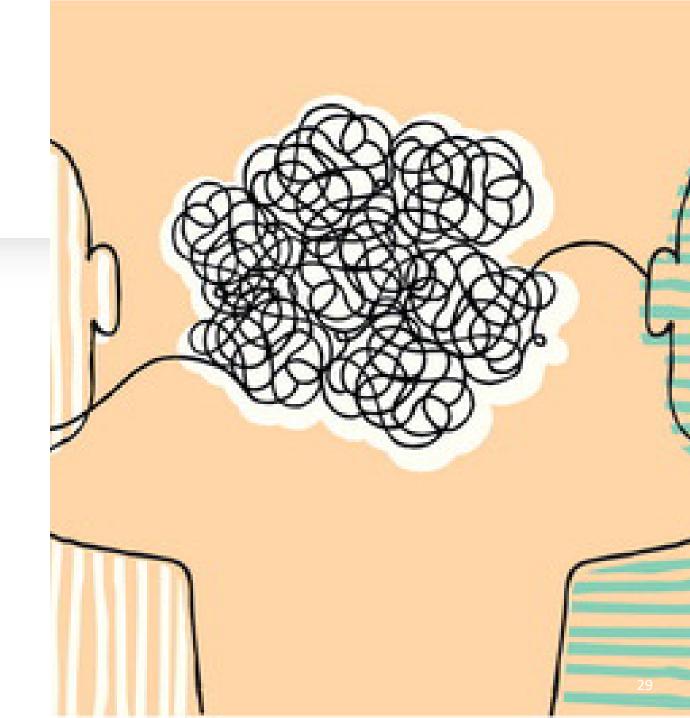


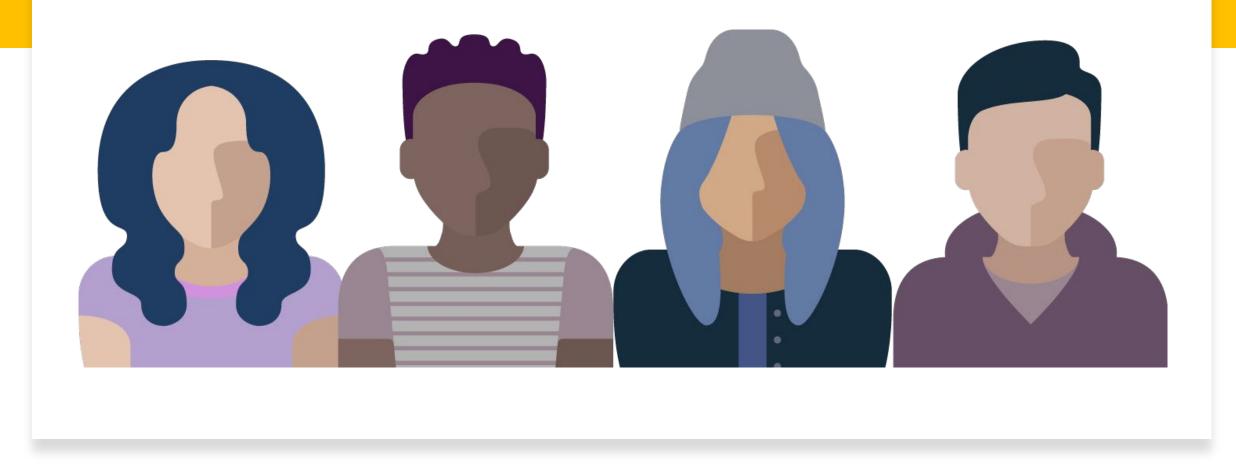
# Prevalence of Parental Alcohol or Drug Abuse as an Identified Condition of Removal in the United States, 2000 to 2020



# Interactions with Birth Parents

- What are your fears?
- What are you worried about?



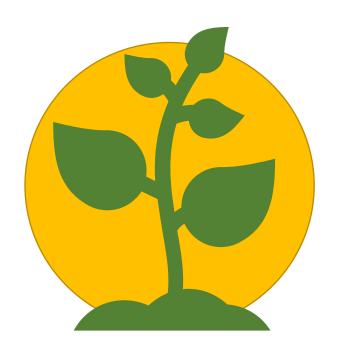


What is Addiction?

- A chronic, but treatable, relapsing brain disease
- Changes in brain critical to judgment, learning, and control
- Compulsive use despite adverse consequences
- Extremely complicated



# Predisposition is not predetermination



#### Prenatal Substance Exposure

- In-utero substance exposure may lead to developmental issues
- Some but not all exposed children will demonstrate difficulties
- Many of these issues are treatable and can be addressed through intervention

#### Birth Parent Mental Health

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•	Schizophr	enia
	ocinzopini	CIIIG

_	General	Population	1%
-	General	Population	1/0

- 1 parent with SZ 15	5% <b>85%</b>
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Bipolar Disorder

- General	<i>  Population</i>	2.5%
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-	1 parent with BPD	13%	87%
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-	2 parents	with BPD	<i>30%</i>	70%
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n%

### Nature versus Nurture



- Onset, course and outcomes influenced by environmental conditions
- Interaction between genes and environment
- Relapse is common; noncompliance true with many chronic diseases
- No one chooses to become addicted to substances

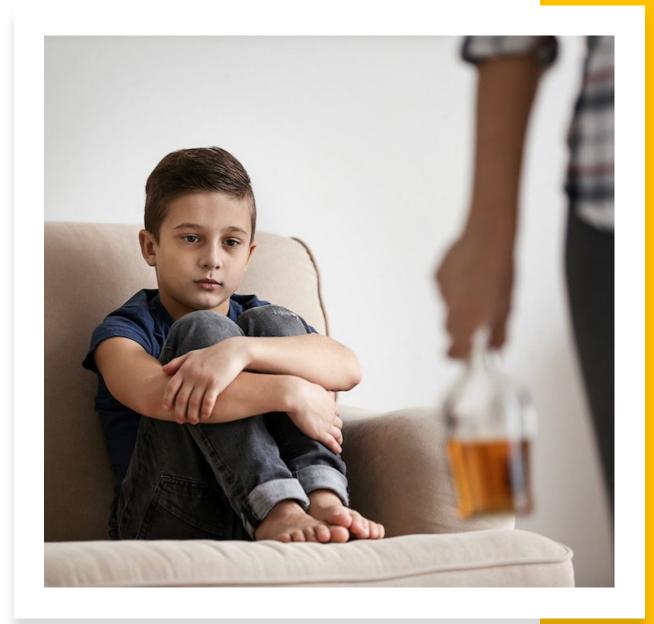
#### Factors That Contribute to Substance Use

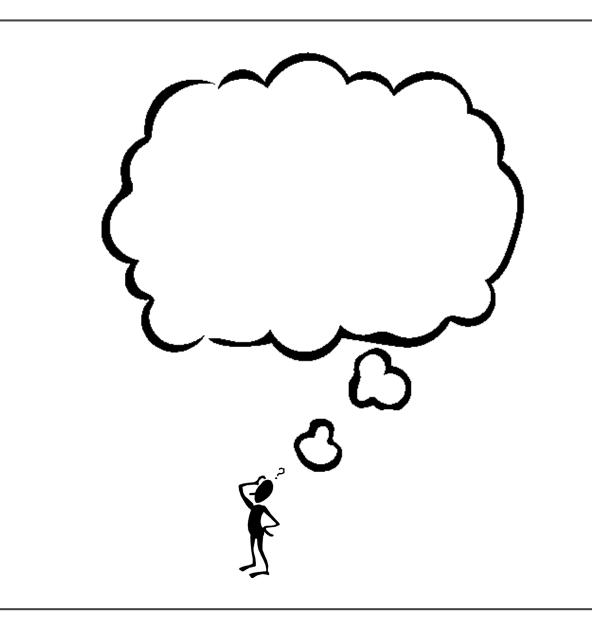


- History of substance abuse in family of origin
- History of trauma (i.e., child abuse/domestic violence in family of origin)
- Mental health challenges, developmental delays, learning disabilities
- Partner with problems of substance abuse and/or domestic violence
- Epigenetics?

## Impact of Chemical Dependency on Ability to Parent

- When a child is removed it is often because the impact on parenting has already been demonstrated in these areas:
  - Survival Needs
  - Safety
  - Emotional Development
  - Modeling



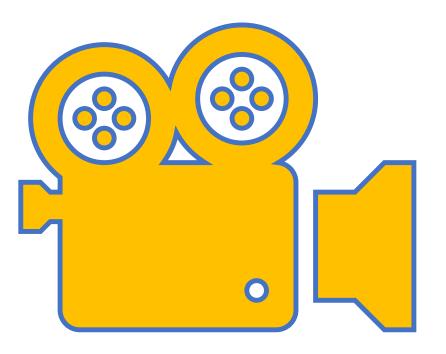


# Something to Consider

## Break



## Video



# What is your reaction?



# Key Points for Youth



- Birth family involvement is important
- Children need to understand addiction's impact on their lives and may have feelings about it
- They are not to blame for parent's addiction
- Addiction is not contagious
- Addiction is a common problem
- Children can do things to take care of themselves
  - There are people to trust and help
  - They can make choices
  - They don't have to grow up to be chemically dependent
  - Many resources are available



### Role Play



# You are an 8-year-old child asking your resource or adoptive parent questions about your birth parent(s):

- Why aren't birth parents with me?
  - Do they love me?
  - When can I visit them?
  - Can we look at pictures?
- Why do I talk different than you?
- Why is our skin different colors?
- Why do we celebrate different holidays?
- Why did you change my name?

